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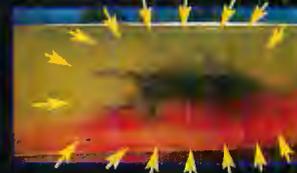


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APRIL 2003 ✕ VOL. 28 NO. 4

AMERICA AT WAR

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It would serve ROK's ungrateful, anti-American elements right if the U.S. pulled-out, leaving South Korea to face the North solo. **26**

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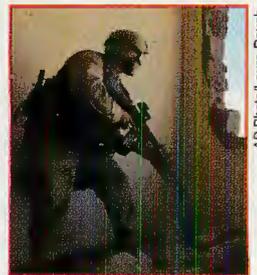
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AP Photo/Laura Rauch

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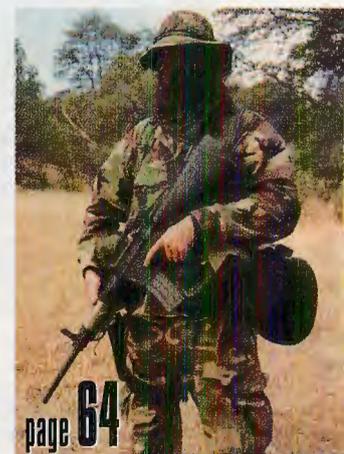
A soldier with Task Force 315 of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Stewart, Georgia, participates in training exercises in the Kuwaiti desert on 13 Jan. 2003. See story, page 42.



AFP Photo/Sven Neckstrand



Al J. Venter

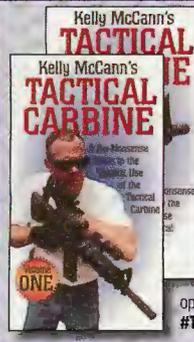


Rob Krott

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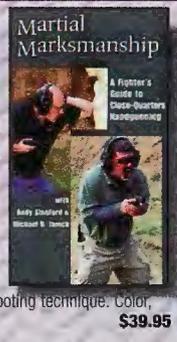
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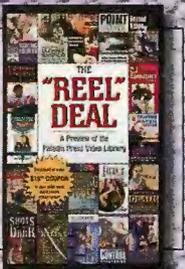
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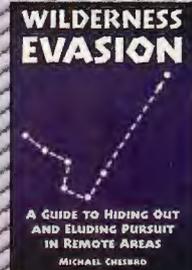
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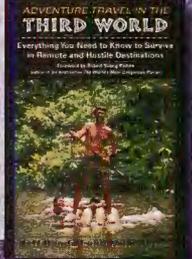
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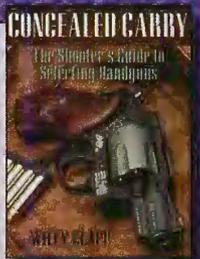
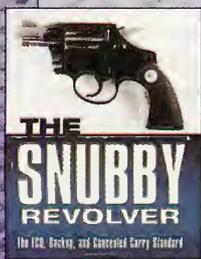
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Command Guidance

BY WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS

America Lost A Good One When We Lost Joe Foss

When I was a youngster, few Civil War veterans were still alive. Most old veterans had fought in the Spanish-American War. The movers and shakers in the community were veterans of World War I. And the young men were those fellows who had recently returned from battles in Europe or the Pacific.

Times have changed. Few veterans from World War I are still with us. The old veterans are mainly those from World War II or Korea.

The movers and shakers now include those who fought in Vietnam. And the young men are those fellows who fought in the Persian Gulf or who are about to go there again.

Joe Foss ... General Foss ... fought in World War II. He died at the age of 87 on New Years Day [2003].

Joe was the top Marine Corps Ace of WWII. He shot down 26 Japanese planes, and was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Roosevelt. Joe claimed to be a Japanese ace, too, because he crashed five American planes in that war. One plane Joe put into the palm trees, tearing off both wings. Another he ditched in the water, floating around in his Mae West for many hours until he was rescued by a Catholic missionary who just happened to be paddling by.

"When I crashed my first plane," Joe



The late Gen. Joe Foss at the SOF Booth during the NRA's 1997 Seattle Convention. Foss also played a major role in electing a Republican from a western state to the U.S. Senate in 1996. The ingrate never sent Foss a Christmas card; never a thank you. More on this later.

recalled, "I suddenly realized that war is dangerous, and a guy can get killed in a war!"

Joe went on to be Adjutant General, and later, Governor of South Dakota, and more recently, Commissioner of the old American Football League. He helped establish the Super Bowl, and had his own television program "The Outdoorsman, Joe Foss."

I first met Joe when he joined me on the Board of the National Rifle Association. Joe went on to eventually become President of the NRA, and

Continued on page 81

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Robert K. Brown

EDITOR/PUBLISHER

SENIOR EDITOR **Don McLean**

ASSISTANT EDITOR **Thomas D. Reisinger**
(E-Mail: tomsdf@qwest.net)

ART DIRECTOR **B. Bigler**

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Chief Contributing Foreign Correspondent
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flak



We Don't See What You SAW ...



This letter is in reference to your recent article about the FN-MINIMI SAGA by Gary Johnston. I have been concerned for quite sometime about the federalization of Law Enforcement Officers by our government. So I am sure you can understand my fear related to a photograph of a Cop in tiger-stripe cammo shooting a squad assault weapon. I am a former Airborne Ranger, and a former Policeman and it makes me feel secure knowing our soldiers overseas are equipped with such weapons. But, if you think it makes me feel safer, knowing our nations police forces are arming themselves with these, you have truly lost touch with reality. I like to clearly differentiate between cops and soldiers, and more and more I am seeing pictures of cops dressing, and arming themselves like the latter. What message does that send to you? While I am a fan of your magazine, I've noticed as of late, that you seem to be glorifying the new militant face of police officers nation wide. Two questions then come to mind for me and I am sure others that notice this. They are; 1.) If things are getting so crazy that the cops need machine guns, do I need one too? And, 2.) If the government gets any farther out there, are these machine gun toting cops a threat to me, and my constitutional rights? I believe in the second amendment, and with my background I own, and enjoy shooting assault type weapons, but I don't have anything that would rival a SAW. I am sure that is exactly what the government and their storm troopers are thinking too!

Concerned in Sandpoint Idaho
James "Bean" Johnston

We share your concern about any federalization of local police agencies, but arming our police with the best tools available has nothing to do with their federalization. Local police agencies have had automatic weapons — including belt-feds — at their disposal as an item of issue since the time of World War I. Oddly, that has neither caused their federalization nor caused them to turn on the lesser-armed population they serve, and we don't see why it would now. It's the politicians you need to watch, as they control the police. As long as we have good laws and good politicians, we will have good police. Sure, we have some bad politicians, some bad laws, and some bad police — but don't blame all politicians, our system of rule by law, or the overwhelming cadre of police who lay it on the line for us every day. The reason for local police agencies having what you call "military" weapons is quite simple: Your trusty Model 29 S&W is no longer adequate for going into a meth lab full of illegal machine guns or plinking back at terrorists. The days when a cop could

do his job with no more than a baton and a copper shield are long gone. Get over it. Remember the big LA shootout a few years back? The cops had to go into a local gun store and borrow weapons to duke it out on even terms with the machine-guntoting criminals. Would have been nice had they had more capable weapons available when needed. You say you were once a policeman — it must have been a while ago, because the criminal element has upped the ante considerably. And as far as taking offense at them wearing desert cammies: Hey, lighten up will you? Would you want to work in a photo shoot in the southwest desert sun in your dress blues? If you want to go on tactical ops and rip the shit out of the serge uniform you have to replace out-of-pocket, go ahead. But don't ask real cops to. When cops have to arm themselves with automatic weapons and wear uniforms suitable for fighting in the dirt, the message it sends to me is simple: In these rough times they have a rough job to do, (and I hope they have everything they need to do it). In answer to your numbered questions: (1) probably; (2) not as long as the politicians who direct them are not.

Scuds Range

In the article titled "Will Saddam's Troops Fight" (Jan 2003 issue) I note on page 71 it states that Qatar is far out of Scud range.

You may wish to confirm this — as it is my recollection that Qatar suffered two Scud impacts during the Gulf War.

Furthermore, much current published intelligence (such as the recent UK Iraq dossier) mentions the likelihood or the Iraqis increasing the range of their ballistic missiles since the last conflict.

Otherwise, keep up the good work.

Hans Fah
hf@gsasafety.com

Although many near-by states are within actual range of the enhanced Scuds Iraq is believed to have, they are not likely targets. The highest probability in a Second Gulf War is similar to that in the first: Iraq will blast what they have at Israel in hopes Israel will retaliate, so Iraq can court some sort of Pan-Arabic alliance against Israel and the few friends she has.

We Bombed?

Just read the SOF article about B-52 at U-Tapao and found an error about the internal bomb load shown. I was a sergeant, loading team chief at U-Tapao from 1966 to 1967 and loaded a lot of bombs on those big bastards (B-52). The internal Bomb load was 84 500lb. on three bomb racks 28ea.

Stingers Coming Home?

Since the SAM attack on the El Al airliner, there has been a lot of talk about the danger of terrorists using AA missiles against civilian airliners. I remember reading in *SOF* about the U.S. smuggling Stingers into Afghanistan on mules for the anti-Soviet freedom fighters. Whatever happened to those? Are they accounted for?

Jerome Jones
Via e-mail

Good news bad news: good news, they have a shelf life; bad news they would not yet have expired. Good news, most of them were used up; bad news, they were imported into Afghanistan with help of the Pakistani Intell — who promptly ripped-them-off and have now knocked them off, and who knows who all may have gotten them from the Taliban-friendly Paks. Good news: there are counter-measures; bad news, these may or may not be effective. Good news: Such missiles home for the hot engines, not the passenger cabin; bad news, few 747s fly worth a shit on a dead-stick landing, even if the approach has already been lined up. Stay tuned.



Most of the time the racks were pre loaded for us. The 750lb bombs were loaded by hand on Mer-racks, 12 ea. 750 lbs bombs on each wing intermediate loading station, totaling 24. The 500lb bombs are long and thin, the 750lb bombs are about the same length but a lot fatter.

I like *SOF*, keep it coming..... especialy when some Fly Boys get some credit!

Thanks,
David C. Fulford
Senior Transmission Engineer
AG Communication Systems

Missing Alex



As an avid reader of your fine publication, I was deeply saddened by the tragic passing of Colonel McColl. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting and jumping

with him on "Operation Wings of Peace 1" in June of 1995. Throughout that adventure we were "bus-mates" and he was on my stick as we stood up, hooked up, shuffled to the door, and exited an Israeli C-133 into history.

Imagine, for the first time, American, Israeli, and Jordanian Paratroopers being awash in the mighty back blast of those engines. Alex was in a word "brilliant," dead serious in one moment to laughing uproariously the next. We shared lots of "war stories" and just plain guy stuff. Some of my "involvements" rivaled his, but paled in comparison. He was truly an exemplar of "duty, honor, country." His leadership on all fronts was unique. When we look back on people who have spent their time in this country we can generally classify them into four categories: apathetics, onlookers, foot-soldiers and gladiators. Colonel Alexander M.S. McColl was a gladiator, dedicated and contributing in every way he

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LTC Robert M. Lichtman,
PhD, NYS Reserve
Associate Professor,
Dept. of Forensic Psychology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, NY

You are quite right. Col. McColl was not only a great asset to this publication, people such as him are also an asset to any society or nation.

