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DECEMBER 2002 VOL. 27 NO. 12



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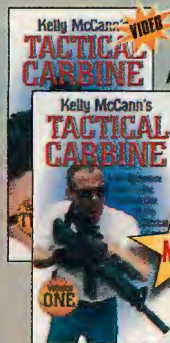


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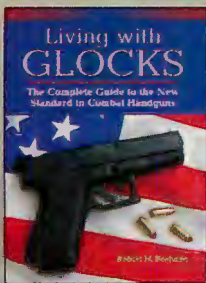


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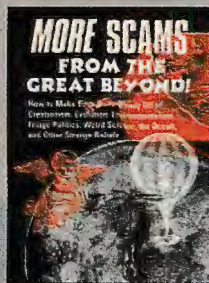


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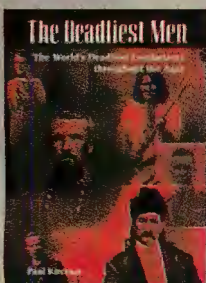


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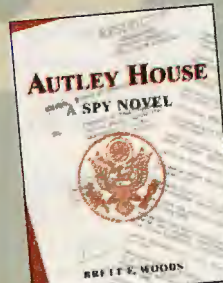


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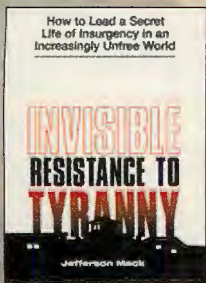
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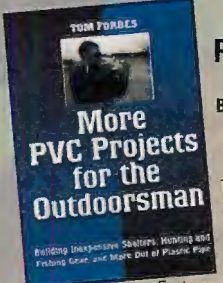


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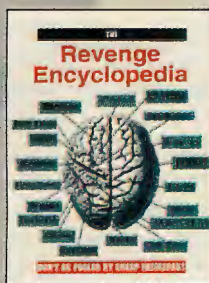


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Command Guidance

BY JAMES TARANTO

The New Red Scare

A decade after winning the Cold War, is America in danger of a communist takeover? You might think so if you've been listening to the critics of a proposed antiterror effort called Operations TIPS.

TIPS, which stands for Terrorism Information and Prevention System, is a sort of nationwide Neighborhood Watch. "The program will involve the millions of American workers who, in the daily course of their work, are in a unique position to see potentially unusual or suspicious activity in public places," explains the Web site of the Citizen Corps, which administers both TIPS and Neighborhood Watch.

The Justice Department planned to ask postal workers and utility workers, among others, to keep an eye out and to call a toll-free number if they see anything fishy. But the *Washington Post* reported Saturday [10 Aug] that in the face of harsh criticism, the department has decided to limit the program to truckers, bus drivers and others whose jobs don't take them anywhere near private homes.

Granted, the notion of deputizing mailmen as intelligence gatherers does not inspire a great deal of confidence. Yet most of the opposition to TIPS has focused not on its effectiveness or lack thereof but on its supposedly totalitarian nature.

It began in mid-July when one Ritt Goldstein — a self-described "former

leader in the movement for U.S. law enforcement accountability" who "has lived in Sweden since 1997, seeking political asylum there" — penned an essay for an Australian newspaper in which he warned that under TIPS "the U.S. will have a higher percentage of citizen informants than the former East Germany through the infamous Stasi secret police." Brian Doherty of the libertarian *Reason* magazine picked up the theme: "The East Germans had a more stylish and nakedly sinister name for the same idea: the formerly feared, and apparently now fondly missed, Stasi."

The liberal *Boston Globe* editorialized that Attorney General John Ashcroft and "his fellow travelers" should "consult some of the citizens in the former East Germany who discovered, when looking into their Stasi files, that under the former regime they had been spied upon for years by a husband or wife." The paper added that TIPS "would give Stalin and the KGB a delayed triumph in the Cold War." (Who knew the *Boston Globe* was so fervidly anticommunist?) And Rep. Dick Armey, the House Republican leader, struck TIPS from the homeland-security bill, saying he objected to "citizens spying on one another."

It's a common enough theme in debates over civil liberties: If we're not

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I have been a reader of SOF for many years, so I had the opportunity to read a column, which appeared some time back regarding the scams coming out of Nigeria. I am writing to tell you that just the other day a client entered the office seeking advice on an e-mail he received from, of all places, Nigeria. I politely asked him to halt his story, and then I finished it for him, setting forth the facts of large amounts of money frozen by the Nigerian government, and the request for his bank account number so over a million dollars could be transferred to him, as a fee, etc., etc., etc. The client was amazed, and then I explained what was happening. I advised him of the scams which are an ongoing process, and for him to contact the FBI, though they probably wouldn't or couldn't do anything, given the facts of the matter. The upshot of all this is that SOF provided me with information I needed to give good advice.

SOF mag isn't just about the military, it's about the world. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

Attorney Ed Dutkiewicz

Looking after your Constitutional rights, your liberties, your military and financial well-being ... Yup, that's SOF. The "419" scams continue, evolving in scope and geography to take advantage of current events. Recent iterations include "Green Berets in Bosnia" who have uncovered a cache of cash; hapless farmers in Zimbabwe who, although robbed of their farms, have millions in a foreign bank; pleas from the son of the lately deceased Dr. Jonas Savimbi of Angola; and variations on the perennial favorite of various oil scams in Nigeria/Ivory Coast/South Africa etc. Our intrepid readers have a real eye for humor and have forwarded us the "419" scam solicitations they received, by e-mail and letter. Keep 'em, coming (e-mail to editorsofmag@aol.com and snailmail to "FLAK," SOF, 5735 E. Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80303) and eventually we'll do an update.

A General Worthy Of The Rank



In the last issue of your magazine I enjoyed the interview with General Zelko Glasnovic, my former commander. I served under his command after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as S3 in the AoF (Army of Federation) Combat Simulation Center, while he was AoF TRADOC Commander, and

I can say that he's the only one real general we had. All other generals are just miserable ex-JNA (Yugoslav People's Arms) junior officers and NCOs, who still believe that their poor military education is enough to cope with today's challenges. Those commies will never change and their only goal is to keep their positions as long as they can, doing nothing to improve the Federation Army. Even worse is that some of them have connections with Islamic terrorism, putting the bad mark on the whole country.

I left the Federation Army this year, because I didn't want to serve under command of ex-KOS (Counterintelligence Service, not Control of Security) officers who still believe in their obsolete doctrinal concepts and still treat subordinates just as numbers, like in the old-time communistic armies.

I wish success to Gen. Glasnovic and hope he is going to help us to liberate our country, and army, of historic relics — commie officers — as well as of terrorists.

Elis Bektas
Zenica, BiH

Water, Water, Everywhere

Noticed your column [by Mike Sparks] in the October issue. Didn't know if you were aware of another solution to the problem you outlined [hard landings on hard water bottles]. The solution is hands-free hydration systems from CamelBak Products. The company has a line of hydration systems developed specifically for military and law-enforcement use. They're sturdier and offer more functionality than competitive systems (including an NBC-mask interface and a drinking reservoir impervious to NBC conditions). In addition, the systems are made in the USA.

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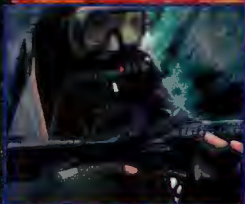
Time To Get Even Tougher

Col. McColl, first off, thank you for your service to this country; I also defend our great land in my role as a Chicago Police Officer, so I feel qualified to comment on your position

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on defending Mr. Jose Padilla (aka Abdullah al-Mujahadir). Before Jose Padilla went to the big time he terrorized the streets of Chicago along with his kind for years, from starting out as a "shorty" to that first stolen car to bust'n his first cap for the Almighty Latin King Nation. A good thing to think about is that for every arrest, he probably committed ten or more serious crimes we didn't hook him up with, but I'm sure I documented at least one of his victim's burglary, robbery or shooting with the name of "unknown" in the offender box of a report. Let's just say Mr. Padilla traded in some of his rights years ago when he swore in to his "Nation" and began his life as a domestic terrorist, which know it or not is what all gang-bangers are.

America is a safer place without Jose Padilla on the streets, the Feds can keep him for as long as they like, but in the end too many people champion a cause for these "political prisoners" and the guilty are released in an election year. I can see it now, the big sign over the Kennedy Expressway from O'Hare Airport, "Chicago welcomes Abdullah al-Mujahadir" while he is on his way to his press conference and lunch and embrace with Major Daley. Let's hope I'm wrong, there are more like Mr. Padilla, home grown and ready to go, it's time we get even tougher, legally declared state of war or not, they brought the fight to us, this is real, this is gun time. God Bless America, stay safe.

Thanks,
Officer Dan Mieszcak
Chicago Police Department

We agree on the threat Padilla/al-Mujahadir and his ilk pose to America, but if we do not handle their threat within the framework of law — which starts with the Constitution we all have sworn to defend — then we are in danger of taking from ourselves more than they ever could. In other words, he deserves a fair trial before he's hung.

All Terrorists Suck

- Comments: Don't you people think your hypocritical about what happen on 11 Sept? Your magazine and the U.S. Gov't has always back the Muslim terrorists who were are still fighting Eastern Orthodox Christian Serbs in the Balkans. Now the same people who are at your f****in magazine, have back Muslims for all those years, while fighting the Serbs. .So where does your f****n loyalty stand now? With the Muslims still? Don't tell me you people were for the Serbs in the Balans. You were not, that's the f****n problem. Now reap what you f****n people have sowed now.

Eli Chanin
Vie Email

Our loyalties are where they have always been: with the oppressed and the victims of terrorism. When an individual, nation, religion, or ethnic group oppresses another or resorts to terrorism to gain what they want, we are their enemy. We wish death to all tyrants, equally, and without regard to anything but their penchant for violence against innocents. Just for your reference, we would have been strongly pro-Serb and anti-German during WWII; likewise we probably would have opposed the Croats in WW II, but in this last Balkan situation it was our assessment they were the guys in the White Hats due to the

Serb-sponsored (but not exclusively Serbian) atrocities. What somebody's father may have done is not necessarily an indication of what the son will do, and the same goes for what members of a particular race, ethnic group, political or religious group may have done in the past: It's what they're doing now that identifies them as tyrants or terrorists, and it has been our judgment that they do this because they are either bad people, or are being persuaded/lead by bad people. In the case you refer to, we were against the Serb mistreatment of the Croats and Muslims but by no means people of the Eastern Orthodox faith (whose prelate described Serb atrocities as "something that would shame the Devil himself") — and for the same reasons we are against Islamic extremists who mistreat or terrorize others — but not the faith of Islam itself. We were against our own government's atrocities in Waco and Ruby Ridge, but not against our government. We would have been against the Spanish Inquisition, but not the Roman Catholic Church. We thought King George was a tyrant and fought a revolution to break ties with the British government — but have been allies in virtually every war since. We realize not a word of this makes any sense to you, but we had to try.

Darn Right They Do

While visiting my 38-year-old at his home recently, I overheard my daughter-in-law's admonishment to him.

"Why do you buy that type of magazine anyway? And why do you leave it on the coffee table where the kids can see it? My son's explanation: "That's my mom's magazine."

Reda Anderson
El Segundo, Calif.

Lots of eclectic gals read — and write for — SOF.

Liked The Coverage

I was very impressed about your coverage on the OKC bombing. I am equally impressed, with the way your mag isn't afraid of telling it like it is. Please keep up the true spirit of the American way.

Spook.

Glad you liked the coverage of OKC so far — stay tuned, it isn't over yet. ✂

SOF Welcomes Letters To The Editor.

Letters may be edited for space considerations.
Please address correspondence to:
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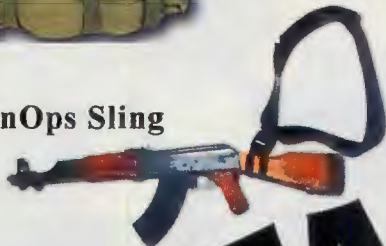
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Bulletin Board

U.S. Army International Sniper Competition

From 13-20 December, the U.S. Army Sniper School, the Army Sniper Association and Ft. Benning, Georgia will host the second annual U.S. Army International Sniper Competition, bringing teams from all over the United States and several foreign countries. There are slots for 30 teams (60 snipers), and appropriate vendors are invited to display their wares, and encouraged to donate match prizes. With teams from all services and observers from major law-enforcement agencies, this will be a premier event — but time is short. Vendors will need to have confirmed their plans to attend and/or display by 15 November.

Further information and details are available from: Arturo Prieto; phone: 334-297-3001; E-Mail: sniper711985@cs.com; or Dominic Barnello; phone: 706-687-1548; E-Mail: domisreb@prodigy.net.

Sponsored products for companies who cannot attend (the match has personnel who can display or distribute literature for you), should go to: Army Sniper Association, P.O. Box 53562, Ft. Benning, GA 31995-3562; Attn: 2nd Annual Sniper Competition.

See you there!

Ooops

Inadvertently left out of the sidebar on page 71 of the November issue, in the story "Don't Like Mouse Guns?" by Dick Culver, was the name and address of McMillan Bros Rifle Co., Inc., makers of a number of leading-edge .50 rifles (including the apparent record holder for long-range kills by Canadian snipers). It is: 1638 W. Knudsen Dr., #102, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 623-582-3713; fax: 623-582-3930; or check out their website at: www.mcmfamily.com.

Huh?

According to the BBC, the Saudi press has launched a vitriolic attack on what it describes as "Christian Fundamentalism" in the United States. One newspaper, *al-Watan*, said Christian fundamentalism was no less dangerous to international peace and security than other forms of religious extremism. Noted *Opinion Journal*, "Hmm, they must have been referring to that incident in which a score of fundamentalist Christian hijackers took over several Saudi



SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown (right) and frequent contributor and arms author of note Gary Paul Johnston briefly pose with an M249 SAW that will be the subject of a feature in next month's SOF.

Arabian Airways jets and crashed them into Riyadh's biggest buildings. Oh wait, sorry. Those were American planes; it was New York, not Riyadh, and the hijackers were Muslims. Most of them were Saudis. Maybe the Saudis are talking about that."

Return Of The "SF Babies"

The U.S. Army has announced a new program allowing recruits to enlist directly into U.S. Army Special Forces training. Revived in mid-January, the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative is a return to the original Special Forces recruitment process, which began in 1952 and allowed both civilians and servicemen to sign up for the nearly two years of

training necessary to become a "Green Beret." Recruits who begin training under the new program will enter the Army as a private first class, eventually earning the rank of sergeant when they complete training. In 1988, the recruiting process was adjusted to allow only soldiers already in the Army to become Special Forces-qualified. By early spring, Army recruiters had already filled 140 of the 400 slots allotted for civilians enlisting into the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative. Among the first 140 Special Forces hopefuls recruited, 22 possess undergraduate degrees, three have a master's degree, and two have earned a doctorate.

An advantage of enlisting civilian volunteers directly into SF training is that they can serve more years than someone recruited in-service, who typically already has about eight years of service. Civilians recruited under the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative will on average have slightly more than two years in service when they complete their training and are assigned to a team as a sergeant.

Whereas traditional in-service recruits go straight to Special Forces Assessment and Selection from their unit when they volunteer for Special Forces training, those recruited under the new recruiting initiative will report first to the Special Operations Preparation and Conditioning Course created by the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (ABN). During the class, veteran Special Forces soldiers conduct intensive training in land navigation, physical training and other basic soldier skills with the recruits.

Despite the program's popularity with the recruits, some SF veterans have characterized it as a move to quickly inflate the thin ranks of Special Forces teams by de-emphasizing the normally high standards. There is some misconception that the new recruiting program was implemented

because of 11 September, but Army officers overseeing the program state the Army has been working on an initial-accession program for some time and that 9-11 merely accelerated the timetable.

— Rob Krott

The Torturous Death Of A Nation

Strangely silent are the world's legions of liberals who rallied to railroad the murderous Marxist madman Robert Mugabe into the presidential palace in Harare, Zimbabwe, now that his insane destruction of what was once one of the most prosperous nations in Africa is nearly complete. With other international news overshadowing events in Zimbabwe, the situation, which would be headline news in a different time, is brief back-page news in most papers. An excellent compilation of news articles on Zimbabwe from papers the world over, however, is available on-line at: www.zwnews.com. If you're not on-line, go to the local library and punch it up. It's definitely worth your time.

Conditions in Zimbabwe, as we go to press, are deteriorating at an accelerating rate: A nation that was once the breadbasket of Africa, and was still exporting food up to three years ago, now faces the mass starvation of millions. And the madman at the helm has turned away American corn for his starving people because it is genetically engineered to be drought-resistant. In some areas occupied by Mugabe-sponsored squatters, more than half the wildlife has already been slaughtered for meat or horns; huge areas of forest preserve are being burned to herd wildlife into snares, or for

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subsistence "farming." With the drought now broken and the forests shorn there is danger of massive erosion and flooding. With the existing agriculture destroyed by Mugabe and his minions, the only food source left is the bush — and at best it will have only a few months' supply before it is raped barren by starving locals. Mugabe cronies have helped themselves to the best farms, but, there is almost no planting being done, as they have also run off the original farm workers, and the new "owners" are simply too stupid to farm.

Get a fresh roll of Tums and check out that website — you should at least stay informed.

Taliban Johnny Gets A Movie

A two-hour TV movie dramatizing the story of American Taliban fighter and traitor John Walker Lindh is in the early stages of development at the FX cable channel. The exact plot of the picture (which was in flux as John Walker Lindh's trial for treason case was then unresolved) is still unknown and the movie is tentatively titled *American Taliban*. The movie, if made, would attempt to explain what motivated Lindh to fight for an enemy of the United States. The scriptwriter, John Romano, told *Variety* that *American Taliban* will represent a chance for him to figure out just what to make of Lindh's story. "I was compelled by the profound psychological and political mystery of this kid: How does someone grow up in Marin County with all the benefits that America has to offer, and then end up in Afghanistan with an AK-47?"

How about: He was a spoiled brat and his parents were wing nuts?
— Rob Krott

VA Beach Counter-Terrorism Conference

Tactical Waterborne Operations of Virginia Beach, Va., (specializing in training law-enforcement tactical teams for water operations) will sponsor the Second Annual Counter Terrorism Conference "Combating Terrorism in the 21st Century" in partnership with SCIAX Defence Systems (optics and tactical imaging for military and law enforcement) and the International Association for Counter-Terrorism and Security Professionals (IACSP). Speakers well known in the field will lecture on topics such as "Counter-terrorism History and Lessons," "Counter-terrorism Preparedness in Police Agency Management," "WMD: Identification, Defense, Disposal," "Counter-terrorism Training in Special Operations," "Mental Preparedness for Officers in the Counter-terrorism Environment," "Counter-terrorism Preparedness in the Tactical Officers Community," "Security Concerns and Management for International Events — World Cup Soccer." The conference will be held at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, Tuesday, 10 December through Thursday, 12 December 2002. Conference registration fee (including six meals) is \$250. This is a non-profit event with all proceeds to benefit the Special Warfare Foundation and the NTOA Memorial Fund. Hotel reservations can be made online or by calling (800) 521-5635. For more information please contact: Teena Rumak, Sciax Defence Systems Inc; Phone: (416) 778-6770; Toll-Free: (877) 997-2429; Fax: (416) 778-8775; E-Mail: trumak@sciax.com. More information is also available on the www.sciax.com site (on-line registration available); and www.watreborne.com.

— Rob Krott ✕

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WORD WARS

Radio Marti Reaches Out To The Cuban Military

BY ROBERT MARTIN

!buenas Noches, Soldados Cubanos!

Men of the Cuban military are the target of a program transmitted by Radio Marti, the U.S. Government's station that broadcasts to Cuba. The half-hour program, *En Marcha* ("Marching"), is broadcast two nights a week and expects to go to five times weekly.

"We are trying to reach the Cuban military," says the coordinator of the program, Jay Mallin, Sr. "We give them news they don't receive from the controlled Cuban press, and we explain U.S. military policies and actions in the war on terrorism."

The program does not seek to stir unrest among the military, but rather to encourage them to consider "their responsibilities to their country and to the Cuban people," according to Mallin.

En Marcha has three basic components:

A news bloc: This consists of items about military events and developments around the world.

Commentaries: Each program has one commentary. They are written and voiced alternately by two former Cuban officers. One is Comandante Huber Matos, who fought with Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra Mountains but later

broke with him over the communist takeover of Cuba. Matos was tried and sent to prison for 20 years. The second commentator is Brigadier General Rafael del Piño Diaz. Del Piño fought in Castro's air force during the Bay of Pigs invasion and in Angola, and rose to the rank of general. He became disillusioned with the Castro regime and in 1987 flew his family in a small plane to the United States and requested, and was given, asylum — the highest-ranking defector from Castro's government.

Interviews: These are the heart of *En Marcha*, one in each program filling half the time space. The subject matters span significant military developments worldwide, with special attention to the war on terrorism by the United States and its allies. Interviewed are former officers, usually Cuban-Americans, who have served in the United States armed forces. Occasionally the interviewee is a veteran of the Cuban forces (pre-Castro and/or Castro) or has served in both the Cuban and American militaries.

Typical of the interviewees have been former U.S. Colonels Nestor Piño-Marina, Manuel "Manny" Granado, Orlando Rodriguez and Juan Montes. All participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion and were captured. Upon being released

they enlisted in the U.S. Army and eventually rose to the rank of colonel. As Special Forces officers they served in Viet Nam and in a number of Latin American countries.

Also interviewed on the program have been professors from the National Defense University (Robert Scheina), the Naval War College (Alberto Coll), the Army War College (Gabriel Marchela) and the University of Miami (Jaime Suchlicki).

Mallin says, "The military will play a significant, probably decisive, role in the future of the country, whatever happens there. Our program does not call upon them to rebel, or anything like that. Our message is to ask them to remember their responsibilities to their country and to the Cuban people in

the future. We urge them to support democracy, when the opportunity for doing that arises. We point out the role of the military in the East European countries. The soldiers sided with the people when the communist governments collapsed.

"The former officers we have interviewed say this to the Cubans: We respect you as professional soldiers. We are ready to help you in any way in the future with our own know-how, if you request our assistance."

Mallin has reported on and written about Latin American affairs for more than 50 years as a journalist, author and academic researcher. He was the first Latin-America correspondent for *SOF*, and he was news director of Radio Marti during its first five years. Later, he co-directed a study of the Cuban military for the Pentagon and he wrote *History of the Cuban Military*.

Producer of *En Marcha* is Ofelia Oviedo, who has produced scores of programs for Radio Marti since it began broadcasting in 1985. Radio Marti transmits a full plate of programs: news, soap operas, music, and round tables. It is modeled after famed Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty that broadcast to the Soviet Union and its satellites during the Cold War. When Marti began broadcasting, the late Sen. Lawton Chiles stated that it would be "a window on the world for Cubans."

Radio Marti and its smaller sister, TV Marti, are under the Office of Cuban Broadcasting. The director of the OCB is Salvador Lew, a longtime exile activist and a career radioman. In the early '60s, Lew was spokesman for Comandos Mambises, a CIA-supported group that raided Cuban coastal installations. ✕



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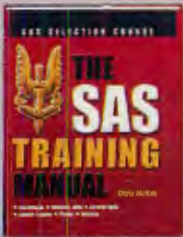
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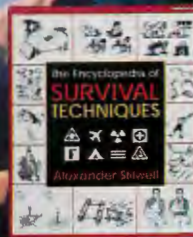
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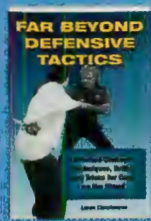
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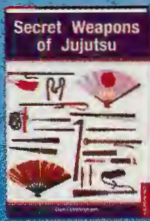
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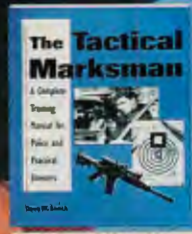
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American Sniper In Israel

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DAVID STONE



Jerusalem Yasam's Motorcycle Unit Israeli Police Rapid-Response Team

The area is secured! There are no armed individuals. Both the Promenade and the wooded valley below have been checked. There is no terrorist attack commencing. I repeat, there are no armed individuals. Stand down. Out."

