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On the Cover

Pv2 Christopher Nauman, M203 gunner, from Co. B, 3rd Bn., 15th Infantry, conducts dismount drills with 1st Plt. ... along Iraqi border in northwest Kuwait. ... See story, page 58.

AMERICA AT WAR

TERRORISM SITREP by Dr. Martin Brass 36
Where did all our Stingers go? _____

LAND WARRIOR WEAPONS SYSTEM & MOUT TRAINING by Dale B. Cooper 48
Urban warfare with over-the-top technical and personal gear is on-tap for today's American troops. But what about durability and reliability in a dirty, dusty environment — ask some Marines. _____

ATTACK IRAQ! by Rowan Scarborough 58
Older, wiser — and experienced — war-planners express doubts over the administration's mega-reliance on the "Roman legion approach" and massive Iraqi defections to topple Saddam. _____

THE USSOCOM SPECIAL PURPOSE RIFLE, TYPE II by Gary Paul Johnston 72
Necessity being the mother of invention, it was only a matter of time before the original SPR evolved into this new and improved version. _____



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FEATURES

SOF PROVING GROUND by Gary Paul Johnston 23
Caspian's Recon Rail
A new custom combat .45 truly fit for the 21st Century. _____

COLOMBIA'S "TWILIGHT ZONE:" JUDICIAL WARFARE by Dr. Martin Brass 28
Human-rights violations charges, many by forked-tongue "witnesses," are hampering military effectiveness. _____

AMERICA'S BORDER WAR by Rob Krott 38
Our southern border with Mexico is an open gate, a virtual freeway of drugs and criminals. If the USG doesn't protect its citizens, then those citizens will arm and organize themselves to do it. _____

WAR RAGES IN WEST AFRICA'S IVORY COAST by Al J. Venter 42
War dogs once again break their leashes and man *both* sides of this nasty conflict. _____

A MEDAL OR A COURT-MARTIAL by Rob Krott 68
The Canadian government's go-for-the-jugular persecution of a courageous and dedicated sniper makes one ask if certain bureaucrats have too much down-time for frivolous pursuits. _____



REUTERS/Chris Helgren

COLUMNS

COMMAND GUIDANCE By Rob Krott 6

FLAK 8

BULLETIN BOARD 12

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT by John Farnam 20
Farnam's Gunslinger Diary _____

SOUND OFF by Col. David H. Hackworth, USA (Ret.) 82
The Coming Desert Shootout _____



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ADVERTISEMENTS

Supply Depot 52
Classifieds 54
Advertisers' Index 57

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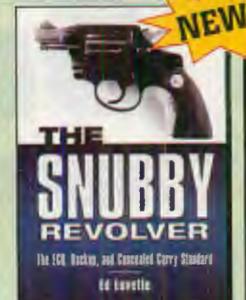


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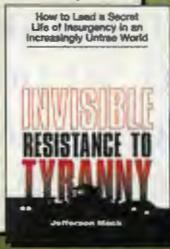
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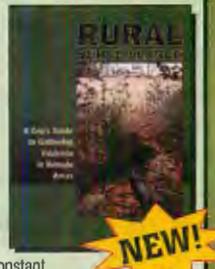
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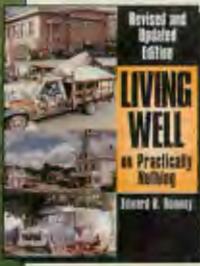
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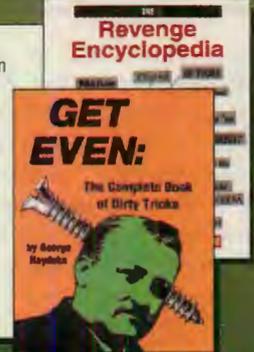
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Command Guidance

BY ROB KROTT

CHIEF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Time To Defend Our Border?

Since 11 September, there are increased concerns our porous border allows easy entry of criminals and terrorists into the United States. Every day approximately 10,000 illegal aliens cross our southern border and violate U.S. immigration laws. Only one in three is caught and deported. Most of those caught will try again, usually the very next day. America's illegal alien population is between 9 and 11 million — double the 1994

unjust demands upon our social services. Children of illegal aliens must be educated. American taxpayers spend \$500 million a year to incarcerate illegal aliens. Illegal aliens crossing from Mexico cost those same taxpayers billions of dollars for medical services. Dozens of hospitals in the southwest have either closed or face bankruptcy from the costs of providing federally mandated medical care to illegal aliens. Most Americans are worried about

The DEA estimates that 80 percent of the cocaine and 50 percent of the heroin used in our country comes across the Mexican border.

level. This year there will be 3 million attempts to cross into America illegally. Of the more than 3,000 a day who make it across almost half will become permanent U.S. residents. Most of the 1 million illegals apprehended each year crossing the U.S.-Mexican border are from Mexico and Central America, although America is now home to 250,000 illegals from various Islamic nations. Increasing numbers of them enter the U.S. from Mexico.

Besides the security risk there are

our current level of immigration, legal and illegal, and consider the current situation as a threat to national security. But our government thinks otherwise. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, a non-partisan think tank examining the impact of immigration, an enormous gap exists between the American people and national leaders on the issue of immigration. And that gap seems to be

Continued on page 81

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Operation Oman” and “Will the Unlearned Lessons of Vietnam Haunt Us in Afghanistan?” were two excellent pieces that can only be found in *Soldier of Fortune*.

I would add that if anyone in Afghanistan has a copy of our Declaration of Independence, they would read that it defines these grievances as “tyranny”: “[The

King] has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the civil power. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws. ... For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us. For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these states.”

If you replace the Russians with the French, there could not be a more direct parallel to Vietnam. What is our exit strategy?

If we are hostile to the Afghanis, they will be hostile to us. We won the war, now we must win the peace. If this is how the military will occupy an infinitely more hostile Iraq, then we are better off not going.

Steve Brandon
uncommonsense@earthlink.net

Walker's Still In Dutch



I think the comments made by your editor Rob Krott regarding John Walker Lindh are rather cheap (“Bulletin Board,” December 2002). Krott thinks Walker Lindh was a “spoiled brat” and his parents were “wing nuts.” If this were truly the reasons why Walker Lindh joined the Taliban, how come 20 million other American teenagers didn’t follow suit? I strongly disapprove of Walker Lindh’s strange sympathies for the Taliban. However, I do admire Walker Lindh for his courage and sense of adventure.

Isn’t this what *SOF* Magazine stands for anyway? Isn’t your mag all about adventure? If not, well, it’s the reason why I at least have been reading your superb magazine for the past 20 years — with gusto.

I think it’s a bloody shame that Walker Lindh was given 20 years. The guy was shot at, beaten, half burned, half drowned and bombed, and didn’t even have a chance to shoot back. And he has to spend half his life in jail now? To me this sounds like Americans nowadays are very sour winners.

I have been in Croatia during the war, and saw lots of foreign volunteers fighting there. Thank God their governments were not sour like the Americans, otherwise all of them staunch *SOF*-readers would be languishing in some jail now.

I call upon president Bush to grant Walker Lindh a presidential pardon. True adventurers don’t deserve to be incarcerated by narrow-minded little people.

Clifford C. Cremer
Amsterdam

Just for the record, SOF is indeed “all about adventure,” and that may well include taking up arms for a noble cause, as many Internationals did in Croatia. However, taking up arms for an ignoble cause is no more legitimate an activity than would be hijacking armored cars or marine piracy, just because it would be “adventurous.”

Just a rhetorical question, but do you suppose one might be able to find some “narrow-minded little people” among the Dutch, had those scumbags blown several holes in your North Sea dikes instead of flying jetliners into the Trade Towers and Pentagon? Bet you a cold Heineken.

Further Reading

I read with great interest the article by Doug Lucas on page 24 of the 12/02 issue, concerning the Chinese book entitled *Unrestricted Warfare*. In the article, Lucas mentions that sections (228 pages worth) of the book are available in English from the Foreign Broadcast Information service, but he does not give their actual web address. My attempts to locate a site for the Foreign Broadcast Information service that has the article have been unsuccessful.

Could you please forward this message to Mr. Lucas, so he could send me the address of the Foreign Broadcast Information service site? Any help will be appreciated. And keep up the good work.

Joseph M. Koch

You can find the book in various iterations for sale at the following web addresses: www.amazon.com and www.newsmax.com and further information at the sites: www.terrorism.com/documents/unrestricted.pdf and www.cryptome.org/cuw.htm and www.fas.org/nuke/guide/china/doctrine/unresw1.htm.

SEALS Don't Tell You ...

I’m a neurosurgeon, never been in the Army and I guess I’ll never will since I don’t consider myself to have what it takes

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to be a soldier (mostly, huge guts); I try not to give an opinion about things I don't have the full facts and when you have to be in the other guy's shoes to pass judgment BUT in the case of "SEAL BLOWS AWAY PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN" I'll make an exception.

In my humble opinion the involved SEAL individual and the whole team did a poor job, first of all as a whole team they should have prevented the attack (the guy shouldn't have fired, much less 4 to 8 rounds); second, once he fired the team should have tried to take him alive could have been wounded but alive to interrogate, etc., specially if he's already pinned down to the ground by two good Samaritans), third, and this is the most important part of my critic and involves just the individual SEAL, only the bad guy should have been killed (IF in the first place someone had to die).

I always thought SEALs had live ammo training, hostage situations training, good shooting skills, good target acquisition, etc. (you'll forgive the terms I use if they're not the right ones, but remember I don't have military training and English is not even my native language); what's the idea of taking a full automatic weapon and "spraying" a lot of bullets in the general direction of the threat?

I'm a poor shooter, real poor, but give me an automatic weapon show me a target and I guess I'll also be able to hit the target plus whatever is nearby; the only concession I'll to the team but mostly to the involved individual is: go back to training, refresh all the skills you're supposed to be good at and particularly to the guy GO BACK TO THE SHOOTING RANGE, if you get good marks go back to the field if not get a desk job or something that will put people around you out of harm's way.

Meinhard Bienst, M.D.

The incidental death of the two Samaritans is without a doubt tragic, perhaps doubly so because they were heroically trying to do the right thing. However, we can find no fault with the SEAL nor his actions. You have to understand what his mission was, and the split-seconds the action comprised. His mission would have been to eliminate the threat — that's any perceived threat to the President: Any other consideration would be secondary (or even tertiary!) Thus when he saw a man shooting at the President, he took him out in the split-second he had: The two

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good Samaritans intended to come to the President's aid by trying to subdue the assassin — but they were not wearing signs that said “we’re here to help, honest, we’re not the assassin’s allies trying to retrieve his gun and finish the job or get the grenades out of his pocket and lob them into the entourage.” Every indication is that the troop did exactly as he was trained to do, and as was his mission to do, and in that context he performed skillfully. His mission would have been to react to a perceived threat by, quite literally, shooting first and asking questions later. We understand your concern, but remarks about sending the operative back to the range are not helpful. Although this does not mitigate the tragic deaths of the Samaritans, he performed bravely and skillfully — there was no hesitation, no “spraying bullets in the general direction the threat” and he did not miss. And the President survived the incident unscathed.

Help A Gourmand

As a veteran of the U.S. military I've eaten tons of MREs and I even continue to purchase them in quantity today for my frequent camping trips. I was curious what type of MREs or rations that other countries give their soldiers. I was wondering if you could possibly do an article on what foreign troops eat out in the field. Of particular interest to me is England, Canada, Germany and France. I had heard that French and British rations were good but I'd like to know what's in them. I've searched all over the Internet and I was only able to find a tiny bit of information of British rations.

Steve Allum

The best foreign rations this writer has eaten were Spanish, but among those trading rations at Bagram Air Base, they rated the lowest, so I guess it's a matter of taste. If you arrange for shipment to FLAK Editor of assorted foreign MRE equivalents, we'll volunteer to test 'em all. ☒

SOF Welcomes Letters

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

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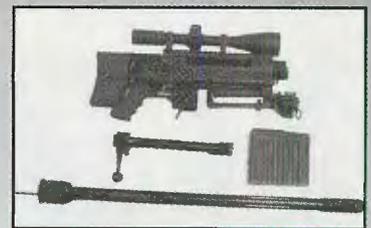
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Bulletin Board

Emie Pyle Brigades?

In an effort to help the press corps do their job effectively and at less risk to themselves and ongoing operations, the Pentagon has offered to give journalists and newsies a one-week quickie course on the basics of modern combat. In the event of a war with Iraq, such familiarized reporters could already be embedded in units, and move out with them. The last Gulf War illustrated an abysmal lack of understanding of things military on the part of the press in Riyadh — prosaically described by SOF's Publisher R. K. Brown as "the greatest collection of boobs and dorks" he'd ever seen — and concerns for the safety of these innocents abroad no doubt played a role in their restricted movement. And their restricted movement no doubt played a role in the accuracy and insight levels of their reports.

With each service running familiarization courses appropriate to their branch, newsies learn about military customs, ordnance and weapons, basic first-aid and defense against chem/bio. Also covered will be such topics as rules of engagement, the U.S. command structure and military customs. SecDef Donald H. Rumsfeld noted that it was "generally almost always helpful" to provide access for journalists, although "there are times when it is not appropriate."

For those unable to attend this journalistic Q course sponsored by the armed forces, the Center for Defense Disinformation is slated to hold classes by Geraldo on how to look good in a bush coat with an ill-fitting sidearm, how

to hire a bevy of local bodyguards, and how to hold a camera so it appears you are in the same theater as the fighting; classes are also scheduled by Peter Arnett on how to slander American troops and how to find something nice to say about the enemy.

Worst-Case Scenario Unfolds In Zims

Nearly eight million people — more than two-thirds of Zimbabwe's population of 11.6 million are threatened with famine, and at least 2.2 million Zimbabweans are living with HIV/Aids. "There is no question that this calamity is something that neither this country, nor the continent nor any of us have ever dealt with before," UN Special Envoy Stephen Lewis told a press conference.

As more than 95% of the country's white-owned farms have been confiscated for redistribution to "war veterans" in what was once Africa's breadbasket, they are effectively out of production. Some estimates are that more than half the game in many areas has been poached; domestic stock has been run off or slaughtered and wasted; domestic animals abandoned by fleeing farmers have died or been vandalized — hamstrung or clubbed or burned to death in hay by militants. One veterinarian clinic in Nyabira had to put down more than 600 dogs that had been used to guard crops in the Trelawney and Darwindale tobacco and corn districts as the farms were abandoned and the security company went bankrupt. Food shortages are spawning fights and riots at distribution centers, and ruling-party officials are using food as a weapon.

The *Sunday Mirror* (Zimbabwe) reports that former British SAS NCO Roy Philpott in 2001 trained young men and women who were active in the occupation of the farms, disguised as veterans, according to British Intelligence sources.

For continuing updates on the situation in Zimbabwe, visit www.zwnews.com or www.swradioafrica.com; for short-wave broadcast at 6145 KHz in the 49m band (6-9 PM Zims time daily).

BusinessWeek Poll: Leave Citizens' Guns Alone

A poll of more than 6,000 readers by *BusinessWeek* magazine indicated that 90% think the availability of guns in the United States is about right. Some 95% said gun owners shouldn't have to register their guns at regular intervals like an automobile, and 93% rejected the idea of licensing gun owners. Further, some 92% rejected the idea of ballistic fingerprinting [sic]. Of the respondents to the questionnaire, 57% said they kept a gun for self-defense.

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Bellesiles The BS'r Loses Bancroft Award

Michael Bellesiles, awarded the prestigious Bancroft Prize (heretofore awarded to works of "exceptional merit and distinction in the fields of American history and biography)" for his book *Arming America*, wherein he alleged his research (which cited sources that do not exist, such as San Francisco records lost in the '06 earthquake and fire — *oops!*) proved that guns were not really integral to the founding and establishment of America. At the time of the award his fellow scholars [sic] fell for the fabrications, but when the book hit the streets, genuine historians, scholars and assorted other critics cried foul. Last October, Emory University released a 40-page study that concluded Bellesiles was "guilty of unprofessional and misleading work." The report was written by scholars from Harvard and Princeton and the University of Chicago, and noted that his failure to cite sources for crucial "data" "does move into the realm of 'falsification.'"

And now, Columbia University wants their \$4,000 Bancroft prize money back.

As well they should.

They Had Their Second Chance®

When you're a pioneer, you get copied — sometimes fairly and sometimes not. Second Chance® Body Armor, of Central Lake, Mich., recently prevailed in a patent-rights and trade-

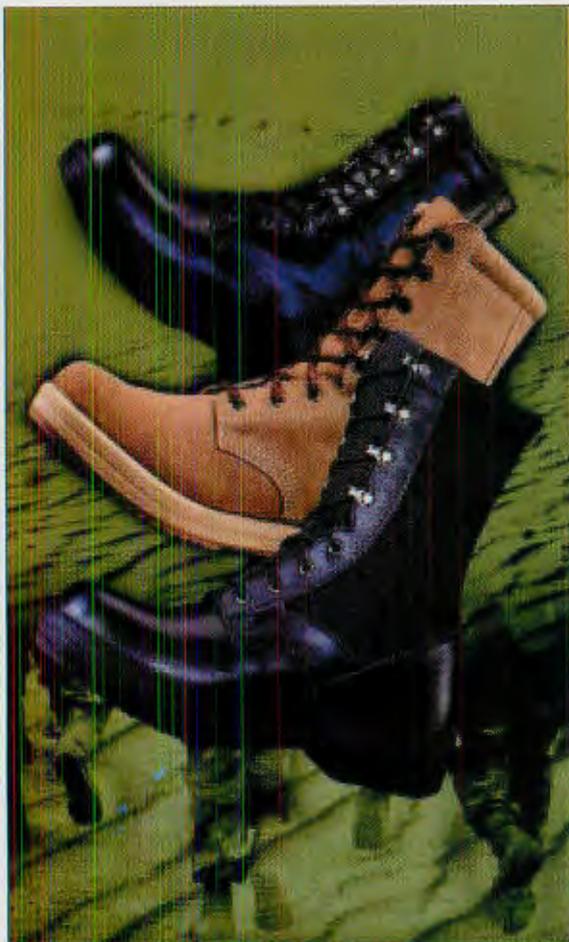
mark infringement suit against First Choice Armor and Equipment of Brockton, Mass. Under terms of the U.S. District court judgment, validity of Second Chance's patents were upheld, and First Choice is prohibited from using, advertising or selling a ballistic armor vest under the Second Chance® Tri-Flex® trademark. The suit was filed by Second Chance® after First Choice "failed to heed" a cease and desist warning. Monetary details of the settlement agreement remain under seal. As of last fall, Second Chance® had documented more than 860 police officers' lives saved by their products.

Fly Your Own Fishbed

These don't come up every day, but a classic Mach 2 MiG-21 Russian jet fighter was on E-Bay Motors with a very modest reserve of only \$81,200 (item 1871775187). With only 150 hours on the engine, it had all the avionics and goodies and spares from extra tires, rocket pod, drop tank and a start-cart, to permission for supersonic flights over selected southwestern military bases. Seller is a U.S. citizen, and, of course, foreign buyers need not apply if they are from the list of usual suspects (N. Korea, Libya, Vietnam, Burma, Syria, Saddamland, etc.) Sudge-a-dee!

Silk Cloak, Teflon Dagger

The British Security Service MI5, always one of the smoothest in the business, has just completed a revamp of its



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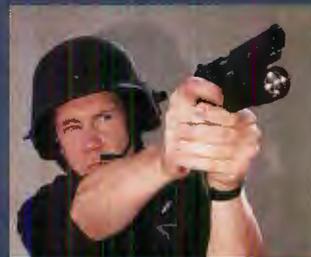
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Continuing The Legacy

website. The new site is well laid-out and user-friendly. Without compromising its operational methodology, the comprehensive site provides a clear picture of the MI5 role, and it may be found at: <http://www.mi5.gov.uk>.

NBC Survival For Civilians

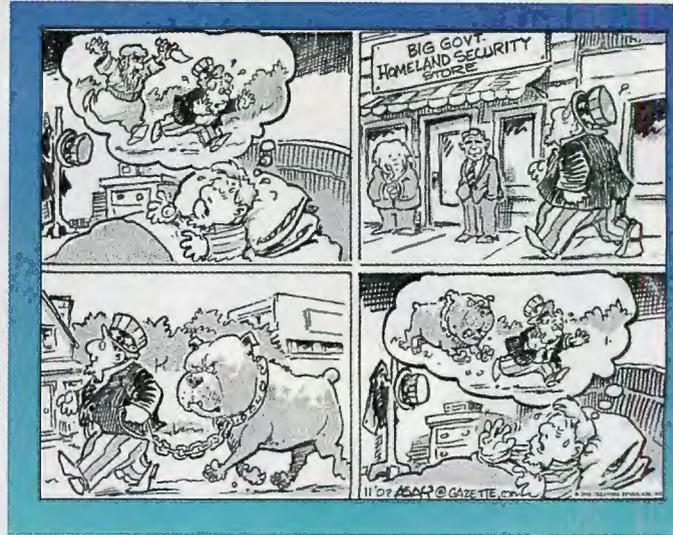
A public-service outfit, NBC Warfare Survival Group, has put out a booklet entitled *The ABCs of NBC Warfare Survival, A Public Guide to Surviving Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare Terrorist Attacks*. It is free to the general population and can be downloaded in PDF format from their website: www.survive-nbc.org. It is also available in paperback (purchase instructions at the site), and whatever form you access it, it is worth having on hand, written for a practical, citizen-level application.

Regards The War On: (fill in the blank)

Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor, for patriotism is indeed a double-edged sword. It both emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind.

And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind is closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry.

Rather, the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by



patriotism will offer up all of their rights unto the leader, and gladly so. How do I know? For this is what I have done. And I am Caesar.