Winnebagos On The Border?

Looking forward to the series of articles on the border, which are mentioned in the February, 2003 issue. Why can't all military and police reunions be held on the border? They can all bring their recreational vehicles. I am sure the private property owners would appreciate their presence. It can be called "Bivouac on the Border."

Anne Brothers,
(a California subscriber)

The series starts this issue, hope you will enjoy it. However, the troubled border areas probably wouldn't be a good venue for reunions. You might mend fences and pick up trash with a Coors in one hand, but dealing with mules laden with drugs requires a reasoned, sober approach.

Cleave, Chop, Across, Athwart

Just a question or comment here: In the latest issue a knife report had a picture and statement about cleaving across the grain of the photographed wood ... This actually looks to be with the grain. Nice blade, but a chainsaw it is not.

Depending on which part of the country you are from and which woodworking discipline may be in your background, there are varying semantics for saying the same thing. In most areas (evidently yours as well), "across" the grain means at right-angles or athwart the grain as it grows from the ground. In the context of Bagwell's piece he used "across the grain" in the sense a shake splitter would, in other words, "across the medullary rays" which is considerably harder than cleaving with them: Hold the froe to split cedar with the medullary rays (or grain) and you get shakes; split athwart them and you get kindling. And in most any context, "cleave" implies splitting something, as opposed to chopping. But you're right — we're still waiting for Homelite to make a knife.

POC for MPRI

Urgently seeking contact with Military Professional Resources Inc. company — post address, e-mail, fax. I am looking for a job. I am a former CO, Direct Action Platoon.

Ronin
Via Email from Poland

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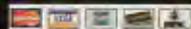
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BH02



Bulletin Board

Taliban Honcho Through The Net

Rowan Scarborough writes in *The Washington Times* that after Mullah Akhter Mohammed Osmani was captured by an SF A-team and about 20 local Afghan fighters as he fled his compound west of Kandahar, he was subsequently released from a holding facility at Bagram Air Base by Task Force 180, when bad G2 indicated Osmani was elsewhere. After his release, he quickly fled to the safety of Pakistan. Osmani was, and still is, one of the six most-wanted Taliban leaders.

Reports: Israel Stockpiles Arrows; Recons Inside Iraq For Scuds

Working on the assumption that Iraq will try to garner pan-Arabic sympathy in the event of a U.S./British attack, by attacking Israel with Scuds, Tel Aviv has accelerated already intense efforts to build and stockpile the Arrow missile interceptors — including talks about having Boeing produce the system for Israeli use at Boeing's Huntsville, Alabama facility. Israeli/U.S. talks about local production of Arrows for export to Turkey and India have been essentially suspended, due to the domestic need.

Enron Scandal Hits White House

Enron's chairman did meet with the President and the Vice President in the Oval Office. Enron gave \$420,000 to the President's party over three years. It donated \$100,000 to the President's inauguration gala. The Enron chairman stayed at the White House 11 times. The corporation had access to the Administration at its highest levels and even enlisted the Commerce and State Departments to grease the wheels of deal for it.

The taxpayer-supported Export-Import Bank subsidized Enron for more than \$600 million in just one transaction.

With every appearance of a major scandal that could turn into a criminal investigation of political as well as business leaders, one might ask why this happened. Perhaps because the President was not Bush, but Clinton.

Meanwhile, *The Jerusalem Post* reports that since last fall Israeli special forces have been operating in western Iraq, locating missile launchers and sites that could be used against Israel. The elite General Staff Reconnaissance Unit was tasked with the mission. Also reported was fear in Tel Aviv that Iraq might use kamikaze-style suicide pilots to

Toasters Amok

The Victoria, Texas, *Advocate* ran the following crime story on its front page:

Mariela Quinonez Karbowski, 29, is accused of beating her estranged husband, Terry Karbowski, 63, to death with a two-slice toaster in early August when he came to her Victoria home on a visit from Houston. Then, charges allege, she drove his body, the toaster and a gun through Houston to Liberty County where she threw all three in a rain-swollen Trinity River a short distance from a bar owned by Karbowski and run by the man's son in the town of Liberty.

Noted James Taranto on *Best of the Web Today*, "This underscores the need for effective toaster control. Plainly, existing laws are not enough to prevent far too many Americans from dying in toaster-related violence — to say nothing of accidental fires and elec-



trocutions. Our goal should be a total ban on toasters, but at the very least we should be demanding laws requiring licensing of toasters, a 30-day waiting period before buying a toaster, and locks to prevent children from accidentally setting off the toaster's "trigger." It's a chilling thought indeed that in kitchens across America children have easy access to weapons like this.

Toasters are so dangerous that in most states even the police don't carry them. Toaster nuts claim that the appliances have a long heritage in America, but scholars at Emory University have demonstrated that in fact, colonists owned very few toasters. We must stamp out this scourge.

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carry WMD weapons into Israel, and that Israel has struck a secret deal with Jordan that permits Israel to use Jordanian airspace in defense against any such attacks.

Russians Ready

Russia has readied three warships — cruisers *Marshal Shaposhnikov* and *Admiral Panteleyev*, plus a fueler — for service in Gulf waters to “defend national interests” in the event of an invasion of Iraq. Russia’s largest oil company, Lukoil, had a \$6 billion contract to develop Iraq’s West Qurna oilfield but it was cancelled in December when Iraq caught the Russians also negotiating with Iraqi opposition leaders.

“United” We Stand

Every so often, various “united” charity appeals, whose woodwork is riddled with “charities” that we not only would never support, but which we would cheerfully donate to fight, make appeals through “leveraged” channels for our money. i.e., they hit you at your workplace so you’ll look like a non-caring cheapskate if you don’t extort easily. Within these various “appeals,” of course, are worthwhile charities that do get a cut after the “umbrella” agency pays itself. It would be poor form, of course, for us to suggest how somebody spends their hard-earned cash, but what we do is to cut out the middleman and send donations directly to our favorite charities. That way, the deserving get all of our Widow’s mite, and none of it is siphoned off for the benefit of “charities” or “causes” that may well be favorites of those

running the umbrella agency, but are certainly not favorites of ours. For example, see what we downloaded from the Brady Bunch’s website:

DONATE TO THE BRADY CENTER THROUGH THE UNITED WAY

Think of the Brady Center when making your workplace donation this year! If you have not done so already, please designate the Brady Center (listed as the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence) to receive your workplace pledge this year. Our Designation Number is #2574. And don’t forget, if we are not listed in your campaign, you can write us in! Your gift will help us educate Americans in your community about the importance of violence prevention. Help us create an America where people are safe at home, at school, at work, and in our communities.

PASS IT ALONG!

Please pass this message along to friends, family members, and colleagues so they too can take a stand for sensible gun laws.

SUPPORT BRADY CAMPAIGN AND BRADY CENTER

To make a contribution to the Brady Campaign, click here. To make a contribution to the Brady Center, click here. You may also contact us by phone at (202) xxx-xxxx or mail in your contribution to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence or the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence; xxxx Eye Street; Suite 1100; Washington, D.C. 20005.

Should you have some charity funds accrued and want to make sure they go directly to a good cause, see next item, on page 16.



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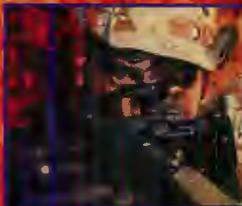
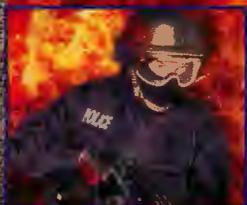
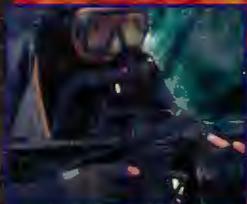
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Help Cure The Curator

A Good Man needs our help!

Herb Woodend is the retired curator (custodian) of the British Ministry of Defense (MOD) Pattern Room — first at Enfield Lock, and later when it was moved to Nottingham, England. The Pattern room was recently shut down, and was one of the premier working museums of firearms in the world. Their contributions worldwide to knowledge for law enforcement, the military, and firearms historians cannot be measured.

Shortly after he retired, Herb was stricken with colon cancer. Socialized medicine in England botched his surgery (a lesson to be learned!) by failing to remove part of his tumor. Herb was basically told to go home and prepare for the end! Although he was a long time employee of the British Government, and was awarded member of the "Order of the British Empire" (O.B.E.) for his outstanding service, they are unable (or unwilling) to do anything further for him.

With urging from his friends, Herb sold many of his possessions to come to the United States for treatment. A medical evaluation by the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston shows he has a fighting chance!

However, Herb must pay his own medical bills, since he has no insurance for the U.S.A. and the British medical system will not help. Even the Queen declined to help. His medical expenses are huge (over \$60,000 to date), with no end in sight — possibly \$200,000 or more.

Herb is a good man, and a great friend to law enforcement, the military, and firearms historians around the world. Many books credit his contributions.

He has been a confidant of many authors over the last gen-

eration and his knowledge and experience has made a significant difference to the record we have today of British (and many other) service arms and ammunition.

We request your prayers for his health, and your contributions for his medical expenses. His friends have started a fund to help with his expenses.

Please help by distributing this information to everyone you can. Any donation is gratefully appreciated! Any donation will help.

Contributions may be mailed to:

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(Dateline: Visalia, CA) My name is Dr. Russell Horine. I am president of TRS, the small west coast company that has been challenging and changing the martial arts world for over 13 years now. We were the first to offer official Navy SEAL hand-to-hand combat training to civilians...

... the first to reveal military-grade weapons disarmament skills... and the first to sponsor Russian Army Spetsnaz special forces combat teachers.

We knew we were on the right track when our civilian "Delta/SEAL bootcamps" were shut down by the U.S. military. Our faculty of teachers include former Green Berets, SEALs, Delta commandoes, and top SWAT honchos. These men have seen bloody frontline combat in Vietnam, Grenada, Desert Storm and Afganistan. The "black baggers" have run operations in the Phillipines, Cambodia, against the Shining Path in Peru, drug lords in Colombia, and nuclear terrorists here in the U.S. Our streetfighters have world-wide reputations, and have won the Ultimate Fighting Championship, numerous cage fighting championships, and notorious underground face-to-face show-downs with the nastiest thugs the world has ever seen.

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Street Safe III: Brutal Solutions - This is Paul Vunak's simple, barbaric and extremely practical package of solutions to life-threatening assaults. Quickly and viciously demoralize your opponent. But be warned, this material is extremely brutal and not for the faint of heart.

2-Tapes: Total Run Time = 1 Hour 48 Min.
ITEM # VUNAK-102 Price ~~\$99~~ **\$49**

R.A.T. Interactive Fighting System

Paul personally developed these Rapid Assault Tactics especially for professional military operatives. This package allows you to train in real-time fight mode and permanently ingrain the most vicious and lethal hand-to-hand streetfighting skills... right into your brain!

1-Tape: Total Run Time = 1 Hour 20 Min.
ITEM # VUNAK-103 Price ~~\$49~~ **\$39**

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Bob Taylor, at just 5' 6", and maybe 140-pounds, had to learn how to fight - and win - against the bigger guys. He's widely regarded among the elite martial arts world as perhaps the best "self educated" street fighter around. Bob developed his unique style of "dirty fighting" during his 40 years of formal training, bar brawls and street



fighters, bounty hunting and busting up narcotics gangs. He realized long ago that a little guy actually has advantages against a bigger opponent – and now you can learn these secrets straight from the man himself.