It was the final sitrep from the two teams of motorcycle-mounted Yasam officers, first-responders on the scene. We sighed collectively as the adrenaline flow started to slow. Shai, Commander of the Motorcycle Unit, quickly notified his boss, Doron, the overall Commander of the Jerusalem

Israeli motorcycle teams carry Jericho 9mm pistols and mini-Uzis, and drive 500cc Kawasaki KLEs.

Yasam, who immediately put out an "All clear," and cancelled the alert. A mere six minutes earlier my interview with Shai had been interrupted by the initial "Armed Men APB" broadcast on the Police and Border Police communications networks. I had just been privy to a live demonstration of the effectiveness and value of the Motorcycle Unit."

In the mid-'90s, the inability of the police to quickly move



Teams are easily recognized by Italian black jackets, and have the ability to apprehend any vehicle that attempts to evade a spot check. (inset) close up of the mini-Uzi.

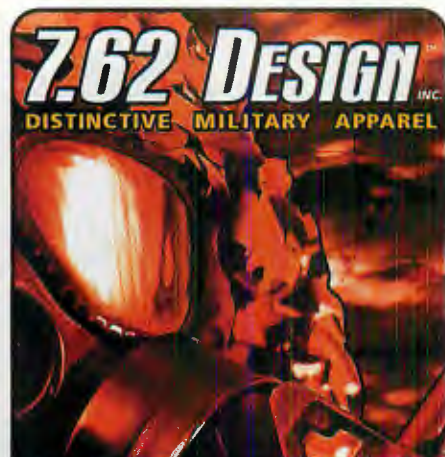
within and around the city in their vans and cars was a worsening situation. "The Unit was created to meet the need for a highly mobile on/off-road rapid response to major disorders and terrorism within greater Jerusalem. Given its mission, it was natural that a motorcycle unit, the Yasam, become part of the police trained to handle large disorders, crowd-control and terror attacks. Our motorcycle teams can cover a big

area faster and better than vehicles," I was told by Doron, who made effort to conceal his pride.

A Kawasaki KLE with a 500cc engine is the unit's choice for a bike. "It is fast enough" to navigate the narrow, several-hundred-year-old alleys, perpetually under-construction streets and the modern highways that make up today's traffic congestion in Jerusalem. And it handles all our off-road demands from climbing steep, rock-covered valleys to crossing back and forth through the wooded mountainsides of Jerusalem.

"There is an argument that the 650cc engine is needed, for instance, for Tel Aviv, but we don't need intracity speed," Doron added.

The Unit members work in two-man teams. There are no women. Each officer is trained to both drive and shoot. They continually practice the team



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basics; getting on and off the bike quickly and simultaneously; moving to shooting positions and firing while moving. The teams switch driver/shooter positions on a regular basis.

Shai described the qualities he looked for in selecting candidates for his Unit. "They have to be above-average graduates from police basic training. Of course, I want individuals from IDF fighting units, with plenty of actual combat experience. Men who have been under fire, repeatedly. They also must already have a motorcycle operator's license and plenty of on-road and off-road experience. Obviously, candidates need to be in excellent physical condition. They need to be highly motivated because will be on-call from home even when off-duty. Most important, they need to continually demonstrate a superior ability for teamwork.

Each candidate selected for the Early Response Motorcycle Unit must first graduate from the basic Yasam course. They then will take courses in driving the Kawasaki KLE on-road and off-road. They will relearn to drive the Yasam way. Next comes learning to drive as a member of a team with your back seat occupied by someone who is assuming shooting positions and firing. Then, each candidate learns to be the back-seat shooter; how to sit, raise himself, assume a stable shooting stance, hold his weapon and then to fire with a high degree of accuracy.

Individual and two-man team basics



mastered, the teams go on to learn group tactics, how to work in pairs and groups of three or more motorcycles. Finally, the team members must master working in coordination with others; both Police and Border Police, the Yasam and the Yamam anti-terror unit.

Each team member carries an IMI Jericho 941F (single-action, 15-round magazine) semi-auto 9mm pistol. Ammunition is 155-gr. FMJ, also made by IMI. The Jericho is carried in one of several tactical holsters or in a custom-designed holster incorporated into the vests the Units' members wear. The choice is left up to the individual officer — whatever works best for him. In addition, the members are armed with either an M16 Commando or a Mini-Uzi. The M16s have two 30-round magazines (for 5.56 caliber) clipped together; the Mini-Uzis have two 25- (or 32-) round magazines (for 9mm) also clipped together in the Israeli "L"-configuration. The M16s "wear" an assortment of scopes, lasers, lights and sights.

The Unit is instantly recognizable by the black, Speedy (Italian) padded jackets everyone wears. Underneath the uniforms are standard Yasam-gray BDUs in summer, and special black BDUs in winter. Wearing kneepads is SOP, concealed beneath one's pants. Visored black helmets add to the protection of the Units' members and to the Unit's mystique. Communication is by standard police Motorola radios worn in pouches on the back of the

officers' vests. The mouthpiece is clipped onto a shoulder epaulette. So far, the Unit has not found a hands-free, under-the-helmet communication system it likes.

The motorcycle teams are often seen in the vicinity of what is becoming more and more a fixture of everyday life in Jerusalem: the temporary road-block. The Kawasakis have the speed and handling and the team members have the driving skills to catch and stop any vehicle which attempts to run or evade a spot-check. Generally, the motorcycle teams are the first-respon-

ders to a terror attack.

They are relied upon to evaluate the situation and report, begin an immediate search for, and engage, any additional terrorists and stop the escape of the terrorists who carried out the attack, and also of those who delivered them to the target.

Terrorists can't run far from these motorcycle teams.

David Stone is an American citizen who several years ago emigrated to Israel. He is a member of the Israeli Police Reserve Sniper Unit. ☒



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Unrestricted Warfare

A Chinese Agenda For Defeat Of The U.S.

BY DOUG LUCAS

In 1999, a pair of Chinese Senior Colonels, Wang Xiangsui and Qiao Liang, wrote *Unrestricted Warfare*. Selections (228 pages) from their book are available on the World Wide Web in an English translation from the Foreign Broadcast Information service. The book itself is published by the PLA Literature and Arts Publishing House. *Unrestricted Warfare* outlines a grand warfare strategy that counters U.S. military dominance by engaging the United States using non-military means. Terrorism is one of those means that has risen to prominence in recent months. Less prominent in our news since the retirement of President Bill Clinton, but just as prominent in Chinese strategy, are buying our politicians, cultural warfare, economic warfare and psychological warfare.

Colonels Qiao and Wang propose that the U.S. victory in Operation Desert Storm changed the face of war forever and sparked a global revolution in military affairs that has changed the definition of war and the definition of a weapon. Americans have mistakenly assumed that the world watched

in awe as we reduced the Iraqis to dust and that the world would accept our battlefield dominance, and would take heed until they could match us tank-for-tank and stealth-fighter-for-stealth-fighter. We were wrong.

Non-Military War Operations

A new form of warfare is emerging and evolving against a backdrop of social, political, economic, religious, technological, ideological, diplomatic and cultural issues. Driving this change is the reality that the lesser-developed nations are years behind the United States in military technology and that an attempt to engage us in a traditional military-on-military confrontation (either hot or cold) is futile, and a ticket to national bankruptcy. The revolution in military affairs that was triggered by Desert Storm was not an effort by the lesser-developed nations to play catch up, but the effort of lesser-developed nations to mutate around, to outflank, our technology — an intellectually and technologically indirect approach.



Political warfare, trade warfare can be combined when you buy political influence. In a photo entered into evidence at a Senate Committee Hearing on Governmental Affairs, then-Vice President

Al Gore is seen at Buddhist temple in Los Angeles, for a questionable fund-raising dinner.



After lengthy legal machinations, Johnny Chung finally testifies on Capitol Hill about Clinton-Gore fund-raising and the China connection, as his lawyer Brian Sun keeps an eye on his client. Some of the people delivering funds to DNC coffers, although in the United States on "business" turned out to be PLA officers.

According to Qiao and Wang, warfare will no longer be defined as using armed force to compel the enemy to submit to one's will. Warfare will entail using "all means including armed force and unarmed force, military and non-military and lethal and non-lethal means to compel the enemy to accept one's interests."

At the heart of unrestricted warfare, are what Qiao and Wang describe as non-military war operations. "Non military war operations ... extend our understanding of exactly what

constitutes a state of war to each and every field of human endeavor ... this type of extension is the natural result of the fact that human beings will use every conceivable means to achieve their goal." What are the means that Qiao and Wang propose? They include trade warfare; financial warfare; foundational warfare; terror warfare (both traditional terrorism and "new terror war"); ecological warfare; psychological warfare; smuggling warfare; media warfare; drug warfare; network warfare; international law warfare; technological warfare; deception warfare; cultural warfare; biological and chemical warfare; economic aid warfare ... among others too numerous to list here. What is more, these and other means are to be combined in a nearly endless number of possible combinations, making unrestricted warfare difficult to wargame. "... contingency in war does not come from physical or geographical obstacles, but from people's minds ..."

Against the rules of warfare, you say? Not a problem for colonels Qiao and Wang, who reason that rich nations make the rules, and poor nations should discard them. In a subsequent interview by the Chinese Communist Party Youth League official daily *Zhongguo Qingnian Boa* dated 28 June 1999 Qiao was quoted as saying, "The first rule of unrestricted warfare is that there are no rules, with nothing forbidden."

What colonels Qiao and Wang propose, is warfare that transcends all boundaries and limits, encompassing all means both military and non military; warfare in which information is omnipresent, all means are in readiness and the battlefield is everywhere; where weapons and technology can be brought to bear at will; warfare in which all boundaries between the world of war and non-war and military and non-military are totally destroyed. The battlefield will be everywhere. And everyone will — like it or not — be a soldier. This is unrestricted warfare.

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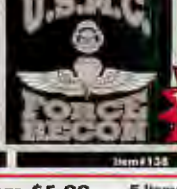
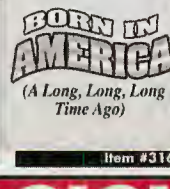
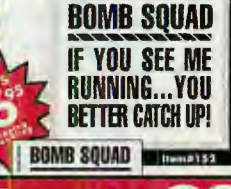
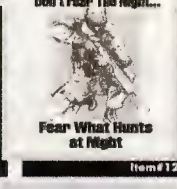
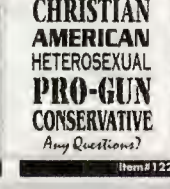
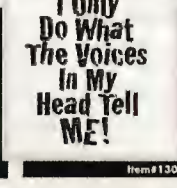
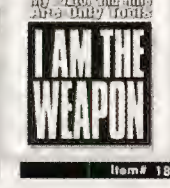
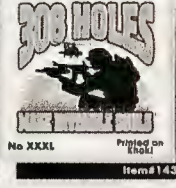
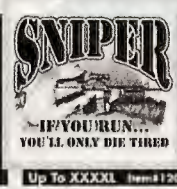
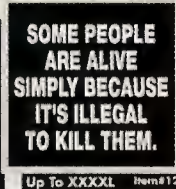
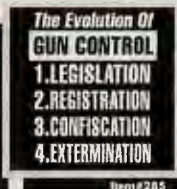
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Political, Economic, Technological Violence

Colonels Qiao and Wang observe that while political, economic and technological violence are increased in unrestricted warfare, military violence is decreased “so that peoples’ dream of winning military victories in non-military spheres, and winning wars with non-military means can now become reality.” Unrestricted warfare is guided by eight major concepts or principles, which are roughly analogous to the major tenets of Airland Battle (initiative, agility, depth, and synchronization). These are:

1. Omni directionality — there is no longer any distinction between what is or is not the battlefield. Natural spaces such as ground, air, sea and space; artificial spaces such as networks; and social spaces such as the media, politics, economics, etc. are all considered battlefields.
2. Synchrony — two drums beating together are simultaneous. The internal workings of a watch are synchronized; each gear playing off the actions of its complimentary gear. Synchrony is made possible by the emergence of long-range warfare technology. The result will be that actions in unrestricted warfare maybe compressed into a very short period of time. Synchrony is stressed over phasing.
3. Limited Objectives — objectives must always be smaller

than measures. In Vietnam the U. S. objective of winning was larger than the measures that U. S. leaders were willing to use. Defeat was inevitable. Objectives must also be measured against resources available. Any objective that is greater than available resources is eliminated.

4. Unlimited measures — “unlimited measures to accomplish limited objectives is the ultimate boundary.” The only limit on measures is not to exceed the objective.
5. Asymmetry — in all things use asymmetry as a measure to accomplish the objective. Always find and exploit an enemy’s soft spots. Refuse head-to head-confrontation.
6. Minimal consumption — uses the least amount of combat resources sufficient to accomplish the objective.
7. Multidimensional coordination — coordination and cooperation among different forces in different spheres in order to accomplish an objective.
8. Adjustment and control of the entire process — continually acquire information, adjust action and control the situation while it is actually happening in order to keep the initiative in one’s grasp.

Qiao and Wang share their vision: “ ... if the attacking side secretly musters large amounts of capital without the enemy nation being aware of this at all and launches a sneak

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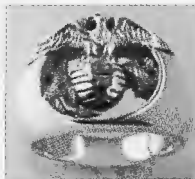
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attack against its financial markets, then after causing a financial crisis, buries a computer virus and hacker detachment in the opponent's computer system in advance, while at the same time carrying out a network attack against the enemy so that the civilian electricity network, traffic dispatching network, financial transaction network, telephone communications network and mass media network are completely paralyzed, this will cause the enemy nation to fall into social

war? Qiao and Wang propose "a composite force that relates to all national interests, within all dimensions; able to conduct actual operations both defensive and offensive within a grand warfare strategy — unrestricted warfare." They compare unrestricted warfare to a martial cocktail. The general who wins will be the one who best combines means. "Military action + Financial action + Network warfare + Terrorism, this is our hand of cards."

There are those who will say, "There

Warfare will entail using "all means including armed force and unarmed force, military and non-military and lethal and non-lethal means to compel the enemy to accept one's interests."

panic, street riots and a political crisis. There is finally the forceful bearing down by the army, and military means are utilized in gradual stages until the enemy is forced to sign a dishonorable treaty." It is easy to make the comparison between Unrestricted Warfare and the worst-case scenario envisioned by Y2K fanatics.

Our Soft Underbelly

How is the U.S. preparing to fight this kind of war? Colonels Qiao and Wang contend that the U.S. military has pawned most of these responsibilities off on the CIA, preferring to busy themselves preparing for another Desert Storm. They also contend that:

- We are not mentally prepared for unrestricted warfare.
- We are afraid to take casualties.
- Inter-service rivalry and self-interest make it impossible for us to learn even from our successes.
- We are overly extravagant and infatuated with technology and we are not willing to see war as a test of morale and courage, wisdom and strategy.
- We are ensnared in factionalism among our generals, colonels and lieutenant colonels over how our troops should be organized.
- We are caught in a lag between our technology and our thinking. While we are ahead in technology we are behind in strategy. We don't understand what a weapon is, or can be. We don't understand the tactics and means available to even our poorest neighbors.

How does a nation prepare for such a

is nothing new here. These are standard asymmetrical tactics and techniques." And in a sense they are right. What is new about unrestricted warfare is the overt adoption of these tactics by a state or group of states; the collation of these tactics into a grand strategy; and the pervasiveness and accessibility of technologies that make these tactics and this strategy not only possible but relatively cheap and effective. Twelve guys with pistols and hand grenades are just 12 guys with pistols and hand grenades. Add 12 cell phones with conference calling and you have twelve simultaneously coordinated guys with pistols and hand grenades ... a bit scarier, and one hundred bucks per man will do it.

Unrestricted Warfare is important reading for both soldiers and citizens. Suffer through the esoteric mathematical analogies and Chinese language lessons in Chapters 6 and 7. Then suffer through it a couple of more times. It is difficult to decide if these guys write like Sun Tzu or if they want to write like Sun Tzu. But there is important information about their thinking revealed. The Chinese have big plans to be the hegemonic power in Asia. The Wahabibs want to be the hegemonic power in the Middle East. And here is their strategy. Now that we have their playbook, the Panama Canal, Buddhist-temple money to the Democrats via a Chinese intelligence officer, the massacre at Jenin, AK47s smuggled to West Coast street gangs ... are all put in perspective.

A former Army Special Forces trooper, Doug Lucas writes and lives in Virginia. ✕



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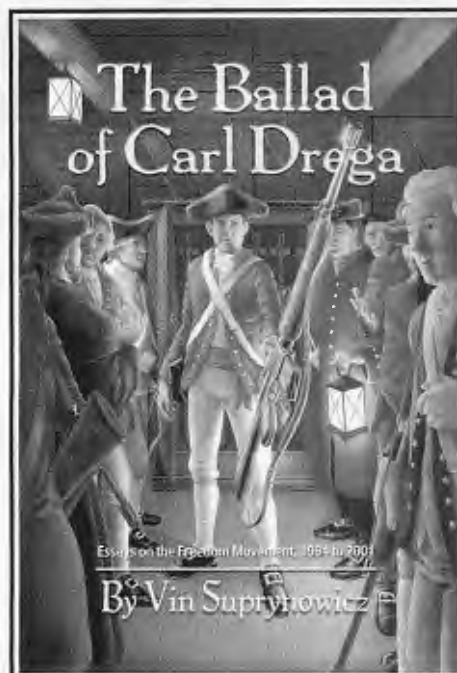
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Battle Blades

BY BILL BAGWELL

Tools of War

There are many faces of war, and edged-weapons combat is but one of them. Edged weapons take many forms, and are but one of the tools of war. Man has applied his ingenuity to the process of designing superior edged weaponry throughout the centuries, and has devised any number of methods of deploying these same weapons to achieve maximum effect. While purpose-designed-for-killing knives are a breed apart from other forms of cutlery, their very specialization often inhibits their effectiveness when they are called upon to perform other tasks that might be considered mundane, but are nonetheless mission essential. It is for this reason that one knife is rarely enough in the field, and on occasion, a multi-purpose knife that can func-

tion effectively as a tool is the implement of choice.

When SF trooper Matt Donovan's (son of *SOF*'s EOD wonk John Donovan) unit was called to active duty for operations in the Middle East, his team wanted to include a high-quality, high-performance folding knife as part of their equipment package. Their requirements were that the knife be strong, efficient, and light in weight. It had to be ergonomically compatible with the men who were to use it. It had to perform, no questions asked.

Knives good enough to carry to war, Emerson's Commander SFS (top), and new Mach 1 (bottom), feature the very best in advanced design, space-age materials, and workmanship.



When Donovan's team contacted SOF for advice, they were told Ernest Emerson at Emerson Knives builds knives that are as good as it gets, and to go with Ernie's recommendation. Emerson decided to send them two different models, the proven Commander, and the newer Mach 1. As an upshot, *Soldier Of Fortune* has obtained one of each for our inspection and evaluation.

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Per Se,
They Are
Without
A Doubt
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While Ernest Emerson has a top-notch manufacturing facility and methodology, he is also one of the most talented designers of folding knives. Get one in your hand, and it feels good. It opens and closes with smooth authority. The steel is properly tempered, as it cuts well and sharpens easily. The handle doesn't hurt your hand when you use the knife for a protracted cutting session. The knives carry well, and the pocket clip actually works and grips with authority. All the little things that should be present and accounted for are present and in place. Ernie thought these things out beforehand, and has made them happen in these folders.

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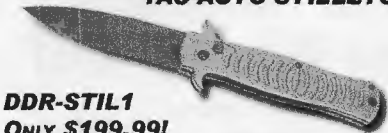
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Both the Commander (top) and Mach 1 have a pocket clip that grips with authority.

most expensive and exclusive hand-made folders but a few short years ago. G-10 handle scales, impervious to heat, cold, rot, mildew and anything else man or nature might throw at them, are strong beyond belief. Titanium liners pare off unneeded ounces and provide a safety margin of strength in the locking mechanism of the blade, as both of these knives employ the proven and effective liner-lock design. Titanium is also extremely corrosion resistant, and low maintenance, another plus. Blades are made of 154 CM, an industry standard, and heat-treated to a reasonable and useful 57-59 RC.

While the materials shopping-list is better than it has to be, the execution of the design of each knife, while similar, is nonetheless different. The Commander is the larger of the two knives, coming in at 8.75 inches in length overall, with the blade open. The blade itself is 3.75 inches. The blade carries serrations from the handle forward for about one third of the blade length, where a chisel grind is employed for the balance of the cutting edge. The blade has a pronounced belly, making it an effective cutting implement with a draw cut and rocking wrist motion. The blade has a small button mounted transversely on the spine, just forward of the pivot pin. This allows easy opening of the blade with either hand, which is a must on a knife doing duty in a combat environment. The titanium liner-lock is serrated at the thumb contact point, insuring registry and secure grip with the thumb during the closing operation. The handle is equipped with a single lanyard hole. Weight is listed at 5.53 oz, just enough for a

lightweight, well-balanced package. The Commander won "Best Overall Knife of the Year" at the International Blade Show in Atlanta, an award judged by fellow knife-makers.

The Mach 1 is slightly smaller as well as lighter than the Commander. The Mach 1 carries a blade that is 3.5 inches in length, a quarter-inch shorter than its stable mate. The handle is also slightly shorter, and is equipped with a double lanyard-hole configuration. While the handle shapes of the two knives are very similar, they are not identical. Each has its own shape and feel, and both work very well in the carry mode as well as in use. Blade wise, we prefer the shape of the Mach 1 to that of the Commander. The Mach 1 also carries serrations for about a third of its length, starting at the handle. From there, the blade curves to the point with a non-serrated edge without the pronounced belly present on the Commander. This, too, is provided with a chisel grind. This makes for a blade that is slightly easier to sharpen, although this is not really an issue with either of these knives, as they both sharpen well. The titanium liner-lock of the Mach 1 has a slightly different serration pattern than that of the Commander, and does not give quite the secure grip as does that of the larger knife. It functions well in any case, and the strength of titanium in this critical area gives peace of mind.

While these are not fighting knives, *per se*, they are without a doubt necessary tools of war. The Emerson Knives' commitment to quality comes through loud and clear in the Commander and the Mach 1. With tools such as these, the Donovan group is very well equipped, indeed. ✘

PRELUDE TO 9-11

Hijackers Reportedly Trained In The Philippines?

BY DONALD KIRK

MABALACAT, Philippines — They stayed at a popular resort hotel here, drank whiskey with Filipina bargirls, dined at a restaurant that specializes in Middle Eastern cuisine, and visited at least one of the local flight schools.

The two hijackers who the FBI believes were at the controls of the planes that flew into New York's World Trade Center on 11 September left those memories behind them from their visits to this hustling market town outside the huge former Clark U.S. Air Force base from 1998-2000.

One of them, Marwan al-Shehhi, whom the FBI has identified as the pilot of United Airlines flight 173 when it slammed into the Trade Center's south tower, partied with six or seven Arab friends at the Woodland Park Resort Hotel here in December 2000, said a former waitress at the hotel.

"There were about seven people," said Gina Marcelo. "They rented the open area by the swimming pool for 1,000 pesos. They drank Johnnie Walker Black Label Whiskey and min-

eral water. They barbequed shrimp and onions. They came in big vehicles, and they had a lot of money. They all had girlfriends."

Philippine and American investigators have been checking-out the movements of Marwan al-Shehhi and Mohammed Atta, the Egyptian who flew American Airlines flight 11 into the Trade Center's north tower, since workers at the hotel recognized them instantly from their photographs in newspapers and magazines.

The investigation has focused not only on the timing of their visits to this town, about 60 miles north of Manila, but also into exactly what they were doing there.

Neither the Philippine nor American investigators will confirm their findings, but the pair of hijackers are assumed to have gravitated here in search of lessons in the piloting of small airplanes. This area is a hub for pilots and flying instructors, Filipino as well as foreign, as a result of its historic relationship to Clark Air Base, now converted into a special economic zone after the ending of the bases agreement by the Philippines Senate and subsequent withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1991.