— Attributed to Julius Caesar, 102-44 B.C.

Staging For Moscow Theater Attack

The Russian FSB has reportedly learned that some of the Chechen rebels involved in the theater hostage tragedy last October worked at an adjacent construction site for several months prior to the attack, and used the location as a jumping-off point for the attack. ✕

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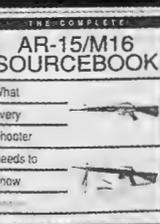
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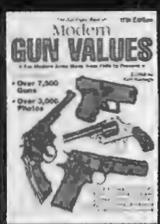
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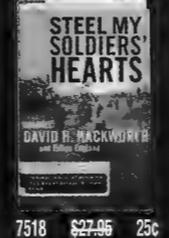
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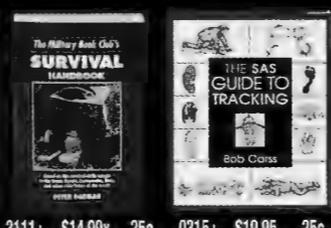
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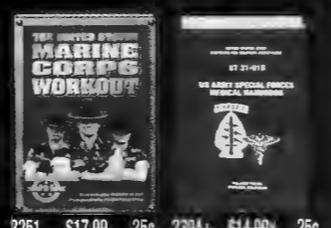
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Victory Disease: The High Cost Of Overconfidence

As illustrated by events in the Dutch-Zulu War and the First Anglo-Boer War

In the Eighteenth Century, Dutch settlers on the South African Cape, like so many other European colonists, swiftly developed a sincere dislike for the British. The British had an annoying habit of making second-class citizens out of all non-British. The British, of course, knew local Dutch farmers lacked the political sophistication to develop the area into a legitimate economic entity. The British were also interested in displacing German influence in the area, so they were not about to pack up and leave. The indigenous *Khoisan* (Bushmen) were scattered and disorganized. Unlike the ferocious and cunning Iroquois and other Indian nations in North America, they provided little effective resistance to European settlers. Even the fierce (and well-organized) Bantu, coming down from the North and West, were unable to overcome the over-whelming European advantages of the mounted infantryman, the rifle, and the "lager" (a circle of wagons).

Dutch settlers called themselves "Boers." The term translates to "farmer." The British used the term also, but to them it meant "pig."

Many Dutch left the Cape for the South African interior. Others pushed eastward up the coast. All wanted to get out of the reach of British influence. In fact, the "Great Trek," starting in 1836, took on a profound religious significance with the Dutch. They were convinced that the British had been sent by the devil to harass them (British soldiers did wear red uniforms, after all), as they regarded themselves as having been favored by God.

Their beliefs were bolstered at the Battle of Blood River in December of 1838, where Dutch *Voortrekkers* [pioneers] decisively defeated a large Zulu (Bantu) army. Their commander, Andrius Pretorius, set up a clever defensive lager in the elbow of the Blood River, that frustrated the classic Zulu technique of double-envelopment. The tiny Dutch contingent easily could have been wiped out, but was instead victorious. They all took this as a divine sign that their presence in the interior of South Africa was sanctioned from On High.

Between the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the beginning of WWI, there were only seven years when British sol-

diers were not actively engaged in a foreign war. British soldiers have always been excellent fighters. As with the Romans before them, their ability to function as a coordinated team was matched in few other armies. However, British soldiers have never been excellent, or even respectable, marksmen.

Individual marksmanship among British infantrymen has always been poor, and still is to this day. Individual marksmanship was never considered important to British commanders.

To them, a military unit that is so cohesive that it moves and functions as a single entity was far more important than individual competence with weapons.

An Army Of Ones

In stark contrast, the "army" put together by Dutch farmers in South Africa couldn't have been more different. Dutch religious views made it impossible to have an officer corps, as each man considered himself the equal of every other. So, officers and NCOs were elected and only served in their position so long as their "subordinates" kept them there. Obeying orders was optional, as each man served as a volunteer.

He could leave and go home any time he wanted. No one was paid. Thus, large, coordinated military movements, such as an infantry bayonet charge, were unlikely, because commanders knew many of their men would consider the order stupid and refuse to take part. There was no infantry/cavalry coordination, as all Boers reported for duty mounted on their own horses. Their "army" was all cavalry!

There were no uniforms either. Except for a cartridge belt across their chest, they all looked like civilians. It all sounded pretty disorganized, but, under the Boer system, dithering buffoons did not stay in positions of command for long, and there was no mercenary attitude. Everyone was there fighting for his home and way of life. As hunters and frontiersmen, Boers were masters of camouflage and stalking. They were hard to locate and harder yet to fix in position.

The British considered the whole thing laughable: Such a disorganized mob quickly would be swept aside by a professional army. But they were in for a surprise, and the First Anglo-Boer War would signal the world that, as would be repeated during the Russo-Japanese War (1904), a small, but

got gear ?



we do!

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agile and highly motivated, military force, armed and trained with modern weapons, could handily defeat a much larger force that was unwieldy, outdated, overextended, armed with obsolete weapons, indecisively lead, and most of all, arrogantly overconfident.

Because Boers were all mounted, they moved quickly. They lived off the land, so they didn't require long, vulnerable supply lines. They had the irritating habit of suddenly appearing where no one expected them and just as suddenly melting away as if they had never been there.

Their ability to move without being detected was uncanny and was the subject of many exasperated comments by British commanders.

Most importantly, every Boer was a suburb rifleman. Having subsisted by hunting native planes game all their lives, poor marksmanship would not be found with any of them. Rifles were not issued. Every man brought his own, and they were never shared. To a Boer, his rifle was his most important personal possession, and it was always well maintained, close at hand, and kept in a high state of readiness. Rifles stayed with their owners at all times. They were never gathered up in stacks nor locked away in buildings, as was common procedure with the British.

The Boer ability to hit, and hit consistently, at extended ranges was something with which the British had never had to deal. British infantrymen were no match for them. Boer riflemen could hit effortlessly at ranges where a British soldier would never even attempt a shot. And, Boers were masters of cover and concealment. They would always fire from expertly camouflaged positions. Precious little was ever exposed. Thus, volley after volley thrown at them by the ranks of British soldiers would have scant effect.

A Self-Led Legion

Boers inherently disliked all governmental trappings characteristic of Western Civilizations (for which the British were so well-known), such as multi-layered bureaucracies, committees, and endless meetings. They made decisions quickly, with a minimum of discussion. Accordingly, when superior military equipment became available, they didn't dither; they acquired it as fast as they could. A company in England, Westley-Richards, began making a revolutionary breech-loading rifle beginning in the 1860s. It was an improvement of the American Peabody Rifle and, in turn, influenced the British Martini-Henry Rifle, which was eventually adopted by the British (as always, too late for it to make any difference).

With the Westley-Richards breechloader, Boer riflemen could dramatically increase their rate of fire over that of the muzzle-loaders, which the new rifle replaced. This capability made them essentially invulnerable to the bayonet and cavalry charges that formed the very foundation of British tactical doctrine. In addition, the new metallic cartridges were not as susceptible to environmental deterioration as was loose gunpowder, caps, and balls. There was nothing not to like, so, without hesitation, Boers acquired good quantities of Westley-Richards Rifles, immediately upon their becoming available, and used them with devastating effect during the First Anglo-Boer War, which began in 1880 and lasted less than a year. By the time the British followed suit (with the Martini-Henry), Boers were acquiring the new, and vastly superior Mauser rifle, just in time for the Second Boer War, which began in 1899!

In 1852, the British, recognizing the potential problems associated with armed conflict with the Dutch settlers who had fled to the South African interior, extended autonomy to

Boers who had settled beyond the Vaal River (the Transvaal). Autonomy was also given to those settled between the Orange and Vaal Rivers, who promptly claimed the title of "The Orange Free State." In the years following, neither "state" ever emerged significantly from anarchy. When they couldn't pay their bills, Britain re-annexed them. Both states were then promptly invaded by high-handed British bureaucrats. Predictably, by 1880, anti-British riots were out of hand, and Boer farmers, organized into mobile military units (called "commandos"), began seizing British outposts by force.

Not A Pig Hunt

Things came to a head when a British infantry column, dispatched late in December of 1880 to reinforce the garrison at Pretoria, was ambushed at a river crossing called Bronkhorst Spruit. A single Boer messenger, under a white flag, commanded the column to turn back. The column dithered. A crescendo of gunfire suddenly erupted from carefully concealed positions on the column's flank. British troopers fell like dominos. One hundred and twenty of them were hit within two minutes.

Few ever saw the enemy. Fewer still even got off a single shot. Most died at the scene, including the British commander Colonel Anstruther.

The Boers, with their new Westley-Richards breech-loaders, lost only two. The First Anglo-Boer War had well and truly begun!

Back in the Cape Colony, British General George Colley was informed of the Bronkhorst disaster on Christmas Day. He was furious! He was also fearful that peace would break out before he could have his revenge on the brazen and impudent Dutch. Without delay, he organized a regimental-sized expeditionary force and started north to confront the Boers directly. He found them sooner than he expected! At a narrow pass in the Drakensburg Mountains called Laing's Nek, he confronted a large Boer commando, led by Peit Joubert. Apparently forgetting that the enemy was now armed with rapid-fire, breech-loading rifles, Colley assaulted them with a volley, followed by a bayonet charge. The charge never got close to any of the Boer trenches. Once again, British troopers were gunned-down wholesale. Colley lost more than 300 men within minutes, and was forced to withdraw. A short time later, leading a new force, Colley met disaster afresh at a plateau called Schuin's Hoogte. There, once again accurate Boer rifle-fire from covered positions, decimated both his infantry and artillery crews.

Again, he was forced to withdraw, this time abandoning both his wounded and his big guns.

Colley was now even more determined to defeat the Boers, in order now to avenge the triple disasters at Bronkhorst and more recently at Laing's Nek and Schuin's Hoogte, where he had been personally in command. In February of 1881, Colley led 600 men up Majuba Hill in the dead of night. Majuba Hill commanded a vast area that Colley believed he could dominate with artillery. This time, he took the Boers by surprise. He was firmly in position on the summit before any Boer realized it. Eighty Boers volunteered to assault the hill and dislodge the British force, which was four times their number! They had no artillery, and the slope was too steep for horses.

Your Boer, Sir!

No one would have given them much of a chance of suc-

Continued on page 78

SOFT PROVING ground

Caspian's Recon Rail

Paving The Way For The 1911 Of The Future!

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Along the continuing journey of the 1911, we have seen the path widen to a road, and then to a highway, with dozens of makers and variations, of this pistol that will never die. Remaining more popular than ever, the 1911 has recently undergone an evolutionary remodeling with the addition of various configurations of a light rail, designed around military M1913 specifications.

Although other popular auto pistols have had such rails for nearly a decade, the 1911 went without one, probably due to the availability of the excellent Classic 610-R Tactical Light from SureFire that has been around for two decades. During the past several years, however, we have seen similar rails added to the dust-cover portion of the 1911's frame, either by screws, welding, or both.

One of the companies that pioneered the add-on 1911 rail was Caspian Arms, Ltd., a company that also has long made 1911 components. Now Caspian has gone all the way with what it calls the RECON RAIL version of its 1911. We recently received Caspian RECON RAIL serial number 01, for testing and evaluation.

Mounting to the flagship of Caspian's 1911 design, RECON RAIL No. 01 embodies all the bells and whistles one would probably ever want in a custom combat 1911 pistol. Let's take a closer look.

Chambered in the traditional .45 ACP caliber, this pistol has Caspian's new Fiber-Optic Front Sight. Consisting of a steel combat blade, this sight is dovetailed into the slide, but there's where the similarity to other front-sights ends. Drilled from front to back, the Caspian Fiber Optic Front Sight has a light-green fiber optic element implanted there. In order to gather plenty of ambient light, the center of the sight is notched, exposing a portion of the element. The result is this: If it is light enough to see your target, you can see this front sight, and the brighter the light, the brighter the sight glows.



Fully suited to law-enforcement tactical duty, the RECON RAIL also accepts the Insight Tech. M6 combination light/laser.

In fact, it looks just like tritium, even in bright sunlight. This is one of the best front sights I've ever used.

Behind the front sight, are forward slide-retracting serrations, and these are angled exactly like those at the rear of the slide. Not a matter of styling, these serrations are there in order to verify that a round is chambered. The left side of the slide is roll marked CASPIAN GOVERNMENT MODEL, and on both sides behind the rear retracting serrations in a circle is "US."

Although the ejection port is lowered, it is not flared at the rear, and this is because the pistol has a Wilson external extractor. Pivoting on a vertical pin, this extractor is much like the ones used by John M. Browning on his first semi-automatic pistols a century ago, including his Model 1905 .45 ACP pistol that preceded the Model 1911. While the conventional internal extractor works fine, a number of makers of 1911 pistols are converting to outside extractors.

Expertly fitted is a Kart National-Match barrel and bushing, and there is no play between these parts and the slide, or the frame. On the rear of the slide is Caspian's own fully adjustable Match rear sight. This click-adjustable sight has nice big screws. With the exception of the Wilson extended thumb safety and magazine, all other parts on the RECON RAIL 01 are by Caspian. These include the Commander-style speed-hammer, humped beavertail grip-safety, adjustable match flat trigger, removable magazine well-funnel, and grips.

Unique unto themselves, the grips on RECON RAIL 01 are American walnut and are large-diamond checkered, but not in the usual pattern. In the center of each panel is a really large diamond running all the way to each Allen-head grip screw. Surrounded by checkering, stained dark, these diamonds form panels with the right panel bearing the Caspian logo of a "C" in a wreath and the left having "US" in a circle. The grips are not only functional, but also attractive.

As attractive as RECON RAIL No. 01 is to this point, it is its integral light rail that sets it apart. Extending 2.25" forward of the trigger guard, this rail has three cross notches with a center cut, and is designed to accept both SureFire and Insight Technology pistol lights. Finally, most major parts of the gun are finished in OD green with the rest done in a contrasting black. Done by Rhino Tough Guns, of Las Vegas, Nevada, this finish is a tough baked-on synthetic coating that stands up very well to wear and corrosion, and provides superb lubricity.



The tactical light can be removed from the RECON RAIL in about two seconds. Its Wilson magazine held eight rounds of .45 ACP.

Caspian RECON RAIL No. 01

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.45 ACP.
Muzzle Velocity:	850 fps.
Operation:	Semi-automatic, single-action.
Barrel Length:	5 inches.
Overall Length:	8.25 inches.
Weight:	40 oz.
Feed Device:	7- or 8-shot box magazine.
Safety:	Positive thumb safety and grip safety.
Sights:	(front) Caspian Fiber Optic Combat Blade. (rear) Caspian fully adjustable Match.
Grips:	Checkered American walnut.
Finish:	Matte OD & black Rhino Tough.

Lights And Rigs

On the RECON RAIL's rail, we tried three lights. These included Insight Technology's M3 and M6, and SureFire's Military Model. Made of lightweight black polymer, the M3 and M6 have power factors of 3 and 6 volts, respectively, and, in addition to having a flashlight, the M6 also incorporates a laser sight under the light. These two lights have a constant ON switch, or can be activated intermittently using the left thumb in a two-hand hold.

Made of aircraft-quality alloy, the SureFire Military Model is a tactical light producing 125 lumens of blinding light, and is finished in a hard-anodized OD green that matches the RECON RAIL almost perfectly. This light has a remote "pig tail" pressure switch that wraps around the grip, and can be activated when the pistol is gripped, or can be manually turned on. Both the SureFire and the Insight M3 can be used in concert with a LaserMax laser sight that replaces the recoil spring system, and the pistol will also accept Crimson Trace's new 1911 LaserGrips. All lights could be mounted and removed quickly from the pistol.

We tested four holsters with the RECON RAIL 01, two Kydex models from Blade-Tech, Bianchi's Cobra Tactical-Light Holster, and a new version of Safariland's law-enforcement-duty Model 6400 Level II retention holster, designed for its excellent Levitation System. One of the Blade Tech Kydex rigs was designed to take the pistol with the M3 light mounted, and the other two accept only the pistol, with the light carried in a separate pouch. The Bianchi Cobra adjusted to hold the RECON RAIL with any of the three lights mounted.

Shots Fired

The trigger pull of RECON RAIL 01 was not set up for competition, but rather for duty with a resulting crisp letoff of close to 5 pounds. However, while this may be a little heavier than some prefer, it is not only safer than most, but also allows the gun to produce outstanding accuracy. With high-quality factory ammunition, the pistol produced a number of 5-shot groups from 10 yards that were literally one holes! Groups fired from 25 yards averaged less than 2 inches. Even better was that the pistol *never* malfunctioned with any ammunition tested.

Caspian Arms not only offers components for the RECON RAIL as seen here, but also several variations of it, including

Continued on page 77

Take a guaranteed **FREE TEST DRIVE** of the nastiest combat secrets used right now in lethal world-stage fighting!

“The Stunning Israeli Connection: All-New Short-Cut Lethal Hand-To-Hand Fighting System (That FREAKS OUT Even Hardcore U.S. Soldiers) Finally Revealed By Top Israeli Combat Veteran!”

So harsh and effective, this never-before-revealed system has battle-hardened U.S. Spec Op soldiers shaking their heads in respect and awe... so new and exciting, this “first peek” at “hidden” Israeli combat secrets is sending shockwaves through the martial arts world!

(Dateline, Visalia, CA) -- You know what the difference is between a so-so fighting system (which can give you false confidence)... and one that guarantees you will have the skills to **obliterate anyone who gets in your face?**

The difference is...

Real, Blood-On-Your-Hands Combat!

Most martial art teachers have never been in a real *fight* before. Many former soldiers have never seen a battlefield. And some of the “experts” with the biggest mouths have never been within miles of a life-and-death situation.

Well... I have a guy here who, for several years straight, **saw combat-ready action EVERY DAY.** Yes, he faced lethal combat with the enemy. Yes, he killed people. And yes, he had to use his skills *every second of every hour* he was under threat.

His name is **Nir Maman** (pronounced “Near”). He’s a former Israeli special forces commando and top hand-to-hand combat instructor. From 1995 to 1998 his long-range reconnaissance unit (the feared “Sayeret Golani”) roamed deep into enemy territory, fighting, capturing and “eliminating” terrorists and insurgents. Usually, there were only **4 men** in his unit. Alone, without back-up, miles from safety — and with *less than one-fourth the training our own Spec Op soldiers receive* — these men faced constant, unrelenting and vicious counter-guerrilla combat.

Did you catch that? These men did not have the luxury of long training. Israel has a limited population, and the men who join the Special Forces must get up to speed **FASTER**

than any other soldier in the world.

Why? Because...

They Face Blood-Curdling Lethal Combat Almost Immediately... Every Day Of Their Service!

Our own super-nasty Spec Op guys (SEALS, Delta) — as well as other world-class soldiers like the French Foreign Legion — are in awe of these Israeli hard-asses. Their training is so short and so **CONDENSED** that at age 20, the Israeli Spec Op soldier is as skilled as the average 30-year-old SEAL.

The secret: Astonishing short-cut training methods that — until now — were *the most hidden fighting secrets in the world.*

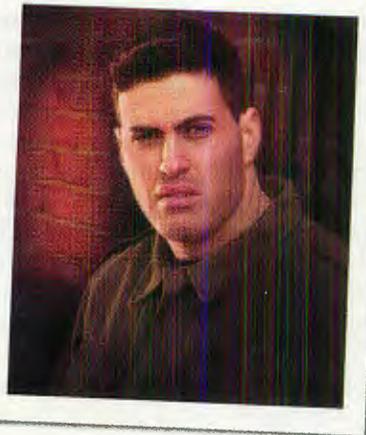
These guys **HAD** to learn fast... because they had to **USE** their training within days (sometimes hours) of learning it!

What’s this mean for you? Plenty... if you’re hungry for proven, super-nasty fighting skills that you can learn almost overnight. Nir not only used his skills in the field... but he got so good that he was asked to **TEACH** other soldiers his advanced skills. (A huge honor only a *handful* of men have ever enjoyed.)

He’s not just good (and has proven it by coming out of years of lethal combat without a scratch). He’s a friggin’ honest-to-God **expert...** who has perfected a **short-cut teaching method that will force-feed these skills into you faster than you ever believed possible.**

Best of all...

- ✓ You do not need to be in shape...
- ✓ You do not need to have any previous skills (Israeli soldiers come from the civilian population, just like you)...



Former Israel commando Nir Maman served in the feared “Sayeret Golani” where his job was to “fight, capture and eliminate” terrorists and insurgents. He now reveals to YOU the fighting secrets that make him one of the most dangerous men on earth!

- ✓ You do not need to be quick, or agile, or strong... and...
- ✓ You do not need to be “blood thirsty”.

Nope. The Israeli army had to learn quick how to take ordinary men (who have no special skills or advantages whatsoever)... and turn them literally overnight into super-skilled fighters who could face lethal combat with **absolute confidence and mega-dangerous moves** that would prevail over the enemy.

Pray that you never have to meet up with the kind of guerilla terrorists the Israelis face every day. Vicious zealots who do not care if they live or die, as long as they inflict damage on you. Wild-eyed and well-trained killers who, in fact, **WANT** to die as they take you out. (They think they’re martyrs, with a twisted version of Heaven waiting.)

Let me tell you — when your opponent *doesn’t care at all about his own*

(Continued on next page...)

life as he attacks you... **you better have the skills to take him out FAST.** In a split second, before he can put any hurt on you. And... you better make sure he STAYS down.

Here's what's up: These fighting secrets have NEVER been revealed before to anyone outside the Israeli Special Forces compounds. Nir has agreed to share them because, first, he created this special system himself. It's mostly his. (The Israeli army begged him to stay and continue teaching, but he had other plans after his long and distinguished service.) And second... Nir (along with so many other front-line veterans) realizes it is past time for Americans to learn how to fight.