Small Man's Advantage - In the most sizzling display of raw fighting savvy you'll ever witness, "little man" Taylor PROVES you can quickly learn... and just as quickly use... his personal "Bag O' Nasty Tricks" to completely obliterate someone twice your size. In fact... these vicious tricks work best when you're out-weighted, outsized and out-muscled by your opponent!
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ITEM # TAYLOR-101 Price ~~\$87~~ **\$69**



MARK HATMAKER

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ITEM # HAT-100 Price ~~\$69~~ **\$49**

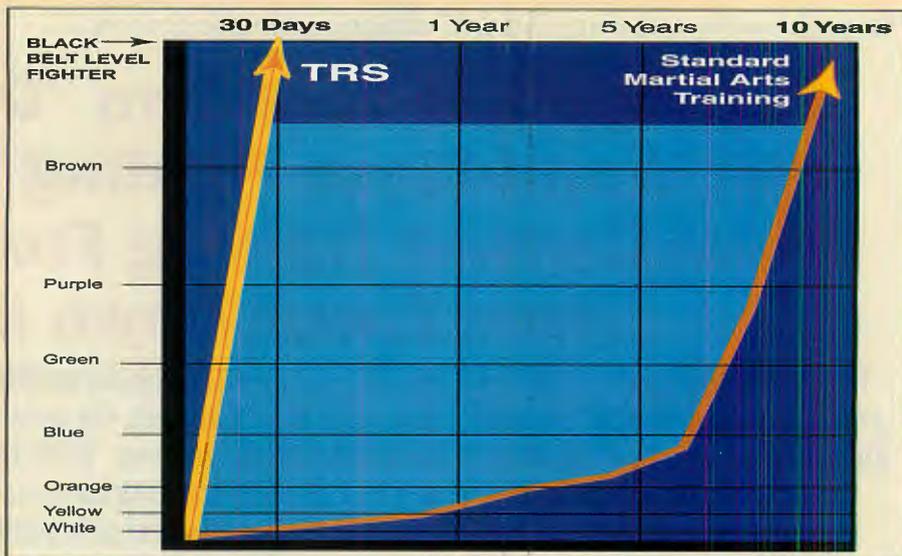
Brutal Submissions - Hatmaker shows you moves so incredibly powerful, explosive, and "ballistic" — most people will NEVER see them coming. These moves live up to their name of "Brutal Submissions." described as "harsh"... "tough"... "relentless"... "ruthless"... "vicious"... "savagely"... and "hellish."
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ITEM # VLAD-100 Price ~~\$69~~ **\$69**

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ITEM # VLAD-101 Price ~~\$35~~ **\$29**



NIR MAMAN

Nir Maman (pronounced "Near") is a former Israeli special forces commando and top hand-to-hand combat instructor. His long-range reconnaissance unit (the feared "Sayeret Golani") roamed deep into enemy territory, fighting, capturing and "eliminating" terrorists and

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BY JOHN FARNAM

FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY

Sad State Of GI Small-Arms Training and More ...

I recently had a conversation with a friend on active duty who just returned from the Middle East. He is a competent gunman and one of my students.

My worst fears were confirmed. Gun-handling skills and philosophy haven't improved one bit since I was in Vietnam 35 years ago! Soldiers and Marines are still afraid of carrying loaded guns, even in areas of active fighting. They doubt their own ability, and they think they need permission to have their guns in a state of readiness commensurate with the circumstances. They are afraid to make any gun-related decisions for themselves.

Commanders still think empty guns are safer than loaded ones. So, they want everyone to unload their rifles and pistols before coming into certain areas. "Clearing barrels" are provided for this purpose. Not only does this pointless practice waste valuable time, it seems that there have been so many ADs during the procedure that personnel have now been threatened with prosecution if the ADs continue. The "solution" is to lynch people for not exercising the training they've never had!

Commanders obviously know that the small-arms training troopers have received is so poor and irrelevant that they can't be trusted with guns. It is the same reason National Guard Troopers patrolled airports with empty guns.

I had been told the situation had improved since Vietnam. In reality, it is worse. We don't have professional gunmen. We have scared kids who haven't been trained, and scared commanders who are afraid of their own men's competence.

From A Friend South Of The Border:

"We train law-enforcement officers throughout Central America, where the IMI Galil rifle is what most police here are armed with. In fact, the Galil is the primary arm of police officers. Pistols are carried only by the brass.

"For all practical purposes, rifles receive no maintenance, but, to their credit, they keep running. Unfortunately, officers fire only a few rounds during training and are then thrown to the wolves.

"I almost never handle a Galil without losing skin — lots

of rough edges and sharp corners.

"You may find it interesting that 10 meters is the maximum range anyone practices here. The rifle is actually used as a big pistol. A conventional sight picture is rarely taught. Officers typically look over the rear sight and just use the front sight as a reference. A great deal of potential inherent to the rifle is never exercised."

Lesson: Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned. Trainees (military and police) will do exactly what is expected of them. If little is expected, little will be accomplished. Seldom are noble deeds done by men who are thought of, and think of themselves, as nothing more than cannon fodder. Noble deeds are accomplished only by noble men. Training is largely meaningless if it does not make the trainee aware of his mission, of his place in history, and of his own magnificence.

State Of Police Training

From a friend who just attended a police training-course (attendees were all working patrol officers, ranging from rookie to veteran):

"The good news is that accuracy was acceptable in most cases, and most officers displayed a healthy, learning attitude. Here is the bad news:

"100% did not incorporate lateral movement into their pistol draw, stoppage-reduction, reloading procedure, or firing sequence. This matter improved by only 10%, even after movement was taught and recommended.

"40% consistently looked at their holsters during the reholstering process.

"20% panned their support hand with their muzzle during the draw sequence and during reholstering.

"20% were apparently comfortable holstering an empty weapon after completing each exercise, even though they knew they were on a hot range.

"100% failed to look all the way behind them after firing, and prior to reholstering.

"75% failed to scan to any degree before reholstering.

"40% were unable to reduce a stoppage quickly.

"30% 'scooped' their pistols during the draw (sometimes called 'bowling').

"75% of the students carrying pistols equipped with decocking levers were unable to decock rapidly using only their strong hand thumb. In many cases, these officers struggled and dithered every time they tried to decock."

Lesson: We're a lot better than we used to be, but we still have many training challenges that must be overcome. All trainers need to work diligently on the above issues.

Unintended Consequences?

From an LEO friend in Baltimore: "Drug dealers here have now realized that police in my city (Baltimore) have begun to enter cartridge cases found at the scene of our (daily) murders here into a state database for comparison. Of course, the effectiveness of this 'database' is highly dubious, but their universal response has nonetheless been to abandon autoloading pistols and instead carry and use revolvers exclusively, so they don't leave cartridge cases at the scene.

"The PD, most of whose members don't even remember the 'revolver days,' has thus had to refamiliarize itself with S&W, Colt, and Ruger revolvers."

Lesson: No matter what laws are passed, criminals will quickly develop ways to work around them — in most cases, with scant inconvenience. Restrictive gun laws thus have no effect on crime, but do have the effect of discouraging gun ownership among non-criminal citizens, which is, of course, their only real purpose.

From South Africa:

"As the festive season approached, we experienced our seasonal increase in cash-in-transit heists. This year, a new tactic as emerged. I'm surprised the robbers haven't thought of this before:

"The armored van is forced off the road in a remote spot. Most of these vans are top-heavy and roll easily once they leave the road and hit the dirt shoulder. AK47s are then used to riddle the van's soft underbelly. The sides are armored, but not the underside. The guards inside are usually all killed. The robbers then can peel off the doors at their leisure."

Lesson: Never stop moving. Don't let anyone force you off the road.

On The AR-15 / M16 / M4 / Etc.:

From a friend who manufactures guns: "As a result of heavy use, M16 upper-receiver aluminum forgings can begin to 'oval out' where the barrel is installed. Accuracy suffers greatly, and the weapon can come apart.

"On the lower receiver (also an aluminum forging), the holes for the hammer pin are also famous for 'ovaling,' to the point pins walk out.

"The M16 bolt also has problems. Locking lugs next to the extractor begin to crack at around 6,000 rounds, especially if the rifle is shot on full-auto. The other point of bolt weakness is the cam-pin hole. The bolt breaks at the cam-pin hole between 6,000 and 10,000 rounds.

"Most civilians will never shoot their AR-15s enough for any of these problems to develop. However, your students who attend course after course should be inspecting their

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"Our government, fully aware of the foregoing, has decided to get bids on (can you believe it?) shot-counters, so they can know how many rounds have gone through each rifle. This is ridiculous! It is time for a long-overdue change."

More From Another International Friend:

"Additional problem: The design of the bolt and extractor of the AR15/M16 is inherently defective. The extractor spring (no matter what material is used) will predictably fatigue and break at 1,500 rounds, although the rifle may continue to function normally. This persistent problem has been extensively studied by the Pentagon. The 'solution' has been to add a rubber 'D' ring to the spring. Even when the spring weakens and/or breaks, the rubber continues to ensure complete extraction. This is what all serious operators use, but the problem has hurt international sales of ARs.

"My brother has just arrived in Kiev, Russia. He reports that the new Russian AN94 is a good and functional rifle. Most African countries are now buying Russian small arms. Price, durability, and ease of use are big draws. At less than \$100 per copy (including four magazines) no Western rifle comes close to the AN94. Russian rifles are rude and crude (by Western standards), but they are designed to function continuously despite poor conditions and perpetual lack of maintenance. In fact, the durability of South African R4s (South African copy of the Israeli Galil), Russian AK/ANs, and the French FAMAS far outrun that of American ARs. This fact is common knowledge and is surely not lost on the world's arms buyers."

From A Friend In The Philippines:

"Over here, the M16 series continues to enjoy respect.

Government units equipped with the M16s still have the old variant with the slow twist rate. All use the M193 ball round. Contact distances remain well under 200 meters, with the vast majority of encounters occurring within 100 meters. Given all this, the (old) M16 still shines around here.

"Some 'elite' units (devoted to protecting politicians) are now fielding a new, 'mini' version of the M4. Iron sights have been replaced by red dots, with no backup sights. Barrels have been shortened to 6 inches. Stocks are maladroit, retractable wire contraptions. Rifling is 1:7. Considering the length of the chamber, one has no more than 4 inches of rifling to stabilize the round. Consistent zeros are impossible to establish beyond fifty meters. The maker is blaming it on poor marksmanship. Next project? A 4-inch version of the same gun, ostensibly for those really close encounters! Heaven forbid these folks run into well-trained riflemen, using real rifles.

"Meanwhile, our Rangers are content with their standard M16A1s. Those equipped with M14s are even more delighted and happy to bear the extra weight. Not surprisingly, these are the guys who've seen the most action in the most places, urban, field, mountain."

Lesson: Heaven save us from "elite" units! The .223 round in a standard-length rifle is effective to 150 meters. Beyond that, its effectiveness diminished exponentially. Its penetration capability (at any range) is extremely limited. Shorten the barrel, and a rifle that is already effective only at relatively short range, becomes even less effective. The .223 may make an efficient assault rifle, but it makes a manifestly inadequate battle rifle. New ammunition and shorter barrels with tight twists do not help in the least. ☒

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Korea: Bring Our Troops Home?

BY PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

"The United States of America," President Bush thundered to a wildly cheering Congress, "will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons."