At least two flying schools offer lessons; one of them located in the zone; the other, the Angeles City Flying Club, which is owned by the same corporation as the Woodland Hotel, 15 miles to the east.

Atta and al-shehhi were introduced to the hotel, according to workers who saw them, by a Jordanian businessman who runs a travel agency in Manila and who often stays at the Woodland. He denied knowing anything about the pair.

Their presence aroused little curiosity in the male-dominated foreign community that ranges from retired military people to tourists from Europe, Australia and the Middle East, many of them drawn by the cheap prices — and

easy availability of local bargirls.

The investigation into Atta's and al-Shehhi's presence is complicated by the fact they made certain not to register under their true names. However, two patterns have emerged regarding the hijackers according to Philippine police investigators, as well as other witnesses to their presence: The first is that they displayed a keen interest in learning to fly small planes; and the second is that they dominated a clique of Arab visitors, most of whom have not been seen in the area since shortly before the attacks of 11 September.

Mohammed Atta, in mid-1999, asked at what time he should await a van outside the Woodland Hotel which would transport him to the Angeles City Flying Club, said Ferdinand Abad, who was working as a security guard at the hotel's entrance.

"I told him about seven in the morning, and he gave me a tip of 50 pesos, about one dollar," said Abad. "Two or three times a week the van would pick him up. He didn't say he was going to



Mohammed Atta



Marwan al-Shehhi

fly. After our first meeting, he never talked, never said 'Hello.'"

"... I Don't Remember Them."

The driver of the van, said Abad, was Melvin Troth, manager of the flying club, who retired in 1986 as a USAF master sergeant after serving his final tour at nearby Clark Air Force Base, once the largest USAF installation outside the United States.

Troth told investigators, however, that the names of Atta and al-Shehhi do not appear in his records. "I pick up a lot of people and take them out here," he protested to a colonel from the Philippine National Police Headquarters, one of a stream of official visitors to the flying club in [late 2001]. "It's a regular procedure. I don't remember them."

Within the special economic zone Filipino officials respond to such denials with derision mingled with serious concern.

"We want the whole world to know about the danger of these people around here," said Tony Salenga, chief executive assistant to the chairman of the Clark Development Corporation, responsible for luring investors to set up stores and factories on the former base. "We believe they were establishing cells right here."

Lending credence to that view, residents recall that Arab friends of both Atta and al-Shehhi often gathered not only at the Woodland Park but at the Jerusalem Restaurant in Angeles City, a sprawling community of about 400,000 that borders the former base a mile south of here.

"On Saturdays there would be three or four of them," said Trudis Dago, manager of the restaurant. She remembers Atta, who she had not known had died in the crash until told by a reporter. "He had a very strong expression," she said. "He would never smile and would never talk to anyone except his friends. I knew this face when I saw it in the paper. In June and July [of 2001] a lot of Arabs were coming here. Then, mysteriously, they stopped coming sometime in August, and now business is no good."

Mark Smith, who operates an internet café and a nightclub featuring bikini-clad dancers, said he saw a number of Arabs along the strip outside the base until recently. "You don't see a lot of Arab nationals around here now," he said. The suspicions about Atta and al-Shehhi "are pretty much true," he added. "They were taking flying lessons," possibly at a private club in

"One of them said he worked in the Saudi Arabian Embassy. Usually they were very silent persons. ... One big mistake they made, unlike most foreign visitors, 'They never tipped,' she said. 'If they did, I would not remember them so well.'"

the special economic zone, if not at Troth's flying club. All along the strip of tawdry nightclubs outside the perimeter of the former base, bar owners complain of a sudden drop in business after the 11 September tragedies. The loss of business, they say, has worsened after two or three years of declining returns at the economic zone, much of which has gone to seed since Americans pulled out 12 years ago during and after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo which showered the area with volcanic ash.

"Business is terrible," said Smith. "The base is dead. International flights are coming in empty to Manila." Largely for that reason, some of the foreign entrepreneurs think U.S. forces would be welcome here again if the Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who took over in a revolt against then-President Joseph Estrada in January [2001], makes good on her promise to support the U.S. war on terrorism.

"This place used to be at the center of U.S. military activities," said Bryan Johnson, who ran a bar called "La Bamba" for several years. "There is a nationalist elite that hates everything the United States does, but basically the U.S. is welcome back."

Angelo Lopez, Jr., an official at the Clark Development Corporation, pointed out that U.S. planes can land here under terms of a visiting forces agreement recently ratified by the Philippine Senate over the objections of leftists. "Of course, they'll bring business for some people," he said, "while some worry that the American presence may invite attacks from terrorists as happened before the Americans left in 1991."

The Arab visitors, though, showed no signs of communicating with members of the New People's Army, responsible for most of the terrorism here. Nor did they indicate any relationship with Islamic rebels in the southern

Philippines, even though members of the militant Abu Sayyaf Group faction are known to have received arms and training from Arab terrorists in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Second-Phase Fears

Salenga, however, believes the terrorists are plotting moves far from the Philippines. "My fear is they will go into a second phase of biological or chemical warfare," he said.

Such fears are real to those who recognized Atta and al-Shehhi from their pictures. "I can't sleep after I recognized al-Shehhi, said Tony Sarsoza, like Ferdinand Abad, a former security guard at Woodland Park. "He had a dark green car. He drove, and Atta sat beside him."

Victoria Brocoy, a chambermaid at the Woodland, recalls the two as frightening figures. "I knew Atta was going to the flying club," she said. "He was not friendly. If you say hello to him, he doesn't answer. If he asks for a towel, you do not enter his room. He takes it at the door." Atta, however, was by no means a recluse. "Many times I saw him let a girl go at the gate in the morning," she said. "It was always a different girl."

Always, however, there was a seriousness of purpose. "In the reception [area] at the Woodland, Atta picked up a brochure about the flying club," said Aly Mayano, who also worked in the hotel. But Atta and al-Shehhi did not talk about why they were in the Philippines.

"They told me they only visited on holidays from Manila, said Gina Marcelo. "One of them said he worked in the Saudi Arabian Embassy. Usually they were very silent persons. ... One big mistake they made, unlike most foreign visitors, 'They never tipped,' she said. "If they did, I would not remember them so well."

Donald Kirk covered the Vietnam War as a journalist after which he wrote Wider War: The Struggle for Cambodia, Thailand and Laos; 1971; and Tell It To The Dead: Stories of a War; first published in 1975; subsequently in an enlarged edition. He has visited the Philippines on numerous occasions, and wrote Looted: The Philippines After the Bases; 1998. Donald has also authored two books on Korea, Korean Dynasty: Hyundai and Chung Ju Yung; 1994; and Korean Crises: The Unraveling of the Miracle in the IMF Era; 1999; paperback edition in 2000. Most are available via amazon.com and barnsandnoble.com. ☞

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U.S. Intelligence Failures and 11 September

No Runs, No Hits, Many Errors

BY BILL GERTZ

Kie Fallis arrived at work determined to keep arguing his view that terrorists were about to attack a U.S. target.

For Fallis, "work" was the headquarters of the Pentagon's intelligence arm, the Defense Intelligence Agency. He encountered Jay Saunders, chief of the DIA's Persian Gulf Division, on his way into the agency's offices at Bolling Air Force Base, in Washington. Insiders call the place the "Death Star" in homage to the Empire's space station in "Star Wars."

"I'm going to keep pushing this issue today," Fallis told Saunders, "until something is done or until I get my ass kicked."

Fallis, a former Army interrogator-turned-intelligence analyst in the Terrorism Analysis Division, was one of the agency's top specialists on Iran and fluent in its Farsi tongue.

It was 12 Oct. 2000; the clock was ticking toward a date just under a year away. He already had pieced together the methodology and connections of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist network, using commercial software known as Analyst's Notebook. The results were alarming: Many of those involved in previous attacks against U.S. interests appeared to be planning new strikes.

Just three weeks earlier, bin Laden had released his latest videotape message, calling for more attacks on the United States. But Fallis' repeated warnings to superiors of an imminent terrorist attack in Turkey or the Persian Gulf were dismissed.

Kie Fallis' story is one of many that expose deep, systemic problems within the Defense Intelligence Agency and other U.S. intelligence agencies in tracking and preventing terrorist attacks. It is a story of poor leadership, mismanagement and bad judgment, common to the intelligence failures that led to 11 September.

Hours earlier that 12 Oct. and half a world away, two men left an apartment in a two-story, concrete-block building with a panoramic view of the harbor in Aden, Yemen, a desert port on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

The two men, radical Muslims, climbed into a red Nissan SUV a few hours before dawn and drove down the hill to a house where they had stashed a small fiberglass boat on a trailer. Their accents identified them to neighbors as men from Hadhramaut, a remote province 500 miles northeast of Aden and a haven for Islamic terrorists. It is also the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden. The two men were part of a terrorist cell that had spent months plotting to blow up a U.S. warship. Now their Nissan strained to pull the boat, in which they had secreted a bomb containing several hundred pounds of the U.S. military explosive C-4.

The bomb was wrapped in a metal case that would intensify the impact on its target: the *U.S.S. Cole*, one of the Navy's most advanced guided-missile destroyers, then making its way around the Cape of Aden.

The terrorists launched their white fiberglass boat at 10:45 a.m. They motored slowly toward a floating refueling dock a mile away, the *Dolphin*, where the *Cole* and other Navy ships put-in as a security precaution to keep their distance from the shore. Other skiffs were taking garbage off the *Cole* and putting aboard equipment and food.

The *Cole* sailors on security duty, watching the small boat approach, assumed it was from a resupply company. The suicide bombers smiled and waved to the sailors, who waved back.

The bomb detonated as their boat reached the midsection of the ship, directly in line with the mess deck. The blast killed 17 U.S. sailors, blowing most of them apart when it tore a hole in the side of the ship 40 feet by 40 feet. The *Cole* listed to the side. Only the heroic efforts of her crew saved the ship from sinking.

Back at the DIA, Fallis' heart sank as he received the first report of the attack on the *Cole*. Disgusted, he quit in protest that day.

Fallis had recently finished a year with the FBI, investigating the deadly bombings of the Khobar Towers barracks in Dharan, Saudi Arabia, in 1996 and of the U.S. embassies in



David Drapkin/ImageDirect

Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. In tracking bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, he found that the terror group was intimately linked to Iran's intelligence and security services.

Fallis' resignation letter sent to the DIA's director, Vice Adm. Thomas R. Wilson, cited "significant analytical differences" with supervisors. Worse, he said, at least two more terrorist attacks were coming, likely in Bosnia or Malaysia.

"This was a huge intelligence failure," Fallis said.

Paying The Piper

He was treated like an enemy as soon as his resignation was accepted. His access to a computer was immediately cut off, his e-mail account deleted. Supervisors refused to speak to him; they didn't ask why he was leaving.

One DIA security official told Fallis during an exit interview that the terror division's leadership was trying to discredit him. Yet his performance appraisal of July 2000 called his previous year's service "distinguished," the highest rating possible, as did all previous appraisals. An intelligence medal was "in the pipeline." He never got it.

Fallis, however, never claimed the information was suppressed; he correctly stated that an appropriate official warning based on it never was produced.

He recounted to several investigators how he had made it clear to at least five DIA intelligence officials that al-Qaeda and Iranian-backed terrorists were planning deadly attacks.

As Fallis saw it, fellow analysts working "the bin Laden account" simply were not reading intelligence reporting on Iran or other Middle Eastern terrorist groups. Specialists focusing on Iranian terrorists were not reading intelligence on bin Laden.

As a result, each "problem set," as the analysts call them, was analyzed in a vacuum. Fallis, however, asked and was allowed to research both sides of the problem.

"I began finding all these relationships," he said, "between al-Qaeda terrorists and the Iranians, specifically those organizations directly controlled by Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. Al-Qaeda and Iran were also connected to terrorists who belong to the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and the Egyptian Islamic Group."

By May 2000, Fallis had written a highly classified report on his findings, most based on information gleaned months earlier.

"I obtained information in January of 2000 that indicated terrorists were planning two or three major attacks against the United States," he said. "The only gaps were where and when."

A red flag pointing to the *Cole* bombing appeared in mid-September 2000 when bin Laden issued the videotape that aired on Qatari satellite television, an Arabic-language news service. "Every time he put out one of these videotapes, it was a signal that action was coming," Fallis said.

As September ended, the DIA and the rest of the intelligence community — the CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency and the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research — received extremely solid information, supported by several sources, that an attack was imminent. "I went to my supervisor, and he told me there wasn't going to be a warning issued," Fallis said.

But the reason the DIA refused to put out a warning had nothing to do with intelligence. It had everything to do with office politics. Fallis had previously dated a co-worker in the terrorism division. She was the analyst who produced the report less than a month before the *Cole* bombing that said an attack by terrorists in a small boat against a U.S. warship

was impossible. Some supervisors incorrectly believed Fallis was trying to spite her by arguing otherwise.

"My methodology was right," Fallis said. "And it didn't have anything to do with who I dated."

One piece of the puzzle that Fallis uncovered was an intelligence report about a secret meeting of al-Qaeda terrorists in a condominium complex in Malaysia in January 2000.

Information obtained after 11 September identified two of them as Khalid al-Midhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi, who would be on American Airlines Flight 77 when it crashed into the Pentagon. They met with a former Malaysian army captain, Yazi Sufaat, described by Malaysian authorities as a key link in Southeast Asia with al-Qaeda, who later would be tied to the bombing of the *Cole*.

What alarmed U.S. intelligence at the time was that Malaysian security officials traced the men to the Iranian Embassy there, where they spent the night.

Sufaat would meet weeks later in Malaysia with Zacarias Moussaoui, the 33-year-old French citizen who is the only one charged so far with involvement in the 11 September attacks. Authorities said Sufaat paid Moussaoui \$35,000, which is believed to have helped finance the plot.

For Fallis, the "eureka point" before the *Cole* bombing in determining an impending terrorist attack came from a still-classified intelligence report in September 2000, which he will not discuss. But after the bin Laden video surfaced that same month, Fallis said, he "knew then it would be within a month or two."

In the video, bin Laden, wearing a dagger in his belt, demands the release of Muslim prisoners, including Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, leader of Egyptian Islamic Jihad. Rahman had drawn a life sentence in prison for his role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and subsequent plot to bomb bridges and tunnels in New York City.

The video ends with this admonition from Ayman al-Zawahiri, a top aide to bin Laden: "Enough of words, it is time to take action against this iniquitous and faithless force [the United States], which has spread troops through Egypt, Yemen and Saudi Arabia."

A warning from the DIA backed by other intelligence agencies would have put U.S. military forces — especially those in hot spots such as Yemen — on higher alert. And a warning could have led to canceling the *Cole*'s refueling stop in Aden.

Admiral Wilson, the DIA director, sent a notice via e-mail to the agency's civilian and military personnel more than four months after the *Cole* bombing, on 28 Feb. 2001. An investigation by the Defense Department's Office of the Inspector General, Adm. Wilson wrote, "found no evidence to support the public perception that information warning of an attack on [the] *Cole* was suppressed, ignored, or even available in DIA."

Risk Averse And Budget Over Performance

The CIA also has major problems with its intelligence efforts against terrorism. The agency has become so risk averse that it is forced to rely heavily on foreign intelligence services for its information.

Consider the case of CIA officer Bob Baer. Baer was recalled to CIA (See "CIA'S Ultimate Blunder: Outsourcing Intelligence", (June 02) headquarters in 1995 after a bogus Iranian intelligence report linked him to an alleged plot by the CIA to assassinate Saddam Hussein. Baer, one of the CIA's few Arabic-speaking case officers, was pulled home from a covert operation in northern Iraq backing opponents of

Saddam, an operation that the CIA hoped would lead to a coup in Baghdad.

His supervisor, Fred Turco, informed Baer that two FBI agents were waiting to talk to him. "We're conducting an investigation of you for suspicion of attempting to assassinate Saddam Hussein," one agent told the astonished CIA officer.

The Bob Baer case illustrates how the Central Intelligence Agency is no longer "central" or an "intelligence" agency, but very much an agency of government in the worst sense of the term where preservation of its budget takes precedence over its performance.

What matters to the well-informed, highly trained Baer after 11 September is not how he became a whipping boy for Anthony Lake, former Clinton national security advisor. What matters is how a vindictive CIA bureaucracy later ignored intelligence on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorists that Baer urgently supplied after leaving the agency and writing a book about it.

The FBI investigation of Baer was not frivolous. Assassination of foreign officials is prohibited by a presidential executive order dating to the 1970s. Every CIA officer sent to the field must sign a statement confirming that he understands the prohibition.

But the Clinton Justice Department decided to investigate Baer, then a 19-year CIA veteran, for more than violating an executive order. He faced prosecution under a federal murder-for-hire statute.

The CIA did not come to the defense of its agent, an FBI official said. In fact, it was the FBI that warned Justice Department lawyers that the Baer investigation could be devastating for morale. But a CIA less concerned with results than political correctness had come to accept such probes as routine.

"Look, Bob, you've been overseas for almost 20 years," CIA lawyer Rob Davis told Baer. "Washington really has changed a lot. These kinds of investigations go on all the time now."

The CIA had years to penetrate the inner circle of bin Laden's al-Qaeda network before the attacks of 11 September. It had years to try to work successfully with other Middle Eastern intelligence services that managed to get fairly close. But the CIA failed.

And today's CIA sends scores of new officers into the field under the same failed, risk-avoiding policies that left the spy agency blind to and ignorant of the 11 September terrorist attacks.

Plenty Of Accountants ... But No Accountability Or Asset Base

One of the biggest problems with the current intelligence system is its lack of accountability. Intelligence agencies have been allowed to operate in secret with little or no oversight from Congress in the past several years and have managed to deflect all efforts to press for needed reform.

CIA Director George Tenet is a case in point. Tenet told the

Senate Intelligence Committee in February [2002] that in his view there was no intelligence failure on 11 September. He claimed the agency had been at war with al-Qaeda for five years.

To date, no one from the FBI or the CIA has been called to account for why, with a system that spends more than \$35 billion annually, a clandestine group of terrorists operated undetected for several years and carried out the worst terrorist attack in American history.

Case officers, those who are supposed to conduct espionage operations, routinely file embassy-based reports to Washington instead of working the streets and befriending terrorists (or at least their friends and supporters).

"All this pads reporting volume and builds careers," one intelligence professional in the U.S. government says. "And yet we will have no new assets, we will not have penetrated the hard targets and we will not know more about anything

central to our national interest. But the political people — most of them anyway — will not understand this, or want to understand it."

A 21-year-old Islamic convert from California, John Walker Lindh, was able to join the Taliban in Afghanistan. Why is it that the CIA did not have a single agent or case officer working inside Afghanistan — let alone in the Taliban or al-Qaeda?

CIA Director George J. Tenet, promoted to the job by

Clinton in 1997 after two years as deputy director, despite no professional training as an intelligence officer, said after 11 September that his agency had "a huge asset base" in Afghanistan before the attacks. More likely, the CIA had one or two sources.

Lawyers, not field agents, are the pervasive force inside the CIA, as in any other Washington bureaucracy. Lawyers accompany agents in the field to make sure the government won't be sued for their actions. Indeed, the CIA seems to fear its own.

The CIA doesn't like specialists or Arabic-speaking officers who get "too close to the Arabs," or agents who get too close to foreigners in general, Baer says.

"Unless one of bin Laden's foot soldiers walks through the door of a U.S. consulate or embassy, the odds that a CIA counterterrorist officer will ever see one are extremely poor," former senior CIA officer Reuel Marc Gerecht warned months before 11 September.

Gerecht quit the Directorate of Operations in frustration after nine years as a Middle East specialist. Officials were extremely "risk averse," he says, and refused to go after bin Laden in any serious way.

His overall conclusion, again months before 11 September: "America's counterterrorism program in the Middle East and its environs is a myth."

FBI: PC, Embarrassed, Dismantled And Blind

The FBI, which is responsible for domestic intelligence



Central Intelligence Agency director George Tenet and Vice Admiral Thomas Wilson, (right) director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, during a hearing to a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, about worldwide threats to national security.

Ricardo Watson/UPI

against terrorists and spies, also failed to detect the clandestine cell of al-Qaeda terrorists who carried out the 11 September attack. The bureau has all but been closed out of the intelligence business by self-imposed restrictions.

The mood was somber in the Situation Room at the White House as President Bush convened a meeting of his top National Security Council advisers several days after the 11 September attacks.

Among those present in the small, electronically sealed room in the basement of the executive mansion were National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Attorney General John Ashcroft and CIA Director George J. Tenet.

Robert S. Mueller, III, the new FBI director, was there as well. Mueller, a former U.S. attorney in San Francisco who had been on the job only days before the attacks, told the secret conclave that the FBI would pursue Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network to "preserve prosecutions" of the terrorists.

Ashcroft interrupted Mueller to contradict him.

"No, we're not going to 'preserve prosecutions,'" the head of the Justice Department said. "We're going to use FBI intelligence to prevent further attacks."

Ashcroft spoke for the rest of Bush's assembled team in underlining that terrorist attacks no longer would be treated solely as law-enforcement matters but as matters of national security.

Several weeks later, the "War Cabinet" met again, this time at the presidential retreat, Camp David, in the hills of remote western Maryland. Bush called on Mueller to brief the group on the FBI's efforts against al-Qaeda. The FBI director, unprepared, had no information to share.

"He just fell flat on his face," a source familiar with the Camp David meeting said.

The impression left on the other Cabinet members was that Mueller was out of his league in running what was supposed to be the world's premier investigative agency.

Mueller, however, did not preside over the dismantling of the FBI's intelligence capabilities that left the bureau blind to al-Qaeda terror cells in the United States. Shortsighted political leaders did.

The Clinton administration, in particular, refused to recognize the threat from al-Qaeda despite warnings from within the FBI. The administration hastened the demise of effective intelligence-gathering by further politicizing the CIA and the FBI, where promotions were made on the basis of politics and feel-good affirmative action rather than operations experience.

One result was that the FBI had no clue that al-Qaeda terrorists had plotted within the United States for as long as two years. In late 2000, the FBI reported secretly to the White House that no al-Qaeda members were in the country.

Dale Watson, the FBI's intelligence chief, testified at a Senate hearing in February [2002] that the bureau was caught off-guard by the terror attacks because most of the 19 successful hijackers entered the country close to 11 September. Asked about the presence of al-Qaeda cells within the United States, Watson declined to discuss details in public.

The reason was obvious: The FBI was embarrassed that its intelligence section had been so ignorant. To draw attention away from the lapse, Watson told senators that "there are hundreds of investigations" in the search for al-Qaeda cells.

What he did not say was how many of those investigations were opened after 11 September and that the reason the FBI didn't know about al-Qaeda cells in the United States was

that its agents had not infiltrated radical Islamic groups here.

More important to the Clinton administration than countering domestic terror was the political correctness of an FBI reorganization under a new director, Louis J. Freeh. The Clinton Justice Department, led by Attorney General Janet Reno, sought to refocus domestic counterintelligence efforts on anti-abortion bombings, even though the FBI knew that problem was not as serious as the growing threat of Islamic terrorism.

Freeh, following the push for diversity over performance, appointed a black, a Hispanic and a woman to top FBI posts on 13 Oct. 1993. The appointments marked a "momentous day," he said.

His reorganization also included the first of several shifts that seriously harmed the FBI's intelligence-gathering capabilities and led indirectly to the failure to detect the movements of bin Laden's al-Qaeda network before 11 September.

Freeh abolished the job of deputy director for investigations, considered the third-highest position in the FBI. The last official in that job, W. Douglas Gow, had no intelligence background even though he was in charge of the decades-old Intelligence Division from January 1990 to June 1991.

The FBI director appointed a criminal-side agent, Robert B. "Bear" Bryant, to take over the new National Security Division, which replaced the Intelligence Division. Bryant was promoted from head of the Washington field office, where he had won praise for directing the investigation of CIA mole Aldrich Ames. (The real hero of that operation, though, was squad supervisor Leslie Wiser, who disobeyed orders to break the Ames case wide open.)