In just over an hour, you are about to "quick-learn" vicious fighting skills that will change your life. Remember — our own U.S. Spec Op guys are deeply impressed with these Israeli tactics (and that says a lot about the authenticity and quality of this amazing new system). Even the most battle-experienced Delta commando in our army hasn't faced a *fraction* of the action the average Israeli soldier does in a month.

These skills are being proven, over and over again, every hour of every day. They are the reason Israeli soldiers are...

The Most Feared And Respected In The World!

Would you like to check out these fighting secrets yourself?

You can do it...

Without Risking A Penny!

Here's how: We rushed Nir into our super-secret recording studios as quickly as we could, once he agreed to reveal everything. The result are 4 of the absolute BEST instructional videotapes I've ever seen.

This is **SHORT-CUT** training like you've never experienced. **No long practice or drills required.** It's actually...

Amazingly Simple!

Hey — I didn't believe it myself at first. How can world-class fighting be *simple*?

The answer... is in Nir's astonishing teaching method. **It's completely new to martial arts.**

Most systems get complicated fast. It takes *years* to get just decent at the groundfighting skills needed for your

average fighting system... and then more years to master the trapping skills, the disarming skills, etc. And *none* of the training you learn in face-to-face fighting works on the ground, and vice versa.

Nir has magically made all other martial arts training obsolete.

How? By bringing ALL the skills you will ever need down to just **7 BASIC TOOLS.** And these tactics work whether you're on the ground... running through a dark alley... or surprised from behind with a knife or gun.

Think about that: One set of skills... which you can use in EVERY SINGLE situation you find yourself in. It's like having one tool in your toolbox that does everything. It seems hard to imagine... but it's real. It's proven.

And it's *nasty*.

That's why I insist you get the chance to check this out for yourself, without risk. You have to see new fighting system this to believe it. You have to experience it to "get" how easy and simple it really is. It just seems to defy "common sense".

But, man oh man, does it ever WORK!

I won't try to convince you here. Only seeing the stuff in action will convince you. Still, here's a "taste" of what you're about to discover:

✓ How to use the combat-veteran soldier's "**Vital Target**" map of **vulnerable spots on the human body**... to instantly take out ANYONE (of any size or skill level) who attacks you! (Imagine having secret targets you can reach on anyone, at any time, that will paralyze and put him down in one swift move!)

✓ How to raise your fighting skills from zero to world-class (overnight)... **using just 7 basic moves that work on the ground, standing up, or against weapons!** (This is the simplest fighting system you've ever seen... yet it is also the most **PROVEN** and effective!)

✓ How to control... incapacitate... and end the fight on your terms... *in just seconds!*

✓ **Why "pain compliance" is total horseshit in real combat**... and "quick-learn" tips on how to instantly destroy the skeletal structure of your opponent to immobilize him without breaking a sweat! (Pain doesn't deter wild-eyed terrorists

when they're in an adrenaline-fueled fury. Trying to win a fight by "stunning" your attacker is stupid and can get you killed in the real world.)

✓ How to learn — *fast*, in one quick session — almost all you need to know to face down the most dangerous situations you'll ever encounter!

✓ The secrets of lulling your opponent into false confidence... right before you take him out! (Gain that **crucial extra second** to get the upper hand, without escalating the danger.)

✓ **How to use 12 pounds of pressure (less than it takes to open a can of soda pop) to cause a compete shutdown of his vital systems!** (A trick Israelis learn so they can take out an attacker on the run, without pausing to "fight" in any normal or expected way!)

✓ How to "mask" your intentions... **so your fight-ending move is completely hidden and a total surprise to your opponent!**

Oh, hell. It goes on and on. These are the most amazing and effective fighting secrets you'll ever learn. All in a **short-cut, super-condensed format** that will infuse you with skills literally as you simply WATCH the training tapes.

The thing is... **all you have to learn is 7 simple moves**... which work whether you're standing up, running, or on the ground. This training immediately reduces effective self-defense into a (fun) single "force-feed" session that will fly by.

Are you ready for it? No previous experience with fighting is necessary. **You don't need to be a "natural" warrior.** Nir will take care of all of that. In a single training session.

Here's the deal: Nir spent enough time in the studio for us to make 4 videos. Each one is worth its weight in gold (or blood).

This gives you a unique CHOICE. You can "test drive" any of them.

First... is the BASIC hand-to-hand package of two training videos. Each tape sells separately for \$49.99... but you can own this basic package for just \$69 (an immediate savings of \$30). That's IF you want to pay for the tapes. (I'll explain in a second.)

Second... is the RECOMMENDED package, which includes the hand-to-hand videos plus the amazing ground-fighting video. (Nir's ground-fighting tactics are astonishing... because they

leap over all other grappling techniques, and skip the years of training necessary for most systems. You learn proven fight-on-the-ground skills INSTANTLY.) This package is worth \$150... but you can have it for only \$99.

Third (and last)... is the **ADVANCED** package. It's the one you want if you're serious about learning the most effective fighting tactics in the world. You get all the above videos... PLUS the Israeli secrets of defending against a knife or gun. Disarming tactics up the yin-yang, especially close-quarter combat skills that can save your life in a confrontation. This is over \$200 worth of material... yet you can own it now for just \$129.

But you do not risk a penny to check it out for yourself, personally. Because you get an extended...

One-Year 100% Money-Back Guarantee!

Here's how it works: Order any of these packages. Check them out yourself, and take a full YEAR to do it. If you're unhappy, for any reason (or for no reason at all), simply return the packages for a complete refund. No questions asked.

And... if you opt for the **ADVANCED** package... I insist you **KEEP** the "Knife And Gun Disarmament" video as our gift to you, just for giving Nir a chance.

That's a \$50 training video...

FREE!

And... if you ask for your refund... you've just seen the most sought-after fighting secrets on the planet... *for free.*

Here's how to order: Just call **1-800-899-8153** and tell whoever answers you want either Nir's "Basic Package"... or his "Recommended Package"... or his "Advanced Package". You can use your credit card.

Or, if you prefer to pay with a check or money order (payable to TRS)... just fill out and mail the enclosed Priority Order Card in the post-paid envelope.

Either way... *you do not risk a penny.*

This is **SERIOUS** stuff for anyone who wants to learn — fast — the most effective and simple fighting skills now in use.

This is also the **ONLY** way you can learn this skills... unless you join the Israeli army and opt for their Special Forces training. And go face constant deadly combat every day of your career.

THERE IS ONE "CATCH": You must *hurry*. Nir is understandably a little concerned that his former employers might **STOP** him from revealing these secrets. So he has authorized us to release *only a very limited number of packages*, on a very limited time schedule.

That means... we only duped around 80 sets of each package, and then locked up the master tapes so no one else could gain access to them. Once this batch is sold out (and I expect it to sell out in days), there is a good chance you won't get another opportunity anytime soon to see this stuff!

You don't risk a penny by ordering right now. You know that TRS has been around for over 15 years, and is **THE** most trusted company in martial arts. We have earned the trust and respect of SWAT cops, the U.S. military, every branch of the Special Forces and even the "black bag" arms of the FBI and CIA.

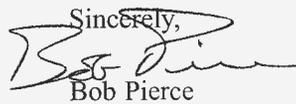
We protect our reputation like a crazed bulldog. If you aren't happy, for any reason whatsoever, I insist you send the material back and get a complete refund. No questions asked. No hassles.

This stuff is the real thing. I am confident you will be impressed. But if you aren't, you get your money back, pronto. I respect your decision,

no matter what it is. That's the only way we'll do business — with you as the boss. It's how we built our reputation. It's why we're the top company in martial arts.

So call right now. Do it. You'll get your videos in just a few days... and you can see for yourself what all the fuss is about.

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Colombia's "Twilight Zone:" Judicial Warfare

The Bogus Witnesses Damage Military's Effectiveness.

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

Colombian General Adolfo Clavijo, calls it the "Twilight Zone." In a bizarre twist, psychological and judicial warfare are being used as effective weapons by the insurgency in Colombia. The guerrillas bombard military officials with false accusations, locally through labor unions, government agencies and the judiciary which they have infiltrated, and internationally through networks of Marxist-influenced non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Some NGOs provide U.S. officials with allegations that Colombian military officials collaborate with the illegal self-defense forces (ISDF or AUC) and are tied to death squads.

"The war in Colombia has moved to the courtroom." The distinguished Colombian General's eyes were disturbed, showing signs of fatigue and concern as he described the legal battles he had fought. "NGO officials who are Marxist sympathizers use the Prosecutor's Office, the Disciplinary Authority, and the courts to weaken the military by making false accusations that lead to a disciplinary commission or military criminal process, or both."

At least four generals who had been most successful in crushing the guerrillas have been forced out of office due to U.S. pressure, and stripped of their U.S. visas.

"These generals had been cleared of charges in Colombian courts, but the story of how they were "convicted" by the U.S. government reveals a pattern of clever underworld deceit designed to destroy the Colombian military," stated Mary O'Grady, editor of the "Americas" column in the *Wall Street Journal*.

"The campaign gives a false image of the Armed Forces, although in Colombia they are the most widely respected institution, with polls showing that they are more popular than the Catholic Church," Miguel Posada, Director of the *Centro de Analisis Sociopoliticos* (CAS) in Bogota," told SOF.

"The military is already hampered by a lack of good communications, mobility, air-support, and satellite- and air-intelligence. Judicial warfare, which has led to the removal of some of the most respected officers, has seriously hurt

morale and weakened the military, resulting in the erosion of law and order," Posada said.

Whose Human Rights?

"Human rights have become the most publicized part of the war," the General said. "When the insurgents want to damage military officials, it is simple. All they need is a few phony witnesses. There are no penalties for perjury. They don't want convictions," he commented. "They just want to destroy and impoverish their targets."

"I was one of many," he said. "General Farouk Yanine, Chief of General Staff who operated in the strategic Magdalena River region with great success against the guerrillas, was accused of complicity in massacres with the AUC. The prosecutor's witnesses, one a convicted murderer, claimed that Yanine had ordered them to assassinate local merchants. Investigations disclosed that witnesses had been offered a bribe by the government, had not been under Yanine's command, and that at the time of the event, he was Commandant of the Military Cadet School rather than Commander of the 14th Brigade as they claimed. He remained under arrest until exonerated and although he was cleared of all charges, he still does not have a U.S. visa.

Charges against the general with whom SOF spoke included complicity in dozens of murders and taking payoffs from the drug cartels. Key witnesses against him recanted, admitting they had been bribed by a drug cartel and by government officials. The military court dismissed charges against the General, and the Inspector General's Office upheld that decision.

"I had no choice but to defend my actions, since a conviction brings jail time. The government did not cover expenses so I paid enormous legal fees personally. For nearly a decade, I have been forced to spend 50-60 percent of my time answering the charges prompted by NGOs, and the humiliating publicity. It becomes hard to do your duty. The judicial process can take 4-6 years.



(above) Commander Carlos Castaño of the United Self Defense Force of Colombia (AUC) reviews his troops in the mountains near Uraba, Northeast of Bogota a year ago. Taking advantage of a situation where left-wing revolutionary groups have killed tens of thousands and where the military has difficulty asserting government control, the AUG and other illegal self-defense forces have stepped in as a “protector” of those beleaguered by revolutionaries — and as a their strong competitor in the coca business. The far-left says AUC et al. are protected by — if not actually in liaison with — the military. The truth is, common enemies do not allies make.

Agencia France Presse



One of some 57 “paramilitaries” captured in a government raid on an AUC base near Buenaventura last April is shown to the press. The U.S. Attorney General has also gained criminal indictments against AUC members for their narco-trafficking activities.

“I Prayed To God To Make Me A Psychic. That Was Impossible.”

“I was commander in an 18,000-square-kilometer department with 2,000 subordinates. We faced 700 FARC guerillas, the ELN and the AUC. The FARC had terrorized the area, kidnapping, raping, murdering and in turn, the AUC massacred guerrillas and their supporters.

“In one battle with the AUC, my men defeated the paramilitaries, killing seven and capturing 15. Four days previously, the AUC had killed over 40, whom they accused of being guerrillas or guerrilla sympathizers. In spite of the success of the battle, I was accused of lack of due diligence, and negligence.”

Even after being cleared of charges, the incident was used against him in Congressional testimony by NGOs and in the U.S. State Department’s *Report on Human Rights in Colombia* in 2001, Posada said. “The incident was covered with ‘half truths: the ultimate falsehood.’ The report fails to mention that there was a combat between the AUC and FARC and that some of the dead were active combatants. The report discusses the

investigation by the Inspector General's Office in Colombia, but fails to mention my successes against the guerrillas and AUC, and that I had been cleared of wrongdoing.

Four days before the AUC attack, the guerrillas had attacked the police, killing eight, in spite of warnings I had given," the General told SOF.

"The police in rural outposts are most vulnerable. In many instances, the FARC attack police stations, killing or kidnapping all of the officers. Those officers are often not replaced. The guerrillas, some dressed as *campesinos*, would make false calls of impending attacks, alert the police and ambush them. The police fall for that gimmick all the time.

"Sometimes, although we would have the town surrounded, the guerrillas or illegal defense forces would get in anyhow." Of course, the military would be held responsible.

"According to the NGOs," he said, "a commander is held responsible whatever happens. I had given numerous warnings of impending attacks but I could not predict all offenses.

"Before I was deployed to the department, the guerrillas would ambush marines five or more times a year, but during my year, none of my troops were ambushed. We avoided the roads, conducting our operations on foot.

"I had no helicopter capacity: 12,000 marines are responsible for the whole Pacific Coast, including all rivers to the Atlantic. That's an impossible job against the narco riverine units. When I would ask for reinforcement, I was told that the army does not have the manpower."

"After the battles, not only would I received threats from the AUC, the FARC, and the ELN, but the NGOs were on the offensive. If I put my company in the correct place, I was a criminal. If not, I was a criminal."



Agence France Presse

Colombian Army soldiers carry bodies of two farmers killed in a massacre by AUC forces in Naya in 2001. The communist ELN and FARC may well end up cooperating against the AUC: In an arena driven by billions in drug money, anything is possible.

"The Killing Field"

O'Grady tells the story of Gen. Rito Alejo del Rio, one of four generals whose U.S. visas were revoked. Before del Rio arrived at his post in the northern region of Uraba, "the most horrible, sinister massacres in all of Colombia" occurred there.

The General's tactics were hands-on, meeting with locals, labor leaders, landowners and guerrillas who had defected. "They were very angry with us for not protecting them," He was reported as saying.

The only hope for his mission to be a success was to

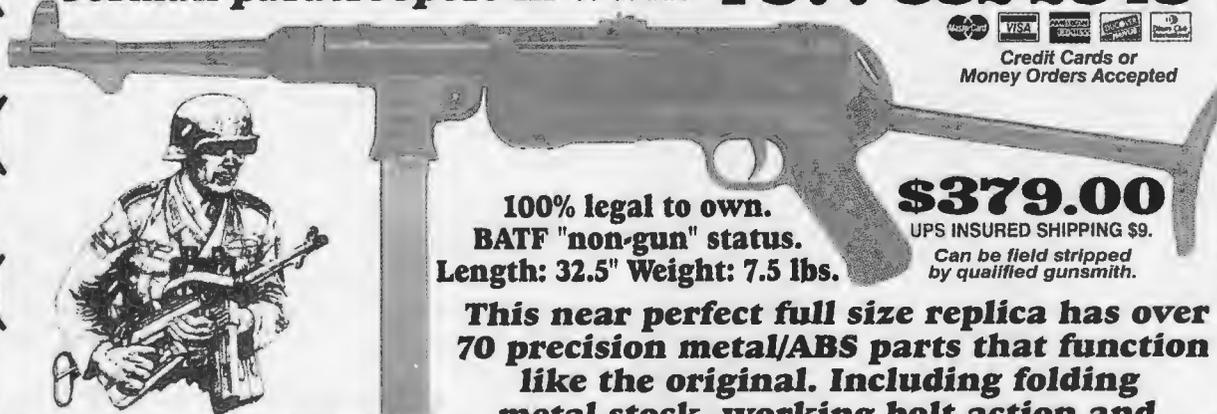
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But if you're like me, wanting to learn a martial art or fighting system but not knowing which to choose from the bewildering sea of options available or if your system leaves you wondering, "would it work in any violent attack?" then you owe it to yourself... and to your loved ones... to hear my story.

My name is Mike Cohen. I'm a real guy, a businessman from the Atlanta, Georgia area. And what I experienced in a small studio in the

heart of downtown Manhattan, just blocks from ground-zero and only 2 days before September 11, has completely changed my life... as it has the lives of others there with me.

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SOF Staff

The new tactic of the left, to attack and neutralize military leaders using the court system and spurious charges of wrongdoing, exacts a fatiguing price on professional soldiers, even though they are highly regarded by their countrymen. This precision shooter, armed with a scoped HK rifle, may not be subject to such attacks, but his mission is affected by the demoralizing toll these attacks take on his commanders.

restore the credibility of the military. Subsequently, he defeated the guerrillas. Uraba was cleaned up and the kidnappings and massacres were put to a halt. The residents could finally thrive economically and lead normal lives.

But never mind his success. An inept colonel with a "questionable resume," under whose guard massacres by the rebels escalated, denounced Gen. del Rio for collaborating with the illegal defense forces. General del Rio is still under investigation.

"Factory Of Lies"

Plinio Apeleyo Mendoza, winner of the Seguros Bolivar Journalism Award, indicts the culprit Colombian NGOs as being "neither subjective nor innocent as they may seem".

El Centro de Investigaciones y Educacion Popular (CINEP), financed by the Jesuits, is made up of priests who share the same communist philosophy and objectives as the guerrillas. The Comision Colombiana de Juristas, consisting of lawyers affiliated with the Colombian Communist Party, in their Declaration of Quito, called for "the adjective of terrorism not to be given extensively to acts of rebellion by people against their governments." This, Mendoza says, classifies assaults, kidnappings, minefields, bombs, and murders as acts of independence rather than terrorism.

Justicia y Paz, directed by the priest Javier Giraldo Moreno, has broadcast a "list of lies, many denounced by me, that could fill two volumes," writes

Mendoza. "In the town of Carmen de Chucuri," he reports, "the villagers had been terrorized by the ELN for 30 years. When Captain German Pataquive was sent to command a small garrison in the town, he and his men were mocked, denied communion and their girl friends were put on trial by the guerrillas.

"Pataquive won the loyalty of the villagers by building parks, roads and schools. When the ELN discovered that he and the mayor had become friends, they assassinated the 'brain-washed' mayor, and mutilated his body. The villagers rose against the tyranny of the ELN who had collected exorbitant taxes and kidnapped their children. In retaliation, the ELN blew up waterworks, bridges, transport trucks and planted mines. Many of the women and children in the town lost their legs."

When the terror failed to sway the villagers, the ELN used its best weapon against the Captain: Judicial War, Mendoza said. They produced false witness with the help of NGOs who accused the Captain of 147 murders, terrorism, tortures and disappearances. The Captain was arrested and interrogated by "faceless" prosecutors (for protection). Although cleared in 10 investigations, international reports list the accusations as true."

Mendoza himself received a book-bomb from the ELN in an assassination attempt, and has been identified as a paramilitary even though he never had any association with the groups.

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Arbitrary And Malicious Judgments

According to those who have exposed the viciousness of Judicial warfare in Colombia, its success is due to a series of blunders, deceptions, incompetence and maliciousness by the guerrillas, NGO officers who support them, and U.S. embassy and state department staff with their own agendas.

The bare-bones staff at the U.S. Embassy's human-rights office in Bogota, and human-rights groups in the United States, rely on Colombian NGO members who "express support for guerrilla politics and demonstrate a willingness to recycle suborned perjury as fact," a source told SOF.

NGOs give reports to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, and at the same time submit them to Human Rights Watch in Washington. Both the embassy and the U.S. NGOs make their reports and send them to the U.S. State Department. The U.S. Government, believing that it has received reports from various independent sources, assumes them to be true, without making on-site investigations.

Unidentified sources report that select U.S. officials in the Bogota embassy refused to talk to the military officials, encouraged officers to accuse their colleagues, and concealed evidence supporting the innocence of the accused.



Human-rights NGOs, and U.S. Government offices that rely on their reports, are often swayed by bad information emanating from people within these groups who have their own left-wing agendas. Here Human Rights Watch Director Jose Miguel Vivanco speaks to the press in Bogota, having alleged that American-trained counter-narcotics battalions were guilty of human-rights abuses.

The tide has begun to turn under the new administration of President Uribe, according to Posada and the General. The attorney general at the time SOF was were in Colombia, Luis Camillo Osario, they said, is a "good man." Several NGO officials were in jail for misappropriation of funds and other undisclosed charges. Hearsay has it that Chilean Jose Miguel Vivanco, the head of Human Rights Watch-Americas and mastermind behind many of the charges against the military and a guerrilla sympathizer, is being investigated by the Colombian Prosecutor's Office.

Colombian activists are requesting a U.S. investigation into what they believe is the dismantling of military leadership by a network of corrupt public officials and terrorists that have gained a sympathetic ear from the courts.

Outraged Colombians demand that the bias in the U.S. State department report be corrected, that the report be evaluated by U.S. military personnel, and the accused be given the right to be heard before their lives and reputation are destroyed. Only then, they believe, can the Colombian military have a fighting

chance in their struggle against the insurgents.

A frequent contributor to SOF, Dr. Martin Brass recently returned from Colombia. ✕

The Butchers Rampant

No one we spoke with in Colombia denied abuses by the Colombian military in the decades-long war. Nor did any deny that the guerrillas had kidnapped, extorted, tortured, executed and massacred tens of thousands. And, all agreed that the paramilitaries had engaged in their share of butchery.