The challenge Bush threw down a year ago has now been taken up. The Stalinist regime of North Korea, arguably the "world's most dangerous," has just admitted it is building the world's most destructive weapons. And Bush's response? "Let's talk."

Suddenly, all the bombast about an "axis of evil," pre-emptive strikes and "regime change" gives way to sweet reasonableness. Understandably. For a war with North Korea, with its hundreds of missiles, chemical and biological weapons, and million-man army with 11,000 artillery tubes on the DMZ, would be no "cakewalk."

So, Colin Powell has ruled out preventive war to deny Kim Jong Il the weapons he appears determined to build, and the Bush Doctrine thus becomes "inoperative" in Korea. Instead of tough talk, Bush and Powell are now casting about for diplomatic allies to isolate Pyongyang and force it to close its reactivated nuclear facilities.

Unfortunately, they are meeting with little success, and the reasons are rooted in respective national interests.

In South Korea, a generation has grown up that knows of U.S. sacrifices in a Korean War that ended in 1953, but detests the U.S. troop presence. And South Korea just elected a new president committed to a "sunshine policy" of engagement with Pyongyang. Why?

Because, to Seoul, the alternatives are too horrible to contemplate. South Korea fears that a cut-off in food, fuel and aid to North Korea could starve and freeze to death millions of their kinsmen, and possibly cause a regime collapse, leaving South Korea to care for 20 million destitute and dying North Koreans. Worse, an embargo might cause Kim Jong Il to lash out in a desperate war that could turn all of Korea into a sea of fire.

Thus, South Korea has rejected both U.S. pre-emption and a U.S. policy of isolating North Korea. Japan, too, is reluctant to endorse any policy that enrages Pyongyang, for Tokyo is defenseless against Kim's missiles, which have been tested over the Japanese home islands.

Russia has no desire to see Kim Jong Il brandishing atomic weapons, but why should Russia join in isolating North Korea, and put itself in the line of fire?

Which leaves China. Beijing is the principal supplier of food



and fuel to the North, but any collapse of Kim's regime could send hundreds of thousands of refugees pouring into China, and could give ideas to Chinese patriots who chafe under the post-Maoist totalitarian regime. Moreover, for China to betray its ideological soulmate, Korean War ally and old friend, to join a U.S.-led embargo, could so enrage Kim Jong Il that China, too, might find itself a target of his wrath.

Thus, America is finding it difficult to line up allies to twist Kim's arm. Meanwhile, South Korea's new president has, incredibly, taken on the role

of mediator between an America that has defended his nation for 50 years and a brutalitarian regime that has threatened his nation for 50 years.

Enough of this. It is time we consulted our own national interests.

Unlike 1950, when we faced a Soviet empire storming down the Korean peninsula, there is no vital U.S. interest in Korea today to justify sending another army of 350,000 men to fight a second Korean War. And as the new South Korean has undercut U.S. policy and is pandering to anti-Americanism, we should tell Seoul all U.S. troops will be out of Korea within two years. If Seoul wishes to play the hand with Pyongyang, let Seoul take the risks.

For if a war, conventional or even nuclear, broke out, no vital U.S. interest would be imperiled, so long as no U.S. troops are in South Korea. And no U.S. army should be sent to fight it. South Korea has 30 times the economy and twice the manpower of the North. An agonizing reappraisal of an Asian policy that dates to John Foster Dulles is overdue.

As for Beijing, the Chinese should be told that if they will not assist us in keeping Pyongyang out of the Nuclear Club, the United States will no longer seek to restrain South Korea, Japan or Taiwan from joining that club. Let us withdraw our troops from Asia and let Asia's democracies acquire the same weapons as Asia's communist dictators. Nuclear weapons have raised the price of empire too high.

Patrick J. Buchanan was twice a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination and the Reform Party's candidate in 2000. Now a commentator and columnist, he served three presidents in the White House, was a founding panelist of three national television shows, and is the author of seven books.

By permission of Pat Buchanan and Creators Syndicate, Inc. ✕

“Picture Two People, Locked In Mortal Combat, One With Both Hands Wrapped Around The Other’s Neck. Now, Imagine Yourself In This Scene And Tell Me... What Would You Do?”

(Hint: Whatever Your Answer, The Odds Are... It’s Wrong!”

Kick him in the groin.” “Strike the arms or punch the solar plexus.” “Grab the hands.” “Stomp on his instep”

The list is always the same.

Unfortunately... each answer just put your life at risk in the face of a life-or-death assault.

Why? Because invariably when Tim Larkin asks students this question at his **Target-Focus Training®** bootcamps...

No One—Not Even Trained Martial Artists—Sees Themselves As The One Doing The Choking

They’re always the one being choked.

It’s human nature. We shy from victory, from domination. It’s the way most of us are built.

Think about it though. Why couldn’t this have been the scenario:

You are surprised by two attackers. You’ve completely disabled the first and now have control of the second and are about to put him totally out of commission...

Possible? Of course it is. It’s just that no one sees it this way.

Here’s the problem: A thug comes up, places a knife to your throat and demands your wallet. Taking him at his word you give him the wallet. He then proceeds to stab you repeatedly leaving you in a pool of your own blood, astonished you’ve been stabbed.

What went wrong? Just this. You ASSUMED he only wanted the wallet. After all, why would anyone stab someone over a few measly bucks? **YOU** certainly wouldn’t do that if you were robbing someone (by the way... when WAS the last time you robbed someone and put a knife to their throat?).

You see, that IS the problem...

You’ve Just Transferred Your Own Moral Code To A Sociopathic Killer... And With It, Quite Possibly, Your Life.

See, nothing bothers him. He’s certainly not bound by your morals. With a total disregard for society and it’s rules, he has no regret whatsoever in cramming a blade into your gut... if that’s what it takes to get what he wants.

You stroll around thinking your 12 years of martial arts training or that 6-week self-defense course or the latest flavor-of-the-month fighting video gives you the edge you need against someone like this.

Wake up!

You are hopelessly training techniques (then praying they work) against someone who never “trained” for you. How many criminals in federal pens spent years sweating through JKD workouts before committing their crime? How many are Jujitsu experts?

None. They excel at just one thing: doin’ it. No training, no practice, no techniques. And these criminals certainly follow no “rules”. So why squander years fooling yourself with something that only works “if everyone plays by the rules”?

These are the facts: 98% of us, caught in an unavoidable violent attack (even those with years of training), would never consider doing “whatever it takes” to survive — like gouging our attacker’s eyes — even if they were the only targets available, and... even if it was the only means of saving our own life.

That’s why TFT® teaches both mind and body to

act in unison, training you for the real threat in your life... criminal violence.

It shows you how to deal with the ultra violence of a life-or-death confrontation (understand it’s very easy to ramp this down to fit a lesser situation but it’s impossible to ramp up to a “killing-set” if you’ve never trained for it -- by the way, is this you?).

Make no mistake... Larkin doesn’t advocate violence. TFT® just de-mystifies it. He’s often quoted...

“Violence Is Rarely The Answer. But When It Is... It’s The Only Answer.”

Look... others in Soldier of Fortune try to impress you with how bad they are, their accomplishments in the “hidden world” you aren’t privy to, their guru status.

TFT® isn’t about that. It’s not about an individual, a personality... or a guru.

It’s about a system... one focused totally on you!

Make no bones about it: Larkin’s track record is impressive. He’s currently training units from the top echelons of federal law enforcement and military special operations groups. It’s not surprising since he comes from that world and is well known there. But since everyone in Soldier of Fortune tries to claim this you’ll rarely hear him talking about it.

He’s an awesome communicator, fabulous trainer, and amazingly approachable for someone with his abilities and credentials. And he’s trained 100’s of CEOs and others in high-risk positions around the world — all very real people.

But why is this so important?

Why is TFT® being sought out in all these other arenas?

Because it works! Because you “get it” immediately... right now... as soon as you experience it. There’s no waiting, it’s usable instantly... and it stays with you forever even if you never practice it again.

Take fear. Experience a TFT® training and part way through this gigantic light bulb explodes in your brain. Boom... you get it... you understand why there’s no reason to be fearful in any type of confrontation again. It’s simply gone... instantly... and forever (by the way it’s not magic, you’ve got the ability inside you right now).

Here’s what TFT® is about: the key to the system lies in the fact there are two... and only two... overriding principles that determine the outcome of any physical confrontation. Combine these with three supporting methodologies that form the foundation of every fighting system on the planet and you have a complete system for handling any violent confrontation. With this information you can look at anything that’s out there... including your own training... and know immediately if it’s worth keeping.

“[TFT] was the most effective five days of training in hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon that I and everyone else had ever experienced.”

Brian (last name withheld), US Border Patrol

Larkin just got back from talking to over 600 CEO’s in Europe. These folks are eating his stuff up because **TFT®** principles and methodology are as effective in the “combative” world of business as they are in a truly lethal fight, and for the exact same reason... RESULTS.

What really excites Larkin is the fact that if these people can get this much from his material, imagine how much more someone like you can learn... a

dedicated reader of Soldier of Fortune magazine who is really into finding and applying a system that is quickly learned and deadly effective. If all these other folks are seeking him out, shouldn’t you be too?

Look, Larkin is swamped and realizes he can’t begin to reach everyone. While he’d love to have you as a member of his organization and to take part in his live training, he realistically understands few will be able to do this. Bootcamps run \$2,000.00 while international events start at \$10,000.00. And personal training for small 2- to 4-person sessions is \$20,000.00 and more.

That’s why he’s created a special Guide called *The 2 Key Principles That Were Used To Win Every War, Battle, Gunfight And Streetfight Ever Fought... And How You Can Exploit Their Devastating Power Today*.

Not some sales letter in disguise, this is truly a way for you to take at least a step towards learning the basics of **TFT®** and applying its principles today.

In the Guide, Larkin covers things like:

- **The secret to success in any confrontation or fight. Understand this principle... and you win. Without it... you lose. It’s as simple as that.**
- **Why it’s a huge mistake to train as if you can predict your attacker’s next move... even though everyone keeps trying to do it.**
- **Why focusing on a technique or methodology hands the sociopathic criminal an overwhelming advantage... each and every time.**
- **Why defeating an assailant has nothing to do with your size, strength, speed, sex, stamina or athleticism... and nothing whatsoever to do with years of practice or difficult movements.**

“I’ve ordered video’s from names like (withheld) and respect them and their ideas. But you have given me a logical system that I can train and do despite an artificial hip and other chronic injuries as a result of 33½ yrs of firefighting.” John Carmody, Norfolk, VA