Bryant, those who worked with him say, had little use for intelligence specialists. He bragged that he put counterintelligence agents on criminal cases. He convinced Freeh that responsibility for counterterrorism should be transferred from the Criminal Division to the National Security Division. And so counterintelligence — and, more importantly, its approach to fighting terrorism — was given a lower priority.

A commission led by William Webster, a former director of both the FBI and CIA, concluded that the bureau damaged its intelligence capabilities as well as internal security by fostering a law-enforcement approach to crime, terrorism and counterintelligence.

"Until the terrorist attacks in September 2001, the FBI focused on detecting and prosecuting traditional crime," the Webster commission's report said. "That focus created a culture that emphasized the priorities and morale of criminal [division] components within the bureau, which offered the surest paths for career advancement. This culture extolled cooperation and the free flow of information inside the bureau, a work ethic wholly at odds with the compartmentation characteristic of intelligence investigations involving highly sensitive, classified information."

This orientation within the FBI dismissed rules intended to protect information as "cumbersome, inefficient and a bar to success," the report said.

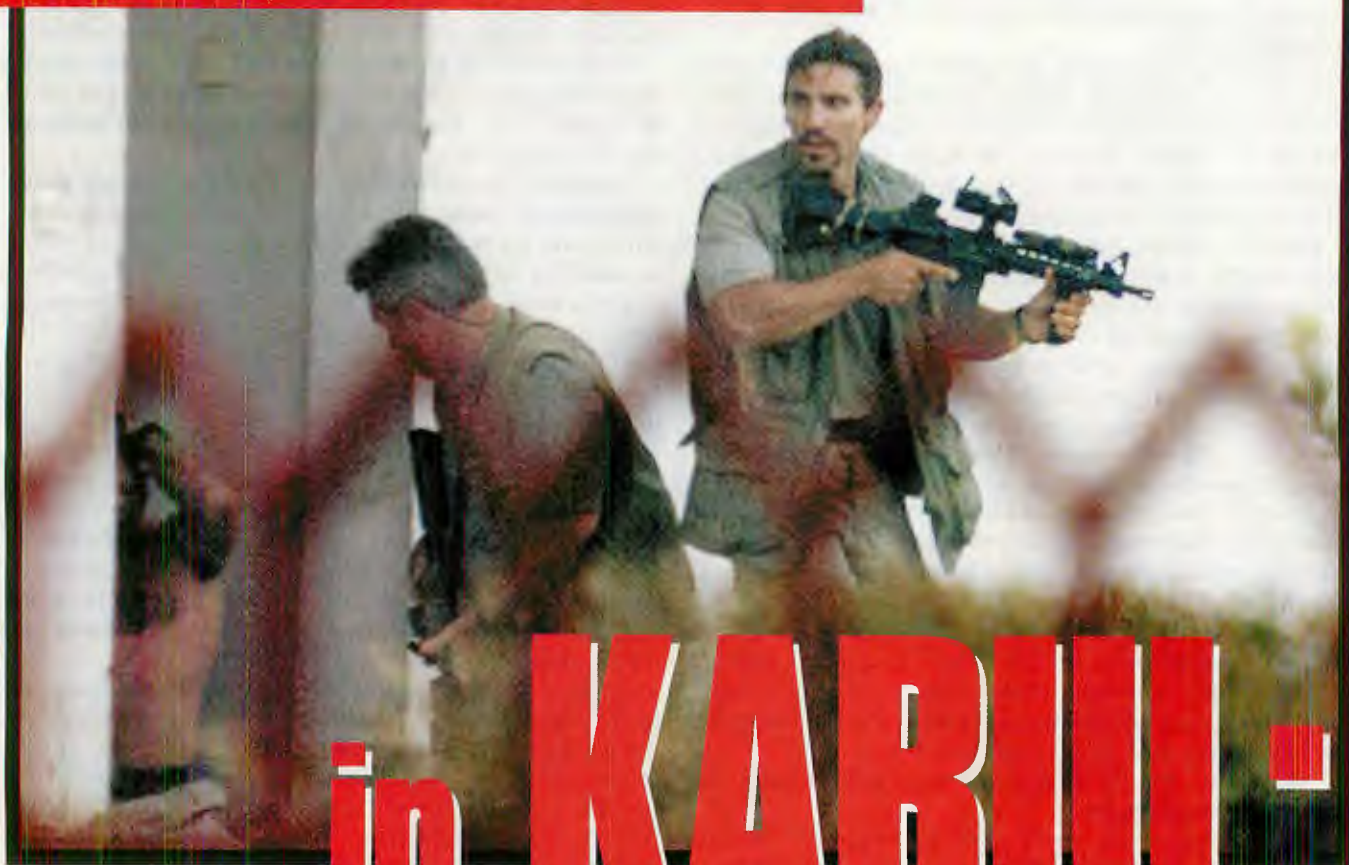
"Whether the two can co-exist in one organization is a difficult question," the report concluded, referring to criminal and intelligence operations, "but they will never do so in the FBI unless the bureau gives its intelligence programs the same resources and respect it gives criminal investigations, which, employing its own sensitive information and confidential sources, would also benefit from improved security."

FBI counterintelligence veteran I.C. Smith agrees with that critique and says there was "a de-emphasis on the col-

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SEAL Team Six

AP Photo/Ed Wray



in KABUL:

Eliminate the Threat

BY LT. COL. ROBERT K. BROWN, USAR (RET.)

SEAL Team Six, also known as the Naval Development Group, added another chapter to their controversial but murky history when one of its operatives blew away a would-be assassin attempting to take out Afghan President Hamid Karzai on 5 September in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Unfortunately, in the course of so doing, he also blew away two bystanders who had jumped the bad guy and wrestled him to the ground as soon as he started shooting.

Karzai was in Kandahar, his hometown, for the wedding of his youngest brother. He had completed his evening prayers and was being given a tour of the governor's mansion across from the mosque. Hundreds of supporters were milling around the gates as his entourage prepared to leave when the shooter made his move.

According to an eyewitness, an Afghan boy neared Karzai's vehicle.

(above) SEAL Team Six, also known as Naval Development Group, bodyguards secure the area after an abortive assassination on Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kandahar. The SEALs are armed with a CQB version of the M4 Enhanced Carbine built at Crane Naval Station. (See SOF, March and June 2002) This is the 10"-barrel version that is preferred by the SEALs. It is equipped with Knight's Armament Co. (KAC) Rail Adapter System (RAS) and KAC's vertical fore-grip. On top of the RAS is a PEQ-2 (IR/visible) laser. An Aimpoint Comp M red-dot sight in a KAC mount is attached to the receiver flattop. Behind it is a KAC M16A2 rear sight.



Would-be assassin, on the left in uniform, and the two good guys who wrestled him to the ground were all blown away by a SEAL operator.

SEAL Team Six bodyguard speaks with other team members after the Karzai assassination attempt. His is armed with the M4 Enhanced Carbine minus the Aimpoint, and the Navy's M11 (SIG 9mm P226) and hand grenade for use against a mass attack from a crowd.





Irony of ironies, Two Delta Force operators guard President Karzai, as well as the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, at Kabul Airport, 13 August 2002. They are armed with the same enhanced carbines but with mounted Surefire Tactical Lights. (below, right) President Karzai's decision to utilize American personnel as bodyguards at the insistence of the Pentagon upset his Afghan security detail but proved to be a wise move. This Delta operative carries a 10" CQB version of Enhanced Carbine with KAC Aimpoint Comp M and KAC M16A2 rear sight. Also, has a Redi-Mag system by Boone-Parker.

Karzai leaned out to shake his hand, as is the custom, and an Afghan in uniform moved forward and fired between four and eight rounds into the car wounding Kandahar Governor Gul Agha Sherzai in the neck. The assassin, a former Taliban, had been recruited into the Kandahar Palace Guard only 17 days earlier.

A 23-year-old shopkeeper, who had some martial arts background, wrestled the hitman to the ground and another friendly jumped in to assist. At that point the SEAL blazed away with most of a magazine from an MP5 submachine gun, killing all three.

I described the incident to two experienced law-enforcement types who stat-

ed that if this incident had occurred in the United States by a law-enforcement department it more than likely it would more than likely been classified as a "bad shooting." One SWAT team member said, "The SEAL, if he pulled that in the United States, would have been charged with "voluntary manslaughter," or even "second degree murder."

But that's in the United States. A highly decorated Vietnam veteran

SEAL gave the other side of story. "Look," he said, "the mission of the SEALS was to *eliminate the threat*. What if the Taliban shooter broke away and tossed a grenade in the car: Or pulled out a pistol and popped his target in the face?

The SEAL went on to say, "The assassin certainly met the definition of a threat because he fired a weapon. In this type of situation, in a combat zone,



you eliminate the threat and then worry about the collateral damage. The SEAL shooter did the right thing.”

This particular SEAL mission is scheduled to end on or before 15 November. The Pentagon wants their special operators back as they have

additional important missions for them, and figure that they can be replaced by Marines with embassy experience — who know the diplomatic-protection drill. These Marines will receive additional training and be controlled by the State Department Security.

Initially, Delta Force personnel, who receive a comprehensive block of instruction on executive protection as part of their Operator's Training Course, (see sidebar) provided Karzai's security. The security mission was handed-off to the SEALs sometime in August. ✕

EXECUTIVE PROTECTION: DELTA FORCE-STYLE

Protecting the life of a high-ranking political figure targeted for death is the most difficult job on the face of the earth. It is a job the operational members of Delta Force have been performing continuously for almost a quarter of a century, and they have a perfect record. And even though these men ply their trade in the most dangerous spots on the globe no one under the protection of Delta Force has ever so much as received a scratch — though there have been a couple of close calls.

In 1978 I was one of a small handful of men selected by Colonel Charlie Beckwith in the formation of 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-D, or as it later came to be known: Delta Force. And it is interesting to contemplate now that our first mission — undertaken even before we were completely operational — was a protection mission. We were asked by the Secret Service to provide two operators who were expert skiers to work with former President Gerald Ford during his annual ski vacation. The Secret Service had only a few agents who were skiers, but since skiing is a common Ranger and Special Forces skill, we were glad to oblige.

This is also another case that reminds me again of the foresight and genius of Charlie Beckwith. There was no reason to think that we, as a counterterrorist force, were going to be called upon to provide diplomatic or VIP protection, yet Colonel Beckwith had insisted it be part of the Operators Training Course and, once again, Beckwith was proved right.

Our original training in protection was provided by the Secret Service and was then followed-up by instruction from the State Department. We learned and practiced in cities all over the East Coast what seemed like an unlimited number

of tasks: Offensive driving, convoy operations, walking formations, successive layers of security, security surveys, and a host of other skills. But the one thing we already had, and had better than anyone else on the planet, was our shooting skills. Simply put, the Delta Force Operator is the finest combat shooter alive and for that reason alone we were of inestimable value to the Secret Service and State Department.

Then, as now, State Department Security was charged with the protection of ambassadors posted overseas, the security of American embassies around the world, and providing security services for certain visiting diplomats in the U.S.

But back in 1979, State was having a difficult time. Until then, life in an overseas embassy-posting had been pretty benign, but that was changing

rapidly. The American Ambassador to Greece had been assassinated, American embassies in several countries had been attacked, and there were credible death threats on our ambassadors in such garden spots as Beirut, El Salvador, and a few other places where locals took exception to the American worldview.

For a lot of reasons the State Department was having trouble coping with the threat it was facing. That's when Charlie Beckwith stepped in and offered them a deal they couldn't refuse.

Charlie told the State Department he would provide them with operators for posting to their most threatened embassies; men who could not only fight, but train and lead local bodyguards — something we were good at and State didn't like doing. All State had to do was provide initial training in their methods. After that, we would train our own people. It was a great deal for the State Department and they jumped at it before Colonel Beckwith could change his mind. It is a vital mission Delta has performed ever since.

So in the future, when you survey the evening news and see someone of high political rank, and of vital importance to America, living and working in one of the more dangerous places of the world rest assured that person is probably being protected by the most capable protection operatives that have ever lived.

For more than 20 years, Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Eric L. Haney served in the United States Army's most demanding combat units: as a Combat Infantryman, a Ranger and ultimately as a founding member and eight-year veteran of the Army's super-secret counterterrorist arm, Delta Force.

In his bucolic retirement, Haney has protected princes, presidents, and CEOs alike. He has negotiated with Latin American guerrillas for the safe return of hostages, rescued American children kidnapped around the world, and provided security for international companies operating in the most dangerous regions on earth. Today, Haney lives and writes in the relative peace and quiet of Marietta, Georgia. He is the author of the best-selling book: Inside Delta Force: The Story of America's Elite Counterterrorist Unit, published by Delacorte Press, and is currently at work on his next book.

For a personalized and signed copy of Inside Delta Force send check or money order for \$30.00 payable to Eric L. Haney, Inside Delta Force, 1211 Timberland Drive, Marietta, GA. 30067.

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My Jihad

SOF Interview With Aukai Collins

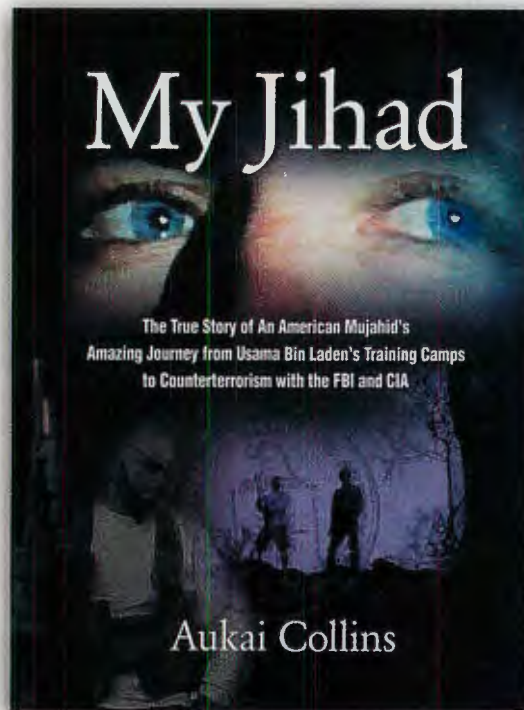
BY ROB KROTT

My Jihad: The True Story of an American Mujahid's Amazing Journey from Usama Bin Laden's Training Camps to Counterterrorism with the FBI and CIA; 192 pages; hardcover; \$22.95; (available from amazon.com for \$16.07); The Lyons Press, ISBN 1-58574-565-0.

My Jihad is Aukai Collins' memoir of his years as an itinerant *mujahid* — a soldier of the *jihad*, of the world of the *mujahideen*, those who would be *shaheed* (martyrs), and his disillusionment with American government intelligence agencies. His parents were a USMC Vietnam-veteran and the adopted daughter of a USAF colonel. His father left when he was four and his alcoholic, drug-trafficking mother raised him. When he was eight his mother was killed by drug dealers and he went to live with his father and a stepmother, a crystal meth

addict. By the age of 17 he was a juvenile offender, stealing cars and robbing liquor stores, and was sentenced to eight years in the California Youth Authority. In 1993 a fellow worshiper in his east San Diego mosque suggested that he go to Bosnia to fight for the Muslims. Committing himself to *jihad* Collins, now calling himself Aqil, went to Croatia. Frustrated in his attempts to join the fighting in Bosnia he traveled on to Kashmir where he met with Harakat-ul Jihad, a Pakistani *jihad* group. There he was taught basic tactics and light weapons handling. After several months in Kashmir, intending to join the *jihad* in Tajikistan, he moved on to Afghanistan for more training during the winter of 1993-1994. There he saw an instructor accidentally killed by an IED and found himself beset with malnutrition, diarrhea, and dehydration. He associated with members of Harakat-ul Ansar, a bin Laden-funded group that John Walker Lindh would later join.

Collins also became friends with "Umar" (Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh) a UK-raised Pakistani planning to kidnap Brit tourists and journalists in Kashmir. When Umar conducted his Kashmir operation, in 1994, he was captured. Later released in exchange for hostages on a hijacked Indian Airlines jetliner, "Umar" would carry out the kidnapping and execution of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.



courtesy: The Lyons Press

Collins returned home to San Diego. Collins' next stop on the *jihad* trail was Chechnya, in 1995-1996. In Chechnya he became close to Ibn-ul Khattab, Saudi commander of the Chechen *mujahideen*. There Collins had his appendix removed under primitive conditions while anesthetized with horse tranquilizers. He took part in ambushes and combat against the Russians and witnessed the brutal executions of captured POWs. Knocked-down by a Russian claymore mine and then shot by an RPK in both legs — he suffered a severed peroneal nerve in his right leg. He was evacuated and hospitalized in Baku, Azerbaijan. The *mujahideen* network later evacuated him to Jordan for an operation to try and repair the damage to his leg. Equipped with a brace for his damaged leg he went back to Azerbaijan to move equipment and

mujahideen to Chechnya. Unfortunately, his local contacts turned out to be war-profiteers and gangsters. Involved in a deal that went bad he killed an Azeri thug with a CZ-75 9mm and narrowly escaped an ambush.

Angered by the assassination attempt, the corrupt Azeri Muslims, and terrorist acts in Egypt, he went to the U.S. Embassy to offer information. Frustrated with his treatment by a State Department pinhead he said: "Can I talk to a fucking CIA agent. I fought with the *mujahideen* in Chechnya, you little prick." So began his career as a U.S. government intelligence asset. Arriving at LAX he was met by FBI Special Agent "Tom S. Ishiguro" who recruited Collins to work as a paid informant for FBI Counter-Terrorism in San Diego. In 1997, he chose to have his leg amputated as he could move better with a prosthesis. Wealthy Arabs from LA were interested in bankrolling a training camp for Arab militants, so in early 1998 Collins and the FBI began scouting Arizona for a training camp for Arabs. Despite it being a perfect opportunity to identify the "players" when they showed up for training, Collins was told that Janet Reno ordered the operation cancelled.

The CIA then set him up with a computer to communicate with suspected terrorists / contacts via the internet. The CIA made plans to send him back to Chechnya, infiltrate, and get close to Khattab. But while he was in London with his han-

dlers the CIA expressed policy concerns about assets being prohibited from participating in military operations. While his CIA handlers were overly concerned with tradecraft in the streets of London they intended to “declare” him, conforming to CIA policy of operating an agent in a “friendly” nation, to the Russian FSB and to the Azeris — an action Collins considered as good as a death sentence. At this time he received an offer to meet Usama bin Laden. The CIA refused to approve an American asset infiltrating bin Laden’s camp. Collins decided to go to Kosova instead. Paid \$5,000 as his severance from the CIA and he went back to the U.S. before traveling to Kosovo to fight against the Serbs. After a stint with the KLA he was detained by Albanian intelligence on a tip from, he believes, the CIA. After returning to the U.S. he provided the FBI with intel on Hani Hasan Hanjour, a Saudi in the U.S. on a student visa to study English. Hanjour would later fly a jet into the Pentagon. Finally realizing how inept and inflexible the government intelligence apparatus was, Collins ended his association with the FBI. In mid-November 1999 Collins returned to Chechnya to look for his wife and child. It was his last visit to the *jihad*.

The FBI describes Collins as an “oftentimes productive asset” for Squad Five, its Phoenix counter-terrorism operation, from 1996 to 1999. According to an FBI spokesman, “He did some very productive things and helped some cases over the years,” and acknowledges that Collins was paid \$2,500 a month in cash. But the FBI claims they “had no knowledge of Hanjour prior to 9/11, period.” According to FBI officials involved in the matter, who asked not to be identified, Collins never mentioned Hanjour or expressed familiarity with him — even when shown a picture of the hijacker after the attacks. The 10 July 2001 FBI memo “Zakaria Mustapha Soubra; IT-OTHER (Islamic Army of the Caucasus)” aka “the Phoenix memo” was written by Phoenix FBI Special Agent Kenneth J. Williams. The “synopsis” says: “Usama bin Laden and Al-Muhjiroun supporters are attending civil aviation universities/colleges in Arizona.” It also make reference to Collins. The CIA has refused to comment on Collins or *My Jihad*.

Today Collins is a bounty hunter specializing in south-of-the-border apprehensions and a lecturer on counter-terrorism, Islamic terrorists, and the *mujahideen*. A long-time *Soldier Of Fortune* reader, Collins once offered to guide a former *SOF* correspondent to Chechnya, and is acquainted with Chief Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott.

SOF: You had a tough childhood. Did that adversity prepare you for *jihad*?

Collins: It gave me some street smarts. I always look back at my childhood and think what if I was one of these guys who finish high school and mommy and daddy buys them a car, then go on to college ... In some ways I wish I’d had that upbringing. It would

have been advantageous in some respects. But once I got to places like Kashmir and trying to get into Bosnia — you know you’ve been there — there’s no rules, you make it all up as you go, there’s no guidebook *How to Sneak Across the Kashmiri Border*. It did prepare me — it taught me how to “improvise.”

SOF: You initially sought to be *shaheed* (martyred) — isn’t a desire to be *shaheed* considered selfish in Islamic teachings?

Collins: Yeah, actually a lot of young guys get overzealous, like I did; they don’t quite understand the whole concept. I thought I was going to go to Bosnia, get killed in the first week, and go to paradise. Later on I met more educated *mujahideen*, older guys. Ultimately, everybody hopes to be *shaheed*: that would be a nice end to a career. But that’s just it: you want this long successful career of defending your religion and doing as much damage on the front lines to the enemy as possible. And then, if you’re fortunate enough, get a ticket to paradise. So, yes, just to want to be *shaheed* is going against the principles of what it’s about.

SOF: You initially wanted to go to Bosnia but encountered travel problems there so you went to Kashmir instead — how long were you in Kashmir?

Collins: A couple of months. I kept trying to go up to the front, which is right on the border. ISI (Pakistani Intelligence) kept coming into the camp a couple of times a week and every time I had to hide under some blankets. It was explained to me that ISI basically gave the camp its operational orders. They even supplied weapons, which I saw myself. They didn’t want a dead foreign volunteer on their watch.

SOF: ISI runs the show in Kashmir?

Collins: Oh, yeah. The *mujahideen* retain their commanders, but overall the game plan is run by ISI. That’s why some people debate: Is it a true *jihad* or not? The simple fact is that ultimately the orders are coming from ISI and not Islamic scholars.



Aukai Collins armed with an AKM-74 at the Argun Gorge, in Chechnya, Nov. 1999.

SOF: You have a good definition of *jihad* in the introduction to *My Jihad*. “To put it simply, when a Muslim land is being attacked and Muslims are being killed there is the need for *jihad*. In this case it becomes a duty for all able-bodied Muslims to come to the aid of the people being attacked. But even then *jihad* has many rules. It is forbidden to kill non-combatants ...” According to this definition the 9/11 suicide bombers weren’t carrying out a legitimate act of *jihad* as it violates the basic tenets of Islamic *jihad*.

Collins: Oh, 100% — There’s no way an Islamic scholar could begin to debate whether it’s correct or not, or permissible. Not only that, but none of those people — the WTC terrorist bombers — none of them were *mujahideen*. It’s a fact. None of them had any front-line experience in Chechnya, Bosnia, or Afghan-

istan, or anywhere else. So it's disturbing how they're making this connection between *jihad* and terrorism and *mujahideen* and terrorists. When, whatever these guys claim their affiliation was, the fact is they were not *mujahideen*. That speaks for itself right there. I would have serious problems with any *mujahid* who tried to conduct an operation like this.

SOF: It appears that the FBI is not only inept and unable to "think outside the box," but culturally insensitive when it comes to investigating Islamic terrorists?

Collins: From an operational point of view it's why they can't accomplish anything, why they can't penetrate groups, why they can't prevent things from happening. Because, everything has to be by the book. The DEA, when they had an asset working for them, would also send a regular DEA agent into the group their asset had penetrated. I told them, 'Don't take my word for it, don't let me be the only door into this group, or this world. I'll open the door. But put your own people in there.' They need to have countless numbers of undercover agents. The FBI wouldn't do it. I'd say, 'Come with me to Chechnya. Come with me.' In the book I talk about the operation to go back to Chechnya and they screw it all up. I kept telling "Andy" when I saw his beard growing out, I told him, 'You look like a terrorist. Come with me.' But they can't. He wouldn't be in bed at his bedtime and he wouldn't be up at four in the morning lifting weights like all the other FBI agents.