"In addition to being the top producer and trafficker of cocaine, we are the leader in number of kidnappings per year, the second in number of murders, and the third in degrees of corruption. Furthermore, we share with Syria, Iraq, Cuba, China, and the old Yugoslavia, the sad record of being a nation where most violations of Human Rights are recorded," writes Plinio Apuleyo Mendoza, winner of the Seguros Bolivar Journalism award.

Yet all combatants portray themselves as the heroes. The *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), which boast 9-12,000 members, mobilize the downtrodden peasant against the ruling oligarchy by expounding ideologies of class struggle. "In reality, they recruit by force and those who want out are tortured or killed. Their goal," one Colombian General told SOF, "is not to take over part of the government. The FARC have made it clear that they 'want the whole thing'."

The rival guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army, or *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN) which numbers 3-4,000, are throwbacks from Castro's type of communism, who claim that they are protecting the needs of the masses.

Like the FARC, the ELN kidnap, extort, assassinate and massacre town folks, and hijack and sell drugs to support their activities.

The Illegal Self Defense Forces (ISDF), labeled "paramilitaries," are groups loosely organized into a confederation by drug cartels, landowners, and small farmers, and dominated by the *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* (AUC). They number 8-10,000. Since the military has been ineffective in guarding landowners from the rebels, the AUCs are hired to protect landowners from the guerrillas who have terrorized them for decades, kidnapped their children and controlled their production. Although the AUC is also active in drug-production and -trafficking, they seldom engage in attacks on the innocent, such as laying mines for the unsuspecting. The groups are notorious for massacring guerrilla members or civilian supporters in order to wipe out their networks.

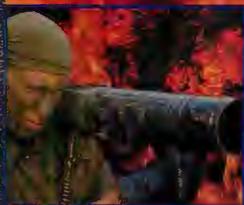
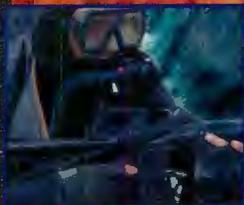
The Military Is Accused Of Supporting The ISDF

Both the FARC and ELN have been classified as "terrorist organizations" by the U.S. State Department. The AUC, several Colombian sources explained, have not been classified as terrorists because they do not attack U.S. interests. However, the sources claim, the State Department, primarily the Human Rights section, has portrayed the military as the chief offenders in the civil conflict. — M. B.

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BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

AMERICA AT WAR

WARNING!! The Missile Attack on Israeli plane in Kenya warns of terrorists shooting down commercial planes with portable, shoulder-launched, anti-aircraft missiles. FBI estimates 29 hits already on civilian planes by shoulder-launched missiles. The SA-7 used in the Kenya attack mimics older U.S. Redeye. Dozens of modern, more-lethal U.S. Stingers unaccounted for. Thousands of both are available on the black market at cost of \$200,000 each — pennies to terrorist groups.

UNITED STATES Top al-Qaeda Commander Captured: Abd al Rahim al Nashiri, plotted to attack U.S. targets in Gulf and was involved in October attack on French oil tanker off Yemen, in 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies and U.S.S. *Cole* in Yemen, and planned to bomb Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain.

COLOMBIA: Students of Peace: Trial of three IRA mercenaries, accused of training Colombian insurgents in the use of explosives and other terrorist techniques, adjourned after two prosecution witnesses failed to appear in court, fearing for their lives. The three suspects who traveled on false passports claim they had come to Colombia to "study the peace process."

PHILIPPINES: Captured Indonesian terrorist confesses that the *Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)*, with 12,000 members, has links to *Jemaah Islamiyah*, Indonesian-based terrorist group operating in Philippines. *MILF* allegedly bombed bus terminals and gas stations in Manila. U.S. Troops deployed: 150 to 175 troops to join 275 Special Forces in jungle-combat patrols in a risky hunt for Moslem extremists. Embassies Close: Austria, Canada and the European Union closed their embassies after wave of threats. The U.S. Embassy warned Americans to avoid crowds, nightclubs and bars, cemeteries, shopping malls and public transportation after *Abu Sayyaf Group* issued threats against U.S. citizens.

EUROPE Continent on Alert: Terrorist cells exposed with ties to North America, Africa, Middle East and Asia. *N.Y. Times* quotes French Official, "the threat is much wider than al-Qaeda. It is like a spreading cancer." Arrests of ringleaders made in France, the U.K., Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands.

FRANCE

"Big Fish" caught: Six al-Qaeda members of cell called the "Frankfurt Group" arrested for plot to bomb Strasbourg Cathedral and Christmas Market in 2000. Arrested: Algerian chief Redouane Daoud, subject of international arrest warrant, after escaping a Dutch jail. Daoud was a chief of *Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat*, hard-line Algerian group linked to al-Qaeda and 11 Sept attacks.

GERMANY

Trial: Five members of terrorist "Frankfurt Group" on trial. Confiscated arms and explosives and video of cathedral and market in Strasbourg from their apartment.

SWITZERLAND

Voice recognition experts doubt that voice on audiotape attributed to Osama bin Laden is his. Voice said, "As you assassinate, so will you be, and as you bomb so will you likewise be." U.S. intelligence continues to claim it is Osama's voice.

IRAQ Afghan al-Qaeda Camp Moves to Kurdistan: *Ansar al Islam* militant group with al-Qaeda links launched attack in Kurdish autonomous area in Northern Iraq; 53 Kurds, 15 rebels killed, dozens wounded; 650 *Ansar al Islam* rebels, many trained in Afghanistan, maintain extremist enclave with 8,000 civilians, used as launching pad for raids and attacks on moderate Kurds.

LEBANON

U.S. Missionary Bonnie Penner Assassinated by Muslim extremists, Ain el Helweh refugee camp; 31 shot dead in Sidon. Factional attacks between Yasser Arafat's *Fatah* in Lebanon and other radical Islamists groups, including *Jamaat al Nur* and *Osbat al Ansar* escalating. Members of Lebanese Sunni fundamentalist group accused of al-Qaeda links.

JORDAN

U.S. Ambassador's Assassins Arrested: Jordanian and Libyan, al-Qaeda members arrested for murder of ambassador Laurence Foley in Amman. Their plan — to smuggle surface-to-air missiles into Jordan.

QATAR War Games — Internal Look: 4,000 U.S. military deployed to As-Sayliyah army and al-Udeid air bases, conduct 10-day high-tech forward-command war-game exercise, commanded by General Tommy Franks, of Central Command, as rehearsal for military action against Iraq.

PAKISTAN

Manhunt for bin Laden: U.S. security officers and a Pakistan Special Services group raided seminaries and homes in South Waziristan, searching for fugitive bin Laden. Taliban Pakistanis and supporters are arming al-Qaeda rebels regrouping there for further attacks on Western targets.

AFGHANISTAN: Thwarted Presidential Assassination: Suicide bomber Bukan Herami, wired with explosives, stopped in defense-minister assassination attempt, originally intended for President Karzai. The Iraqi Kurd assassin was caught by Afghan intelligence, after a tip-off, with 200 pounds of explosives in paneling of his car.

KENYA

Suicide bombing: Israeli resort hotel shattered to smithereens by car bomb; 12 killed dozens injured. Authorities suspect *Al Itihaad al Islamiya* (Islamic Union), Somali terrorist group with supposed links to al-Qaeda. The 2,000-strong group with goal of Somali Islamic state trained in Afghanistan and are armed by Sudan. Averted Disaster: Shoulder-fired missile attack on Israeli Arkia airlines Boeing 757-300 with 261 passengers en route to Israel from Kenya missed its target. In 1998, 212 were killed, including 12 Americans, and 5,000 injured in suspected al-Qaeda bombings of U.S. embassy in Nairobi.

BANGLADESH

"Headless Monster of al-Qaeda" Dispersing: India charges moderate Islamic country of harboring al-Qaeda extremists. Pakistani authorities deny charges, yet have arrested and deported Western journalists reporting extremist activities.

America's

BORDER WAR

Mexican Army Incursions Onto U.S. Soil

BY ROB KROTT

"We are in a state of war. And we are fighting enemies who have brought the battle to our shores. If there were ever a time for the United States to put troops on the border, this is it."

— Edward I. Nelson, chairman of U.S. Border Control

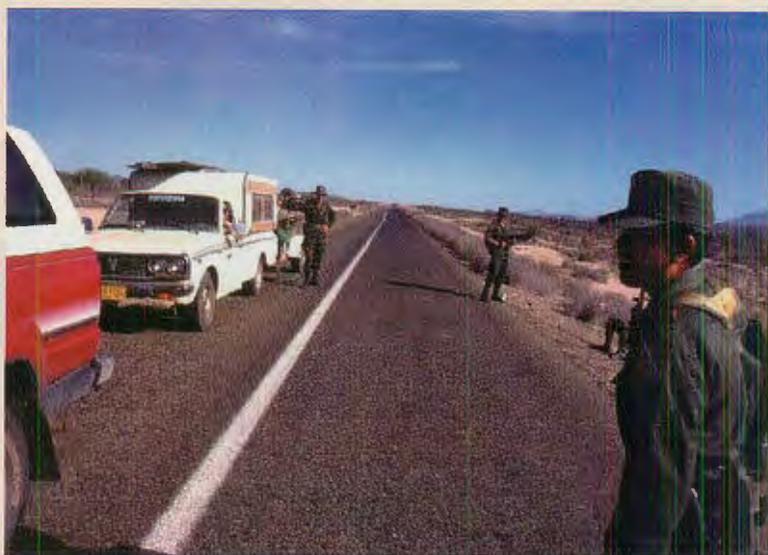
There are serious problems on America's 1,940-mile border with Mexico. Besides the record numbers of illegal aliens crossing into the United States (our current illegal alien population is estimated at between 9 and 11 million, and this year there will be 3 million attempts to cross into America illegally) American law-enforcement officers, and civilians, face the growing threat of encountering heavily armed Mexican Army units.

Just Like Pancho Villa

The recent increase in the Mexican military presence along our southern border is a result of President Vicente Fox's promise to support anti-narcotics operations. Partly to appease the U.S. government, Mexico has deployed thousands of soldiers to the U. S. border to combat drug-trafficking and some inadvertently or purposefully cross into U. S. territory. Mexican troops, mostly draftees, may be so overzealous and so poorly trained that they pose a threat to innocent people in both countries. Armed confrontations between the Mexican military and the U.S. Border Patrol is a constant threat. Raleigh Leonard, a Border Patrol public information officer told reporters, "Anytime you have the Mexican military running around with all these weapons and military gear it's really quite frightening."

Over the past five years, U.S. law-enforcement officials have documented more than 120 Mexican military/police incursions and Border Patrol agents have arrested Mexican Army personnel on U.S. soil. Well-known incidents include two Mexican Army Humvees firing on Border Patrol agents in El Paso (March 2000) and 10 Mexican soldiers firing at a Border Patrol helicopter in California (October 2000).

Human-rights activists in Mexico say the soldiers aren't



Mexican Army soldiers conduct vehicle checkpoint along border.

trained for police duties and are dangerous because the military is immune from public scrutiny (the Mexican military has its own legal system and answers only to the presidency). Representative Tom Tancredo (R-Colo), chairman of the 65-member Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, claimed in a 1 May 2002 press release there had been 23 incursions in 2001 by Mexican authorities. In response the Mexican Embassy claimed that in most of these incursions the Mexicans were pursuing "drug-traffickers or smugglers" and did not realize they had entered the United States.

Through its federal law-enforcement sources *SOF* has been provided excerpts of Serious Incident Reports (SIR) filed by various Border Patrol Stations & Sectors nationwide from our law-enforcement sources in BP, Customs, and INS which detail many of the military incursions. This information (marked "LEA Sensitive") is known to Border Patrol management, but isn't readily available to our elected leadership in Congress, nor the American people. As a concerned BP agent wrote me, "This is the main thing that I hope you

are able to bring out. The vast majority of the American people are totally oblivious that armed forces of a foreign nation routinely violate the sovereignty of the U.S. Our government is aware of these incidents, but refuses to take any steps to stop these flagrant violations." Some of the incursions, most of which are unknown to the public, across our border this year include:

- "lost" soldiers, i.e. combat-uniformed Mexican military personnel in fire-team and squad-sized groups carrying assault rifles and traveling in a "patrol-like" manner; Humvees full of troops pointing a rifle at a BP agent; four Mexican soldiers on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande River using a small boat with a Texas identification number; Mexican military personnel in an open-bed Humvee with several weapons in the back claiming to be lost.
- "lost" Mexican cops on foot or traveling in ATVs or pickups (some refusing to return to Mexico or caught in the same area again) or stopped while in "hot pursuit;" groups of six to eight armed men, possible Mexican cops, wearing black bulletproof vests and carrying "machine guns";
- a Chevy Suburban hit five times by gunfire and containing 22 "undocumented migrants" (eight suffering from gunshot wounds) reportedly shot by a Mexican Army vehicle which fled to Mexico;
- two helicopters, believed to be Mexican military aircraft, flying too low to be detected on radar, violating United States airspace over Brownsville, Texas;
- BP agents investigate six gunshots coming from the Mexican side while observing soldiers attempting to two individuals fleeing their vehicle near the Rio Grande. The soldiers then began shooting in the direction of the BP until yelled at by the BP.

One of SOF's sources claims that because federal officials in Washington want to downplay the incursions many of them are logged as police incursions. The Border Patrol agents on the ground know they're Mexican military, but the higher-ups officially refuse to acknowledge many incidents. Despite dis-

sembling from supervisors and career bureaucrats, the cops in the field, many of who are U.S. military veterans, know these are Mexican military incursions because the intruders wear combat fatigues and load-bearing equipment, act like trained military personnel, carry military weapons such as G-3 or M-16 rifles, and frequently drive Mexican military Humvees. The bureaucrats at Department of Justice headquarters in Washington, D. C. don't see it that way. It's too touchy politically to admit the Mexican Army crosses our border at will and without permission. Some of these incursions have led to unfortunate, and even fatal, incidents.

According to Jorge Garcia Villalobos, the Mexican Justice Department's attaché in Los Angeles, on the day of the Chevrolet Suburban incident (13 June), the 22 illegal migrants approached the Mexico-U.S. border near San Diego and ignored an order by Mexican soldiers to stop. "Passengers in the car either threw or shot something at the soldiers and the soldiers responded to the attack," Garcia told the *Los Angeles Times*. Garcia said that the soldiers were given orders to be extra cautious along that increasingly violent sector because the coyotes (migrant smugglers were organized and well-armed).

A month previously, on 17 May, Mexican soldiers drove a Humvee into the Arizona desert across the border from Sonoyta, Mexico and shot at a Border Patrol officer driving a marked, lights-on Border Patrol Chevrolet Tahoe. Police from the nearby Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation Police Department had encountered a Mexican military incursion at approximately 2030 hours along the Santa Cruz Trail inside the Papago Farms border patrol area, just south of Forest Road 21 and the BP agent had noticed a military helicopter flying overhead, heading south towards Mexico. Shortly afterwards the agent was conducting line-watch operations south of Ajo, Arizona, 5 miles inside the U.S. when he encountered three Mexican soldiers armed with assault rifles in a Mexican Army Humvee which not only began to approach him, but after he made a U-turn and attempted to leave the area (so as to avoid a confrontation) fired upon his vehicle, shattering the rear and back driver's side windows. The metal prisoner divider behind the agent's head deflected at least one bullet.

La Corrupcion y Los Generales

Despite explanations from the Mexican government that

KIDNAPPED BY THE MEXICAN ARMY

In August 1985, California rancher Bob Maupin was abducted and held at gunpoint by eight Mexican Army soldiers, wearing uniforms and carrying their G-3 .308 army rifles. They deliberately crossed the border onto Maupin's property to abduct Maupin. Why? Well maybe because earlier that summer, Maupin called the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and reported a methamphetamine laboratory operating just south of the border and in full view of his property. The DEA turned this information over to the Mexican authorities, where someone passed it on to the drug cartel. Before the Mexican soldiers could get Maupin back over the border, probably for torture and execution by local drug lords, U.S. Border Patrol Agents arrived. The U.S. government response to this incident of illegal border crossing, criminal trespassing, home-invasion, assault, kidnapping, and terrorist threats was to

release the soldiers, hand them back their fully-automatic G-3s, and escort them across the border.

The U.S. government now denies that this event ever took place, despite the sworn statements of Maupin and his wife and the photographic evidence of the incursion.

Bob Maupin is understandably unhappy with the U.S. government and its law-"enforcement" agencies. He has since taken his own personal protection and self-defense very seriously. Maupin knows that he cannot rely on our government to protect his family and property, or our borders. Maupin has apprehended hundreds of criminal trespassers over the years, yet the only response from local and federal government has been to constantly threaten Maupin with arrest and lawsuit for daring to defend his property.

— R. K.

these border incursions are results of hot pursuits or lost cops, some of the border crossings are more than incompetence or overzealous enforcement. Yeah, some brave Mexican soldiers are combating drug-trafficking but some are conducting drug-trafficking. Many U. S. law-enforcement officials working along the border acknowledge the involvement of Mexican military troops and police in narcotics-trafficking and migrant-smuggling business. Many Mexican police agencies along the border are in the pay of the *narcotraficantes* and the corruption extends to high-ranking key Mexican military officers.

In 1998, the DEA officially reported the cooperation between drug-traffickers and senior Mexican army officers. Drug cartels spend \$500 million a year to pay off corrupt Mexican generals and police officials. In April 2001, the Mexican government arrested Brigadier General Ricardo Martinez Perea and two junior officers for alleged links with the Gulf Cartel.



Cliff Berning, Ranch Rescue Oregon

A Mexican Army helicopter and Army SpecOps sniper. Mexican military helicopters routinely violate U.S. air-space. Because of the high level corruption in the Mexican Army it is suspected that helicopters have made drug-runs into the U.S.

General Martinez is the fourth Mexican Army general arrested in recent years on charges of protecting drug-traffickers.

In February 1997, Mexican police arrested General Jose de Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, Mexico's anti-drug czar, who was convicted of supporting one trafficker while battling others. Gutierrez was the model for a corrupt character in the movie *Traffic*.

And the generals set the example for their subordinates: A few years ago Mexican military officers assigned to an elite anti-narcotics smuggling unit, including several captains and majors serving as anti-narcotics agents in the Mexican Attorney General's Office, were arrested on charges of drug-trafficking. United States law-enforcement officers in the

Southwest are convinced that Mexican military units are crossing the Arizona-Mexico border to aid smugglers in carrying drugs into the United States. A Mexican army major was caught at the U.S. port of entry at Naco, AZ, carrying a

RANCH RESCUE — AND SOF — SEIZE DRUGS ON MEXICAN BORDER: ARMED VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Ranch Rescue is a grassroots volunteer network dedicated to protecting and defending private property rights for all Americans, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin.

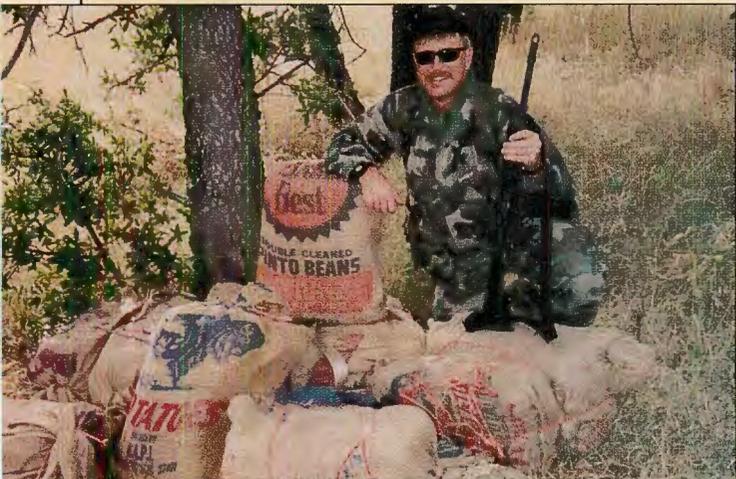
With chapters in six states and growing nationally and internationally, former U.S. Army infantry officer, Jack Foote, of Abilene, TX, formed Ranch Rescue in 2000. Foote was inspired by news accounts of Cochise County rancher and businessman Roger Barnett who for years has patrolled his ranch east of Douglas, AZ detaining thousands of illegal border-crossers, *narcotraficantes*, and other criminals. Until recently, Ranch Rescue operations focused on helping ranchers fix fences and clean-up trash, though they generally worked well-armed and wearing uniforms and always on private property at the invitation of the landowners.

In July 2002, Ranch Rescue volunteers conducted

armed security patrols ("Operation Condor") on the California ranch of Mr. Bob Maupin (kidnapped on his property by Mexican Army soldiers in 1985) alongside Mr. Maupin's own security volunteers and successfully deterred cross-border criminal activity. Both foot- and mounted-patrols using Maupin's fully restored WW2 armored half-track, were conducted.

In October 2002, Ranch Rescue conducted "Operation Hawk" on private property and public lands in Arizona's rugged Patagonia Mountains of the Coronado National Forest. This was the first time the group mounted an operation that focused on the surveillance and interdiction of criminal trespassers on private property. The mission of "Operation Hawk" was to observe and document the passage of *armed* drug-smugglers over private property. Equipped with donated uniform items and gear from equipment manufacturers such as SureFire, CamelBak, Ontario Knives, Arktis, Kabar, SpikeCamp, and Armed Forces Merchandise Outlet, SOF helped recruit, organize, and support a 20-man tactical team of military veterans and law-enforcement professionals for "Operation Hawk." In the course of the mission 280 pounds of illegal drugs, dropped by two groups of cross-border drug-smugglers the Ranch Rescue tactical team encountered trespassing on private property, were turned over to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. Another group of illegal trespassers, armed and carrying drug-smuggling paraphernalia, was also interdicted.