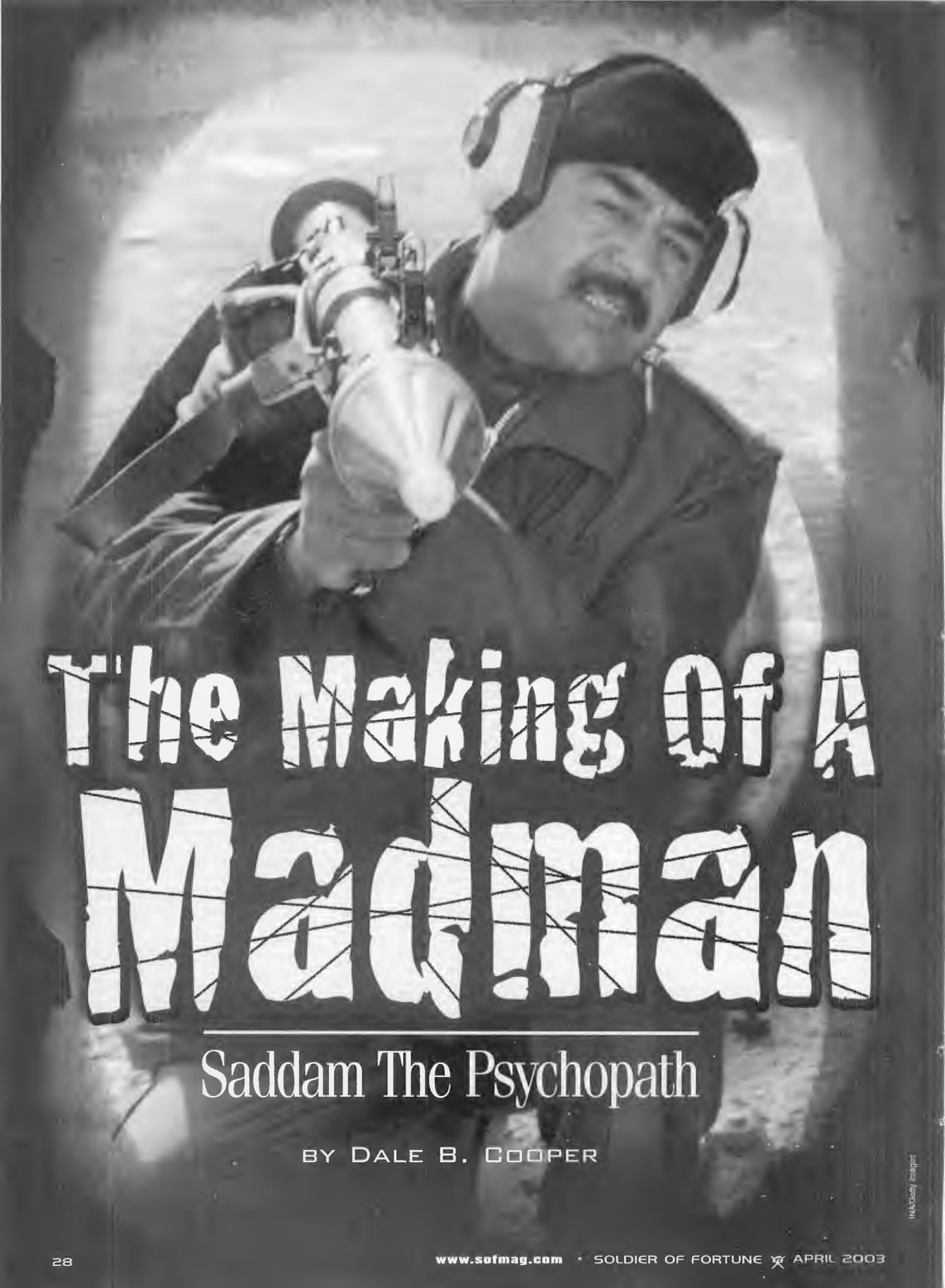
- **Why you can’t learn a hodgepodge collection of lethal techniques and expect to recall even one of them (let alone the one you need) in a life-or-death struggle.**

If you’ve spent years training techniques but still aren’t sure of what might happen face-to-face with an assailant, if you can’t imagine why physical skills are not critical to success in a determined sociopathic attack, if you long ago realized those silly fighter-of-the-month techniques weren’t the answer to anything, then you owe it to yourself to get his Guide.

Here is how you can get one: Larkin is distributing 250 of these Guides. You may request one Free copy by calling toll-free (888) 803-0504 and leaving your name and address on his voicemail. He’ll have the Guide sent to you the very next day. Since it’s voicemail you can call 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Additional copies of the Guide are just \$9 plus shipping. But again, he’ll send you one copy FREE.

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The Making of A Madman

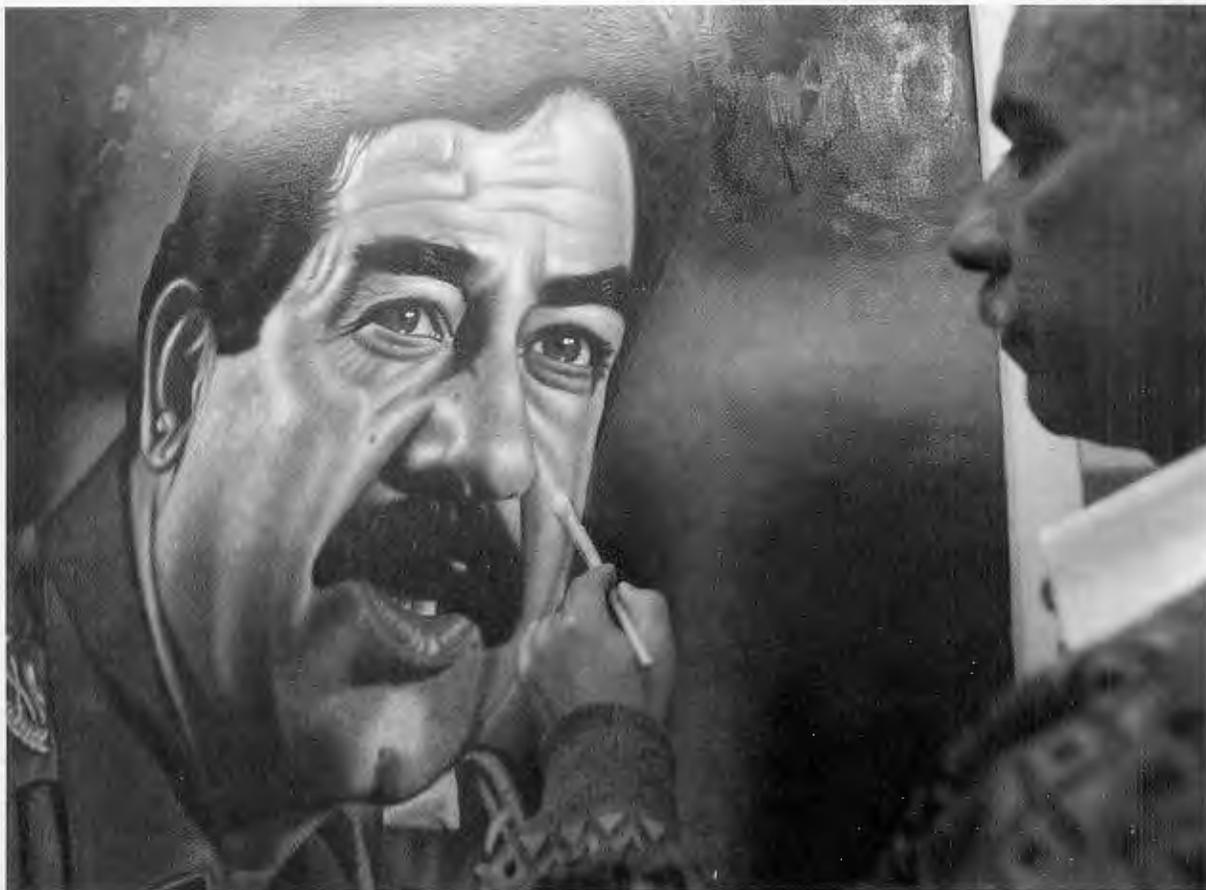
Saddam The Psychopath

BY DALE B. COOPER

INA/Getty Images

“Psy-cho-path, n. A person with a personality disorder, esp. one manifested in aggressively antisocial behavior.”

— *American Heritage Dictionary*



Ahmed Al Rubayyi/Gaity Images

If ever the term “psychopath” applied to any person alive today on the planet, it most certainly applies to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

“Whenever I looked into his eyes, I saw EVIL,” said former Iraqi Lieutenant General Fawzi al-Shamari, who finally had enough of the “Butcher of Baghdad” and defected to the United States in 1986 while attending the War University in New Delhi, India where senior Iraqi officers and high-ranking political officers were sent for post-graduate studies in the art of making war.

Fawzi has written a book-length manuscript about Saddam’s rise to power in Iraq and what it was like to serve under him. The former brigade commander says, “Saddam believes wholeheartedly in the philosophy that the end justifies the means.”

General Fawzi blames Saddam’s childhood under a sadistic

stepfather for much of his psychological problems that transformed him into a ruthless killer of men, women and children.

Saddam Hussein spent the formative years of his life in the tiny village of al-Auja. Tikrit, the place where Saddam claims as his birthplace, was not then a province, but only a large town on the banks of the Tigris River, north of Baghdad.

At that time, life in Tikrit was tough. The cultural environment was defined by tribal law and customs. The Bedouin tribes were a law unto themselves, beyond any government control. They had a strict code of honor and revenge, in which a man would kill another man for so much as glancing at a woman, or would willingly sacrifice his life to protect her. Fawzi says it was a culture of deep convictions and passionate beliefs.

“If something was worth believing in, it was worth fighting for and dying for,” writes Fawzi about life under Saddam Hussein’s heel.

The former Iraqi general has given SOF permission to excerpt liberally from the portion of his manuscript entitled, “The Shaping Of A Personality.” Selected excerpts appear in quotes.

(opposite) Iraqi President Saddam Hussein practices launching a rocketed-propelled grenade (RPG) during the Iraq-Iran war in an undated photo. (above) Artist Salam Abid puts the last touches on a portrait of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at his studio, 24 November 2002, in Baghdad, Iraq.

"All Iraqis know that Saddam never knew his own father, who had divorced his mother before he was born. But soon after that, his mother remarried, and for the first 10 years of his life, he was under the custody of his stepfather, Ibrahim Hassan.

His stepfather mistreated him badly, beating him, abusing him, insulting him, and repeated throwing him out of the house. His stepfather did not allow Saddam to go to school, leaving him to grow up in an atmosphere of hatred, ignorance and poverty.

Even as a child, Saddam Hussein had a defiant and aggressive nature. He bullied his friends and tried to make himself appear important among them. He learned to fight, and as a shepherd boy tending his stepfather's sheep, he carried a curved knife that he later exchanged for a pistol. He learned to lie in order to avoid punishment. Lying became a means of survival for Saddam," writes Fawzi.

In 1947, Saddam's mother could no longer tolerate the way her husband treated her son, and sent him to live with her brother, Khair Alla Tilfah, who was at that time an elementary school teacher in Tikrit. There, Saddam's uncle sent him to school with his own son, Adnan, who later became a close friend of Saddam's and later, his Minister of Defense.

Tilfah was an officer in the Iraqi Army in the late 1930s, but the young second lieutenant was dismissed for political reasons. The Iraqi Army was controlled by the British at that time, and Tilfah was accused of being an Iraqi nationalist.

"I met him in my headquarters when I was chief of staff of the III Corps in the Iran-Iraq war. He had come to visit the corps commander, General Mahir Al Tikriti. There was no practical reason for his visit, except that he was the 'king's' uncle," said Fawzi who points out that Saddam Hussein had visions of grandeur. During his rise to power, Saddam want-

ed to be a king. He wanted to be an autocrat, an absolute monarch, inheriting the ancient throne of Nebuchadnezzar.

Fawzi writes that Saddam is obsessed with Islamic history, but he is not a religious man, nor does he possess a single one of the good Muslim character traits.

As we met recently at Fawzi's favorite restaurant in northern Virginia and poured over his manuscript, he recalled how there are 99 terms to describe God in the Muslim faith, and how Saddam ordered clerics to come up with 99 terms to describe him, as well. "Most Merciful" was one of the terms. Saddam even went as far as to order clerics to trace his lineage back to the Prophet Mohammed on the Iraqi "tree of life."