SOF: In your opinion, then, we'll continue to have intelligence failures as long as we inept agents like your handlers trying to gather information on Islamic terrorism?

Collins: Definitely. When Pat [Collin's handler] kept trying to get me to gather intel in the mosques and I kept telling him nothing was happening in the mosques, is when the trouble started. Finally Pat started accusing me of withholding information because I wasn't developing any intelligence from visits to the mosques. I wasn't gathering any information because there wasn't any. They [Islamic militants] keep that stuff away from the mosques, it's not how it's done. But they (the FBI) wouldn't listen to me. So that's when I quit.

SOF: Is there a conspiracy in the U.S. of anti-American Muslims? Are conspirators and supporters here loosely organized or independent?

Collins: No, not organized, but on their own. It's 'Hey, let's go there and do something' on our own. It's individuals here and there. Nothing organized. As an example one time in Phoenix an Arab, who had never been in *jihad*, but supported the idea of it, stood up after one of the prayers and started to say a *du'a*, a prayer. He was saying a well-established *du'a*, basically 'Oh, Allah destroy our enemies.' The Imam jumped up and engaged him in a long argument in Arabic about how it is forbidden to pray for the destruction of our enemies. I would side with the guy; you can't say it's forbidden. This was an established *du'a* not something this guy just made up, but the Imam was so against it — that he

said it was forbidden. But it shows how much they *don't* want to be seen as radicals. The majority of the people in the mosques are like this: they don't even want you to pray against your enemy.

SOF: You provided intelligence on Hani Hasan Hanjour, 29, a Saudi in the U.S. on a student visa to study English. Hanjour would later crash American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon. What does the FBI say now about your report on Hanjour?

Collins: They emphatically deny everything. Hani would talk about flying and his roommates and I would fly a Piper Warrior from Phoenix to Tucson, just for the hours. Hani never went on the flights, though. But I knew he was into flying. I think the infamous FBI Phoenix memo mentions Hani or one of his associates — maybe Zakaria Mustapha Soubra — who I knew. We hung out quite a bit together. He was a *jihad* supporter. After I quit working for the FBI, Ken Williams blew my cover to Soubra — proof that Soubra knew me — probably hoping that Soubra would do me. I've been told that the FBI mentions a "one-legged, red-haired Chechnya veteran" shooting at a range with one of them. But the FBI claims they know nothing of Hanjour, that I had nothing to do with him, so I guess there must be another one-legged, red-haired Chechnya veteran running around Arizona. There were a bunch of us that would go shooting out at "The Pit" a place out in the desert like a quarry. It was an informal place to shoot. There are news reports, based on information leaked from the memo, that mention the shooting range.

A funny thing about the memo is that when I was at ABC News in Washington, D.C. for an interview, one of their fact checkers had a note book. She had some information from Richard Bahar, at *Fortune*, who saw the memo. She had a name on the top of the page which I saw when we were standing there talking. I said, "Hey, where'd you get that name." She said, "Oh, this is the guy we're trying to contact... It came off the memo." I said, "Well, you know where he is? He's standing right in front of you." The name was *Abu Mujahid* [Collins' *nom de guerre*]. So obviously these guys (the FBI) are so lost they don't even realize that it's me, the guy who used to work for them. That's how lost they are, they don't know that "Aqil" and "Abu Mujahid" is Aukai Collins! What I understand is that "Abu Mujahid" is one of two guys the FBI is still looking for! (laughs).

SOF: You describe him as a "hanky-panky Muslim." How was he convinced to become a bomber?

Collins: Hani's roommate encouraged these (un-Muslim) activities. These shady Muslims, Palestinians, they hung out with a guy who owned a liquor store. He was in this crowd that drinks alcohol. That's where he got the name, one of the other Arabs referred to these types of guys as 'hanky-panky.' For him to be involved in this — proves that there's a third party here — somebody more sophisticated. I could picture somebody mixing a little bit of Arab nationalism, or a criminal enterprise, convincing people like Hani to pull something off ... He was dense — we



Collins with Chechen troop, a member of a chopper-killer team, with his AKM-74 outfitted with a 40mm top-loading grenade launcher.

courtesy Aukai Collins

called him "the blonde" in Arabic because of that.

[SOF note: Hanjour's lack of piloting skills also fit his persona as a frail, mediocre individual. A failing student, Hanjour bounced around between several U.S. flight schools and eventually turned up in Arizona. He paid \$3,800 by check and \$1,000 in cash for lessons at CRM Flight Cockpit Resource Management in Scottsdale. Duncan K.M. Hastie, CRM's owner, found Hanjour a "weak student" who "was wasting our resources." Hanjour left, then returned in December 1997 — a year later — and stayed only a few weeks. Hastie says, "Yes, he wanted to be an airline pilot. That was his stated goal. That's why I didn't allow him to come back. I thought, 'You're never going to make it.' "The last time Hanjour called, sometime last year, he wanted to train on a Boeing 757, the same model aircraft which hit the Pentagon." In 1998, Hanjour joined the simulator club at Sawyer Aviation, a small Phoenix school known locally as a flight school of last resort. He later showed up at the now-defunct JetTech flight school in Phoenix. Despite having a valid commercial pilot's license, Hanjour flunked the prerequisites to solo a Cessna 172 three times. Peggy Chevrette, operations manager for the now-defunct JetTech flight school in Phoenix called the FAA three times in January and February 2001 about Hanjour. He was investigated by the FAA and FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown maintains that, "There was nothing about the pilot's actions to signal criminal intent at the time or that would have caused us to alert law enforcement."]

SOF: Do you believe Osama bin Laden was behind the 9/11 suicide bombings?

Collins: I think he was involved, but I've seen no hard evidence to support that assertion. I also believe there was a third party group involved which perhaps was financed by a foreign government.

SOF: What was it like to be a mujahid in an Afghanistan training camp?

Collins: It was non-stop comedy. Have you ever seen that Bill Murray summer camp movie, *Meatballs*? The training was pretty ridiculous compared to Western standards. Guys wearing sandals running around with some old veteran of the Soviet War teaching them how to shoot a Kalashnikov. Some other guys were trying to make some kind of improvised explosive device. I watched a guy poke a dud with a stick, pick it up, and blew himself up. The camp was separate from the Arab site. This camp was a bunch of kids from Pakistan who wanted to fight the communists in Tajikistan. This same camp was later, in 1998, bombed by the Cruise missiles. I think the majority of the people in this camp, the Pakistanis, didn't have a problem with America because America is against communism — until they got hit with the Cruise missiles.

SOF: Do you have any comments on John Walker Lindh?

Collins: To me it's pretty clear, his initial conversion led him to the Tabliq Movement in San Francisco. Then after language school in Yemen he probably went to the *madrassahs* in Pakistan — which actually are not big on *jihad* because they're Tabliq — then to the Taliban. He probably met someone there in Pakistan with Taliban contacts. He probably wanted to fight with the Taliban — in an Afghan civil conflict — to establish an Islamic state. I don't think he was much of a fighter, he was probably pretty much a hanger-on. After 9/11 he got caught up in the whole mess. What are you going to do, stand up in front of everybody and denounce acts of terrorism, and say, "I won't participate with you guys any-

more," and walk off? It's not that simple, he's already caught up in the mess. I think his actions of hiding in the basement are proof that when he saw Americans involved, he didn't want to be involved anymore. Fighting the alliance (Afghan Northern Alliance) was one thing, but fighting Americans was another. He had a chance to participate in the takeover of the prison and as far as I can see he high-tailed it to the basement. I think he was a dipshit.

SOF: Wouldn't a blue-eyed, red-haired, American-born "mujahideen" such as yourself pose a severe threat given your ability to penetrate targets?

Collins: If there were more — in that context — certainly, but I don't think they're out there. They also would have to be convinced to work against the U.S. government, to kill innocent Americans.

SOF: When you proposed a plan to infiltrate Chechnya by foot the Arabs told you it was "impossible, that no one could walk for two weeks straight." Are most Arabs lousy fighters and wimps when it comes right down to it?

Collins: Pretty much — The route they were using, overland through Dagestan, they were spending thousands of dollars in bribes and some *mujahideen* were getting arrested. So my idea was to load-up with arms there (Azerbaijan), get a map and a GPS and walk from Azerbaijan to Chechnya. They said I'd been watching too many Hollywood movies! (here Collins affected an Arabic accent) "You think you are Rambo. You are always watching movies." It wasn't a good idea, it was impossible, as no human being could walk through the mountains for two weeks. My comeback was, "People do longer than that for fun in America." They said, "What do you mean, we're hardened fighters and we can't do that." They're weird like that. They get something in their heads and that's it. It's typical of them that everything has to be follow their way — no matter the consequences — they want mindless followers.

SOF: What happened when you offered to negotiate with Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh for the release of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl?

Collins: I called the FBI the same day I saw Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh's photo on the news — the day he was taken into custody. I recognized him as "Umar," my UK-Pakistani friend, from the Afghanistan camp. The next day the FBI sent three agents to see me in Connecticut. I explained my connection to Umar and offered to speak with him, to see if I could convince him to release Pearl. I thought maybe I could shame him — what he was doing was, according to the Koran, wrong. Maybe I couldn't have done anything, but it's criminal I wasn't given the opportunity [to talk to "Umar."] The FBI said they'd get back to me. They didn't. Two days later FBI agents from another office showed up at my aunt's house looking for me. They implied I was a fugitive. So again, the FBI has no idea what it's doing. I had a friend in the media contact the *Wall Street Journal* and explain the situation; that I was prepared to help in any way. They never bothered to contact me. A few weeks later Pearl was executed. His wife has a lot to be angry about.

SOF: Thank-you, Aukai, for speaking with us. We certainly recommend your book to our readers.

Collins: You're welcome, I've always liked reading *Soldier Of Fortune* and I appreciate the chance to inform your readers. ☞

What's Next In **COLOMBIA?**

PART I

FARC Strategy Under A New [Uribe] Administration

TEXT & PHOTOS BY DR. TOM MARKS

It's the question everyone is asking: With new President Alvaro Uribe now in office in Colombia, how will the insurgents of the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*, FARC, react to his likely buildup of Colombian military and police forces and adoption of a strategic plan to confront the guerrillas and extend state authority in the countryside?

And there's the answer, plain to see: The insurgents won't react.

At least not in a strategic sense, for FARC continues to pursue its own long-term plan and thus is unlikely to take more than passing note at the "big picture" level to changes of approach by the Colombian state. The FARC plan, set forth in 1982 and since considerably expanded, is derived from the Maoist "people's war" model as refined by the Vietnamese and transmitted regionally by the "post-Che" Cubans and FMLN.

It calls for using combat power constituted in the rural areas — however loosely defined — to isolate and ultimately seize urban centers. It includes coordination with urban action, both operationally and tactically.

At the operational level, FARC actions are driven by the campaigns of the individual *Bloques* (7) to implement the isolation of the urban areas. Priority of effort has long rested with *Bloque Oriental* due to its proximity to Bogota and its status as the source of key FARC funding and support functions.

Recent government gains in securing the national capital appear to have resulted in a FARC focus upon Cali, but it is unclear whether this by design or opportunism.

Tactically, actions in the urban areas have been a consistent element of FARC operations. Recent evidence,



FARC tries constantly to disrupt the country's transportation network, thus to dominate the hinterland in order to isolate the urban centers.

however — particularly that revealed in the ongoing investigation of PIRA (Provisional Irish Republican Army) presence in the *Zona* (now reoccupied) — demonstrates intentions to move such action to campaign status.

Greater violence in Colombia's urban areas will be used in an effort both to draw off state power directly, by forcing redeployment of scarce manpower and resources, and to damage the ability of the state to function — politically (especially in its administration), economically, and socially. Significantly, the decision to launch such a campaign pre-dates the Uribe phenomenon, much less an Uribe administration.

Logistically, FARC has the stockpiles necessary to support continuation of its strategic plan. Disruptions caused by loss of the *Zona* are unlikely to be significant or lasting.

Impact of those weapons and munitions needed for the urban campaign has been enhanced by PIRA input, making such more dangerous than would previously have been the case. FARC command and control mechanisms, though momentarily disrupted by loss of the *Zona*, have now been restored.

In For The Long Haul

Basic parameters of FARC strategy and operational art are understood by the Colombian armed forces, particularly COLAR (Colombian Army). They appear to be understood by the police; it is unlikely they are understood by civilian authorities, to include members of the bureaucracy. FARC tactics are well understood by the security forces.

FARC itself appears to have minimal understanding of the manner in which a modern state, to include its security forces, functions. This has led

to a strategic and operational approach which has been dogmatic, even as tactically the insurgents have demonstrated a great deal of flexibility.

Despite the longstanding debate as to the "true nature" of FARC, the fact remains that it sees itself as Marxist-Leninist. This is particularly evident in the manner its analysis of the state is framed, with Marxist categories being used in all cases, and Marxist vocabulary being the means for making arguments.

There is a continuing effort to indoctrinate not only leadership figures but also combat manpower, with units required to report the state of political indoctrination alongside normal military subjects, and combatants participating in agitprop (e.g. skits showing exploitation of Colombia by American imperialism). Captured documents and personal libraries of leadership figures include significant proportions of theoretical Marxist-Leninist works.

Operationally, FARC — as evidenced by documents and transcripts of meetings — has expressed the need to move beyond the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) and has stood up as replacement its own Clandestine Communist Party of Colombia (PCCC), with FARC as its armed forces. It has been stated that the former leading role of Peru's *Sendero Luminoso* ("Shining Path") in the international Marxist movement has now been assumed by FARC. Its national front organization is the Bolivarian Movement for a New Colombia.

This orientation matters, because FARC is consciously following the mass-based, "people's war" ("Maoist") model of revolutionary war. It is an insurgency committed, in its own eyes, to "making a revolution."

Whatever tactical, or even operational deviations exist, to include FARC's "bad Marxism" — a logical consequence of that Marxism's having been absorbed by the key FARC figure, Manuel Marulanda, during the era of Stalin — it nevertheless sees itself strategically as pursuing "people's war."

This has made FARC more dangerous than would otherwise be the case, because the Maoist template is the most highly developed form of insurgency there is. In its Vietnamese version, it was refined still further and



COLAR's most combat decorated soldier, Major General Carlos Ospina, chats with one of only two Marine general officers, Rear Admiral Rodrigo Cardones. Both have been frequent targets of what Colombians refer to as the "human rights cartel."

remains little understood by many Colombians, as well as Colombia's potential allies, notably the U.S.

In its "correct form," the "people's war" approach produces military power as a consequence of political mobilization. This mobilization begins in the "seams" of society, amongst the marginal populations and in the outlying areas (these frequently coincide).

It extends, in the Vietnamese version, simultaneously to the urban areas, with the precise balance between these two "theaters" dictated by circumstances. Priority of effort normally goes to the rural theater, and it is expected that mobilization of the masses there will produce ultimately such significant combat power that the urban areas can be isolated and finally captured.

Precisely how this general approach is to be operationalized has convulsed insurgent movements worldwide, with fierce debates splitting parties as diverse as the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT), the Communist Party

of the Philippines (CPP), and the various Indian Maoist parties (the so-called Naxalites).

Noteworthy is that these disputes have generally revolved around:

- the extent to which urban action should be carried out and the role it should play (respectively, an operational or a tactical element; independent or supporting?);

- the specifics of transition from Phase I (organization, terror, guerrilla) to Phase II (mobile warfare). Disputes concerning Phase III (war of position) have been infrequent.

FARC appears to have suffered from no such uncertainties. It sees itself as having moved to Phase II, mobile warfare, in 1996. It has always been present tactically in Colombia's urban areas and now seems determined to raise the profile of this effort to campaign status.

Mao Through A Filter

In viewing this FARC conceptualization, it is useful to bear in mind that U.S. publications frequently render incorrectly Mao's three phases as: Phase I — organization; Phase II — guerrilla; Phase III — conventional. This is not the Maoist formulation, wherein the actual terminology, as rendered also into Spanish in the translations available to FARC, is as per the sub-paragraph above.



Most FARC narcotic funding goes to the main force units — or into "investment" activities. In no way do arms and equipment reflect a movement which takes in an estimated \$250 million per year from taxing the drug trade. Webgear, rucksacks, and other equipment, for instance, are all made in FARC factories, not purchased on the open market.

Often, the incorrect military sequence (organization, guerrilla, conventional) is then tied, in these same publications, to Mao's familiar three phases: strategic defensive, strategic stalemate, strategic offensive. Mao himself does not do this, as was ultimately recognized explicitly by the Vietnamese in their version of the Maoist approach, Troung Chinh's "war of interlocking" (which is inadequately rendered in Spanish as what reads "all forms of struggle").

This version of "people's war" (published by Praeger in translation in 1962) more accurately reflects the operationalization of the original Maoist theory as practiced by a group such as FARC. It states that all three phases go on simultaneously *tactically and operationally*, even if a particular *strategic* phase has been entered or prevails.

Further, the methods of conflict do not *denote* a phase but *lead* to its unfolding and realization. Thus, FARC's view that it is in Phase II does not mean it believes it has reached strategic stalemate; instead, that Phase I has progressed to the point that Phase II may unfold ("be fulfilled" might be more accurate phraseology).

The military power being deployed is not "conventional" but "mobile." And it does not displace terror and guerrilla actions but augments them.

In Vietnam, for example, where virtually the entire U.S. involvement



FARC guerrillas killed in various local operations. The average FARC combatant is a youth, 13-18 years of age. The nature of the movement has prevented it from breaking out of this youth stratum. Hence, FARC remains very much a large youth gang.

engaged communist mobile warfare, U.S. statistical analysis details that more than 95% of all enemy actions were conducted at the lower end of the spectrum. Yet at the time of U.S. main-force intervention in 1965, the indigenous insurgent apparatus in South Vietnam, that of the Viet Cong, already fielded 96 battalions (of 300-400 man strength), a force structure which included, above the battalions, a number of regimental headquarters, below, tens of thousands of local guerrillas.

The basic pattern of mobile warfare may be conceptualized thus: Terror facilitated or established the political space necessary for the insurgent political campaign — the heart of activity in Vietnam. Terror further generated demands for protection. Answering this demand, police forces, once they predictably spread out, were attacked in guerrilla actions. Unable to defend themselves, the police invariably would consolidate forces, thus exposing still larger swaths of the population to

Terrorism And Terror: Separate Entities

In our choice of definitions, we have put ourselves into a box by conflating "terrorism" with "terror." The former is the condition where the perpetrators make violence their strategy and strategic goal, with no attempt to mobilize a mass base (as opposed to a limited support base).

The latter is a tactical tool frequently used by insurgents. In waging their armed political campaign, they make systematic use of violence (particularly targeting non-combatants) but have as their goal political power (either within the state or by separating from it).

They seek to gain power through mass-mobilization. This makes an insurgent group a more intractable problem than a terrorist body.

State response is thereby driven by the nature of the movement faced. A group such as the Japanese Red Army or the Italian Red Brigades has to be dealt with one way — through being hunted down and neutralized, particularly by working through the uncovered support structure. A group such as the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) or the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) must be dealt with by the "hearts and minds" mechanisms we associate with the successful British campaign in Malaya.

This is relatively non-controversial. Where agreement

breaks down is when a self-professed, ideologically-driven movement such as FARC engages in the normal criminal activities we expect during an insurgency (e.g. fund-raising via bank robbing, pushing drugs, kidnapping, extortion) to such extent that they appear to push aside ideological strategic thrust.

Put simply, a movement which is no longer dependent upon the people for its sustenance does not have to behave in the manner set out in Mao's "mass line" — it can effectively ignore *most* of the people.

So what to do? The solution remains *the domination of popular space*. Nothing bad can go on when the state controls the people — with "control" being a flexible enough term to include phenomena ranging from local forces to neighborhood watch, from intelligence networks to hot lines for tips.

The way in which this achieved is by using the security forces as a shield for the restoration of legitimate government presence. This is done by mobilizing the people, normally through microdevelopment projects which draw their sustenance from democratic participation and oversight.

This last point is not well understood. Typical military civic action, for instance, confuses "winning the hearts and minds" with "doing things" for people — building roads, giving shots, building volleyball courts (in a terrible example



Explosives and firearms must be stolen, captured or purchased, with the later most common. The romantic notion that guerrilla forces capture most of their firearms from government forces is a myth.

U.S. combat power, even as the Viet Cong, assisted as necessary by the NVA, continued in its mobile warfare against the befuddled Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

There is no mystery concerning the theory of mobile-warfare. Mao has laid out in some detail how it is to be implemented and the imperative for the simultaneous practice of all forms of warfare. The complexity of his thought is poorly reflected in the only work widely available in the U.S., *Guerrilla War* (translated by Samuel Griffith).

Guerrilla War is a pamphlet prepared for local people during the war against the Japanese and an incomplete version of what is contained in Mao's much longer essays devoted to "people's war." Those works (all translated into English and Spanish — the latter available in Colombia during the formative years of FARC) relate in some detail not only the theory but the mechanics of guerrilla and mobile warfare.

People's War Without People

FARC, then, is pursuing an integrated military approach which is well developed in its outlines but has proved difficult for insurgent movements to implement. The CPP, for example, was so concerned that the terminology of phases did not provide its manpower with a precise enough mea-

Continued on page 70

insurgent domination.

Behind the scenes, certain guerrilla units (i.e. a proportion of guerrilla combatant strength) were "regularized," to use Mao's term, turned into mobile-warfare units — heavy guerrilla units. They were "conventional" but only in the sense of established tables of organization and equipment (TOE) and specialization.

Hence, when the government inevitably deployed its military to reclaim "lost" areas, these units (nor-

mally the army) found themselves, first, harassed by guerrilla action, which demanded small-unit saturation patrolling, then, defeated in detail by the mobile-warfare units (which fought using "guerrilla tactics").

Ultimately, the Vietnamese communists turned into policy a variant appropriate to 1965-73 circumstances, an approach which used the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) main-force units — the mobile-warfare units — to draw off the formidable

from one of our old manuals). That's all well and good — better that the troops are doing such than misbehaving.

Yet the key lies in what worked so effectively in Peru and elsewhere (to include the much-maligned counterinsurgency in Guatemala): not to do things for the people, but to facilitate their doing it themselves.

In Peru, such included popular involvement in project selection, oversight, and actual completion, with the government providing only expertise and micro-funding (no project, on the average, greater than \$2,000). The difference between such and "doing it for them" is that the former fosters democratic capacity. This, in turn, generates a willingness to defend that which is "theirs."

The situation is complicated in terrorism, because the "grievances" or "aspirations" lie principally in the minds of the terrorists themselves. In the early stages of terrorism, certain societal interludes of circumstances, exacerbated by state repression, normally coincide with the birth of terrorist organizations.

Once they become going concerns, however, "original causes" tend to fade in salience to the point of irrelevance. This is why the terrorists themselves become the target vice resolution of grievances — as is the goal in counterinsurgency, where going after "personalities" is but one tactic among many (albeit an important one).

In Colombia, one has seen the near-complete absence of

any of the response mechanisms outlined above. This stems from the variety of reasons, most particularly lack of understanding of the problem by those in power under previous administrations.

Hence what has been judged a "law and order" problem has been dumped into the laps of the security forces, which themselves have had to undergo profound change to both understand and deal with the problem. They have made significant strides but have found themselves hamstrung by the lack of state approach, will, or mobilization. In particular, the complete lack of local forces has led to the proliferation of the *autodefensas*.

U.S. assistance has generally been ineffectual, because it has been a series of stop-gap programs posing as policy. Washington has addressed pieces of the overall problem, such as "drugs," in a manner that has fragmented the battle space and greatly complicated Colombian efforts to transform their approach to one of domination of the population.

Individual American actors (e.g. human rights groups) have single-mindedly pursued their own agendas at the expense of policies that might facilitate adoption of a Colombian national plan and campaign. Indeed, to the extent that the struggling security forces have been virtually the sole target of these individual actors, we have virtually guaranteed a crisis for the United States in the long term.