Next month SOF will publish an account of this volunteer operation on the Mexican border. For more information: Ranch Rescue, 1071 North Judge Ely Boulevard, PMB 6460, Abilene, Texas 79601-3853; 915-888-0518 (voice mail only); www.ranchrescue.com E-Mail: volunteer@ranchrescue.com



courtesy Rob Kroit



Cliff Bering, Ranch Rescue Oregon

Young Mexican Army conscripts man border post. Note the Mexican Army Humvee, green fatigues, webgear, and .308 G-3 rifles.

detailed drug-smuggling map marked with drop-points and drug-smuggling trails. Mexican Army soldiers were found in a drug-smuggling tunnel discovered under Nogales, AZ.

According to SOF's BP and Customs contacts, in 2001 the U. S. government officially recorded 12 separate incidents in which Mexican military personnel crossed over the border into Arizona alone. Though they were probably not drug-related, it indicates how frequently they violate the border. United States Forest Service official Dan Bauer says that in addition to officially documented incursions, there are others "who appear to be Mexican military or paramilitary." To get an idea of the "threat" there are only five Forest Service law-enforcement officers in the Coronado National Forest to combat *thousands* of illegal migrants, criminals, drug-smugglers, and drugs (last year in Coronado they interdicted 90,000 pounds of marijuana). According to Bauer, the Forest Service and other law-enforcement officers sometimes face "armed men in Humvees who are part of drug-smuggling operations."

Congressman Tancredo, escorted by Bauer and others on a tour of the Southwest border, reports, "There's no doubt Mexican military units along the border are being controlled by the drug cartels, and not by Mexico City. The military units operate freely, with little or no direction, and several of them have made numerous incursions into the United States." He has complained to President Fox about the border incursions and suggests U. S. troops are needed to protect Americans from Mexican forces, stating: "I cannot in good conscience stand by and watch another incursion along our border take place. Unless we open our eyes and recognize that what's happening along the U.S.-Mexico border is real, one of our guys is going to get killed."

One Of Our Guys

One of "our guys" was killed. Though not a result of a Mexican Army incursion, the fatal incident involved at least one Mexican Army soldier and two Mexican Army veterans, and quite possibly Mexican

Army weapons and equipment. Kris Eggle, 28, a National Park Service ranger at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (between Ajo, AZ and Sonoyta, Mexico) was killed in a shootout with Mexican fugitives on 9 August 2002. He was responding with U.S. Border Patrol agents to a call for assistance from Mexican authorities about 3 miles east of Lukeville (a U.S. border town) and about 100 yards north of the border in a rugged stretch of desert known for both drug- and migrant-smuggling.

Mexican authorities notified the U. S. Border Patrol that two men in a vehicle fleeing Mexican police had crossed onto the park. Eggle, one of four Park Service Rangers assigned to the Organ Pipe Cactus National monument (Park Service Rangers are commissioned law-enforcement officers), armed and wearing body armor at the time was shot and killed by an AK-47 rifle. The shooting was linked to a quadruple murder that occurred in Mexico the previous day. The day Eggle was killed Mexican federal police had arrested Jesus Martin Yescas Zazueta, 19, a Mexican Army deserter who confessed involvement in the execution-style slaying of four men in a botched execution over an unpaid marijuana debt. The debt involved Panfilo "El Zarco" Murillo Aguila a known drug-trafficker. Yescas Zazueta deserted his post at the Mexican Army garrison in Tijuana at the invitation of two former Mexican soldiers, Velasquez Jocobi and Perez Sanchez, two days before the shootout that killed Eggle. Promised \$15,000 — and paid \$5,000 in advance — he had come to carry out a commando-style hit along with the two ex-soldiers and two other men known as "El Gringo" and "El Teofilo." The murders occurred at the ranch house on an *ejido* (small farm), southwest of Sonoyta on Thursday, 8 August.

Wearing military uniforms and armed with handguns and AK-47 rifles the five-man hit squad assaulted the house and captured four men armed with handguns. The target of the execution was not there so they then kidnapped, beat, and killed the four captives.

The next day, 9 August, at about 0900 hours Mexican police found the four bodies about 10 miles west of Sonoyta. Three of the victims had their arms tied behind their backs and a gunshot to the head. The other victim was untied and shot multiple times. Sixty Mexican police officers were called in from around Sonora to look for "El Zarco" and the hit-men and to prevent further assassinations. They found him about 1300 hours just southeast of the Lukeville port of entry and engaged him in a gun battle. Mexican officials called authorities to warn them "El Zarco" and another fugitive were headed north.

Eggle and Border Patrol agents were in the area responding to the call for assistance when "El Zarco" and Dionicio Ramirez-Lopez reached the border. "El Zarco" shot Eggle and was then killed in the shootout. Ramirez-Lopez was captured 3 miles away.

Next month SOF takes part in the armed patrolling of our southern border by concerned citizens and a SOF advertiser-equipped tactical team interdicts two groups of drug smugglers.

A former U.S. Army infantry officer and honor graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Rob Krott is SOF's Chief Foreign Correspondent. ✕



courtesy US Border Patrol

The Human Seat Cover. Smugglers tried to sneak this illegal Mexican migrant into the United States by building him right into the rear seat of a minivan. Then a legal visitor or U.S. citizen would sit on top of him.

WAR RAGES in WEST

Mercenaries Face-Off Against Each Other

TEXT & PHOTOS BY AL J. VENTER

Mercenaries are involved on both sides of a new war in West Africa. Late reports speak of heavy fighting north of Abidjan, the Ivoirian capital. One of three Mi-24 Russian-built helicopter gunships acquired by government forces to quell the insurrection has been shot down by ground-fire, or perhaps a SAM.

The aircraft, and its pilot, South African Ryan Hogan, formerly with Executive Outcomes in Sierra Leone, suffered little damage or injury. The report was sourced to the rebel command in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, quoting rebel Sergeant Zacharias Kone who passed on his version of events by satellite phone from Vavoua, a small town north-



AFRICA'S IVORY COAST

west of Abidjan. It was relayed to the BBC Africa service via Agence France Presse (AFP) in Paris.

Two columns of Government troops, it said — with South African, French and Bulgarian mercenaries in the lead — were heading towards rebel positions in the north. Undeterred by a French Army roadblock not far from Vavoua, “armored vehicles went through several French positions without stopping and started shooting at us with heavy weapons,” reported Kone.

Minutes later a pair of Mi-24 gunships — flown by South Africans Carl Alberts and Juba Joubert, both veterans of Executive Outcomes wars in Angola and Sierra Leone — appeared overhead. The choppers hit hard at enemy posi-

tions on the outskirts. The Hinds “left many people killed or wounded,” said the BBC.

What the rebel report didn't state is the immediate effect it had on some of the rebels. In a tradition that goes back to the war in Sierra Leone, many of the revolutionaries shed their weapons and uniforms. Like shadows, they disappeared into the jungle. The same scenario was reenacted a short while later at the city of Man, not far from the Liberian border. Abidjan said later that its forces advancing on Vavoua was a response to rebel attacks near Man.

French army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ange-Antoine told AFP afterwards in Abidjan that that phase of the war involved “about 300 government troops and involved

Armed with Hecate 12.7mm anti-materiel rifles, FRF2 7.62x51 sniper rifle, and ERYX anti-tank missile, French Foreign Legionnaires set up positions at the Yamoussoukra Airport.



RAIDS Magazine

trucks and tanks.” Though he wouldn’t be drawn on the implications of the Ivoirian government hiring mercs, he conceded that most of the soldiers involved spoke English and that under the circumstances, this was unusual.

As one observer pointed out, the Ivory Coast is one of several Francophone states in West Africa and the only people who speak English in places like Abidjan, Douala in the Camerouns or Senegal’s Dakar are foreigners.

Second Recruitment Campaign Required

Fighting has been tough on both sides of the mercenary war in the Ivory Coast. So demanding, in fact, that a second recruiting campaign was launched early December by Sandline, in London.

British national Jim McGuire — formerly with South Africa’s crack Reconnaissance Commandos and before that, a participant in Rhodesia’s war — said in a message home — that some of the contacts with rebel forces that had crossed the border from neighboring Liberia and Burkina Faso had been vicious. There were quite a few mercs killed on both sides of the front, he reported.

The first batch of South Africans were originally hired at the behest of France’s most experienced war dog, Bob Denard, apparently acting under the auspices of the SDGE, the French Secret Service. A group of French agents arrived in Johannesburg early October and set up shop after putting



authors files

Corruption and disregard for their subjects among black leaders is the cause of much dissention throughout Africa. The youthful Sierra Leonian president Valentine Strasser (26 when he was ousted) was no exception. It was Strasser who invited Executive Outcomes to come and sort out the mess in his embattled country.

out the word that they were looking “for a few good men.” The original number hired was a “hardcore” eight, followed by another 40 professionals a few weeks later.

France, meanwhile, acquired three second-hand Russian-built Mi-24s — the Hind in NATO argot — and then had to recruit more South Africans to fly them.

Mercs On Strike

Pay is good, at about \$6,000 a month on quarterly contracts for white mercenary “officers,” with pilots getting about 60 percent more. Black mercs — also veterans of South Africa’s border wars — rate about \$1,000 a month which is about eight times what they are likely to get back home if they can get a job in a country where unemployment is widespread. The ratio of black-to-white within the

mercenary force is about 10 to one.

However, late reports as we go to press indicate that serious trouble exists relative to payment arrangements. The French concern, which hired the mercs, has apparently failed to come across as promised which prompted at least many of the mercs to go on strike until their wages are paid in full.

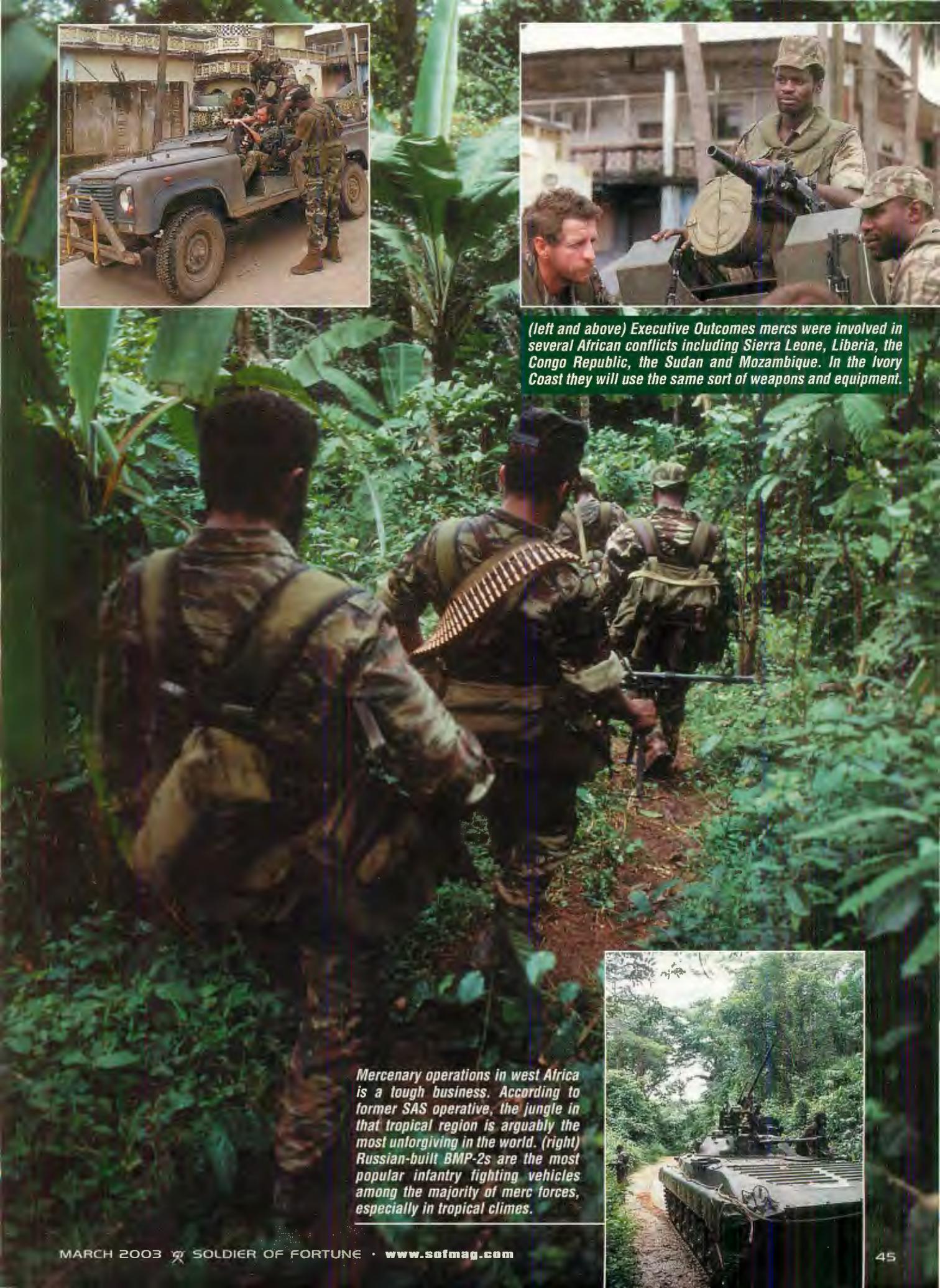
The French have inserted more than 1,500 troops in their largest military intervention in years. French forces have bloodied the rebels during several punch-ups and appear to be committed to suppressing the rebellion.



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(left and above) Executive Outcomes mercs were involved in several African conflicts including Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Congo Republic, the Sudan and Mozambique. In the Ivory Coast they will use the same sort of weapons and equipment.



Mercenary operations in west Africa is a tough business. According to former SAS operative, the jungle in that tropical region is arguably the most unforgiving in the world. (right) Russian-built BMP-2s are the most popular infantry fighting vehicles among the majority of merc forces, especially in tropical climates.



The matter continues to fester.

Interestingly, while an Act of Parliament has made any kind of mercenary activity illegal in South Africa, Pretoria looked the other way while the French were busy hiring. In fact, word has it that President Mbeki's government actually encouraged the recruitment drive, well aware that if the rebels weren't stopped in the Ivory Coast, the war could ultimately involve other countries, Nigeria included.

Angola is also a participant, having sent squads of men and enough military hardware to help government forces in the initial phase. It's worth mentioning that Angola and Nigeria together provide the United States with about 80 percent of all the oil it imports from Africa.

This is not the first deployment of war dogs in West Africa. Executive Outcomes forced Sierra Leone's rebels to the negotiating table in 1996 and, similarly, before that in Angola, and there has been a lot of mainly South African mercenary activity in embattled Liberia farther to the south. This is, however, the first time two South African-led merc forces have directly crossed swords in a conflict on the Dark Continent. Indeed, there are mercs on both sides of the conflict who know each other and have served in the same units.

Some, like Cobus Claassens — formerly a major in South Africa's crack Parachute Regiment — spent a while fighting for Executive Outcomes in Sierra Leone. Now he is battling his old Parabat buddies.

More of the Ivoirean mercs served in 32 Battalion and the SA Police anti-terrorist unit Koevoet. There is also a handful of Recce Commando section leaders. Others have a history of service in the old Rhodesian RLI and Selous Scouts. While not a youthful force, the South Africans are more than capable of transforming a largely nondescript, rag-tag Ivoirean Army into a crack fighting unit.

No Free Rides

The men are having to work for their money. The rebels have been making gains and there is little time for military instructions, which is why the South Africans — on both sides of the front — are doing most of the fighting themselves instead of relying on ill-trained Ivoireans.

Much, however, appears to be lacking in the planning department within the anti-rebel merc contingent. Another South African mercenary pilot, Garry Wright (also an EO vet) was left behind when his detachment hurriedly evacuated a forward base in the north of the country. He was forced to escape at night and drive about 200 miles through rebel-infiltrated territory to get back to his mates.

A late report out of Washington has expressed fears that the Ivory Coast could develop into a South African "battlefield" with Pretoria's mercenaries involved on

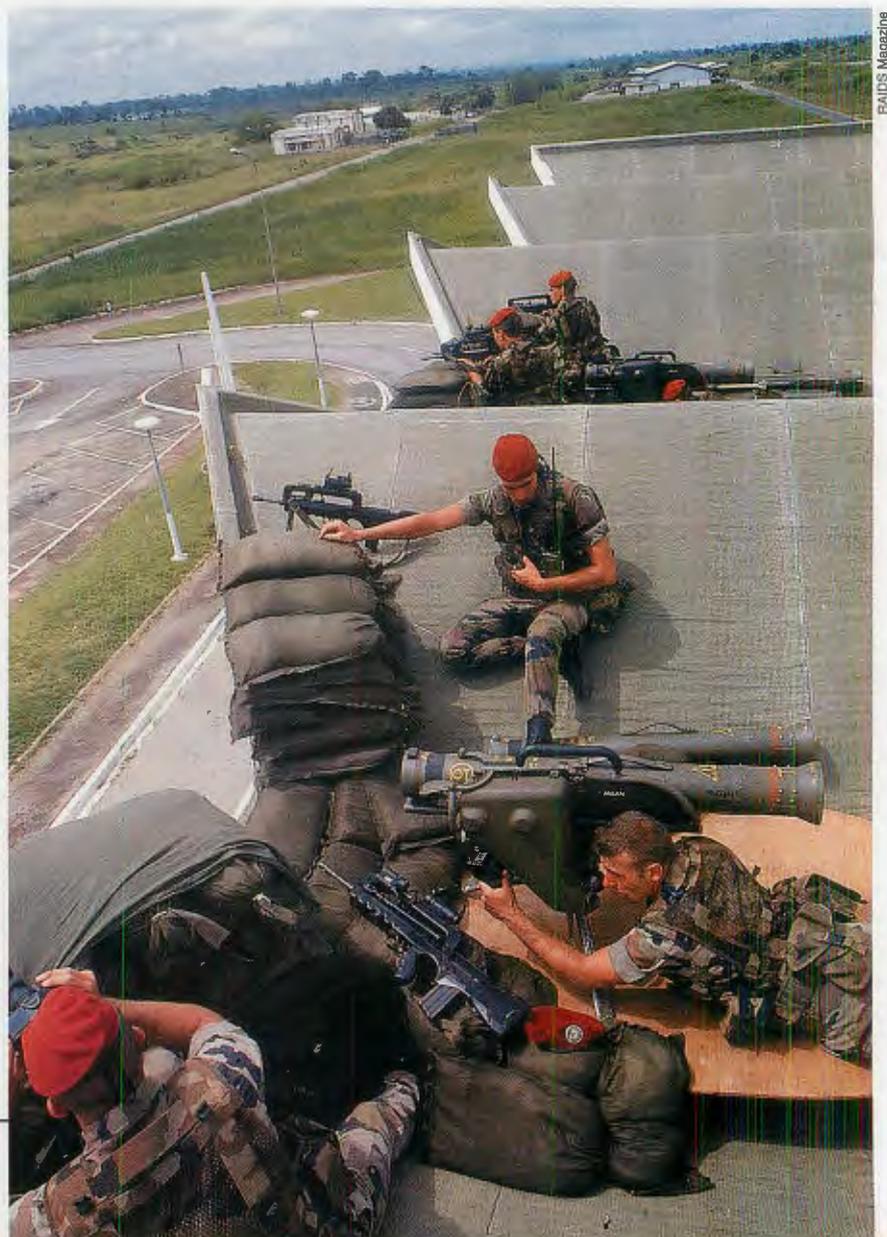
both sides. On a tour of France's former colonies in Africa, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said in Gabon that he was pleased that something was being done about rebel incursions. If the West stood still and did nothing about what was happening in the Ivory Coast, he stated, the country risked slipping "into the kind of strife the world had witnessed in recent years in Sierra Leone and Liberia."

Merc Recruitment Wins UN Approval

There are a variety of causes of the civil war in the Ivory Coast, formerly one of the most developed and pro-Western countries in Africa. But the most worrying ingredient to this continuing unrest was imported from the Middle East: strife between Christians and Muslim, evidence of which is today also found in countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal and Ghana.

Those of us knew the Ivory Coast well — I have visited the place, twice with my wife — and it was always a great destination.

For more than 30 years after independence in 1960, the Ivory Coast — an African state about twice the size of California — was conspicuous for its religious and ethnic harmony. While there was decline in much of the rest of Black



Foreign Legionnaires of the 1st RCP man Milan anti-tank missile system positions. French firepower and disciplined troops are expected to knock-out rebels.

Africa, its 16 million people prospered.

Abidjan, replete with skyscrapers, fine hotels, great restaurants and one of the most beautiful lagoon settings anywhere, was known to two generations of travelers around the world as "The Pearl of West Africa." Apart from Cape Town, 3,000 miles to the south there was — or is now — no city like it.

Under the benign dictatorship of its first president, French-educated Felix Houphouet-Boigny, a staunch Christian, the Ivory Coast became the world leading producers of the chocolate bean. For decades, cocoa was to Abidjan what coffee is today to Brazil's Sao Paulo. Then the "Grand Old Man" died and within a couple of years, in 1999, and Robert Guei, a military dissident, toppled Houphouet-Boigny's successor, Henri Bedie.

Bedie fled, but not before he had planted the seeds of ethnic discord by stirring up xenophobia against the country's Muslim northerners, including his main rival, Alassane Quattara. The present leader, Laurent Gbagbo, was elected in 2000 and almost immediately many of Quattara's Islamic supporters were killed. The country slipped into the kind of anarchy which has become symptomatic of many of the other states in the region. Nigeria and Ghana included: Muslims dominating the north and Christians the south.

By then, several wars were being waged in neighboring countries, including the rebel insurrection in Sierra Leone and a low-key, but escalating, guerrilla struggle in Liberia.