Learning The Tools Of His Trade

After Saddam finished elementary school in Tikrit in 1958, he moved to the capital, Baghdad, with his uncle. There he continued his studies at Al Karkh high school, but did not graduate.

"As a student, he became a supporter of the Baath Party, which had adopted a policy of assassination against its enemies. On 7 October 1959, he was involved in a failed attempt to assassinate the first president of the country, General Abdul Karim Qassim. Saddam was shot in the leg, and it has become legend in Iraq that he dug the bullet out with a razor blade. After that he had to flee to Syria, and three months later, left there for Cairo, Egypt. In 1961, he graduated from high school in Cairo."

Saddam's official biographical sketch indicates he studied law at Cairo University for two years, but there is no evidence to substantiate that claim. During his stay in Egypt, he became engaged to his cousin, Sajida, who was the daughter of his uncle, Khair Alla. He had fallen in love with her while living in

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his uncle's house in Baghdad, and in 1963, they were married.

In that same year, the Baath Party finally succeeded in toppling the president, Abdul Karim Bassim, and Saddam returned home. The Baathists turned Qasr al-Nihaya, the palace of the former king into a torture center and, in recognition of Saddam's brutal nature, assigned him there as a member of a torture and interrogation team. But on 11 November 1963, Saddam was on the run again when the Baath Party was expelled from power.

Five years later, the Baathists seized power in a military coup. At age 31, Saddam Hussein was elevated to the position of Deputy to the President, and two years after the Baath Party came back to power, Saddam received an honorary law degree from one of the universities in Baghdad.

Webster defines personality as the "totality of qualities and traits, as of character or behavior, that are peculiar to the individual." These distinctive traits are said to be the consequence of a mental conflict between self-interest and environment.

"From his stepfather, he learned hatred and violence. Living in constant fear, he learned the art of lying and became sly like a fox. From his uncle, Saddam learned prejudice and greed," writes Fawzi.

An Unnerving Experience

Personal meetings with Saddam Hussein were an unforgettable experience. First, General Fawzi says the process of getting in to see him was designed to instill fear in the hearts of visitors.

"Even as his senior military commanders, we had to pass through a series of checkpoints in the palace, where we surrendered our pistols and were thoroughly searched, down to our watches and rings," said Fawzi who says he and fellow officers often looked at each other and jokingly asked, "Which one of us won't be returning to camp?"

Once they passed through security, the officers were led down a series of halls in the presidential palace, and seated in a conference room where they waited for the "King" to arrive.

"We always waited, because it was part of Saddam's strategy not to appear until we had plenty of time to worry about what was going to happen next," said Fawzi. They had good reason to worry. All it would take was a flick of Saddam's eyes for any of them to disappear.

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After staring at each other for what seemed like an eternity, Saddam would strut in like a peacock accompanied by at least two guards carrying Kalishnikov rifles.

Fawzi says Saddam would sit down first, and then give his generals permission to sit.

"One of the guards would light his cigar, and Saddam would begin the conference. He began every meeting in the same manner. He would lay out his goals, telling us what he expected of us and attempting to impress us with his knowledge of military details. His introduction set the tone for the conference. You had to focus very carefully on what he was saying, because he was telling you what he wanted to hear. You sat there, trying to analyze it quickly in order to prepare your presentation.

Then, you made your presentation. Saddam's eyes would bore into you, giving you the impression that he was listening to every word. You also felt that if you said one thing that was wrong, you would no longer be among the living. He would watch you intently all the time, and if you presented some detail that he didn't understand, those eyes would flick to the Chief of Staff or Defense Minister, who was always present, for a quick explanation.

With his slyness, he would pretend deep sympathy with what you were saying, but he was only play acting; trying to show everyone at the conference table that he was concerned, but he was lying."

Once General Fawzi described one of his battles with the Iranians. Fawzi told Saddam he lost most of his troops because armored vehicles failed to counterattack, as had been planned, and the air force failed to destroy a bridge the Iranians were coming across. Pretending to be deeply moved, Saddam began to cry. He left the room for a while, apparently to compose himself, before returning and asking Fawzi to continue.

"Saddam could be both emotional and impulsive. If he liked a particular suggestion, whether or not it had merit, he would turn to his Chief of Staff, and say, "Okay, do it!" But Saddam also had a violent side. In an instant, his mood could change from geniality to uncontrollable, raging anger. No one in his presence knew what to expect. If he smiled, he was not to be trusted. Very often, a smile was a sign that he was hiding something."

Either before or after meetings with Saddam, his secretary would give each

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Otherwise, there was no purpose for his visit to the front lines."

Saddam Hussein was afraid to drink tea with his generals for fear of being poisoned. He never ate any food for that reason. And even during a battle, his generals had to take off their sidearms when Saddam visited their field headquarters for fear one of them might shoot him.

"The leader who is afraid of his soldiers, even of eating and drinking with them, is no leader," concluded Fawzi.

As a consequence of his suspicions, Saddam Hussein has become very agile and mentally alert. He is cautious and fearful.

"A friend of mine who used to work very close to him once told me that Saddam often didn't sleep more than 10 or 20 minutes a day. He would take a nap in a chair in his office, or retire to his home in the palace for a short period of time," said Fawzi.

Saddam Hussein uses his smile to conceal his great anger and great hatred. He is aggressive and has a tendency to choose violence as his first choice in making decisions or solving minor problems.

A Cold-Blooded Killer

Killing is nothing new in the life of Saddam Hussein. It's an instinct that has controlled his life since childhood. General Fawzi says you can feel it when you meet him, when you see him, and when to talk with him.

"It is in his smile, in his eyes, in his voice, and in the way he walks. Even his name reflects killing, Saddam's name in Arabic is 'Sddam,' which is the word for collision. 'Sddamy' is an adjective for aggressive. He learned from his brutal stepfather, from his hostile uncle, and from the Tikriti tribe that killing was an expression of courage, and the choice of first resort for solving problems."

When Saddam was a high school student in Tikrit, he helped his uncle, Khair Allah Tilfah, murder one of his relatives to settle a tribal dispute. His second experience in bloodletting was his failed attempt to assassinate the president of Iraq. During his exile in Egypt, Saddam Hussein tried to kill Iraqi students who differed with him politically.

During his years in power, Saddam has turned killing his enemies into an art form.

Saddam once ordered that a group of

Continued on page 75

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PHILIPPINES U.S. Special Forces training 300 counterparts for six weeks. Abu Sayyaf member arrested on ferry from Basilan Island.

SINGAPORE Arrested 31 members of Jemaah Islamiyah, who plotted to blow-up U.S., Australian, British and Israeli Embassies in Singapore.

INDONESIA "With radical agenda and enhanced skills acquired from al-Qaeda, these groups (other than al-Qaeda), if left unchecked will pose a grave threat to the security of Southeast Asia for a long time to come." *NY Times* quotes Singapore government. Most dangerous: Jemaah Islamiya. Most Wanted: Hambali, link between JI and al-Qaeda.

COLOMBIA Car bomb explodes outside military base 400 kilometers from Bogota. Four dead, 15 injured. U.S. Special Forces due to train Colombian troops in rebel anti-terror tactics. Rebels blowing-up power sources and communications.

VENEZUELA President Hugo Chavez donated \$1 million to al-Qaeda. Chavez, connected to five terrorist organizations, warns that he is ready to declare "exceptional" security measures including martial law. Two Chavez supporters assassinated by police officers in opposition march and stone-throwing demonstrations.

RUSSIA Two bomb blasts rip government building in Grozny, Chechen Republic — 80 dead, dozens injured.

UNITED KINGDOM British DOCTORS ON ALERT in "Most dangerous discovery since 9-11." Ricin found in apartment of six Algerians suspected of al-Qaeda links. Royal Navy deployed to Gulf; 3,000 Royal Marines, 16-vessel fleet. The 7th Armoured Brigade and some of 4th Armoured Brigade are training in Germany as Challenger 2 tanks and AS90 self-propelled guns are modified for desert warfare. Reservists mobilized, 1,500 called up amid rabid opposition to war in Parliament and by citizens.

ISRAEL Two suicide bombers in Tel Aviv kill 22 and wound dozens of others. Israeli Helicopter gun ships responded with rockets into Gaza City. Arrow anti-missile system activated in preparation for Iraqi Scud missile attacks if U.S. attacks Iraq.

IRAQ Pentagon, preparing for year and half of military control with peacekeeping forces, deploys 62,000 troops to total 150,000. Civil war predicted if U.S. attacks. STARVING: Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis expected in food grab, in makeshift refugee camp on Kuwait-Iraq border.

IRAN AXIS OF EVIL MEMBER: being supplied with Weapons of Mass destruction by China and Russia.

FRANCE Anti-war demonstrations: 77% oppose war with Iraq.

ALGERIA Ambush by Islamic militants on military convoy kills 43 soldiers, 13 civilians.

EGYPT Home of several 9-11 suicide bombers, arrests 43 members of fundamentalist Islamic Jihad group planning to attack government officials and foreign targets.

JORDAN Californian convicted of conspiracy to launch poison-gas attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets, hosting U.S. and Israeli tourists during 2000 New Year celebration, sentenced to death.

YEMEN Three American missionaries killed by Islamic extremist, who cradled gun like baby to gain entry to hospital.

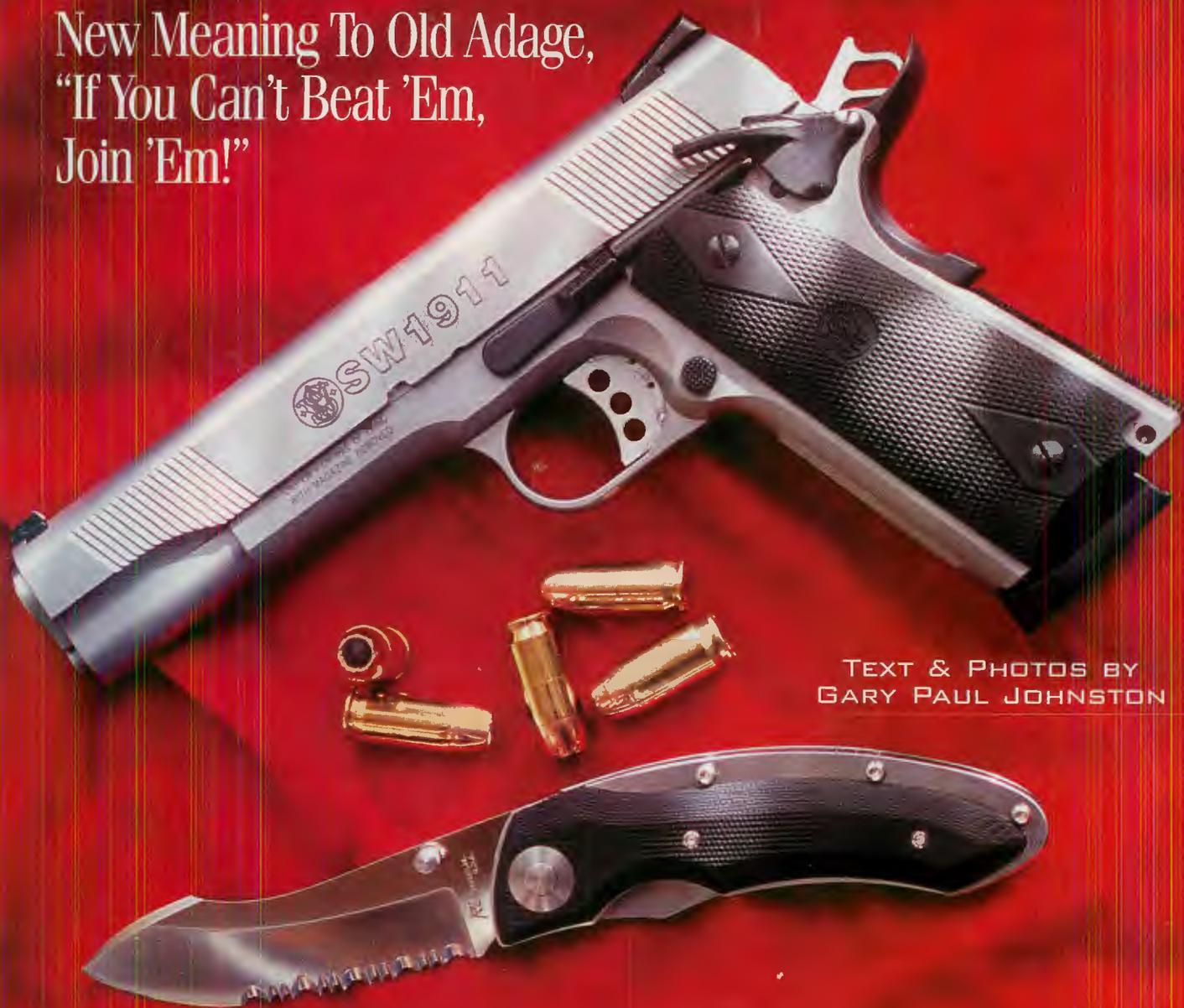
SRI LANKA Tamil Liberation Tigers considered most ruthless, most disciplined terrorist group responsible for more than half of worldwide suicide attacks according internal source. Tiger boss, brags that attack on U.S.S. *Cole* copied from tigers.