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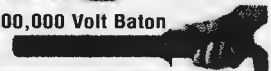
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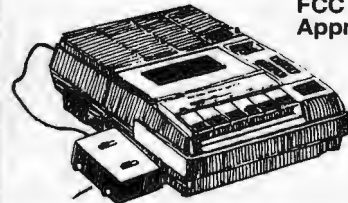
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The Air National Guard Goes To War

SOF SALUTES YOU!

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

To be prepared for yet-unknown horrors and chaos that might follow 9-11, President Bush reached for the National Guard, the flexible force engineered to provide both homeland security as well as national defense. The administration opted for the "partial mobilization plan" which allows mobilization of up to a million Reservists and National Guard members. Within one month of 9-11, more than 11,000 National Guard troops — 4,000 Army Guard and 7,000 Air Guard members — were mobilized, activated and providing armed security internally, and carrying out a multitude of missions overseas. Not only did the urgency of combating potential retaliation by terrorists reacting to U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan demand the Guard and Reserve services, the troops helped intercept packages suspected of carrying the deadly anthrax spores being sent by unknown operators. State governors called up 5,000 Guard troopers to train in Federal Aviation Administration security procedures, in support of law-enforcement officials guarding commercial airports nationwide. More than 80% of the aircrews flying the more than 120 Air Force fighters in Noble Eagle combat patrols were Air National Guard members.

In addition to providing an essential presence in Operation Noble Eagle, the title given to military operations associated with homeland defense, the Guard provided vital support for Operation Enduring Freedom.

The thousands of Guard personnel that were deployed internally and overseas to undisclosed locations included dozens of the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Security Forces Squadron personnel, tasked to provide airfield security. SOF interviewed five Nevada Air Guardsmen who had been activated and deployed to Afghanistan December 2001. Their experiences — and their dedication, readiness and personal sacrifice — represent in microcosm the experiences of tens of thousands of reserve-component service personnel called to duty.

They no longer joke about where they are going.

"I thought everything had gone away. I watched for two months — until I suddenly ended up in Afghanistan." Master Sergeant Todd Shipley, a 23-year law-enforcement officer said as he recalled the urgency of mobilizing the Air Guard after 9-11. There was a "one-day activation. Here's a hole, we have to plug it." He had received an activation order for one year, with possible extensions.

Shipley, head of Air Force security forces at Baghram Air Base, would never forget the phone call Friday morning, 14 December. Thirteen members of the 152nd Squadron received orders deploying them to the East Coast by the next Wednesday, 19 December. In little more than a week, they had been shifted in a C-130, to a C-5 to a C-17 half-way around the



MSgt Todd Shipley clears runway at Baghram in advance of visit by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

globe — from Reno to McDill Air Force Base, in Tampa, Florida for 15 hours, to McGuire Air Base in New Jersey, Germany to Bahrain in the Gulf to Baghram, Afghanistan. There the squad of 13 troopers "married up" with other squads right after Christmas, hooking up with the 821 Air Mobility Squadron's tanker airlift command element (TALCE).

"TALCE provided support to the Army and off-loaded the aircraft, providing food and water and onsite management of mobility airfield operations." Guardsman Technical Sergeant Wayne Wheeler, a deputy sheriff in Carson County, Nevada said.

"The war is being prosecuted by the National Guard and Reserve." Shipley said. We are providing half of the manpower, and our country could not be doing what we are without them. The nature of the Guard and Reserve since the Gulf War has changed by being activated for combat and overseas duties. An huge difference, of course, is that there

were 500,000 troops deployed to the Gulf, verses 10,000 to Afghanistan”

The cost to our citizen soldiers is enormous in terms of the upheaval of families and communities.

“Last year at this time, I had a lot different plans for my life. This was the first time I was deployed internationally. Many guys have other jobs. Our field is one in which we can't retire and we can't leave. We'll probably be away from our careers two to five years,” Shipley told *SOF*.

At least four of the 13 troopers were law-enforcement officials. “Our law enforcement background was a big help. We were used to dead bodies and knew how to handle ourselves in stress situations,” Shipley said.

Wheeler speculates that the law enforcement officials may have been selected for their experience in “dealing with hostile people and being able to take control in difficult situations.”

“This is the same flag that my patrol sergeant in the civilian police force carried in Vietnam.” Staff Sergeant Gary Underhill, a 12-year deputy sheriff in Carson City and security specialist civilian cop for 15 years said, as he reached into his pack and pulled out a worn U.S. flag that he carried with him to Afghanistan. “When he heard we were being deployed overseas, he handed us the flag during a swing-shift briefing, and asked if we would carry it. We carried it on behalf of all of us,” he said as he gently unfolded the flag.

“He told us to bring it back in one piece,” Wheeler added.

“We had become part of the full-time Air Force. We had to leave our jobs, our families and drop everything,” Underhill said as he hugged his year-old daughter that had come to work with him that day. “I missed her first teeth, the first time she said ‘Daddy’ and I will miss her first birthday as I am probably going again.”

Afghanistan Was A Hallucination

After a three-month whirlwind of activity and uncertainty that followed their activation, the airmen were on the ground, implementing Operation Enduring Freedom.

The chain of events “seemed like a dream. It was hard to believe that we were actually in Afghanistan,” Air guardsman, Senior Airman Lance DuMond said. DuMond was as active security forces Air guard member was transition from Title 32 to Title 10 which was the presidential activation, changing his command authority from the governor to federal control.

“We landed at night time. It looked just like Nevada, but bombed out. Afghanistan was a hallucination,” said TSgt



Marnie Rodriguez

TSgt Mike Delsoldato, one of Shipley's fire team leaders, on post at Bagram Air Base.

Clint Dudley, who had been in the oil and natural gas industry and had been in the oil field on 11 September.

“Nuts The Size Of Cantalopes”

“It was a strange, tough world we had entered,” Underhill observed “One rebel was fighting since he was 10, when he fought the Russians. His brother had been killed. Instead of picking up a soccer ball, he had picked up a Kalashnikov. He had ‘nuts the size of cantalopes,’” Underhill observed.

After decades of enduring invasion, occupation, and tyrannical rule, fatalism and death have become a lifestyle for Afghans. Shipley told of one Afghan who asked for a rifle when they were having a problem with a particular reporter who defied Shipley's order not to take photos on the flight line. The Afghani colonel approached Shipley and asked for his rifle. Shipley said “no,” and repeated “No.” “Give me a rifle, the Afghani said. I killed 15 Taliban. One reporter — no big deal.”

“We were tenants on their base,” Shipley said. “Trying to control our assets at times became difficult. With armed boys on both sides and with a translator in between, things often got nerve-racking. Interpreters included Afghans who had fled the Taliban regime to Pakistan, had learned English and had come back to join the U.S. and its allies.”

“The biggest mistake a young GI can make is to expect others to adapt. It is the GIs that need to adapt,” Underhill said.

“Even though we had to respect their culture, when it came to the safety of the soldiers, we had to take control,” Shipley said. The troopers held no illusions. The Afghans' friendship and loyalty was situational and self-serving, if not patronizing. It was “tenuous” dealing with the locals, because they never knew what side they were on. The Afghans were “friendly but were not friends.”

An especially hostile instance erupted when the Guard personnel found a taxi hoisted up on a jack because of a flat tire. The Airmen were concerned that it contained a bomb. “It could have taken out the whole post. We called for a bomb dog. The Afghani said ‘No’. We demanded a bomb dog.” Underhill stood up, agitated.

“The Afghani kicked the car. The goofy GI



Kitty Baran

SOF Publisher/Editor Robert K. Brown visits with Nevada Air National Guard troops SSG Gary Underhill, TSG Clint Dudley, SRA Lance Dumond and MSG Todd Shipley on their return CONUS. Flag, belonging to his patrol sergeant and carried in Vietnam, was carried to Afghanistan by Underhill.

thinks there's a bomb in the car. There is no bomb in the little car," the Afghani 'Colonel,' the head of customs said, "If Allah wills, we be blown up this day." The translator relayed the message.

"Tell the prick that he can go see Allah on his own time. He's not taking me with him." Underhill barked. A subsequent inspection revealed no bombs.

Heavy Armor

Guard personnel could not discuss hostile attempts to penetrate the perimeter, but discussed the precautions taken on base.

The Guards wore bulletproof vests with panels in front and back and Kevlar helmets when on duty. "The vests we wore were real heavy and bulky. The panels were capable of stopping a 7.62 millimeter round." Wheeler said.

The biggest risks on base, he added, were "potential non-friendly Afghans working with us, but even more so, bombers and snipers close to the perimeter. We saw tracer rounds every night. Sometimes stray rounds were uncomfortably close."

The Guards pointed out that thousands of live land mines, and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) including cluster bombs, left over from the Russian invasion and the U.S. counter-insurgency activities, combined with a dire shortage of Explosive Ordnance Disposal techs to clear the mines, severely restricted their movement.

For the Afghans, on the other hand, the land mines had become a fact of life. The Afghans often put mines on the road for the GIs to pick up. When one Afghani had his foot blown off, he dismissed it casually as "Allah's will."

The Guards operated at night for four days in 12-hour shifts. They were responsible for securing flight lines, moving positions, and controlling international traffic of friendly forces outside of the air base.

Briefings highlighted potential threats from remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda, and underscored the fact that the United States was a prime target. Standoff attacks were always of concern.

The Anaconda disaster shifted procedural mine-clearing operational aspects from mild concern status to top priority by the end of their stint, in order to accommodate more forces. Activities to implement this new policy after Anaconda extended the term of the Guards in Afghanistan longer than expected. "They wanted us to stay to help the Army with the flight line through all of the commotion Anaconda created on base." Wheeler said.

Although the guards refused to comment on the Anaconda travesty for the record, they highlighted the importance of being properly equipped in the brutal Afghan winter that often reached below zero. "Our team was lucky. Shipley had the foresight to order and purchase cold weather boots and clothes in New Jersey," Wheeler said.

Missions Of Mercy

DuMond recalled his shock at the poverty and desperation

of the Afghan villagers and his memories of the tawdry shambles of mud huts they called homes. Afghanistan was "totally outside of the concept of reality." He stressed the importance of "listening to people above you the first time you are out of the country" and the need to "always be aware of what's going on."

"We were welcomed by the happy and dancing little kids that were anxious for our donations." The younger Guardsman's intense, troubled eyes became animated as he recalled the humanitarian tasks and acts of kindness the troops performed for the locals. In the village of Baghram, he, Shipley and other coalition troops helped hand out clothing and food sent by churches. "It was a weird feeling," he said, obviously still highly affected. "I decided that the best way to start was with the poorest and work my way up. The girls and women did not have the same rights as the males — they had to stand to the side."

Guidance For Those Deployed To Afghanistan?

Baghram, built in the 1950s, which served as the major Soviet air base during the Afghan-Russo war, was still enclosed with barbed wire, filled with sandbag bunkers and cluttered with rusted fuselages and jet engines. The dilapidated base had been stripped by the Taliban, and most structures had been bombed out when Bagram became the dividing line between the Northern Alliance and the Taliban.

The men slept on cots in crowded, 13-man tents.

The one most common recommendation was to take multi-purpose boots for snow and rain, and warm days. They wore Matterhorn boots. It was essential that the heavy winter boots be broken in to avoid foot problems. Proper footwear helps make or break the job, all agreed.

"You just need basic equipment, clothing. I wore desert khaki camouflage. Some equipment is too heavy, and sometimes substitutes are not as bulky. Bring an AA MagLite that clips on. Bring a sleeping mat," Dudley said. He had carried two or three knives, one a fighting knife.

"The Load Bearing Vests fit in front and back like a waffle grill. I don't like the vests and plates." Underhill said. "But the plates did save a tactical air controller's life assigned to the 101st during Anaconda. The plates work well. A lot came back with leg wounds. The new body armor works." Dudley stressed.

The men carried the basic issue M16A2 Rifles. Several of the men had halo sights on their rifles that allowed both eyes to be open and made shooting much easier. "Everyone should have the sights for safety and performance." Wheeler said.

The airmen were carrying 240 5.56 rounds, 30 in their weapons and 180 on their person, in addition to the 20-pound armor plates. "Safariland vests would be preferable to the bulky vests we wore — they are more maneuverable," Wheeler said.

"Bring a pillow," Shipley piped in.



Nevada state flag proudly displayed by members of MSG-Shipley's team from the 152nd security forces squadron at Baghram Air Base.

Marnie Rodrigues

Continued on page 72



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TEXT & PHOTOS BY
MAJ. CHUCK JARNOT

Canada's Swedish BV-206 Air-Mech Vehicle Walks Softly, Carries Big Stick in Afghanistan



A cross between a snow-cat and a Bren-Gun Carrier, the Swedish-designed BV-206 provides low ground pressure to avoid detonating AT mines, delivers troops and equipment fresh and ready to fight. Vehicle combo in rear has reduced profile. Winter sun makes mud of frozen roads (below) as Canadian BV-206 heads for loading-point rendezvous with CH-47D. Rear unit is powered via articulating drive from lead unit, which is powered by a six-banger Mercedes diesel.



The war in Afghanistan has seen several combat firsts for the U.S. Military — such as the first use of an armed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and the first use of the B-1B Bombers in a close-air-support role. In Operation Anaconda, another first for the U.S. Army was the employment of helo-based airmechanized forces by a U.S. field commander in combat, complements of the 3rd Battalion of the famed Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group.

On 15 March 2002, the Canadians attached to the U.S. Army's 2nd Brigade 10th Mountain Division, used U.S. Army CH-47D Chinooks to air-assault their armored tracked BV-206 airmechanized vehicles into the Operation Anaconda fracas.

Airmechanization is a relatively new maneuver warfare doctrine, extensively developed by numerous European armies. First theorized in the 1930s by Soviet Field Marshal Tuchachevskiy, today the Russian, British and German armies have fielded airmechanized brigade- and division-sized units. The concept involves the vertical insertion of tracked combat vehicles via helicopter and fixed-wing para-drops. The idea is to use aircraft to break friction with the ground and cross vast treks of terrain and obstacles to quickly gain positional advantage. Once inserted, the mechanized vehicles provide the vertically inserted force with tracked terrain mobility, protection against smallarms and shell fragments, and a significant increase in firepower via the heavier weapons carried on the vehicles, as opposed to foot-mobile troops inserted by parachute or helicopter.

The technical challenge to airmechanization is how to build a tracked combat vehicle that has sufficient protection and weapon capacity, yet is light enough to be transported by helicopter or parachute. Advances in information/reconnaissance technology, weapon-lethality versus weight and the increases in

aircraft lift performance, have all contributed to the boom in airmechanization. Today, five other countries beside Russia, Britain and Germany, are in the process of fielding airmechanized brigades, including China. The most expensive part of this concept is the fielding of large numbers of heavy-lift helicopters and short-field cargo airplanes. The vehicles themselves are relatively inexpensive. In the U.S. military, the crucial air component is already in place with more than 600 heavy-lift CH-47D Chinook and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters, and 500-plus C-130 Hercules aircraft in the inventory.

Lightweight Air-Mechanized Vehicles (AMVs), like those employed by the Canadians in Anaconda, might seem at first look to be extremely vulnerable, but having survived on the battlefields of Afghanistan may demonstrate a shift in this traditional paradigm. For example, the greatest risk to vehicle movement in Afghanistan is not Taliban/al-Qaeda's rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), but rather the millions of land mines lain throughout the country. The Canadian BV-206 AMV used in Anaconda mitigates this risk by virtue of the light-weight and fully tracked suspension, which results in extremely light ground pressure. This not only contributes to its excellent terrain agility but makes anti-tank mine detonation far less probable, since the BV-206 ground pressure is far below the minimum necessary to set off a typical anti-tank-mine. The salient advantage of an articulated, tracked vehicle like the BV-206, is its all-terrain mobility. The low ground pressure of such an articulated tracked vehicle allows it to operate in very weak-soil-strength, or deep-snow, conditions.

Also, the powered articulation joint between the two units provides for superior obstacle-crossing ability, because of the joint-locking feature for spanning ditches or gaps, and the joint pitch-motion travel that allows for the climbing of very high vertical obstacles, i.e. the slopes in Afghanistan. Wheeled combat vehicles, on the other hand, are extremely vulnerable to land mines due to the high ground pressure characteristic of typical wheeled vehicles. The separate cab of the BV-206 also lessens the potential casualty effects of RPGs by compartmentalizing the blast areas. The low weight further means that it can approach the enemy from terrain deemed nonuseable by heavier armor and thus lessens the chances of moving into a planned vehicular kill zone. These features combined with the lethality of high-tech weapons like the Javelin anti-tank guided missile (50 pounds and 2,500 meters range) and light-weight auto cannons and grenade launchers, like the M230 or ASP-30 30mm and the Mark-19 40mm, make AMVs a deadly package for their size.

Is airmechanization a competitor for the

Continued on page 75



Both units fit precisely into maw of CH-47D, for rapid, precise delivery in airmechanized missions. The light, fast armor you have beats the heavy armor you do not, and the BV-206 performed as advertised, nimbly delivering the troops and materiel without disturbing AT mines. Their U-Haul loaded, the Canucks were ready to go to war. Will such light, tracked vehicles see much larger service in the future? Canadian experience in Afghanistan showed these movers have a lot going for them, especially in an airmechanized operation — a likely scenario to fast responders in 21st Century conflicts.



AMERICAN ARMY KUDOS

The Army's Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL), took note of the operation for which Maj. Jarnot was liaison. In *High-Altitude Operations*, by George J. Mordica II, Senior Analyst, it was mentioned that: The Canadian Army used the air-mechanized concept during decisive operations in the Afghani Mountains ... They air-assaulted small unit support vehicles (SUSV) into the mountains during offensive operations against the al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters. The vehicles were used to move distances over the rough terrain at high altitudes, allowing the infantry to ride or transport their loads into battle. These vehicles allowed the infantry some small-arms protection and helped them beat the fatigue associated with mountain operations. The SUSV is helicopter transportable, and provides all-terrain mobility. The vehicle performed well in combat.

Helicopter-transportable light armor proved to be an effective alternative to air-assault infantry-only operations in the mountains. The [John Deere] GATOR or other type of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) can serve as a substitute for the transport of equipment [on soldier's backs] in the mountains to reduce soldier load. This is terrain-dependent. —C.J.

SOF PROVING ground

THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY MILSPEC OPERATOR 1911-A1

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY FRANK W. JAMES

There are two schools of thought regarding tactical lights on weapons, when it comes to working in what may become a deadly force situation. One train of thought holds the lamp should be turned on and left on all the time, while the other school feels it should only be used to positively identify any potential target or threat, and then only in the briefest possi-

ble time frame. In other words, to avoid counter-fire, use the light no more than absolutely necessary.

There are strong arguments and good reasoning behind each precept and it is the mark of an advanced operator who can demonstrate each technique and explain the benefits and difficulties for each method with equal skill. Of course, it should be explained that tactical lamps mounted on self-defense weapons are far different than those mounted on the rifles of varmit hunters. As opposed to varmit lamps, which concentrate the light beam in as tight a cone as possible and to as far a distance as possible, a tactical lamp should fan the light in a wide beam. The perfect tactical light fan would match the operator's peripheral vision, and failing that it should be just as wide as possible. Any weapon-mounted tactical lamp should, at the



The Springfield Armory milspec Operator 1911A1 pistol is the only 1911-type handgun being offered with an integral light-mounting rail as part of the pistol frame. This rail can be used to mount tactical lamps, infrared or laser-based illuminating devices, as used by many military/law enforcement tactical teams.

minimum, illuminate two corners of an average-size room of the typical home, when engaged at the entrance to the room. The better lamps will fan the beam out to three corners or more.

Many of the self-defense and law-enforcement-firearm companies have recognized the importance of tactical lamps for emergency response personnel, and incorporated mounts on their polymer-frame and steel-frame law-enforcement pistols, but there is only one manufacturer of 1911 pistols who provides a tactical-lamp mounting-rail on one of their products, and that is Springfield Armory, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 420 West Main St., Geneseo, IL 61624; phone: 1-800-680-6866, fax: 309-944-3676, web: www.springfieldarmory.com).

The Springfield Armory milspec Operator 1911A1 (Model No. PB9105L) is a standard Springfield Armory 1911A1 pistol in .45 ACP caliber, but with a difference. On the dust cover portion of the frame forward of the trigger guard a Picatinny-style rail has been forged directly onto the pistol frame. Although this pistol is specifically prohibited from IDPA competition because of its increased weight, this pistol offers much to military/law-enforcement special operations personnel, or the average citizen when the pistol is utilized as a home-defense pistol.

The Picatinny rail is dimensionally very similar to the "Weaver rail" used throughout the world of sporting arms. Because of this feature, one does not necessarily have to part with a significant amount of cash for a mission-dedicated tactical lamp to get the most from this feature. Using nothing more than a Sure-Fire Model 6P flashlight (Laser Products, Inc., Dept. SOF, 18300 Mount Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708-6122; phone: 1-800-828-8809; fax: 714-545-9537; E-mail: surefire@surefire.com, web: www.surefire.com), or any other flashlight with a 1-inch outside diameter for that matter, and a Weaver-style scope ring, I mounted the flashlight to the test pistol.

The reward was a serviceable, tactical-lamp-equipped home-defense pistol. I mounted the flashlight far enough back that the end switch could be activated through simple pressure from the support hand, and found that the system worked perfectly. (Using an old gunsmith trick, it is advisable to wrap a piece of soft-sided electrical tape around the flashlight body that will be encircled by the scope ring, to avoid movement during recoil, and then tighten the scope-ring screws very securely.)

The pistol itself yielded no surprises. Like all of Springfield's pistols since 2001, it features the new I.L.S. or Integral Locking System, which is located in the arched mainspring-housing and can be activated or deactivated by a supplied key. The frame and slide on the Springfield Armory Operator start as forgings and the barrel is a hammer-forged product. The grip safety is a



The arched mainspring-housing on the Springfield Armory Operator contains Springfield's own I.L.S. or Integral Locking System. The I.L.S. can be activated or deactivated through use of the provided key.

standard G.I.-style unit, as is the left-side-only manual safety. The grips are black synthetic and the outside finish of the pistol is a fine-grain Parkerizing. The sights are good, being high-profile three-dot, with a deep square-cut U-notch on the rear sight, and a tall staked-in ramp-style blade on the front, with a single white dot. The white dots are unnecessary, but they are there none-the-less. The magazine capacity is seven rounds, with a floor plate that is not removable. The trigger is the same short-length, non-adjustable trigger found on all military-origin 1911A1 pistols since time immemorial. The trigger-pull weight on the test pistol was a surprisingly consistent 4.8 pounds. I say surprisingly, because it felt lighter

due to the absence of over-travel and slack.

Shooting the Springfield Armory Operator revealed a muzzle-heavy 1911 (especially so with the flashlight mounted) that demonstrated less felt-recoil and more control than that normally associated with a pistol of this size, design and caliber. Naturally, the added weight of the Picatinny rail has both shortcomings and benefits. The shortcoming is, this would be a difficult pistol to conceal or even holster with a normal concealed-carry rig. The benefit is that this handgun, together with a reliable 1-inch-diameter flashlight and scope ring, allows any homeowner the means to defend their family and clearly identify the threat, before the force-continuum of the situation escalates to a non-revocable ending.

In testing the Springfield Armory milspec Operator 1911A1, more than 250 rounds of assorted hollowpoint .45 ACP ammunition from Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, 3050 Eglin St., P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150; fax: 605-348-9827; E-mail: black-hills.com, web: www.black-hills.com), from Federal Cartridge Company — Blount, Inc. Sporting Equipment Group (Dept. SOF, 900 Ehlen Dr., Anoka, MN 55303; phone: 800-322-2342; fax: 763-323-2506; web: www.federalcartridge.com), and from Winchester Ammunition (Dept. SOF, 427 North Shamrock St., East Alton, IL 62024-1174, phone: 618-258-3692, fax: 618-258-3609; web: www.winchester.com) was fired. All were hollowpoint loads and they functioned flawlessly in the Springfield Armory milspec Operator 1911A1.