Common to them all was Burkina Faso, a staunchly Islamic country on the northern border of the Ivory Coast. Its Muslim population had gained clandestine support from the Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi to provide weapons and money to all these conflicts, and, more recently, to fuel anti-government dissension in the Ivory Coast.

Libya provides financial and material support for the rebels. Similarly, Libyan aircraft have been seen making unspecified deliveries to Ouagadougou, though this is perhaps to be expected, since Qaddafi has been involved in several recent insurrections in Africa.

This includes sending Libyan troops to the Central African Republic to back one of the participants in a military revolt. Qaddafi has also been involved in a succession of rebellions in the Congo. So, too, with the Cassamance insurrection in Senegal, a civil war in Guiné-Bissau and the chaos that has emerged in Zimbabwe where Libya has been supplying oil to keep the beleaguered Mugabe government



Writer Al Venter (center) on counter insurgency ops in West Africa. He is seen here with former Executive Outcomes merc Cobus Claassens (right), now working with the anti-Ivorian rebels.

viable. If the cause is anti-Western or there are American or European interests at stake, Libyan secret agents are certain to be active, particularly in Africa.

Qaddafi's involvement in Ivoirean affairs could be one reason why both Washington and London have remained mute on the recruitment of mercenaries to fight in an African war. So, too, with the United Nations, which is why the Ivoirean campaign is regarded as the first full-scale mercenary operation to win UN approval and sponsorship.

The Libyan dictator has a history of pushing a devious agenda in many of the surrounding African states, Sierra Leone and Liberia in particular. Without Qaddafi's aid, the Liberian tyrant Charles Taylor would never have been able to take over the government, which he did by force and murdering thousands of opposition supporters.

The same with many of the weapons used by the rebels in Sierra Leone. While that war raged, ordnance was ferried to the front first through Ouagadougou (courtesy of the Muslim government of Burkina Faso) and then on to Liberia. The same individuals are today acting in concert by fomenting war against the Ivory Coast.

An American intelligence source told this writer that what is of concern to the U.S. right now is that Burkina Faso's support for the Ivoirean rebels is seminal.

"Without Ouagadougou it could never have happened," he declared. Almost all the weapons deployed by the Ivoirean rebels — including SAMs, some medium-artillery as well as ground- and air-transport — has come from sources in that Sahel state.

Further, he disclosed, there were large numbers of Liberians and Burkina Faso nationals within the ranks of the rebel, largely Islamic force. He wouldn't comment as to whether there is an al-Qaeda component to the insurrection.

Al J. Venter has contributed to SOF for the past 27 years. ✕



Historic shot of the small group of Executive Outcomes mercs who finally drove the RUF rebels out of Sierra Leone diamondfields. Many of these fighters are now active in the Ivory Coast.

Land Warrior

Weapons System & MOUT Training

U.S. Army And Marines Gear-Up For "Goin' Downtown"

BY DALE B. COOPER



AFP PHOTO/Paul J. Richards

General Eric Shinseki, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, and General James Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, have problems with the administration's war plans to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein. The two generals, who also sit on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, question the wisdom of Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, and other top officials in the Bush Administration, who believe that Hussein's government will collapse once the bombs begin falling. They disagree with fellow JCS member, General John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, who holds that a massive air campaign, combined with Special Operations attacks and psychological warfare, will cause Saddam to fold his tent in the face of overwhelming force.

At press time, General Jones is leaving Washington to assume command of U.S. forces in Europe. Shinseki and Jones suspect that Wolfowitz & Co. are underestimating Saddam. They fear he will deploy his most loyal forces into "Fortress Baghdad" and challenge the U.S. to engage in bloody, protracted and costly street-fighting.

Urban combat is a killer. Just a few well-concealed snipers can wreak havoc on a squad, platoon, company and even a battalion of

U.S. Marines practicing Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT), the "warfare of tomorrow," search for a sniper in the streets of a practice city, at the U.S. Marine Corps Quantico, Virginia, training base. Fifty-eight journalists were participating in a seven-day "Media Boot Camp" being taught a variety of safety and general military informational courses in the event they should be called to report from a war zone.

infantry. But the folks at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, think they have come up with a way to reduce casualties in urban combat, while at the same time dealing with threats posed by snipers.

Land Warrior integrates small arms with high-tech equipment enabling ground forces to deploy, fight and win in urban areas, the battlefields of the 21st Century.

Land Warrior came about in 1991 when an Army study group recommended that the service look at the soldier as a complete weapons system. The first priority was lethality. The second, survivability, and the third, command and control.

Land Warriors like Specialist Gene Hopkins have several subsystems strapped to their arms, legs and backs. They also have a high-tech rifle, an integrated helmet assembly, protective clothing, and a computer/radio and software.

"With this array of electronic equipment, the infantryman can gather and transmit timely information from the battlefield to squads, platoons, companies and regiments," said Hopkins, "And we can also request fire-support if necessary or additional ammo drops.

Under the stress of combat, the average infantryman is only concerned about what is happening in his immediate area. Survival is the name of the game. He's not really concerned about the "big picture." But information he gathers with the Land Warrior system could be critical to the outcome of the battle. Hopkins says Land Warriors like him don't have time to analyze bits of information they gather, but superiors at regimental levels do have the staff to calmly analyze the raw data and take action.

"Now if every man within a platoon or company has this type of system on their back and they are dispersed on the battlefield, commanders are going to get a much better picture of what is happening and how to counter it," said Hopkins.

The Land Warrior weapons system is built around the M-16/M-4 modular carbine. It has a laser range-finder/digital compass, a daylight video camera, a laser-aiming light and a thermal sight. This system allows the infantryman to operate in all types of weather and at night. He can shoot around corners without exposing himself to enemy fire, simply by pointing the rifle around the corner, then looking into a 2-inch color TV screen in front of his right eye at what he is able to put a red dot on down the street.

"I can see what this rifle sees, and I can even see where the shots are hitting," said Hopkins. "I won't have to compromise my safety or another man's safety just to take a peek around a corner."

The tiny flat panel display is a helmet-mounted monocular day display that also contains a night sensor, a laser detection module, ballistic/laser eye protection, a microphone and a headset.

The protective clothing subsystem incorporates modular body armor and upgrade plates that can stop small-arms rounds fired at point-blank. It includes an integrated load-bearing frame, chemical/biological protective garments and modular rucksack.

The infantryman attacks the computer/radio subsystem to his load-bearing frame. Over this goes the rucksack for personal gear. The computer processor is fused with radios and a Global Positioning System locator. A hand-grip wired to the pack and attached to the soldier's chest acts as a computer mouse and also allows the wearer to change screens, key on the radio, change frequencies and send digital information.

The subsystem comes in two variants. The platoon-leader version has two radios and a flat panel display/keyboard. Individual members of the platoon have one radio. With the equipment, those leading and following can exchange infor-



Business Wire photo

The Land Warrior wearable computer system was designed for the U.S. Army by Pacific Consultants (PCLLC) who developed the VoIP, peer-to-peer secured Intranet communication, ad-hoc networking and the proprietary flex circuitry. PCLLC was able to provide the systems integration of the direct USB communication with the incorporation of TransDimension's USB host controller, including a wireless communications module, GPS receiver, mouse soldier control unit, audio subsystem, and weapons control functions such as the daylight video system, thermal sight and laser range-finder.

mation. Enlisted personnel using their weapon-mounted camera can send videos to their officers.

Finally, the software subsystem includes tactical and mission support modules, maps and tactical overlays, and the ability to capture and display video images.

The soldiers who will actually employ Land Warrior have been consulted every step of the way through the research and development stages. Prime contractor Raytheon worked with experts at the U.S. Army Infantry Center, at Fort Benning, Georgia, in designing the system.

One problem the Army must overcome before fielding Land Warrior is power. Current batteries last about 150 minutes with all systems running. In combat, soldiers won't have all of the systems going at the same time, but this is still not acceptable, says Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert Serino, Land Warrior project manager at Fort Belvoir. Other batteries



Shot rings out in MOU Town and takes down a SAW gunner. Other Marines hug the wall of a schoolhouse while trying to locate the source of the hostile fire.



Marine squad readies to search for a sniper in a darkened room inside a MOU Town two-story building.



The Washington Times' photographer Gerald Herbert moves into line of fire to shoot a photo of the downed SAW gunner — before taking a paint bullet to the right side of his face shield.



Marines, with specially equipped M16s loaded with paint bullets, move into MOU Town in search of enemy snipers.

currently being developed by the Army's Communications-Electronics Command may push the time up to 30 hours.

The Army plans to test the Land Warrior system this spring with a platoon of "Screaming Eagles" from the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Later, a battalion-sized test is planned.

Some Marines Skeptical

The program will cost about \$2 billion when 45,000 sets of the equipment are fielded between now and 2014. The Marine Corps is interested in Land Warrior, but some officers at the Basic School at Quantico have their doubts about whether Land Warrior can take the punishment dished out on the battlefield.

One of the biggest problems during the Gulf War was sand and dust that not only reduced visibility, but also clogged engine intakes in armored vehicles and aircraft and damaged helicopter rotors. In Afghanistan, the biggest challenge to crew chiefs on Chinooks that hauled troops into combat was keeping their engines clean. One crew chief said he had to so an engine wash after every mission. Marines fear Land Warrior's high-tech equipment won't last long in a dusty, dirty environment.

Land Warrior might work well in Los Angeles or Washington, but there's a feeling in the Corps that when it comes to rooting-out the enemy in Third World countries like Iraq, it still has to be done the old-fashioned way — with a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

Urban Areas: The New Battlefields

U.S. forces haven't had to deal with urban combat in some time, but the Republican Guard, some 50-thousand strong, have sworn they will fight to the death, building-to-building in Baghdad, if the United States invades Iraq and tries to topple the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

Major Jeffrey Cheney, Director of the Infantry Officer Course at Quantico Marine Base, Virginia, says there's a 65- to 70-percent chance U.S. forces will be operating in an urban environment in coming conflicts.

Most tin-horn dictators like Saddam Hussein know they don't stand a chance of going toe-to-toe with U.S. forces in open terrain like he tried to do in 1991. So Cheney figures future battles will be fought in urban areas like Baghdad.

"If you look at some of the conflicts that have been going on in some other parts of the world, urban conflict is definitely a prime factor, whether it's in a developing country like Somalia, or in an Old-World setting, like Chechnya, you see a lot of combat in our urban terrain, and we need to be ready for it," said Cheney.

The Marine Corps War Fighting Laboratory at Quantico has been doing experiments such as "Urban Warrior" in actual urban areas in the United States.

Since the slaughter of U.S. Army Rangers in Mogadishu, U.S. war-planners have realized that most of the centers of gravity of their enemies are contained in urban environments.

Entering MOUT Town

American soldiers and Marines have been training for the past decade to meet the challenge of urban combat. The U.S. Army trains a lot of its troops at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The United States Marine Corps trains its future platoon leaders at "MOUT Town" on the Quantico Marine Base, in Virginia.

MOUT is short for "Military Operations Urban Terrain." And MOUT Town looks like your average middle-eastern burg. Burned-out cars and van hulks litter the streets, and graffiti is scribbled on the walls.

It is here that newly-minted second lieutenants, or "but-ter bars," are baptized under fire during MOUT Week.

"We teach them that death awaits them around every corner, whether it's a sniper's bullet or a booby trap," said Major J.J. Wanat, an instructor in the infantry course. But none of the newly commissioned second lieutenants die during the course in urban combat. They just have their pride hurt when they get hit.

Recently, this reporter was allowed to tag-along with two squads that entered MOUT Town in search of a sniper.

The Ultimate Paint-Ball Game

It happened in the blink of an eye. A shot *crackled* and down went the SAW gunner. The young second lieutenant was walking point along a cinderblock building just like page 1-17-38 in Book 1B of the *Marine Corps Common Skills Handbook* told him to do. Before he and the rest of his squad could cross the open street, he had to take a peek around the corner and see if the area was clear. That's when a sniper nailed him with a low-velocity red-paint bullet. Had it been a real bullet, the young Marine officer would have had a sucking chest wound — and perhaps would have ended up dead.

"Hey! Somebody help me drag him back inside the building!" yelled the young officer as Marines behind him hugged the wall of the building.

When a photographer from *The Washington Times*, partic-

ipating in the first Department of Defense "Boot Camp" for selected journalists who want to accompany front-line combat units in case of war with Iraq, stepped out of the shadows into the fading sunlight to shoot a picture of the man WIA at the corner of the building, he met the same fate.

WHACK! A paint slug struck his face shield. Had it been a real round, he'd be dead. Had Gerald Herbert lifted his Plexiglas face shield to better frame the picture, he'd have lost his right eye, and perhaps his life, had the slug penetrated his brain.

A half-hour later, a sniper almost shot off my hand when I slid a mini-disc tape recorder onto the ledge of a window in a building across the street to record the sounds of a Marine who had just been stitched across the chest with paint bullets.

I had followed the team into the first floor of a two-story building in town to flush-out any snipers that might be lurking in its dark rooms. Finding none, I left, then ducked around the corner of the building where I felt safe. Just as the team tried to exit the building, a machine gun opened-up. Down went three Marines, two dead before they hit the floor; the third was about to die.

The Marines inside the building had needlessly exposed themselves to the sniper by passing in front of an open window. *The Marine Corps Handbook* stresses the proper technique for passing a window; stay below window-level.

The surviving members of the Marine fire team were in a tight spot. They had no idea where the shots were coming from.

I could hear the wounded Marine writhing in pain on the concrete floor and a steady stream of paint bullets ricocheting around the room as the sniper armed with a SAW continued to fire through the open window.

Wanting to record some of what was going on inside the room, I carefully opened wooden shutters on a side window and slid my tape recorder up on the ledge. A few minutes later, when I reached for it, a burst of three paint slugs slammed into the shutter just above my knuckles. The metallic silver Sony MD Walkman recorder apparently caught a ray of fading sunlight and gave away my position. I had been in town for less than 30 minutes, and had seen four of eight Marines, and one of my colleagues gunned down.

Later, Second Lieutenant Seth Molton, one of two snipers in MOUT Town, talked about the damage he had done.

"I took out four or five Marines myself before they even knew where I was. So you can see how just one sniper can really wreak havoc of a lot of Marines," said Molton who also talked about ambushing another squad.

Molton had a real good position behind a muslin curtain in the basement of an abandoned building. He patiently waited for the Marines to go by before shooting six of them in the back.

Like any good sniper, Molton moved immediately just in case someone had seen something that would have given away his position.

Marine Sergeant Todd Stolte, a Scout-Sniper, who also whacked his share of young lieutenants, says some of them stared at him through their gun sights, but couldn't see him. The next thing they felt was Stolte tattooing their chests with paint bullets. Two quick KIAs.

"This where wars of the 21st Century will be fought," said fellow Sgt. Christopher Maynard, a MOUT instructor, "right in streets like this one."

"We have to learn to fight here," said Captain John Mahoney, another MOUT instructor. "And we have to learn

Continued on page 76

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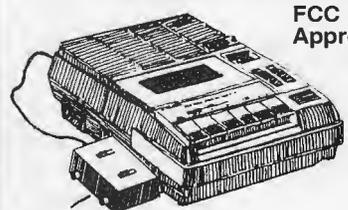
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Iraq War Strategy

BY ROWAN SCARBOROUGH

Last spring, General Tommy Franks made one of his frequent trips from MacDill Air Force Base, in Tampa, to the Pentagon. Franks, as chief of U.S. Central Command, was often spotted on the building's E-Ring. After all, he was running the nation's most important war since Desert Storm 10 years earlier. Franks commanded more than 6,000 American troops in Afghanistan doing the gritty work of weeding-out hardcore Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld likes to be briefed often, and in person, if possible.

But on this brisk day in April, Franks' agenda dealt with

another country in his area of responsibility — Iraq. Hardliners inside the Pentagon, led by Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, had convinced President Bush that the global war against terrorism must include covert or overt action to topple Saddam Hussein.

Saddam is a known supporter of terrorists and a known developer of weapons of mass-destruction.

Those two brewing stews — the thought of Saddam's

A U.S. Army Abrams tank kicks-up sand during an 8 December 2002 exercise in the northern Kuwait desert.

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weapons finding their way to Osama bin Laden's murderous al-Qaeda network — made beheading Baghdad of Saddam and his henchmen just as important as demolishing terror groups themselves.

What Gen. Franks, an artillery officer by training, presented to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that day was a plan for over 200,000 U.S. troops and a massive land invasion. One Air Force officer derided the plan as Desert Storm II — when Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf assembled more than 500,000 U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf region before attacking Iraq and invading Kuwait to liberate it. With advancements in precision munitions, the officer said, there was no reason to put a large number of ground troops in harm's way.

While the four-star general's war plan received criticism inside the Pentagon, it served its purpose on a broader scale. Over the next seven months, key Bush administration players debated and re-debated war plans. Central Command planners revised and tinkered with various scenarios. The Joint Staff, the Joint Chiefs of Staff planning arm, put in their two cents.

The internal debate generally broke this way. Rumsfeld's civilian policymakers, the group of hardliners led by Wolfowitz, favored a relatively small ground force. They believed massive air assault, coupled with CIA paramilitary, special-operations forces, indigenous armies and defecting Iraqi units, could do the job — quickly. Vice President Richard Cheney, a major voice in the debate, favored this approach.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Buster Glosston, who designed the devastating air war against Iraq in 1991, told *The Washington Times* that to duplicate Desert Storm "is not

(above) U.S. Army Specialist Derek Watson (right) leads a squad from Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon of the 3/15 Infantry Regiment of Fort Stewart, Georgia during a trench-clearing exercise in the northern Kuwaiti desert, 9 December 2002. There are some 12,000 U.S. troops in Kuwait for training, many within just 5 kilometers (3 miles) of the Iraqi border.

(above, right) Soldiers from the 19th Support Center fire a machine gun during training in a desert support and resupply "pit stop" in the northern Kuwaiti desert, 8 miles from the Iraqi border, 9 December 2002.

(right) Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry conduct dismount drills with the 1st Platoon, 9 December 2002 along the Iraqi border in north-western Kuwait. The Fort Stewart-based soldiers are deployed in support of Operation Desert Spring.





AFP PHOTO/Yasser AL-ZAYYAT

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only militarily unwise, it defies common sense."

"My only nightmare is seeing great numbers of our sons and daughters moving prematurely from Basra and Mosul to Baghdad," said the former Vietnam fighter pilot.

"There is no doubt this Roman legion approach to fighting Iraq would also result in victory, but at what cost? We can only trust and pray that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs [Gen. Richard Myers] and secretary of defense will say no if such a recommendation is made."

"There is no doubt this Roman legion approach to fighting Iraq would also result in victory, but at what cost? ..."

A Compact Initial Invasion Force

But Gen. Franks and his commanders favored a larger role for ground forces. Most Army commanders, despite Air Force claims about air-delivered munitions, believe wars still require boots on the ground to take and hold ground.

In the end, Mr. Bush approved a general war plan that gave each side some of what they wanted. If the U.S. goes to war, historians will write that the final strategy represented a compromise between the civilian and military leadership.

Franks got his 200,000-plus combination of soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen.

But the initial invasion force will be kept relatively compact at 60,000 to 80,000. Tens of thousands of additional ground troops will be kept on a hair-trigger in reserve at bases in Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar and other nearby locations. If the ground invasion bogs down, the reserves would come to the rescue.

Military sources said the ground operation would rely much more on airlift to get troops inside Iraqi than did the 1991 operation. Troops would be based in Turkey and flown inside Iraq to set up forward operating bases from where they would launch raids on key Iraqi targets, such as Saddam's hometown base of Tikrit.

In the south, tanks and armored vehicles would move the relatively short distance to Basra, where the majority Shia population mounted a post-war rebellion in 1991, only to be crushed by Saddam's Republican guard. U.S. airborne troops would also set up forward operating bases south of Baghdad, under plans discussed in November.

In the fall and early winter, Franks attempted to disguise the buildup of forces as much as possible, making Baghdad guess on exactly when "H hour" might occur. Some advocate a "rolling build-up" in which the war would begin before all troops are in the Gulf theater.

The order of battle: 250,000 troops; four carrier battle groups with roughly 300 aircraft; hundreds of Air Force land-based fighter-bombers; four or more Army divisions; one Marine division.

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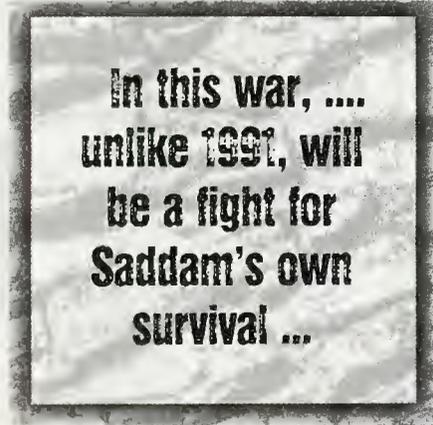
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The B-2's important role will highlight a major difference in a new campaign compared with Desert Storm. In that war, only 10 percent of all munitions were precision-guided, primarily in the form of laser-directed bombs and terrain-following cruise missiles. This time, Air Force sources say, more than eight in 10 munitions will be "smart." The major improvement comes in the form of the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAMS), a weapon not operational 10 years ago.



Now, virtually every long-range and tactical bomber carries the weapon. In Desert Storm, only the now-retired A-6 Intruder took-off from aircraft carriers with the capability to drop laser bombs. Today, both the Navy's F-14 Tomcat and the F-18 Hornet launch with the capability to release laser or satellite bombs.