Smith & Wesson's

NEW

MODEL 1911

New Meaning To Old Adage,
"If You Can't Beat 'Em,
Join 'Em!"



TEXT & PHOTOS BY
GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Boasting forward slide-retraction grooves and clean lines, the SW1911 pistol is rendered mostly in stainless steel. It is shown in its best carry mode: cocked 'n' locked.

It was bound to happen. With the ever-growing popularity of John M. Browning's famous .45 ACP caliber pistol adopted as the Model of 1911 nearly a century ago, it was bound to happen, but few thought it ever would:

Originally produced by Colt, the Model of 1911 went on to be manufactured by far too many firearms companies (and others) on four continents to be counted here. What's more, add to it the even-greater number of clones that have appeared during the past quarter of a century, and the number approaches 50. However, one of the most famous firearms companies in the world that *never* made the 1911

er making a true 1911 pistol. After all, S&W already had its Performance Center Model 945, a semi-clone of the 1911 that also contains S&W design features found in their standard line of auto-pistols. What's more, S&W makes the forgings for Kimber's 1911-style pistols.

Whatever the case, Smith & Wesson decided it's never too late to jump on the bandwagon. It's not only jumped on, but it looks as if the company might want to get into the driver's seat — with not just one 1911-style pistol, but a whole *series* of them. I've just received an advanced sample of Smith & Wesson's new 1911 pistol. Let's take a closer look.

Called the simply the SW1911, the pistol is a full-size, 5-

On the left side of the pistol's slide is marked the S&W logo and SW 1911, and on the frame is marked a warning that the gun can be fired with the magazine removed. (inset) The SW1911 was carried in a Huntington Wedge Holster, from Haugen Handgun Leather, one of Johnston's favorite concealed-carry rigs.

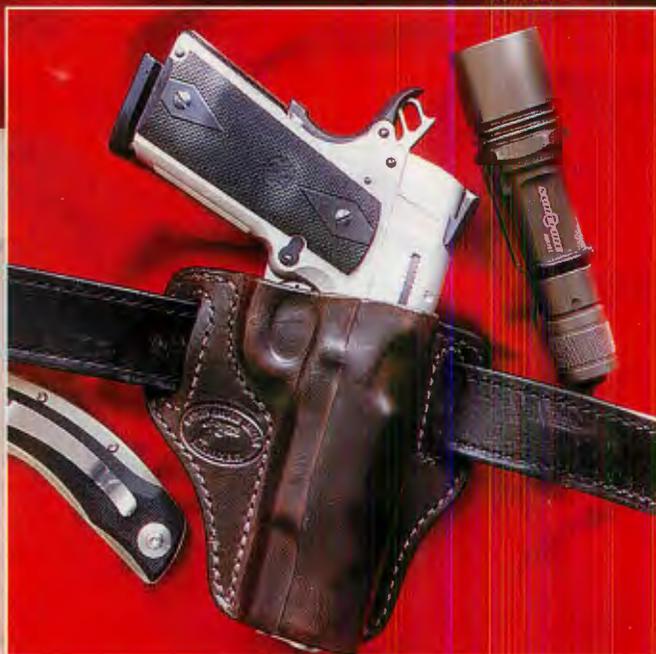


pistol was Smith & Wesson. That is, until now.

No doubt, one of the greatest reasons for S&W not making its own version of the 1911 pistol was that Colt was one of its biggest competitors. The two companies have always been neck-and-neck in promoting their own designs, such as Colt's side-loading Single-Action Army and Smith & Wesson's Schofield break-top revolvers. The competition remained just as fierce with both companies' swing-out cylinder revolvers, and with their semi-automatic pistols.

However, as strong as S&W has always been in the handgun marketplace, it has never made a .45 ACP caliber autopistol that could compete on the same level with the 1911. No company could, and that's why there are so many companies making copies of the 1911 today. Pick up any one of the buyer's guides on the newsstand and you'll count at least 20 makers of 1911 clones.

Thus, it was only natural for Smith & Wesson to consid-





At the rear of the barrel's hood, is a cut to reveal the presence of a round in the chamber, if there is sufficient light to see it.

inch barrel .45 ACP pistol made mostly of stainless steel. Again, my writers' sample is strictly pre-production, and while its slide, frame, and some other parts were made by S&W, many of its innards are aftermarket. This is because some of the new CNC machinery that will be used to make these small internal parts was not in place in time for the introduction. An example is a huge barrel-making center that is coming on-line as you read this. The barrels in the first sample pistols are a match-grade-type made by Briley.

A Better Magazine

Other internal aftermarket parts in the new SW1911 pistol include the thumb safety, trigger, disconnecter, sear, and recoil spring guide and plug. One other part that is not made by S&W is the SW1911's magazine, and this is the latest version of the new ACT-MAG 1911 eight-shot magazine from PSI that was designed by Wayne F. Novak, whose famous LoMount Sight was also adopted by S&W years ago. Since

the magazine has always been one of the 1911's two weak points, S&W sought to use the best magazine it could find right from the get-go. Having used both the earlier version and the new improved type, I can attest to its excellence. This magazine is also being tested by a number of government agencies. However, in this case the magazine bears the S&W logo, and will be standard with the new pistol.

Speaking of the Novak LoMount Sight, this pistol comes with such a sight, but it is not a standard Novak 1911 sight, and was not even designed for the 1911 pistol. It is a version of the LoMount sight Novak designed for the S&W 9mm Model 3913 pistol. Since this sight was already made by S&W for Model 3913 it merely adapted its 1911 slide to use it. The front sight is dovetailed into the slide just as with most other S&W auto pistols. As with the sights, the thumb safety, slide stop, "Beavertail" grip safety, magazine release, grip screws, and magazine are blued, the latter with a polished surface.



Outside Extractor

In addition, there is one more part that is blued, and that is the pistol's exterior extractor, the second weak point of the 1911. S&W is almost at the lead in introducing the outside extractor for the 1911 with Wilson and Kimber beating it by only months. Far less apt to break, and next-to-impossible to bend, the outside extractor was used by John M. Browning in his original .45 ACP-pistol designs, but has been a long time coming for the 1911. You can expect to see many other makers of 1911 pistols switch over to this type of extractor in the future.

Criticisms

The front strap of the SW1911 is grooved vertically, but these grooves are so shallow that they add

The SW1911 comes with a full-length guide rod and a state-of-the-art eight-shot magazine, made for S&W by ACT-MAG.

little to gripping. At the rear of the barrel hood is a small half-moon cut that allows the operator to see a cartridge case in the chamber, that is, if there is light enough to do so. I much prefer to use the pistol's excellent forward slide-retracting grooves in order to make a proper safety check of the chamber, and this can be easily done in pitch dark.

Another unnecessary feature that is in vogue is the full-length recoil spring guide that came in my sample. Since the 1911 has worked perfectly for more than 90 years with the original short guide, I see little advantage to a full-length type. I also see one disadvantage to a full-length guide, and this is that it requires the use of a barrel-bushing wrench in order to fieldstrip the pistol. If I wanted a full-length recoil spring guide in my 1911, I'd install a LaserMax laser sight that provides both a full-length guide and an accurate laser.

Speaking of the LaserMax, I tested mine in the SW1911, and it worked perfectly, as did LaserGrips from Crimson Trace. If you prefer the latter, these easily replace the checkered black rubber grips that came with my sample. Both laser systems have their advantages, and I am a proponent of good laser sights, when used properly.

The "beavertail" grip safety on my sample SW1911 was well proportioned, with a raised hump on the bottom, and this came in handy, as the grip safety needed to be fully depressed in order to deactivate the firing-pin safety. That's right, the SW1911 comes with a firing-pin safety, but unlike the Series 80 safety, this one is totally independent of the trigger. It is more similar to the Schwartz Firing Pin Safety system that was originally designed at Colt, and that is now used in the Kimber. However, the S&W system uses a frame lever resembling that of the Series 80, rather than the plunger of the Schwartz.

I regret the perceived need for a firing-pin safety in the 1911, as I do not believe the pistol needs one. However, liability is now the buzzword for all industries in America, and the requirement to protect one from his own stupidity rules us all. This is perhaps most apparent with the small photo-etched warning that appears on the left front side of the SW1911's frame: "Caution — Capable of being fired with magazine removed." My first urge was to add the words, "Thank God!" In my opinion, never has there been a more questionable addition to a pistol, than to render it inoperable with its magazine removed. Score another point for the lawyers.

Shots Fired

These criticisms aside, my sample



Here, the fieldstripped SW1911 is seen. The pistol comes with two eight-shot magazines and a barrel-bushing wrench.

SW1911 pistol has beautiful lines and a good fit, and after a thorough examination, I proceeded to the range to shoot it. Oh, yes, there was one more criticism of the pistol as received. The aftermarket adjustable trigger stuck in its channel and had to be pulled forward each time to reset the sear. Thus our test-firing began by shooting one shot at a time and resetting the trigger in between. After firing one full magazine in this manner, and finding that the pistol cycled perfectly, I decided to shoot a five-shot group with the sticking trigger. This 25-yard group measured 2.78 inches, which was not bad considering that, due to sticking, the trigger had a 3-stage letoff.

However, by the time about 20 rounds had been fired through the gun, the tight trigger broke-in and the pistol ran perfectly from then on, and still does, digesting every type of .45 ACP ammunition I have put through it. What's more, the trigger letoff has improved, as has

accuracy, with five-shot groups now averaging about 2.5 inches at 25 yards.