Accuracy at 50 feet for five rounds was in the 2-inch range, some rounds obviously grouped better than others, but overall the accuracy of the test pistol was better than expected.

The Springfield Armory milspec Operator 1911A1 has a MSRP of \$756 and offers the home owner or the military/law-enforcement professional the means for convenient mounting of either a dedicated tactical lamp, or one that the individual can devise out of their own ingenuity. In either case, the Springfield Armory milspec Operator is a cost-effective home-defense handgun.



The author used a Weaver-style scope ring and mount, together with his Sure-Fire Model 6P flashlight, to create this tactical-lamp-equipped home-defense weapon.

Second Chance Socks It To 'Em

Body-Armor Wonk's New Development For Those Who Tread in Harm's Way

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY
AL J. VENTER

A year of research by Richard Davis, CEO of Second Chance Body Armor, of Central Lake, Michigan, has produced what appears to be an effective counter to some of the anti-personnel (AP) mines that U.S., British and other coalition forces are encountering in Afghanistan. Following almost a month of *in situ* research with mine-clearing teams in Croatia, Davis has successfully tested his multi-layered Kevlar anti-mine pads in a succession of blasts.

While the average former-Soviet PMN anti-personnel mine contains roughly 1.3 ounces (0.216 kg) of explosives — as does the Italian Milelba Type A — Davis subjected his pads to blasts of 2 ounces of Emulex in a series of simulated land-mine tests. The results were surprising. More importantly, they present the Department of Defense with an entirely new option for personal mine-protection in the field.

Normally, 2 ounces of any high explosive would blow off a man's foot. Tests conducted using Davis' pads, however, showed that their protection from the average anti-personnel mine — while not total — not only saves the foot but also prevents many of the bones being broken in the blast.

Davis has patented his new invention in 70 countries. Also, scores of the new anti-mine pads have been passed on to the DoD for testing both in the United States and under combat conditions abroad. A Special Forces group at Fort Bragg has received several sets for on-site evaluation.

Worn like a conventional insole, the boot pads are a radical departure for Davis' Second Chance Body Armor company, pioneer developer of bulletproof vests.

Typical vests used by law enforcement agencies in the United States are composed of between 20 and 24 layers of Kevlar, sufficient to stop all handgun bullets including .44 Magnum. Kevlar manufactured by America's DuPont Company is used by most manufacturers of body armor in the United States, though the Japanese have made a radical break-



Doing field research on land mines in the heavily mined area around Gospic, southern Croatia are, from left, Richard Davis (ebullient genius behind Second Chance, whose body armor has saved nearly a thousand American cops), Johan (Sakkie) van Zyl (boss of South African mine-clearing team in Balkans), and SOF's intrepid Al Venter.



(below) Effects on boot and simulated foot by two ounces of HE are graphic: Almost half the boot is destroyed. In contrast, the sock (filled with wet sand and half a dozen wooden stakes to simulate human bones and protected by Davis' Kevlar pad), though slightly damaged, remained intact. In a real AP mine blast with this measure of Kevlar protection, a man's foot would almost certainly be broken, but victim wouldn't lose the foot, as is usually the case with small AP mines like the Russian PMN.

through recently with their Zylon which is a little more than half the weight and twice as resilient. It is also twice as expensive as Kevlar and is consequently in limited production.

Richard Davis' anti-mine pads, in contrast, consist of 40 layers of Kevlar. To prove that the thickness was not uncomfortably excessive, Richard Davis took to wearing a pair in his working boots for four months and experienced no discomfort.

Davis told *Soldier Of Fortune* that he was motivated to find an answer to a problem that has been encountered in many Third World wars, where scores of casualties have been caused by anti-personnel mines, with the international peace-keeping forces paying the price in places like the Balkans,



Though blown ragged, a detailed inspection of the inner Kevlar sheets of the pad show no evidence of damage.



Close-up of the half-destroyed boot shows that sock filled with sand and the layered Kevlar pad came out of the blast almost intact.



The 40-layered Kevlar pad is light, thin and pliable. After four months in one of Davis' boots, it was little the worse for wear because Kevlar quickly conformed to individual foot contours.

Angola, Sri Lanka and, more recently, Afghanistan.

"Originally, there just seemed to be no answer to anti-personnel mines. When I moved around with a South African mine-clearing team in Croatia not long ago, I was struck by the vulnerability of some of these operators. It is simply not possible to take every possible precaution every single day," he stated.

"Consequently, there were times when those people were exposed to danger, as would [be] a combatant on operations in places like Central Asia and, possibly in the future, Iraq," he declared.

"So I decided to do something about it. Now that I have the pads in place, I'm going to go one step further and develop what I call my 'Ballistic Sock,' which will serve the same purpose but perhaps extend blast protection a little way up the foot."

Davis made the point that when a boot makes contact with an AP mine, the blast is not concentrated upwards in its entirety. Instead, it might be deflected laterally. "A lot depends on point of contact," he explained. "So if this happens, then the effects of blast would cause even less damage, so it's a win-win situation all round," he stated.

During the explosive tests to which SOF was exclusively invited and which took place at Davis' residence at Central Lake, Michigan, several series of tests were conducted with typical U.S. Army boots. These tests included:

- 4 ounces of Emulex explosive *inside* a boot together with one of Davis' anti-landmine pads
- 2 ounces of explosives with a pad
- 2 ounces of explosives without a pad

For the purpose of testing, each boot was stuffed with a sock filled with sand. This would roughly approximate — but not equal — the kind of pressure exerted by a man wearing the boot and stepping on an AP mine.

The results were:

The boot (and by implication a man's foot) was totally destroyed in the blast using 4 ounces of Emulex.

With the smaller, 2-ounce charge, the sock filled with sand and protected by the pad came out of the blast almost intact, though some smaller wooden stakes put into the boot to replicate human bone structure were cracked or broken. The bottom line is that anyone with one of the anti-mine pads in his footwear and who steps on most conventional anti-personnel mines, is going to save his foot.

This was underscored by the third test where, without the pads, the boot was totally destroyed by a 2-ounce blast.

Interestingly, in subsequent tests where an ammunition box filled with stones to simulate leg or body weight was used in explosive tests, the results were identical.

What was sobering about these procedures was the incredible amount of damage that resulted to the average leather boot when there was no protective anti-AP pad inserted: Almost the entire front part of the boot was raggedly blown away.

With the pads present, in contrast, the devastating consequences of the blast were averted. The consequences to a foot in that boot would have been much less severe than might otherwise have been the case. In other words, the result would probably be a Purple Heart rather than a prosthesis.

Watch this space for Phase 2 of Richard Davis' efforts to protect the American GI's life and limb. For current pricing, availability and shipping information, contact Second Chance Body Armor, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 578, Central Lake, MI 49622-0578; phone: 800-253-7090; fax: 616-544-9824.

The Ballad Of Carl Drega

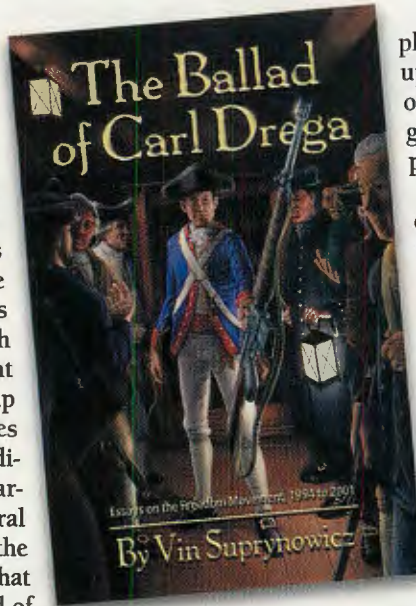
Nanny-State Rulebreakers Shall Not Go Unpunished

BY COL. MIKE PECK, USA (RET.)

Vin Suprynowicz, a Connecticut native and graduate of Wesleyan University, has devoted the past 30-years to journalism. He currently resides in Las Vegas, where he writes for Nevada's largest daily, the *Review-Journal*. Having developed an extensive and dedicated readership, he is also syndicated in 20 other newspapers around the U.S. As an active member of the Libertarian Party, he is very jealous of his Constitutional rights as an American, which has led him to complete his most recent book, *The Ballad of Carl Drega*. It is made up of a collection of essays and anecdotes describing the trials and tribulations of ordinary American citizens who have been targeted by the ubiquitous state or federal bureaucracies for non-compliance with the burgeoning list of rules and regulations that now govern every aspect of life in the "land of the free." Often the people he writes about are simply poor, or do not conform to the edicts of what he calls the "welfare/police state."

He likens the real-life characters in his vignettes to canaries in a coal mine. They are the vulnerable people who by choice or circumstance live on the edge of "official approval." He carefully documents their struggles against what he would term the asphyxiation of over-control and micro-management by America's inexorably expanding officialdom. His heroes are beset by zoning-code-enforcement officers, inspectors, special tax-assessors, collectors, department of environmental protection-compliance people, or health-department officials — who are soon followed by the heavies with guns and papers indicating failure to comply, orders to show cause, summonses, and warrants. Even if these badgered souls try to play by the rules, they quickly discover, quite literally, that you can't fight city hall. He points out that too often these confrontations end in tragedy, including the deaths of the regulators as well as the regulated.

Mr. Suprynowicz explains, "When your canary died, that was a concrete marker that something had been changing in your environment so slowly and imperceptibly that you hadn't noticed it, something really important, and now you were being given this one last chance to notice before it was too late." He feels that more of these "canaries" have died than people realize, but since the phenomenon is so widely scattered, no one really notices. After linking them all together, he noticed a definite pattern beginning to emerge — one which he feels is definitely unhealthy. He argues that there is something noxious in the social environment which is causing this



phenomenon. Because of this, he has taken it upon himself to document the real-life stories of innocent victims caught up in America's growing miasma of rules and restrictions, to point out the cause and effect relationship.

Although he firmly states that he is not condoning violent anti-social behavior, Suprynowicz begins his most recent book with the story of Carl Drega, a retired New Hampshire carpenter, who, after being harassed for years over alleged zoning violations, finally shot and killed New Hampshire State Troopers Leslie Lord and Scott Phillips, as well as Judge Vickie Bunnell and local newspaper editor Dennis Joos — after the troopers decided to ticket him for having rust holes in the bed of his truck. He, too, was eventually killed. According to Mr. Suprynowicz's analysis, he had simply been pushed over the edge.

In addition to heavy-handed bureaucratic meddling, the book also addresses such topics as out-of-control taxation, the federal land-grab program, the war on terror, gun control, government-sponsored schools, the drug wars, and a number of other subjects which highlight the steady erosion of traditional American freedoms.

This is Mr. Suprynowicz's second book, the first being 1999's Freedom Book of the Year, *Send in the Waco Killers* (still in print from Mountain Media.). He is currently engaged in speaking and book-signing tours throughout the country, as well as keeping up with his normal newspaper work.

"When great changes occur in history, when great principles are involved, as a rule the majority are wrong. The minority are right." — Eugene V. Debs (1855-1926)

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed — and thus clamorous to be led to safety — by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." — H.L. Mencken

The Ballad of Carl Drega; Mountain Media trade paperback; \$24.95; ISBN 0-9670259-2-3; order at www.privacyalertonline.com; or E-Mail privacyalert@thespiritof76.com; Or call 775-348-8591; or toll-free 800-244-2224, where bulk discounts are also available.

Colonel Mike Peck, USA (Ret.), a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and frequent SOF contributor, is an international security consultant. ✕

U.S. Intelligence Failures

Continued from page 39

lection of intelligence" during the Clinton years.

"They never really felt comfortable in handling intelligence information," Smith says of FBI leaders. "They worked these cases like bank robberies."

Funds allocated to the FBI for intelligence-gathering were redirected to criminal investigations. Half of the \$5 million budgeted for intelligence analysis was instead spent on a computer crime center. A counterterrorism budget was used in part to fund criminal forensic work. And \$83 million for hiring as many as 1,000 counterterrorism agents was spent on regular street agents.

Smith understood what Freeh didn't: The FBI's counterterrorism operations had to conduct electronic surveillance, penetrate groups, recruit informants and rigorously analyze intelligence. And this had to be done by specially trained agents who understood foreign cultures, foreign languages and foreign threats.

At one point in the mid-1990s, though, the FBI did not have even a basic training course for terrorism analysts. In 1998, only two Arabic-speaking agents were available to work on counterterrorism.

Radical Reform Required

To fix the problems of American intelligence, radical reform is needed. The beginning point is the creation of a new clandestine service directed at building a new human-intelligence capability against terrorism. The new section can be built from the CIA's Directorate of Operations and from the DIA's Defense Humint Service. The rest of CIA should be turned into a Central Analysis Agency limited to producing intelligence analyses.

A new domestic intelligence service should be set up that would be modeled after Britain's MI5 domestic security service. It would have no arrest powers and would be limited to spying on foreign nationals.

These two reforms would go a long way toward helping build the kind of intelligence capability that will be needed to prevent a repeat of 11 September.

Bill Gertz is a defense and national security reporter for The Washington Times. He is the author of the new book *Breakdown: How America's Intelligence Failures Led to September 11.* ✕



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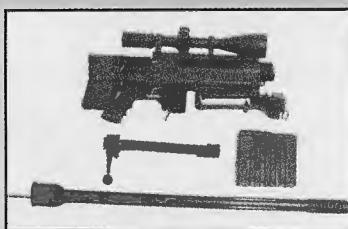
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FARC Strategy

Continued from page 51

sure of progress that it divided Phase I into three — and then further divided its new “final phase of Phase I” into a further three sub-phases!

Later, the issue of just how much “regularization” should take place, and at what pace, became so contentious within the CPP that the “losers” in debates were purged (which often meant death). In the Indian Maoist movement, this same issue — the specifics of “regularization” — also became divisive, and a delegation was sent to Peking to ask for guidance from the still-living Mao himself. (It is this guidance which presently informs the approach of the Naxalite remnants and their closest ally, the Nepalese Communist Party-Maoist, or CPN-M.)

Further, the military facet is but one of three basic components of the Maoist model, the other two being the “mass line” and the “united front.”

Military power is to grow organically from “the mass line,” the politically mobilized populace, which itself has been organized, beneath the surface, into the alternative society (the so-called clandestine infrastructure). Mobilization itself takes place as a consequence of cadre discerning popular needs (desires and grievances) and then facilitating resolution, finally linking this resolution to ideological commitment.

The same hopes and grievances mobilize both leaders (cadre) and followers. Whereas the followers seek resolution of the immediate concerns which have motivated their participation in the movement, leaders seek a longer term end, resolution through systemic alteration. The leaders seek to expand ideological consciousness within the movement by requiring the indoctrination of the manpower — hence, FARC’s continuing effort to mandate Marxist instruction for an increasing proportion of its manpower — and certainly all main force-unit combatants.

Numerous individuals, of course, regardless of stimuli, will desire to remain outside the insurgent movement. Mao was astute enough to recognize that within such masses there were those who, while not sharing insurgent goals, did agree with any number of insurgent “concerns.”

These were mobilized into support structures called “fronts,” some open, most covertly controlled by the insurgent apparatus. In them, those who

simply could not bring themselves to commit to the movement could nonetheless unwittingly (generally) contribute to it by undertaking a series of lesser tasks, tasks that the movement needed to have accomplished.

In the case of China, the key mobilizing issue was the anti-Japanese resistance. More recently, worldwide, "justice" has served to co-opt segments such as the church and human-rights organizations which, on the surface, would seem unlikely candidates for participation in radical causes committed to antithetical ideologies.

It can readily be discerned that in implementing the "mass line" and the "united front," FARC has consistently faced a problem: It is opposed by the overwhelming majority of the Colombian people (99% in some recent polls).

That such has not proved an obstacle in forming a viable insurgent military organization stems from the movement's ability to recruit from marginal strata, notably the alienated young and individuals associated with drug production (predictably, the two categories are not mutually exclusive). This power, in turn, has proved of such potency, in the historically weak, non-integrated state that is Colombia, that the inability of FARC to move in any substantive fashion beyond the strata just noted has not mattered in any, save a theoretical sense.

For the "mass line" is a lynchpin strategically only in a closed system. Operationally and tactically, its absence (or presence in but minimal form) can be overcome through external input — as FARC does using funding from its connection with the drug trade, augmented by kidnapping and extortion.

In the case of the united front, FARC's lack of success strategically has been offset by its more limited operational and tactical success in getting pro-narcotics (and even merely criminal) elements to make common cause with it, irrespective of dissimilar ideological motivations.

Ironically, therefore, FARC remains in a sense a giant *foco* motivated by the paraphrased Che Guevara dictum: If you build it, he will come. What makes FARC more dangerous than a true *foco* is that it is not blinded by Che's ill-founded ideas and instead recognizes that mass mobilization is the proper route.

Dr. Tom Marks is a West Point grad and longtime contributor to SOF. ☒

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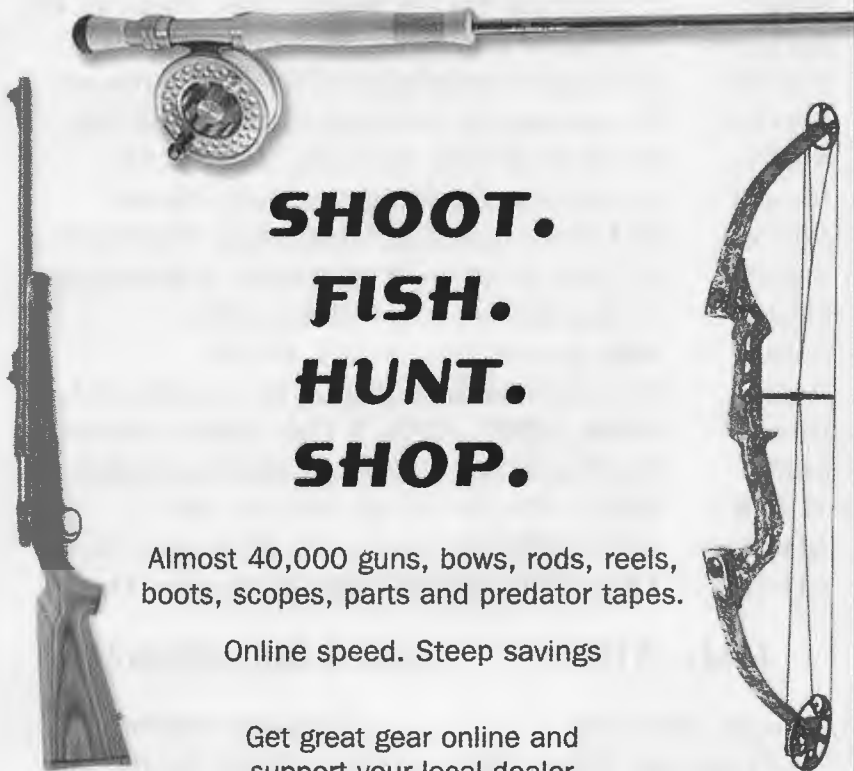
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SOF Salutes You!

Continued from page 60

"Take a lot of baby wipes. I used a lot of baby wipes." Du Monde said emphatically. "Sanitation was difficult. Much of the population has TB," he said. Showers were allowed on the days off, once every five days. Water was scarce. Laundry was done by hand with water from a nearby well.

"Even brushing teeth was an effort. The only water that was safe was bottled water." Wheeler said.

The troops had run out of toilet paper, toothbrushes, mouthwash, soap and lots of baby wipes. "We put out a local base-wide appeal for donations and sent pallets of toilet paper, soap and water," Kitty Baran, 24-year E-7 in the Nevada Air Guard, and sometimes-SOF contributor, said.

International Effort; International Eats

The U.S. forces may have benefited from the synergism associated with any allied or coalition effort, but the real interaction that "became a sport" at the base was that of trading rations with allied troops transiting through Baghrum. The base had no mess, no Pizza Huts like air bases in the Persian Gulf, and the local cuisine was lacking. The airmen's analysis of international military cuisine?

All agreed that the French had "real food."

"I liked the German rations. I am part German. Great goulash." Dudley piped in.

The British had "good portions, beans and franks."

The Spanish was worst by far — heart attack in a can ... bubbling lard. All four agreed.

Some international cuisine even offered vegetarian for those noncarnivores.

Troops were allowed brief calls home twice a week as morale boosters. The calls were a mixed bag — some were good, and some were bad if they brought news of problems back home, since there was nothing they could do about it.

Some 76,000 members of the Guard and reserves — Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force Marines and Coast Guard — are on active duty, down from a high of 85,000 since 9-11.

There are 14,000 Air National Guard and reservists who have been notified that their terms have been extended for a second year, the maxi-

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Continued from page 6

vigilant about protecting our freedoms, even at the cost of national or personal security, we will gradually turn into a totalitarian society. But this is pure myth. TIPS will no more turn America into East Germany than the Stasi turned East Germany into East Germany. The Stasi was an effect, not a cause, of East German communism. It didn't even come into existence until 1950, five years after the Soviets had occupied eastern Germany and set about establishing a communist state.

The East German example is typical, for there is no such things as "creeping totalitarianism." No totalitarian regime has ever come to power without political violence — revolution, invasion civil war, coup d'état, terrorism or some combination thereof. (Hitler became chancellor through the democratic process, but it took an act of terror, the Reichstag fire, to transform Germany into a dictatorship.)

Some totalitarian rulers, like the Nazis, have required constant slaughter to maintain power; others, like the East

German communists, have established gentler forms of social control and oppressed their subjects with minimal bloodshed. But violence is always at the root of totalitarianism. Fearsome as it was, the Stasi's power evaporated instantly when the guards stopped shooting East Germans who tired to cross the Berlin Wall.

has used excessive force against citizens. The cases of Ruby Ridge, Waco, and Elian Gonzalez come to mind.

But it's been a long time since the stench of oppression on American soil was a pungent as it was last Sept. 11. The men behind that day's atrocities seek to use violence to impose on the world a totalitarian theocracy along the

IS AMERICA IN DANGER OF 'CREEPING TOTALITARIANISM'? NO. THERE'S NO SUCH THING.

Those who warn of creeping totalitarianism mistake form for substance, forgetting that the instruments of totalitarian rule are distinct from totalitarianism itself. Every major country has military, intelligence and police agencies. What distinguishes free countries from unfree ones is the purpose of these institutions. In a totalitarian state, they exist to control citizens' lives; in a free one, to protect citizens' liberty.

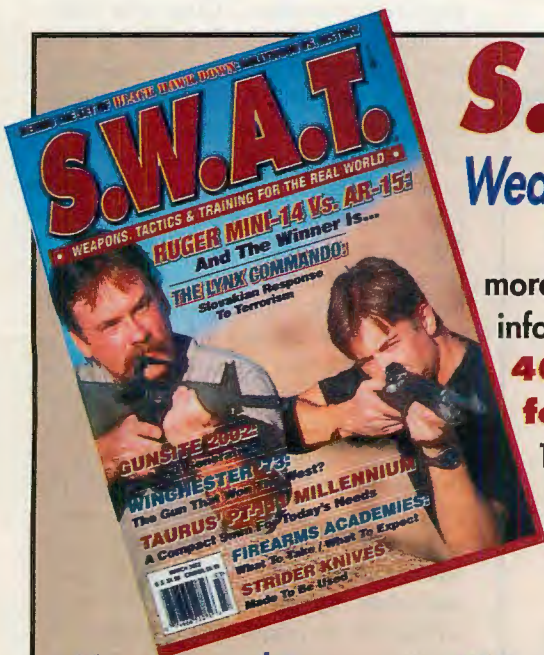
One might reasonably argue that contemporary Americans have occasionally caught a whiff of totalitarianism — but only a whiff — when the government

lines of Saudi Arabia or Taliban Afghanistan — a regime in which infidels are executed, women are property, and most forms of fun are *verboten*.

Isn't that a lot scarier than nosy mailmen?

Mr. Taranto is editor of OpinionJournal.com, where his Best of the Web Today column appears each weekday afternoon.