There will also be extensive use of special-operations troops to find and disable Iraq's remaining Scud missiles, of which there could be as many as 50. Planners do not want a repeat of 1991, when Saddam lobbed ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia and Israel, creating pandemonium among civilians. In this war, which unlike 1991 will be a fight for Saddam's own survival, planners expect Baghdad to load the missiles with chemical or biological warheads that could bring mass death. One option called for inserting Army Delta Force commandoes into western Iraq to hunt and demolish the Scud launchers closest to Israel.

The Pentagon has taken tentative steps to train Kurds in the north to help

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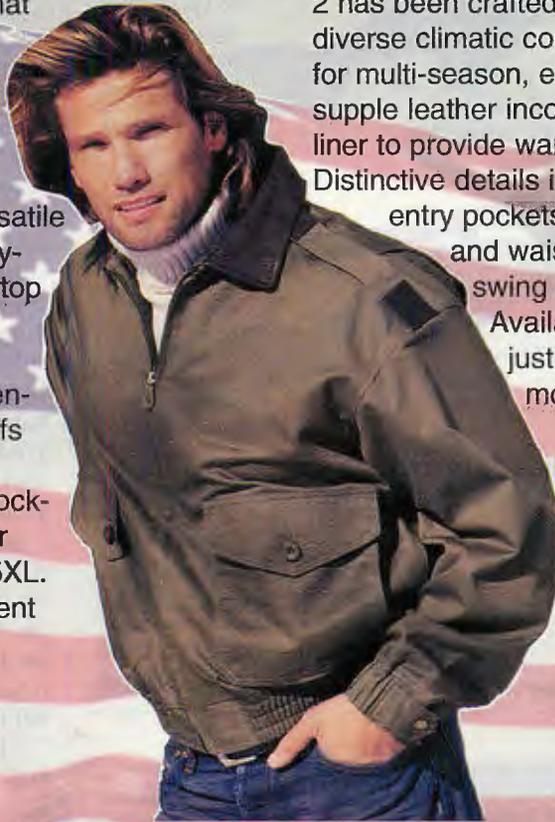
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U.S. and British ground troops. Bush's hardline conservative policy-makers advocated this war component as a way to reduce the need for American ground troops. CIA officers were in Iraq last fall laying the groundwork.

Counting On Defections

The U.S. is also counting greatly on Iraqi generals to defect and either order their units not to fight or to turn them against Saddam's most loyal defenders — the Republican Guard that rings Baghdad, and the special Republican Guard that serves as his own layered security force inside the city. Saddam set up the special Guard units after several failed assassination attempts following his Gulf War defeat. Not much information has been published about these secretive units. Their exact numbers remain sketchy. But military analysts say Saddam handpicked their unit commanders, who can be expected to stay loyal to Saddam right to the end.

Military sources say the administration is not repeating a mistake made in the build-up before 1991. This time, the U.S. will communicate with the Iraqi military to assure them there is no U.S. desire to conquer Iraq or kill their troops.

"In the Gulf War, one mistake we made was seeing the war as a war against Iraq, as opposed to a war against Saddam," said retired Air Force Col. John Warden, who, from a Pentagon basement room, helped design the 1991 air campaign. "When we allowed ourselves to think in that way, we made an enemy of the Iraqi military, rather than thinking at that time what would we need to get the Iraqi military to march on Baghdad. We attacked the Iraqi military and made it virtually impossible for them to do anything."

This time, Warden argues, it is imperative to cut Saddam off from his forces by getting him on the run and in hiding. "If things look that grim — Hitler in the bunker — I'm not sure that many people would follow his orders," Warden said.

The war campaign's theme will be extremely fast operations. Create as much chaos within Iraq's power structure and military as possible so they do more running and surrendering, than fighting.

Mr. Bush himself sent that signal in remarks to reporters in November. "I also want to remind you that should we

Continued on page 79

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A MEDAL Or A Court-Martial?

“Much Ado About Nothing”

BY ROB KROTT

Editor's note: Shortly before publication, SOF learned that Master Corporal Arron Perry was informed officially by his chain of command that he is prohibited by military law from speaking about “military matters” to members of the press without clearance and must inform his chain of command, in writing, of any press requests. MCPL Perry last spoke with SOF two months before the November 2002 gag order that prevents him from speaking to the press. Any inaccuracies are SOF's.

ON 4 April 2002, the Canadian Army recalled one of its snipers from Afghanistan to face a court-martial for supposedly shouting at a chaplain. Recommended by the U.S. Army for a Bronze Star for his actions in Afghanistan, Master Corporal Arron Perry is one of five Canadian snipers of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3PPCLI) Battle Group commended by American commanders for merit or valor during missions to hunt down Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters. During Operation Anaconda the Canadian snipers were attached to a company from the 101st Airborne Division that became pinned down by heavy enemy fire in the Shah-i-Kot Valley. (see “Bolt-Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Canadian Snipers in Afghanistan,” *SOF*, August and September 2002).

Rather than being lauded as a hero MCPL Perry, 30, was ordered back to his regiment's home base in Edmonton, Alberta for a court-martial for allegedly making a threatening remark to Captain André Gauthier, a Canadian chaplain.

The Canadian officers who preferred the charges allege Perry pointed his finger in Capt. Gauthier's direction and yelled “Fuck him.” Perry told *Soldier Of Fortune* that, “I did say that, those words, but the padre had nothing to do with it. It was not directed at him. He was not in the conversation.” Perry also told *SOF* that he began experiencing war-related stress and frustration in March after he had completed two combat missions and returned to the Canadian battle group's base camp near Kandahar. A Canadian officer in Afghanistan cautioned Perry shortly after he returned to the base that he was under investigation for a photograph taken of a dead Afghan fighter. A cigarette had been stuck in

the corpse's mouth and a sign on its chest read, “Fuck Terrorism.” Perry denies responsibility for posing any corpse for a photograph. He told *SOF* that a journalist, Stephen Thorne of the Canadian Press, took the photo on a digital camera, which Thorne later showed to Colonel Stogran, the commander of the Canadian battlegroup. According to another Canadian soldier present, Thorne was also accompanied by at least one Canadian officer when he took the photo. Others are known to have snapped photos. At least one hundred U.S. troops were in the immediate vicinity, and possibly that many Canadians.

Perry said he was angry about the investigation and what he says were his unappreciative leaders. He had recently participated in Operation Anaconda and Operation Harpoon, but received little in the way of congratulations and no formal stress debriefing on his return to Kandahar. He was venting his feelings with some fellow soldiers near his tent when the chaplain walked by and overheard him swearing. He was upset because the night before his tent was searched by the Canadian Forces National Investigative Service (NIS) and he'd had a meeting with his commander and talked with a U.S. Army chaplain. Both were asking about possible atrocities or trophy photos. The U.S. chaplain informed Perry he would have a stress-debriefing for the soldier (this was three weeks after Anaconda). Perry was speaking to his friends later in a private conversation when the Canadian chaplain walked by and took offense at his words.

On 1 April, shortly after the incident, Perry was charged with misconduct under Article 129, Conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline. Perry was informed two days after Capt. Gauthier walked by the tent. Perry had just left the stress debriefing with a U.S. chaplain and in his words, “I was feeling pretty good; we all thought it was a good stress debriefing.” The battlegroup RSM then asked Perry to surrender his weapon. Perry thought it was an impromptu inspection, but instead was informed of his rights and told he was charged. Rather than accept a summary trial by his commander (which, unlike a U.S. Army non-judicial punishment under Article 15, could result in

jail time) Perry immediately requested a court-martial. The two lines typed on his charge sheet gave the time and place and said he had pointed at Capt. Gauthier and said, "Fuck him." Three days later, he was sent back to the Edmonton Garrison, confined to the city of Edmonton, forbidden from carrying a weapon, and assigned to a supply job to await his court-martial. "I'm disappointed in the way I've been treated by my unit. Look at what they did to me. This is how they show their appreciation to me, by sending me back to Canada." Other soldiers in Perry's unit have verified that other soldiers made overt threats to a section leader and to an officer, in one case stating, "I'm going to kill you." According to them these soldiers were not placed under escort, as Perry was, but were simply returned to Canada. To add insult to injury, Perry was slated to participate in a memorial ceremony for the four Canadian soldiers killed in a friendly fire incident in Afghanistan. He was summarily removed from participation in the ceremony on the last day of rehearsal. Several Canadian soldiers have told *Soldier Of Fortune* that this was due to the heated objections of Col. Stogran's wife to Perry's presence at the memorial.

On 29 July, Perry, who has always denied that he swore at the chaplain, was told the army had dropped the misconduct charge. It has been the subject of articles such as "Trophy photo probe sidelines sniper: soldier cleared of other charge,

in line for U.S. medal," by Charlie Gillis of the *National Post* and "Disgusted soldier set to quit: misconduct charge dropped, but sniper bitter about experience," by Chris Purdy of *The Edmonton Journal*. Major General Lewis MacKenzie (Ret.) published an editorial in the *National Post* entitled "Hang in there, Master Corporal," urging Perry to remain in the military and cautioning the public that "we had better get used to the more unsavory side of conflict." Perry has also experienced an outpouring of support from local citizens, church groups, and veterans organizations, receiving hundreds of phone calls and many more personal expressions of gratitude for his participation in combat.

Canada's Culture Of Disdain

Previously the story (of Perry's recall) was published widely in Canada including the local paper, *The Edmonton Journal*; internationally in such newspapers as the *London Daily Telegraph*; and on various web sites to include Col. David Hackworth's "Soldiers For The Truth." Some military pundits used the over-publicized event to decry what they called Canada's culture of disdain for its armed services. As a soldier whose personal and professional reputation was besmirched by the allegations Perry wants an apology from the military.

Perry told SOF, "I would love an apology and I know my parents would love an apology. My mother is incredibly upset



author's files

*The corpse in the eye of the storm. This cockroach gets more respect from the Canadian government than MCPL Arron Perry, who put it on the line in Afghanistan. Sign on corpse, illegible in this photo, says "**** Terrorism."*

over this whole thing. This is something that's damaged my reputation as a soldier and as a person. It's been a painful experience for me and my family." Perry believes the accusations could have been resolved immediately if senior officers had simply spoken to witnesses on the spot rather than filing charges and shipping him home. He is particularly upset with being sent home in disgrace before he could finish his tour of duty in Afghanistan.

But according to Canadian defense officials Perry will receive no formal apology for the chaplain incident as he is still under investigation by the National Investigative Service (NIS) over the "trophy" photo of the dead al-Qaeda or Afghan fighter. While no charges have been laid in that incident, Paul Evans, a civilian senior communications officer with the Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) National Defense Headquarters media liaison office in Ottawa, confirmed to *Soldier Of Fortune* that the investigation is continuing. Mr. Evans refused to comment on any investigation of a trophy photo or even confirm that MCPL Perry is indeed the subject of the investigation. However, Perry was informed that he is the subject of an NIS investigation and remains suspended from duty.

The ongoing investigation leaves the military in no position to place him back on duty, much less apologize to him. Captain Holly Apostoliuk, G5 Public Affairs officer for the



The six snipers from Canada's 3 PPCLI battlegroup pose for a photo with a McMillian "Tac Fifty" sniping rifle. MCPL Arron Perry (kneeling, right), 3 PPCLI sniper who was commended by U.S. Army officers for his actions during Op Anaconda in Afghanistan, is currently under investigation by the Canadian government.

Land Force Western Area told *Soldier Of Fortune*, "He is under investigation for another alleged incident. And while under investigation he has been suspended from duty." Captain Apostoliuk confirmed that Perry has not been charged and could not comment further on the investigation. According to a DND fact sheet "Relief from Performance of Military Duty" forwarded to *SOF* by Capt. Apostoliuk, "a commanding officer or formation commander (CO/Comd) may relieve a member from performance of military duty where: the CO/Comd has reasonable grounds to believe that the member has committed an offence under an Act of Parliament (such as the National Defence Act) or provincial legislature, and an investigation has commenced ... " (italics added). According to the statement "Relief from the performance of military duty is not a form of discipline or

sanction." While suspended from duty MCPL Perry continues to receive full pay and allowances and full administrative support including medical and dental care.

Canadian defense officials and military officers have been unusually sensitive to any hint of misconduct since a scandal involving Canadian paratroopers serving as peacekeepers in Somalia where a Somali prisoner was tortured to death while in custody. The Canadian Airborne Regiment was disbanded during the attendant media circus and courts-martial.

During the Canadian-led Operation Harpoon, Perry and

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two fellow snipers were bivouacked on a ridge known as "The Whale." U.S. soldiers had already killed Afghan fighters near their position. Perry claims they slept near those bodies for about four days. When asked by SOF in an interview months ago he denied any involvement in the posing of the corpse, but now, citing the ongoing investigation, Perry will neither confirm nor deny any participation in staging the photo: "I'm not commenting only because I have to protect myself, or any other person who might have been just walking by at the time and could be implicated." Perry declined to tell *Soldier Of Fortune* anything more about who might have played a role in placing the cigarette or the sign with one of the bodies. But he agrees with the sign's message. "I'm not saying I did any of it, but I support it. If there was a sign on that body, then I can say right now that, however it got there, I support that." Nor is he upset that such a photo was allegedly taken. According to Perry, "When Americans first went over, they put firefighter signs and police signs on the dead enemy bodies. They took pictures and sent them back home." Perry said friends at home have asked him about the photo. "A couple people have asked me, 'Do you have the picture?' I said, 'I wish I did, but I don't.'" Perry told SOF that he has received various media queries from reporters, including Stephen Thorne, who supposedly took at least one photo of the body using his digital camera, interested in obtaining the photo. Perry, meanwhile, has not been charged in connection with the photo. Whether the investigation will harm his chance of receiving a U.S. medal is unclear.

Pentagon Approval Not Yet Received

While U.S. commanders have recommended the Canadians for Bronze Stars, the Pentagon has not yet given them final approval or coordinated with Canada's DND to award them. Perry and the other snipers are eligible to receive a variety of U.S. Army awards, depending on the circumstances and recommendations of local commanders. Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Yantis, Media Relations Officer for Army Public Affairs informed *Soldier Of Fortune* that "In this instance, any such recommendation must originate at U.S. Army Central Command headquarters." Colonel Yantis also said that pending awards are not discussed. When con-

Continued on page 80



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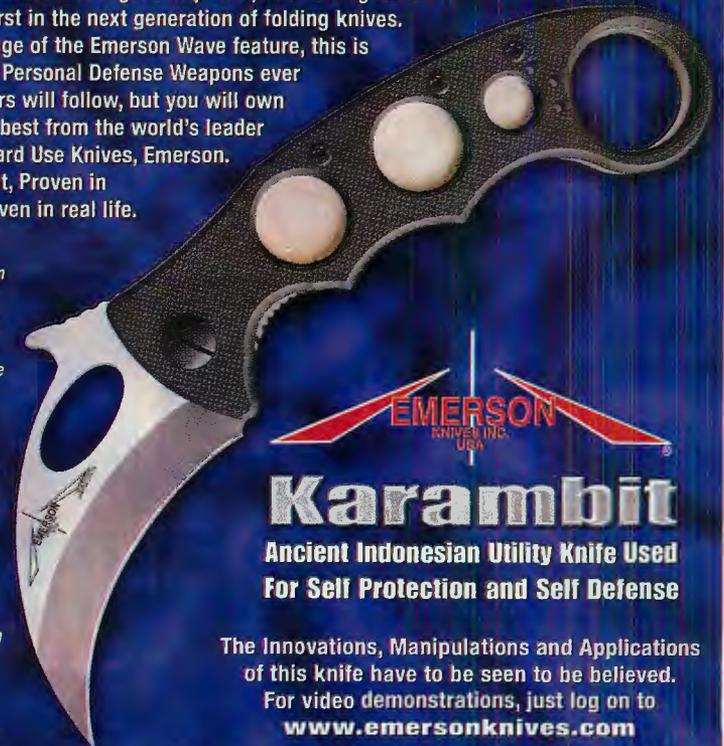
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n the June 2002 issue of *SOF* we brought you exclusive information on the U.S. Special Operation Command's (USSOCOM) new Special Purpose Rifle (SPR). Readers who saw that article will recall that it was originally conceived as the Special Purpose Receiver (SPR), a multi-purpose precision assault rifle-conversion for the Enhanced Carbine. It was created by the Special Forces with prototype support from the USAMU Match Shop. However, it soon became the Special Purpose Rifle when SOCOM procured a large number of surplus M16A1 rifles, the lower receivers from which were used to build the SPR as a complete rifle. Built on an ArmaLite M4A1 flattop upper receiver, the SPR uses a heavy 416 stainless-steel, match, 1"-8"-twist barrel by Douglas, Krieger, or Schneider.

Affixed to the flattop upper receiver by a special barrel nut, the barrel is machined to accept a folding front sight made by Precision Reflex (PRI). At the rear of the receiver is an A.R.M.S. folding rear sight using a torsion spring to automatically spring up into position when released, and it returns upright even if it has been knocked down, an airborne requirement. Two trigger systems are under review by operators, one the single-stage Match Full-Auto model from Accuracy Speaks, and the other, the two-stage Match Full-Auto trigger from Knight's Armament.

Mounted on the SPR is a PRI tubular carbon-fiber handguard. Leaving the barrel totally free-floating, the handguard is reinforced by a special extended-length #38 Mod. SPR Swan sleeve with an A.R.M.S. M1913 MilStd rail. Anchored to the flattop receiver, this rigid sleeve reinforces the handguard. The SPR uses the ERGO Grip by Falcon Industries. As with the basic Enhanced Carbine, the SPR uses SOCOM's OPS, Inc. sound suppressor; PRI's M84 charging handle is used to provide easy access with a scope mounted and to deflect gas back-blast away from the shooter's eyes.

In 2000, some 150 SPRs were produced with the main components being painted desert tan color, using baked-on Cal-Guard. Due to delayed delivery time of the operator-selected C-More Systems 1.75-7.5X fully illuminated mil-dot reticle lightweight SPR Scope, the 1st-generation SPR was issued with a special M3LR Leupold telescopic sight. Of 3.5-10X36mm, this 30mm scope also has an illuminated mil-dot reticle. The SPR was issued with proprietary 5.56x45mm ammunition developed for SF by the AMU. Loaded with 77-gr. Sierra Match King bullets by Black Hills Ammunition Company, of Rapid City, South Dakota, this



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TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON



round has reportedly made pinpoint hits on the enemy in Afghanistan out to 600-plus yards.

The SPR-A (Alternate)

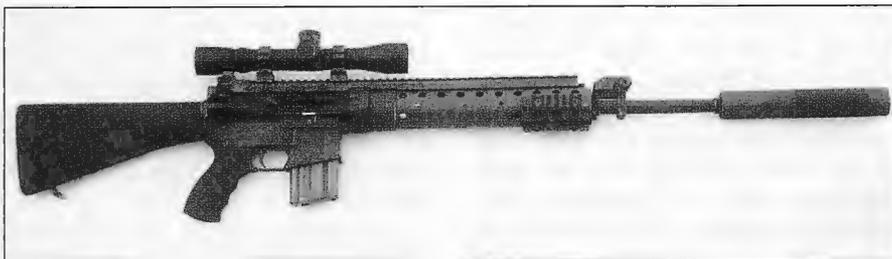
As with all other new weapons in the Military, the SPR is an evolutionary rifle, and in the aftermath of the 9-11 attack on America, an additional quantity of these rifles was hurriedly requested by SOCCOM. Called the SPR-A (Alternate), this second run of SPRs uses Douglas Premium Match Grade barrels, a redesigned/reinforced handguard, and a brand-new Leupold optic.

Requiring a modified version of the original #38 SPR Mod. SWAN Sleeve from A.R.M.S., Inc., the SPR-A uses a totally redesigned barrel-nut system with an extended alloy tube to reinforce the new free-floating handguard made by Precision Reflex. Also different about this handguard is the addition of a heat shield on the inside. Precision Reflex has also redesigned the folding front sight. The drum-type elevation adjustment has been eliminated, and a standard M16A2 front

The new SPR-Alternate (SPR-A) uses a unique 2.5-8x40mm Leupold scope with a 4-inch eye-relief. As with the first version, this one is a component assembled onto an M16A1 lower receiver group.

sight has replaced it. In addition, this sight does not require that the unlocking button be depressed to deploy it, but only to fold it back down, and the means of attaching the sight to the barrel has also been improved.

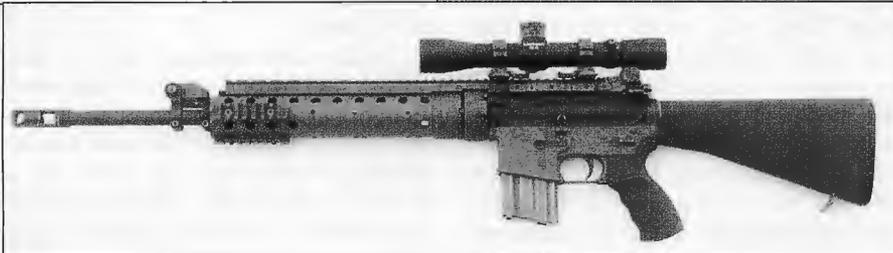
Made exclusively for SOCCOM, the new Leupold scope is called the TS-30, a 2.5-8x40mm scope on a 30mm tube. The reticle is a conventional Mil Dot type and adjustment clicks are 1 minute for elevation and 1/2 minute for windage. Most unusual about the TS-30 is that it has a 4-inch eye-relief. This allows the scope to be mounted farther forward on the #38 SWAN Sleeve, making it easier to get on target and follow moving targets by keeping both eyes open. The scope mounts to the sleeve using A.R.M.S. #22 ThrowLever 30mm rings.



Here the SPR-A is seen from the right side with a mock-up of the OPS Sound Suppressor in place and a 20-round magazine inserted. (below) Seen from the left side, the SPR-A has the OPS Suppressor removed, leaving its internal muzzle brake on the rifle. The SPR-A can be used with or without the suppressor.