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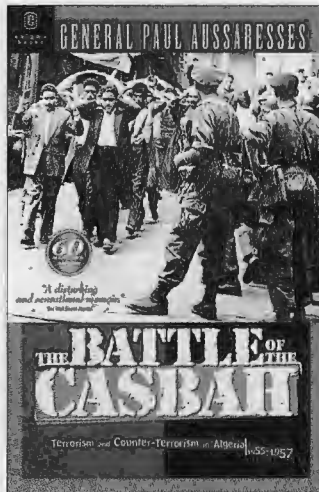
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mum allowed under the "partial mobilization" ordered by President Bush for the War on Terror.

The five Nevada Guardsmen we interviewed are among them. "I was upset and depressed," said Wheeler, the first one SOF spoke with since the extension. How did the others feel? "The same."

"At least now we know" Shipley said. "We were waiting six months. I got a phone call in Afghanistan from the base. We've been waiting to see if that was going to happen."

His colleagues in the sheriff's department were on his mind. "Gary [Underhill] and I want to thank the Carson City Sheriff department for all their support — 100% support and providing partial compensation for lost wages. The other deputies are overworked with lots of overtime. It has been a hardship on all personnel," Wheeler said.

"The Guard members are paid active-duty wages, usually less than they make on the outside. Some companies cannot hold the jobs open, but in the state of Nevada, the law requires that companies find them jobs similar to those that activated reserve personnel left. One, for example, missed an expected promotion," Baran told SOF.

But personal sacrifice has always been a part of military service, especially among Guard and Reserve components comprising citizen-soldiers who have a whole civilian life, including a separate career, which is vulnerable when duty calls them to active status. This seconding of one's personal interests to a Greater Interest has always been a hallmark of American patriotism. Remember the Founding Fathers who pledged to sacrifice their "lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor" to the cause of liberty? The famed statue of the Minuteman with his rifle at the plow captures the spirit of the Guard and Reserves quite well. He obviously has another life — as in career and family — requiring his attention, but when Liberty calls, he drops the plow and picks up the rifle. Let the crops wither: Duty comes first. This spirit is the essence of true patriotism. By very definition, a patriot is one who gives sacrifice — not lip service — to the cause of Liberty.

And by very definition, the members of the Guard and Reserve components of the American military machine, the citizens-soldiers who not only serve well, but serve at great personal sacrifice — are patriots, indeed. SOF is proud to salute them all. ✘

Wide Tracks

Continued from page 63

Army's planned transformation based on the Stryker wheeled armored vehicle? Intuitively, all new ideas are intellectually competitive with older concepts and the same is true of the three-dimensional airmechanization idea versus the two-dimensional Stryker program.

But in practical application there is no conflict between the two. As most professional soldiers know, combat is a combined-arms affair where different weapons, platforms and the specialties of different organizations combine to have a collective greater effect than any one part. The Army's Stryker transformation is slated for the light-infantry divisions and some of the heavier formations. Airmechanization would be more applicable to the Army's Airborne and Air Assault units where the Stryker is not scheduled for fielding. As the European armies who have fielded airmechanized formations will tell you, these agile forced-entry units are battle-field enablers to heavier forces — and not necessarily their future placement.

Like the use of the armed Predator UAV in Afghanistan, this first modest employment of airmechanized forces in Anaconda will undoubtedly generate heated debate on the utility of this new and controversial maneuver doctrine. This event may be the catalyst for the U.S. Army to convert its own airborne and air-assault divisions along the European airmechanized models or, like the ill-fated Pentomic Divisions of the 1950s, it may be a flash-in-the-pan. Still, the question that this event will pose for the U.S. Army as a whole, is the continued validity of parachuting or helo-insertion of dismounted troops close to the enemy's crucible of anti-aircraft fire, shoulder-fired missiles and RPGs.

The American public, and our enemies, should know that the U.S. Army's leadership in Afghanistan is not tied doggedly to any written doctrine. The first use of airmechanized forces in combat by an American commander demonstrates the mental agility and creative prowess of a unified effort that will leave "no stone unturned" in its effort to defeat the al-Qaeda and Taliban, to include employing a Canadian airmechanized force!

Major Chuck Jarnot is a 101st Airborne Division Liaison Officer in Afghanistan. ✕

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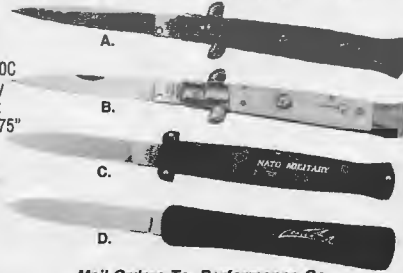
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Ma Deuce on Steroids: An SOF Field Technical Report

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROBERT BRUCE

"The Marine Corps Rotary Wing Operational Analysis Group has continually listed the lack of a common crew served assault weapon as one of its top ten priorities. In an effort to address this gap in capability, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab has initiated efforts to examine the effectiveness of the M3M Pintle Weapon System."

—USMC Aviation Combat Initiatives Briefing Paper

A weapon system that the British SAS has been using to great advantage for several years now, has finally shown up on the radar screen of the U.S. military as the War on Terror intensifies. This is Fabrique Nationale's light and fast .50-caliber M3M aircraft machine gun, a significantly improved new version of John Browning's 80-year-old combat classic. More than two dozen of these long-reaching, hard-hitting 1,000-rpm stingers are now in the process of being thoroughly

covery of fire. That's right — the Corps is even looking at the heretical possibility of putting the new FN gun on ground-mount tripods for use in their infantry battalions.

The Royal Treatment

The British Ministry of Defense uses Westland Lynx and other helicopters to

whole catalog of auto weapons from gatling-type "miniguns" of various calibers to machine cannon, the Brits bought a bunch of M3Ms with their specially built "soft" mounts. So, this finely tuned combo of gun, mount and airframe were well positioned when, in recent months, it became necessary for the Queen's finest to ride into battle as



At a recent live-fire demonstration at CRUCIBLE range in Virginia, FNHUSA's Jim Owens kicks up some dust with the M3M. Shockwaves from the fast-firing fifty send clouds of red powder airborne with each long burst. (inset) Smokin! It doesn't take long for 17-round-per-second gun to warm up after a few bursts, when no aircraft slipstream is available to assist its air cooling. However, use of amazing stellite liner in a barrel made from a hardy blend of chrome-moly-vanadium allows long bursts and extremely high temperatures without damage; Open-bolt firing ensures no cook-offs.

wrung out by the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab. This no-nonsense outfit has an eye toward replacing a variety of older machine-gun designs that currently serve as armament on platforms ranging from helos to Humvees.

If things work out for FN, this could mean that a whole lot of older USMC hardware could be heading for recycle bins including maybe even "Ma Deuce," the near-legendary M2HB, that's been in Marine inventory since before the dis-

perform yeoman duty in a wide range of roles including insertion and extraction of Royal Marines and Special Air Service commandos. Casting about for the best way to deal with bad boys and their lightly armored vehicles and AA weapons in LZs from the Arctic Circle to Asia, Her Majesty's forces wanted a slug hose that was farther reaching than 7.62x51 but not as heavy and clunky as 20mm. They also wanted it to be fast-firing, to maximize hits where it counts against the fleeting exposure of various ground and aerial targets.

By 1997, when the dust finally cleared after exhaustive trials of the

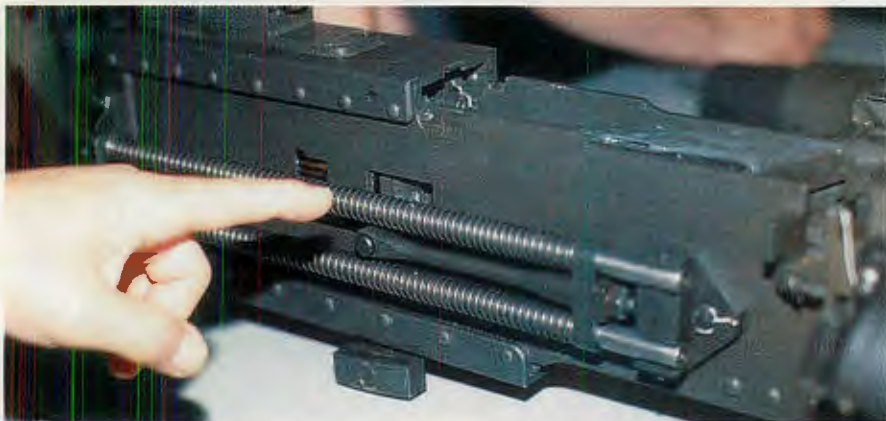
partners with American Special Operators in Afghanistan.

Pintle Envy?

GIs the world over are the same when it comes to checking out the other guy's stuff and comparing it with what they have. This includes everything from boots to bombs and, in this particular case, helo armament. No doubt frustrated from dealing with a bewildering array of aging, oftentimes cranky, and increasingly difficult-to-maintain door and ramp guns, a number of angry Yank rotorheads flying various combat missions in Osamaland



Marines from Quantico's Basic School, Instructor Battalion, Combat Instructor Co., Weapons Platoon, got right down to the nuts-and-bolts of the M3M in an intensive seven-hour maintenance course.



The FN manual calls this the "locking complimentary slide and spring guides," but it is informally known as the booster spring pack. Design of the M3M to fire from an open bolt necessitates a lot of extra muscle in the action's closing/locking stroke, so this booster pack helps ensure that, among other things, a long belt of ammo can be pulled.



Milled cavities and holes lighten the M3M's bolt for faster cycling without as much weight to deal with mechanically, in punishing start/stop action.

must have lit up the logistics REMFs with caustic commentary.

Cooler heads must also have respectfully asked through command channels for an official look-see. Anyway, evidence that the word got through comes in the form of green money cutting through red tape as Uncle Sam's Devil Dogs soon bought a small bunch of M3M systems directly from FN.

This has since resulted in several sets of trials in the United States where various aerial warhorses like the UH-1N Huey, CH-46E Phrog and CH-53E Super Stallion have been fitted with M3M Pintle Weapon Systems for extensive fly-and-shoot fests. While the Marines are officially in charge of the testing, it is no secret that the USAF — keeper of "Jolly Greens" for hot rescues — has had some very interested observers on site as well. If anybody spots any Army guys snooping around, please tell me so I can feel better about them as well.

Preliminary results are said to be favorable and, in the words of one officer who's in the thick of things at Quantico, MCAS Yuma and elsewhere, the new FN fifties are "a very effective weapon system with no cook-off problems and no jams — we just don't have them."

We're calling this system "New and Improved," for two reasons including its recent discovery by American brass. The modified gun itself dates back to the 1980s as the M3P, a high-rate .50 for use on the Avenger antiaircraft system. It had also been in FN's distinguished product lineup for several years in various forms such as an aircraft external pod and for armored fighting vehicles. Since then it has undergone a number of improvements based on lessons learned in actual use, as well as constant upgrades by engineering types. We'll go into detail later on the gun's mechanical improvements.

More Mount For Your Money

The second reason for our "N&I" designation is more significant; mating of the weapon with an exceptionally clever mounting cradle that is perfectly attuned with the gun as well as the gunner. Called by FN the Medium Pintle Head, it consists of a recoil-attenuating elastic cradle ("soft mount") with several user-friendly and combat-practical features. Among these are very good balance assisted by a coil spring so the gun naturally tends to return to horizontal. Also, mechanical advantage in charging/cocking/clearing the new gun with its extra springs is provided by an angled lever underneath that makes

this formidable task easy, even for Air Force gunners.

Two-fisted spade grips are located at the rear of the mount, completely independent of the gun, so the operator isn't battered by recoil as he shoots. Just forward of each are generous-sized levers, which allow heavy-gloved hands to grasp and pull. One unlocks the pintle head for swinging it left/right, and the other fires the gun. Obliging, FN offers customers their choice of which hand does what. Of course, stops on the mount can be locked in place to limit any up/down and left/right firing that might endanger the host aircraft.

Other niceties include an on-board 100-round ammo box with an angled roller for linked cartridges that perfectly positions a bare belt for no-kink feeding, and an ejected-link chute discharging into a closed basket. Empty cartridge cases are ejected downward then directed forward and out of the aircraft by a slide plate.

Knowing that 100 rounds is only a snack to this ammo-gobbling gun, most helos will be fitted with FN's optional 600-round box with flexible feed chute. Two of these can be stacked for an impressive total of 1,200 rounds ready to go. Although this sort of arrangement in other applications has been notorious for stoppages due to binding and friction from long belt-pull, early test reports indicate the FN combo to be quite satisfactory.

While equipped with efficient iron sights — two stacked apertures aft and a spiderweb ring forward — provision has been made for addition of any variety of user-preferred options. In addition to the flat plate above the grips, "Picatinny Rails" can be positioned alongside of the mounting cradle for such devices as the current flyboy favorite, known as the Gunner Controlled Pointer (a laser), or even high-power white-light spotlamps.

Improving On Perfection?

The new M3M itself is the latest in an ongoing parade of improvements to gun-design genius John Moses Browning's original fifty that many consider to have been near perfection. But Mr. Browning didn't make his 500-rpm guns to be tortured at double this rate where pounding recoil and extreme start/stop shock quickly overwhelm springs and shatter machined parts. This was amply demonstrated in the sorry service record of the AN-M3, a noble but failed WWII attempt to speed the cyclic rate of both fixed and flexible aircraft fifties.



he M3M is a "system" for machine gunnery, consisting of the gun itself, mated with this very cleverly designed soft-recoil mount. Here we see the mount affixed to standard GI M3 tripod for ground-use trials. A special adapter is also provided to allow use of the normal traversing and elevating mechanism for the M2HB. Note how this cradle is set up with the red firing handle on the right side.

FN, which has made classic M2HB and other versions of this superlative .50-cal. gun for decades, is obviously not content with the status quo. Back in the early 1980s, when various countries began asking for high-rate fifties for any number of applications including aircraft external gun pods, the boys from Belgium got right on it. First, they scoured the globe, buying up all the existing stocks of surplus new-condi-

tion M3 receivers and guns. Then, they set out to fix its inherent problems.

According to Sal Fanelli, now deputy director for business and engineering development of FN's American office, the process included sending him around the United States to examine obsolete AN-M3 aircraft fifties stored at various government installa-

Continued on page 80

Continued from page 79

tions. Finding warehouses stacked with damaged and inoperable guns, closer examination of the weapons and their logbooks revealed that most had self-destructed with only a few hundred rounds fired. None, Fanelli says, had fired more than 1,200 rounds before major parts failure.

Don't Reinvent The Wheel

It is not our intention to unnecessarily bad-mouth the AN-M3 gun here, because its mechanical concept was pretty damn good since all of Mr. Browning's basic stuff was still there. Cleverly, the key to getting the gun to go lots faster came in replacement of the original oil-filled barrel buffer with a faster-rebounding pneumatic version. Then, the greased-lightning recoil speed of that massive bolt was dealt with as it slammed into a substantially bigger backplate buffer featuring stacks of husky Belleville spring washers instead of puny fiber discs. Finally, doubled (one inside the other) coiled recoil springs helped send the bolt racing forward again with lots of pep to chamber and fire the next round.

Problem was, the parts weren't up to the task. Prominent among a long list of horrors were bolts, firing pins, cocking levers and sears that cracked or shattered, springs that went limp or broke, and barrels that were scarcely good for a couple thousand rounds. It was a classic case of the folly of using old Model T parts in a new racecar. Making matters worse, little attention was being given by armorers to the necessity for much more intensive preventative maintenance, including detailed parts inspection and frequent, *scheduled* replacement *before* failure.

M3P

Over in Belgium, FN's world-class armaments engineering team conducted a multi-discipline analysis of findings by Fanelli and others. This led to a

reworking of several key parts utilizing the latest developments in metals technology coupled with practical manufacturing processes. Forgings replaced castings, sophisticated heat treatment meant hardness without brittleness, tolerances in machining were more closely held, and a variety of finishes were used for improved corrosion resistance and general durability.

Interestingly, the basic mechanical concept of the AN-M3 was retained, with several improvements here and there. The resulting gun, designated by FN as the M3P, has barrels, bolts, springs, sears, etc., that are substantial-

such as door guns in helicopters or protective armament for ground vehicles. But first, some more fine-tuning needed to be done on what was to become the latest, M3M version.

M3M

One of the most striking changes is from closed to open-bolt operation, meaning that the burst cycle begins and ends with the bolt fully rearward and no round in the chamber. This eliminates the very real possibility of "cook-off" — spontaneous ignition of a chambered round in a gun fired to dangerously high temperatures. While this is not much of a problem in aircraft guns exposed to slipstream when airborne, it can be bad news on ground applications.

Speaking of the bolt, it has been lightened by milling and drilling several carefully considered cavities. This means there is less weight to deal with on each end as it energetically shuttles back and forth 17 times each second.

A twin set of coil springs mounted parallel on the right side of the receiver is formally identified in the FN maintenance manual as the "locking complimentary slide and spring guides," but is generally known as the "booster pack." Linked to the bolt, this assembly gives the mechanism some extra muscle for locking, particularly when a very long ammo belt is being pulled up a feed chute. A sheet metal dust cover protects it against the elements while ensuring that clothing or body parts don't spoil the gun when firing.

Addition of a mechanical safety is a very welcome

innovation but takes some getting used to by us old guys. Located on the left side of the receiver, it temporarily repositions the ramp inside the receiver body, which would otherwise release the firing mechanism. So, even if the bolt slams forward, the gun won't fire. Further evidence of this as ingenious "GI-proofing" is that the feed cover can't be opened or fully locked closed until the safety is engaged. Thank you very much.

The twin bugaboo of headspace and



Ever meticulous about providing operators and armorers with specialized tools and equipment to properly maintain its weapons, FN supplies this gunner's kit — just a small part of the armorer's tool roll that comes with the M3M system.

Fabrique Nationale's .50 M3M Aircraft Machine Gun

SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Manufacturer: | Fabrique Nationale, Herstal, Belgium |
| Caliber: | .50 in/12.7mm |
| Operation: | Recoil-operated, full-automatic from open bolt, 1025 rpm |
| Feed: | Linked belts |
| Cooling: | Air |
| Sights: | Metal AA type standard, others optional |
| Weight: | Gun 79.9 lbs/35.8 kg, Medium Pintle Head Mount 70 lbs/31.4 kg Loaded 600-round box w/feed chute 212 lbs/96.4 kg |
| Length: | Gun 59.8 in/1520 mm, MPH Mount 35 in/890 mm |

ly more durable than those of its predecessors of all models. For example, its barrel features both a stellite liner and hard-chrome bore for minimum performance of 10,000 rounds before replacement. The M3P is known worldwide for reliability and high performance and is distinguished as the machine-gun component of America's guided-missile-firing Avenger anti-aircraft system.

A successful weapon begs for new applications and, naturally, these fixed guns were destined for a flexible role

timing has been simplified in the M3M by having armorers check and set the timing at recommended service intervals, then safety-wiring the adjustment screw-head in place. Headspace adjustment still has to be done by operators anytime the gun is taken apart for cleaning. Not a big deal and the procedure is virtually the same as "Ma Deuce" gunners have used since Caesar was a road guard, including similar (but not interchangeable) GO/NO-GO gauges.

Scheduled Maintenance

No matter how much advanced metallurgy and mechanical engineering wizardry has been applied to the gun, of course it still needs preventative maintenance. As one crusty Marine NCO who's close to the M3M test program was recently heard to remark, "If you want your thousand-rpm gun to work when you need it, the price you gotta pay is extra maintenance."

As it turns out the price isn't too steep considering the capabilities of the gun. FN has thoroughly examined the situation through exhaustive trials and torture testing, and recommends a minor tune-up after each 2,500 rounds. The manual details a list of a dozen parts to replace, including the sear with spring and slide, but all the rest are little pins and such. A full set of these replacement parts comes prepackaged in a sealed pouch, taking the guesswork out of the requisition process. Same drill for longer intervals, with a few extra parts needed.

(Message to bean-counters: Proper maintenance that keeps weapons working when you really need them costs far less than replacing dead troopers and shot-down aircraft.)

What's Next?

The USMC, apparently encouraged by the observed capabilities of the M3M Pintle Weapon System in helicopter mounts, is in the process of evaluating the combo in various ground roles. Testing is underway to determine if the gun and soft mount are a good match for Humvees and cargo trucks. Also (horrors and heresy), the new gun-mount combo will be mated to a standard GI-issue M3 tripod and T&E (traversing and elevating) mechanism for a look-see at its serviceability for grunt units. Could "Grandma Deuce" finally get sent to the old folks home?

Robert Bruce is an arms historian and photographer. ✂

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Sound Off

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

A Waste of the Best and the Bravest

Special Forces soldiers, the U.S. Army's finest, are similar to other true-grit warriors — Marines, Rangers, SEALs, Air Commandos, fighter jocks and gunship pilots. Like their two-fisted brothers, these top guns remain true to the warrior code and, in the process, define the standards and values of the kill-or-be-killed profession of arms.

So far, as their recent performance in Afghanistan proved in spades, SF folks haven't been brought down by the kinder, gentler rope that's slowly strangling the Army, Navy and Air Force. But like most winners in most walks of life, they're running at max speed, and without enough trained bodies.

The personnel-shortage problem is so bad that almost every National Guard SF unit has been recalled and deployed to hot spots around the world. Out of the five active-duty SF groups, these "Quiet Professionals" are short 540 "A"-Team operators — almost one entire SF group. In other words, SF is short about 45 12-man "A" detachments: the cutting edge, the trigger-pullers of the whole SF shooting match. Or short one "A"-Team per SF company; or three teams per battalion; or nine teams per group.

Army personnel wonks don't seem to understand that SF operators can't be mass-produced. The reality is that quality is what's needed, not quantity — and since only a small percentage of today's soldiers can qualify for SF duty, even our million-man Army can't provide sufficient replacements with the right stuff to support the current SF global commitment. Which is why the Army's latest attempt to put recruits in SF will fail, just as this same sorry fix did during the Vietnam War.

It's critical for the Army to use the SF warriors it has more wisely by streamlining the administrative process and developing a FedEx-like logistics system. Two examples:

- SF doesn't have a dedicated strategic airlift to move operators and their gear to the battlefield quickly. This resulted in SF warriors playing the well-known Army game of hurry-up-and-wait, spending more time sitting in a tent outside of Afghanistan while the brass figured out the next move than in that theater of ops. As a result, many of the "A"-Teams deployed in "The Stans" never got into the fight. "We weren't used for what we were trained for. We augmented bloated headquarters," says an old warrior.

- At any one time at Fort Bragg, the headquarters of



Army Special Forces, one complete SF battalion — 180 "A"-Team operators — is on a 90-day "Intensive Support Cycle," during which these special soldiers are wasting time cutting grass, doing details and other Mickey Mouse tasks, instead of training for war.

- "It's not uncommon at Fort Lewis to see senior sergeants mowing unit lawns, and captains and sergeants scrubbing toilets when they should be on the range or deployed," says an SF warrior.

Hundreds of SF soldiers are also manning desks at grossly top-heavy Green Beret heads sheds and other Army headquarters, or stuck as Army ROTC instructors, recruiters and drill sergeants. An SF sergeant says: "It's like an upside-down pyramid. The "A" Team operators are the apex attempting to hold up the weight of it all. The brass has to dissolve the redundant SF commands and cut the administrative burden. This will also save millions of dollars desperately needed for mission-essential equipment and training and free up a lot of guys to do their thing that they've spent years preparing for."

He points to another Army expedient to resolve the shortage of "A"-Team fighters, "Stop Loss" — which freezes discharges of active-duty SF soldiers due for retirement or those whose hitches are up to prevent the hemorrhaging of these skilled warriors. "Sadly, many of us 'Stop Loss' operators have been waiting our entire careers for a war like this where we can demonstrate our skill. But ironically, many of us old-timers want out because we've seen so much self-indulgent posturing, mismanagement and incompetence among the brass in today's Army."

Last week, the Pentagon announced, "U.S. Special Operations Command would take on a new, more direct role in the global war on terrorism." Excellent idea.

But the top brass better boot Personnel in the tail to make sure that these good men are not stretched to the breaking point.

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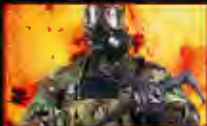
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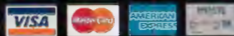
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