Marksman Rifle (SMR), is reportedly also in the works. Lighter than the SPR, the SMR uses a 1-in-7" 20" Krieger barrel, a new gas block, bayonet lug, and a KAC Rail Adapter System (RAS). The scope used is believed to be from U.S. Optics. The USMC has reportedly also adopted the 77-gr. 5.56mm NATO cartridge designed for the SPR as standard-issue, along with a new version of the M16. We hear this new model will be called the M16A4, and that it will use a flattop receiver with a heavy barrel.

Since the SPR-A is essentially an upper receiver group assembled onto an existing M16A1 lower receiver group, it can be legally owned and used on any semi-automatic (only) MilSpec



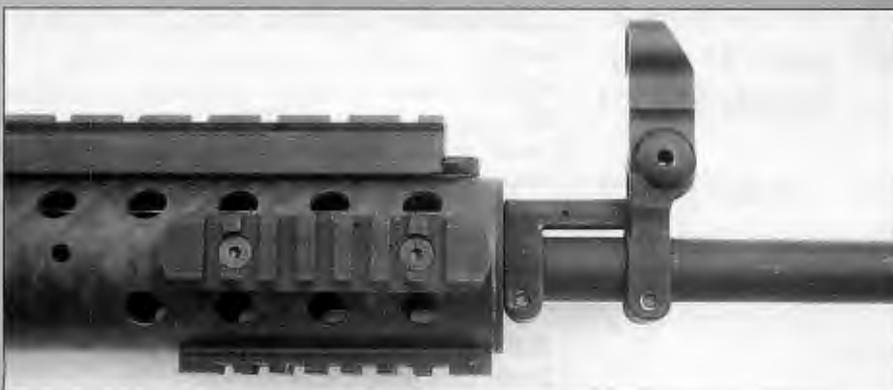
AR-15-style lower receiver component, just as can any competition upper receiver assembly. Although A.R.M.S., Inc. did not commercially market its #38 SPR Sleeve used on the initial SPR, it will be possible for law enforcement and collectors to purchase this and other components in order to build a custom rifle similar to the new SPR-A.

With the future production of a full-

length S.I.R. System for the SPR, an even more refined (and possibly final) version may be in production not long after you read this. As soon as a sample is available you'll read about an in-depth test of it, in SOF. ☒



With the 4X Raptor, an M3 SureFire Tactical Light with an infrared (IR) filter was mounted on the fore-end using an A.R.M.S. #22 ThrowLever ring. Invisible to the naked eye, this powerful light increased the brightness seen through the Raptor by about 400%. A Harris Bipod was mounted on the bottom M1913 rail.



Along with the A.R.M.S. S.I.R. folding M16A2 rear sight, a new folding front sight from Precision Reflex is used on the SPR-A as back-up.

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Land Warrior

Continued from page 51

how to fight smart. We can't afford the luxury of losing good men like the Marines did in Hue City."

Unlike past wars where grunts were fed into the meat grinder until they wore down their enemy, the Marines are teaching young officers like Molton to employ counter-snipers and overwhelm the enemy marksmen with too many solutions.

"In a situation like this," said Molton, "they would come at my building from different directions, isolate me so I wouldn't have anywhere to go and then close in on me." But that didn't happen. Even though the young officers talked about "lethal overwatch" the day before, none of them thought to put someone up high from their start point in MOUT Town. Their instructor told them a fire team could have tracked them all the way through town, providing point security or rear security, and take care of all threats.

Blasting Down Doors

"All right, guys could break some windows, kick down some doors," said

their instructor as the young officers moved down the street to where Captain Ford Phillips, another instructor in the Infantry Officer Course at Quantico, had laid out the latest tools of the trade. Breaking windows, bashing down doors and breaching buildings is his specialty. The doors and windows are damaged goods donated by Home Depot.

Phillips demonstrated how to take down a door with a variety of explosive charges, including det cord. Shotguns can also do the trick. The new Benelli 12-gauge shotguns that have been issued to the Marine Corps can carry nine rounds; one in the chamber, eight in the internal magazine.

Each round is filled with lead shavings that are designed to blow down doors.

"If you can see the hinges, what does that tell you?" asked Phillips. "It opens toward you," yelled one of his students. If you can't see the hinges, Phillips told the young officers, "the door opens away from you."

The textbook suggests using three shots for every hinge, but most doors can't take that much punishment.

Blowing the doorknob is a simple task. Simply put the muzzle of the shotgun halfway between the knob and the

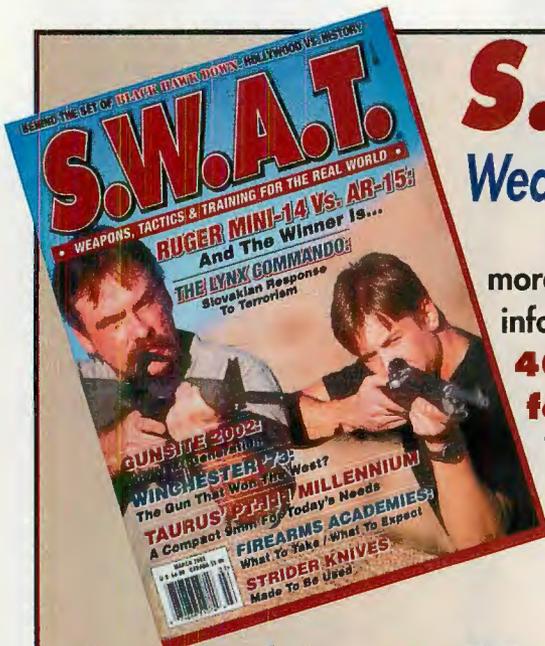
frame of the door and pull the trigger. The blast takes out the locking mechanism. Same procedure applies if the door has a dead-bolt. But don't forget to aim the 12-gauge down at a 45-degree angle or you're likely to get a belly full of lead shavings.

Breaching walls is not difficult if you use the right charge. A single wrap of det cord will take down most interior doors. Four wraps will blow most steel exterior doors out of their frames. But 40mm grenade launchers [M-203s] and TOW missiles are not recommended. A 120mm main gun round from a tank is the weapon of choice when it comes to breaching buildings where enemy soldiers are hiding, but they are not always available, and they are only effective if supported by mechanized infantry.

As Capt. Phillips demonstrated grappling hooks, folding ladders and other tricks of the trade, a corpsman across the street dug a blue paint slug out of the forearm of a Marine who was shot by a sniper. The slugs are supposed to splatter on impact. The red ones did.

The blue ones didn't.

Dale B. Cooper is a longtime SOF Contributor. ✕



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Caspian's Recon Rail

Continued from page 24

a new titanium frame. A number of custom pistol smiths use Caspian components to build full-house custom 1911 pistols, for obvious reasons. As you read this, RECON RAIL No. 01 is being tested by the U.S. Government. The RECON RAIL No. 1 was assembled and fitted by master gunsmith, Herb Germain, of Shooter's Choice, in Vermont.

It goes without saying that 1911 pistols with light rails are not for everyone. They bring some extra bulk and weight to the shooting table, but this is a small price to pay for the tactical advantage it offers. If you're in the market to have a custom pistol built to your own specifications, check on what's available from Caspian. I guarantee you'll be surprised.

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Combat Weaponcraft

Continued from page 22

cess, but, fearless, they went forward anyway.

Majuba Hill is actually a small, volcanic mountain with a crater at the top. On the rim of the crater, are three high points, all of which the British occupied. Many British soldiers were Gordon's Highlanders, fresh from fighting in Afghanistan. Imagine their surprise when several dozen Boers suddenly stood up and fired at them from just outside their perimeter. The Boer commando had snuck into range virtually undetected. Forty Scots dropped dead nearly at the same instant. The rest wavered, then ran! Many were picked-off as they scurried toward the hill occupied by Colley and his staff.

Colley was advised to make a bayonet charge, but, remembering Laing's Nek, decided to wait until the Boers charged. He would then give them a volley and overrun them.

The Boers never charged. They never even stood up. They just maneuvered and fired from covered positions. British soldiers continued to fall. Return-fire was ineffective. Colley himself finally stood up to rally his troops. Instantly, a bullet struck him in the head, and he fell, lifeless, to the ground. More than 200 British troops were killed that day. Nearly all survivors were wounded. The Boers suffered one killed and five wounded! The British Army was in shock. No one dreamed such a thing was possible.

As a result of Colley's quadruple disaster, the Transvaal was again granted independence, but the agreement was unworkable, and a second Anglo-Boer War would break out 18 years later. This time, the Boer's luck would run out.

Lesson: As we say at the poker table, "Don't mistake good cards for brains."

Memorable old victories, or fortuitous recent victories, particularly in combination, can cause some to think they can't lose, or that God won't allow them to lose. It's called "victory disease," and it is nearly always fatal. Seasoned warriors know the bad always comes with the good. In poker, winners are not the ones who get dealt good hands. They are the ones who play the poor hand well. And in war, you cannot play well if you underestimate your opponent, based on respective hands you may have been dealt before. ♠

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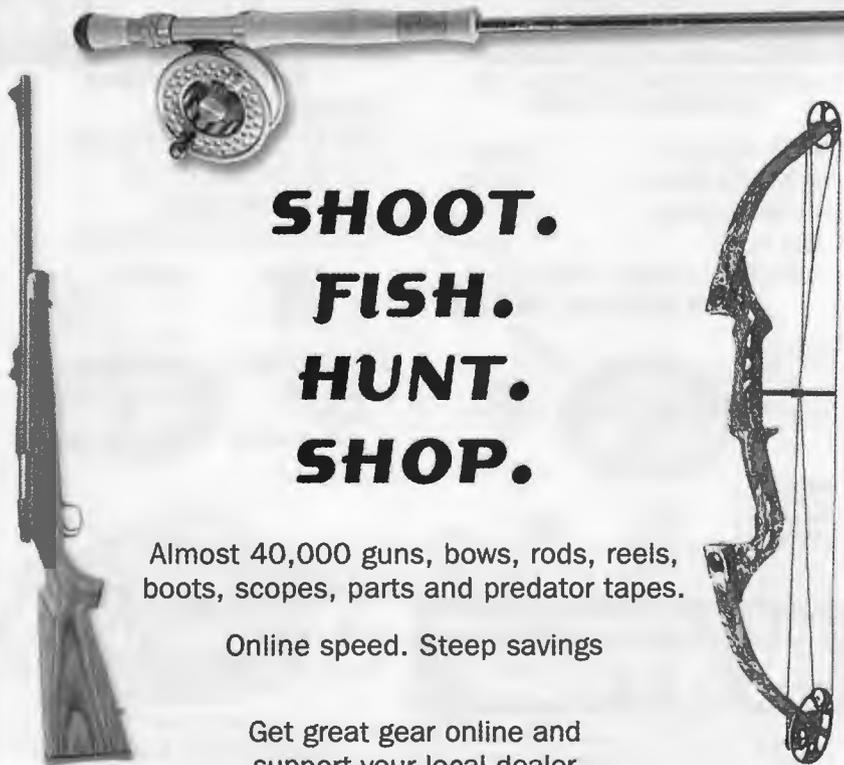
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Attack Iraq!

Continued from page 66

have to use troops, should it become a necessity in order to disarm him, the United States, with friends, will move swiftly with force to do the job.

"You don't have to worry about that. We will do what it takes militarily to succeed."

Indeed, one consistent message from the White House is that it would not take long to topple Saddam militarily. This boast seemed aimed at the region's U.S. allies, who fear a protracted war would encourage uprisings among their Saddam sympathizers.

"I don't think it would be that tough a fight," Vice President Cheney said. "That is, I don't think there's any question that we would prevail and we would achieve our objective. You always want to plan for the worst, though. And, clearly, we would do that."

Throughout the internal debate, speculation rose in the Washington press that the Joint Chiefs, or certain unnamed members, opposed going to war with Iraq. Senator Carl Levin, of Michigan, senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, stoked the speculation by saying senior officers opposed the war.

In August, *The Washington Times* ran a front-page article giving a different perspective.

The Times said that while the six chiefs were not universally enthusiastic about a war, and had raised a number of "what ifs," they all supported the action to ensure Iraq never possessed nuclear weapons.

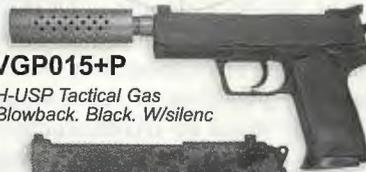
The issue was put to rest in September, when Gen. Myers, Joint Chiefs chairman, testified on Iraqi war plans before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Asked by Sen. John Warner, Virginia Republican, if there was a "significant level of dissent" among the chiefs on Iraq, Gen. Myers replied, "Senate Warner, I'll just keep it real short: Absolutely not."

One well-placed Pentagon source said that Mr. Rumsfeld and his staff expect the chiefs to support major administration policies once a debate is over. Under the previous Clinton regime, the source said, if the chiefs voiced dissent, the Clintonites would back-off and not press further.

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

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Robert K. Brown/Soldier Of Fortune Magazine's Recommendations for the NRA Board of Directors for 2003

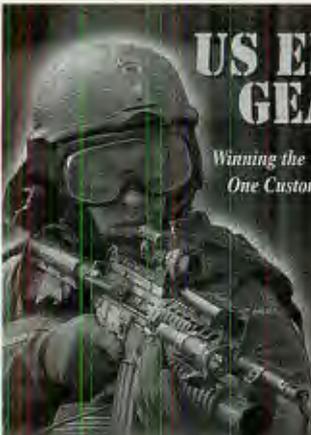
These recommendations are based on our knowledge of the individuals below. Only voting for the 20 individuals, as opposed to voting for the maximum allowable of 26, will increase their chances of being elected.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
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| 3. Robert K. Brown
Boulder, Colorado | 10. Joe Foss
Scottsdale, Arizona | 17. Robert Sanders*
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| 4. David I. Caplan
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| 5. Donald M. Causey
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| 6. Jeff Cooper
Paulden, Arizona | 13. Bill Miller
Beckley, West Virginia | 20. Bruce E. Stern
Trumbull, Connecticut |
| 7. Barbara L. Cubin
Casper, Wyoming | 14. Edie P. Reynolds
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*Robert K. Brown especially recommends Robert Sanders of Punto Gordo, Florida, who is running for the board for the first time. Brown has worked with Sanders on numerous projects and holds him in the highest regard.

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Medal Or Court Martial

Continued from page 71

tacted by Soldier Of Fortune Lt. Col. Whitlock, Pentagon Public Affairs and Lt. Col. Martin Compton, CENTCOM Public Affairs both confirmed knowledge of the recommendation for the awards as published in the Canadian media but stated no recommendations have so far been processed through CENTCOM or the Pentagon. If such an award was approved it would eventually go through the U.S. State Department to the appropriate Canadian office for action as the Canadians determine. In a discussion about the possible award of a U.S. decoration to the three PPCLI snipers, Sub-Lieutenant Pierrette LeDrew, of Canada's Department of National Defence Media Liaison Office, said, "We have received nothing from the U.S. government concerning this."

Regarding an ongoing investigation on Perry, Lt. Col. James Cassella, a Pentagon spokesman, told the Canadian media that, "Theoretically, you could be recognized for one event and disciplined for something unrelated. If in the course of the approval process something came up, I suppose that might impact it as well. But I think it boils down to a commander's judgment."

Under normal circumstances, MCPL Perry should have been front-and-center at the citywide celebration in Edmonton for the returning veterans. The homecoming featured more than 600 soldiers marching in a parade, a barbecue for military families, and visits by such dignitaries as Adrienne Clarkson, the Governor-General of Canada. Perry, however, was not invited to participate with his unit.

The lesson in this affair seems to be: If you're an airborne infantryman in the Canadian Army make sure no one is within earshot if you swear. And, if you see an enemy corpse make damn sure you run in the other direction.

Chief Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott previously wrote about the Canadian snipers in "Bolt-Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Canadian Snipers in Afghanistan," SOF, August and September 2002.

Editor's Note: Krott received several "dead body" photos from independent sources, including two taken on the Whale Back after Op Anaconda, depicting the body at the center of the "trophy photo" investigation. ❌

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Command Guidance

Continued from page 6

increasing. CIS researchers found that 60 percent of the public regard the present level of immigration to be a "critical threat to the vital interests of the United States," compared to only 14 percent of the nation's leadership — a 46 percentage-point gap. Of the biggest foreign-policy challenges facing the nation, Americans ranked illegal immigration sixth on a list of 69 concerns, while our government leaders ranked it 26th. And as can be expected the mainstream liberal media only presents us with one side of the immigration issue.

In addition to smuggling humans across the border, Mexican criminals smuggle drugs. The DEA estimates that 80 percent of the cocaine and 50 percent of the heroin used in our country comes across the Mexican border. Drug cartels spend \$500 million a year to pay off corrupt Mexican generals and police officials, while the Mexican government is using troops on its side to interdict drug-trafficking. As a result, armed confrontations between the Mexican military and the U.S. Border Patrol have occurred and incursions by Mexican soldiers, either accidents or deliberate violations of our border, are on the rise. Over the past five years, U.S. law enforcement has documented more than 100 incursions by the Mexican military into U.S. territory.

Chairman of the House Immigration Reform Caucus, Representative Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) believes the situation justifies deployment of troops and has asked President Bush to do so. After 11 September, President Bush briefly authorized the deployment of National Guard troops to augment Border Patrol and INS personnel on the border. The Bush administration already has discussed changes to the Posse Comitatus Act, passed in 1878 to end military rule in the Reconstruction-era South, allowing greater leeway in the use of the U.S. military for civil law enforcement and anti-terrorism. Civil libertarians oppose changing the law that prohibits the military from enforcing civil laws "except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress." Because our very sovereignty is threatened, using troops to plug the holes in our porous border should be one of those exceptions that should be "expressly authorized" to stem the flow of criminals across our borders. ❧

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Sound Off

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

The Coming Desert Shootout

While the U.N. inspectors play Sneak & Seek with Saddam Hussein's cheaters and retreaters, our Air Force and Navy Top Guns are picking away at Iraq's defense systems, and our grunts are quietly encircling Saddam like a hangman's noose.

"Will we win?" is the question I'm asked most often these days. My reply: "If push comes to shove and the military solution's employed, it'll be slam-bam, good-bye Saddam."

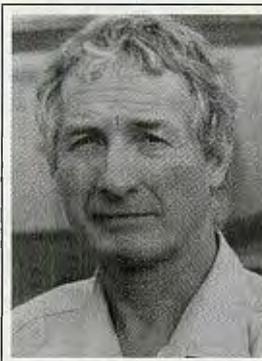
Figure on a match similar to Mike Tyson versus Mini-Me — one that, relatively speaking, should be over almost as soon as Uncle Sam and pals finally climb into the ring with the Mustached One.

Not only will a new generation of *Star Wars* stuff make the super-smart weapons from Operation Desert Storm I look like metal morons, but we'll also see battle tactics that will no longer be variations on the standard two-up-and-one-back favored by U.S. generals from George Washington down to Norman Schwarzkopf.

Instead, the objective of our attacking units won't be to destroy Saddam's army in the traditional sense but to cripple it by techniques as brilliantly innovative as the *blitzkrieg* concept the Germans introduced early in World War II, until most Iraqi soldiers — already prepared by extensive psychological warfare — break out the same white flags we saw them waving with such enthusiasm the last time we had a duel in that desert.

During Desert Storm I, 93 percent of the weapons were World War II-dumb, while today more than 80 percent of our munitions are smart bombs. In 1991, one aircraft carrier could whack only 162 targets in a day, as opposed to 700 during the same period today — and the current Order of Battle for the war with Iraq calls for four U.S. carriers. And one B-2 bomber — from today's fleet of 21 of these giant stealth aircraft — can do the work of 24 Gulf War I-fighters, striking 16 different targets with 2,000-pound satellite-guided bombs.

There are a lot of other new war toys, such as the Army's AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter, aircraft-delivered carbon filaments that shut off a city's electricity by shorting-out power transformers, targeting devices that allow grunts down in the sand to bring in precision airstrikes from miles up in the sky, and unmanned surveillance aircraft that provide senior commanders with live video feed — permitting



their strike forces to hit harder, move faster and fight smarter with much smaller units than during Gulf War I.

For sure our forces will follow the example of Civil War genius Nathan Bedford Forrest — who routinely whipped his Northern opponents by following his bold dictum of "getting thar fustest with the mostest" — with by far the greatest gadgets ever used in battle.

Just as there were doubting Thomases when George Patton said, "To hell with my flanks," and used his version of *blitzkrieg* to boldly race toward Berlin, there are platoons of uni-

formed skeptics who fret that all the whiz-bang Buck Rogers stuff will fizzle.

I think that's the least of our worries.

But having learned the hard way never to force a tiger into a corner, I do lose sleep over nuclear, biological and chemical weapons (NBC). As Sun Tzu wrote 2,500 years ago, "Soldiers in desperate straits lose their sense of fear."

If Saddam does opt to throw chemical and biological weapons at our troops when he senses he's about to become part of a trophy wall, I'm fearful to the max about how well our NBC — or as the troops say, "No Body Cares" — protection/detection gear will function.

My second-biggest worry is whether our leaders will "haul ass and bypass" and play it George Patton-smart by encircling Iraq's cities, shutting-off all water and power and starving out the bad guys. Or, will our troops be ordered to fight house-to-house in places like Baghdad and Tikrit?

In terms of both bucks and bodies, city-fighting is prohibitively expensive and should be avoided at all cost. Ask the Russians, who recently went at it in Chechnya, or our Marines, who slugged it out in Vietnam at Hue.

Let's hope our military commanders stand tall to ensure our Joes and Janes are well-protected from both the ravages of NBC and the mean streets of Iraq's cities.

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Look for his new book, *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*, (Rugged Land LLC, New York City).

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