Huntington Wedge

To get the feel of the pistol, I carried the SW1911 in a Huntington Wedge Holster made by Haugen Handgun Leather. Designed by my good friend, Roy Huntington, this rig is designed to keep the butt of the pistol against one's body for optimum concealment and retention, and can be worn either cross-draw or strong-side. It's one of the best concealment designs I've ever used.

As far as this pre-production SW1911 goes, it has most of the features one would want in a custom-grade combat 1911, but still leaves itself open to some level of custom work if desired, such as checkering the front strap.

Wayne Novak also reports that he has a new variation of his Extreme Duty Adjustable Rear Sight for the SW1911.

Yes, another firearms manufacturer has added a Model of 1911 pistol to its line, and this time that company is a giant in the industry. How good the final version of the SW1911 will be I can't say, but it will certainly be even better than my pre-production sample. As such, it's sure to be a welcomed addition to the 1911 family.

What else does Smith & Wesson have in store? In addition to competition and Commander-style models, look for SW1911s with a lightweight scandium frame. For more information, contact Smith & Wesson, Dept. SOF, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, MA 01104; Tel.: 800-331-0852; on the web at: smith-wesson.com . ❧

CONTACT SHEET

ACT-MAG/PSI, Inc., Dept. SOF
2 Klarides Village Dr., Ste. 336
Seymour, CT 06483
877-526-0980

Crimson Trace Lasers, Dept. SOF
8089 Southwest Cirrus Dr.
Beaverton, OR 97008
800-442-2406; (crimsontrace.com)

Haugen Handgun Leather, Dept. SOF
P.O. Box 6124
Bismark, ND 58506
701-255-0723; (haughenhandgunleather.com)

LaserMax, Inc., Dept. SOF
3495 Winton Pl.
Rochester, NY 14623
800-LASER-03; (lasermax-inc.com)

Novak Design, Inc., Dept. SOF
P.O. Box 4045
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-485-9295; (novaksgnts.com)



U.S. Military Readies For Iraq Invasion

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

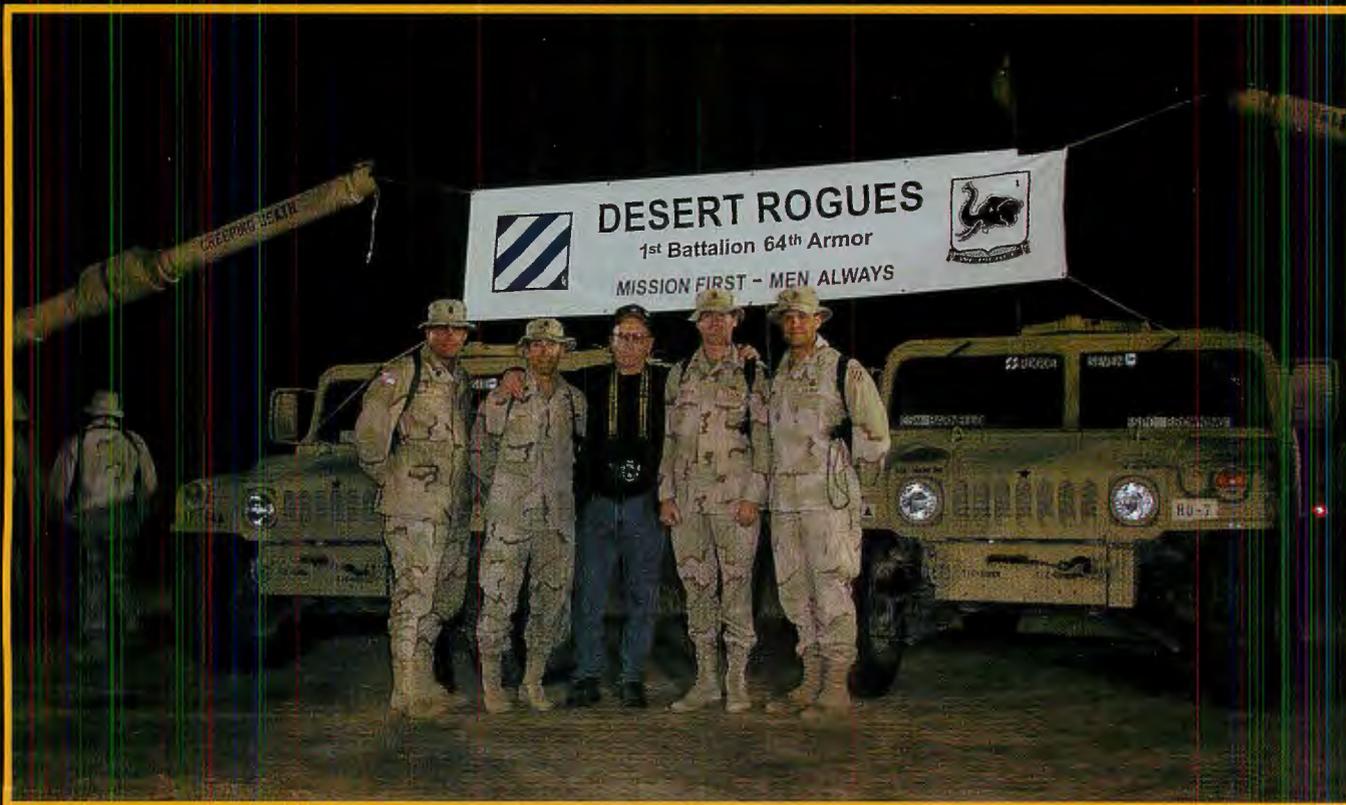


IN KUWAIT

“Dear Lord, we ask you to help us as we are training for battle” the lean, mild-looking Chaplain’s voice brusquely thundered in the chill desert air, silencing the boisterous troops.

Hundreds of troops saluted reverently as one soldier sang the National Anthem, his rich voice filling the endless dark amphitheater of the starless sky.

“Right out of Apocalypse Now,” commented RKB, as he surveyed the surrealistic backdrop of Abrams tanks, a combat engineer bridge and Hummers. “I doubt that any boxing match ever held, had as many guns in attendance,” he commented. “Whoever came up with the background concept should get some kind of award for originality of design. Maybe an Oscar. Heh, heh. These guys and gals are good to go.”



Dog-Faced Soldiers

"I wouldn't give a bean to be a fancy-pants Marine, I'd rather be a dog-faced soldier like I am. I wouldn't trade my old ODs for all the Navy dungarees, for I'm the walking pride of Uncle Sam. On Army posters that I read, it says be all that you can, so they're tearing me down to build me over again. I'm just a dog-faced soldier with a rifle on my shoulder and I eat raw meat for breakfast every day. So feed me ammunition, keep me in the Third Division. Your dog-faced soldier is A-OK!"

The madcap song alleviated the somber mood.

Robert K. Brown, *SOF's* Editor/Publisher, thus no stranger to military bases, was a bit disconcerted as he described the eerie scene in the desert military camp and makeshift theater and boxing ring "as surreal as *Apocalypse Now*."

Floodlights lit the sky, illuminating the huge flags flying over tanks that proudly and defiantly bore the emblems: "10th Engineer Battalion. Bridge the sky" and "Desert Rogues 1st Battalion, 64th Armor. Mission First. Men Always."

A few couples strolled through the crowds, trying to be inconspicuous in their surroundings where privacy was a forgotten privilege.

Camp New York was hosting the boxing match "smoker", an event that brought together members of various camps in Kuwait.

As the match started, fans cheered wildly and booed raucously. "I guess violence is inherent," one trooper said as he rooted when his champion floored his opponent.

"We're here for training. I was here in Desert Storm in the same unit," Steve Hommel, the Chaplain, said as he congratulated his student who had just won his match.

"It was during the Gulf War when I served as an infantryman that I decided to become a chaplain. "Although I miss

my family, I feel that I am doing the right thing. There are no distractions here. I have a captive audience."

"I have been only coaching for two weeks," he said, "I boxed in high school. It was painful to watch at first. Pretty bad."

Have they improved?

"Let's hope. We'll see next month.

"We can't train day and night for six months. We've got to have time off and this is it," Major Rick Nassio, 37, from Detroit, Michigan, said

"We rotate to Kuwait to train, and rotate out for three-to-six-month periods. I had just come back from training camp at Fort Stewart and was flown out for Kuwait five days later with no notice," one trooper piped in.

Death Road — 360 Miles From Camp To Baghdad

"Camp New York" is headquarters of the 2nd Brigade, Army 3rd Infantry Division, or "Desert Raiders." On 24 December 2002, an executive directive ordered a brigade of 4,000 troops from Fort Stewart, Georgia, to Kuwait. In January 03, tens of thousands additional troops were deployed from Fort Stewart, in Savannah, and Fort Benning, in Columbus, Georgia, to join those already in Kuwait. The ground forces were some of the over 60,000 troops already in the Gulf region. By mid-February another 62,000 troops would have joined the troops in the Gulf. In mid-January, 1,400 vehicles and hundreds of containers of equipment were deployed from Savannah on the U.S.N.S. *Mendonca* to support the 3rd Division to reinforce the battle tanks and 155mm howitzers.

The Navy deployed thousands of Marines in a seven-ship armada, including 7,000 from Camp Pendleton, California, and another 17,000 amphibious forces from San Diego and the East Coast.



(left) Members of Battalion staff, from left to right, Major Rick Nussio, 37, Detroit, MI; Major Mike Donovan, 37, Charleston, SC; Battalion CO Lieutenant Colonel Eric Schwartz, 40, Alexandria, VA; Command Sergeant Major William Barnello, 42, Syracuse, NY; (above) Behind RKB, Specialist Rhymen, 22, Virgin Islands; Private First Class Knight, 22, Westminster, SC; and to the right of RKB, Specialist Trump, 20, Baltimore, MD; Specialist Nicholas, 20, Salisbury, MD; Sergeant Paz, 24, Brownsville, TX; Staff Sergeant Ortiz, 31, Azellhurst, GA. Kneeling is Specialist Miller, 23, Amarillo, TX. (right) RKB with Master Sergeant Sweitzer, 33, Hinesville, GA. Troops carried M16s unloaded, but all had magazine holders taped to buttstocks.

The Marines based in Camp Commando plan to be choppered-in from their ships or join the "Desert Raiders" in the event that a land attack into Iraq is launched.

"There are four camps," one soldier explained. "We're from Camp Pennsylvania — it's the best camp, by the way. Then there's Camp Virginia, Camp New York, Camp New Jersey. The first three were named after the targets of the 9-11 terrorists. Ali al Salem Airbase and various holding places prepare additional tanks and Apache attack helicopters and are awaiting the Air Force's 6th Cavalry Regiment Task Force."

Troops had been forward deployed in Kuwait since 1991 for Operation Desert Spring, the successor-training mission that was launched at the end of Desert Storm. Initially, a single battalion had been deployed for training and intrinsic action. Reinforcements have accelerated since then in preparation for the Gulf Phase of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Air-fighters training in Germany with their F-16CJ Wild Weasels from the 22nd Fighter squadron of 52 Fighter Wing are awaiting to join the Army troops and Marines at undisclosed locations and unannounced deployments.





Interview With *Kuwait Times*' Editor-In-Chief

The criticism by the Arabs is not that the U.S. wants to replace Saddam," Yousuf S. Alyan, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Kuwait Times*, told *SOF*, "It is that they plan to redraw the Middle-Eastern borders. They want to change the face of the Middle East like the British did in the early 1900s. The British and Germans had a problem with the Ottoman Empire. The British, in trying to rebuild, installed heads of state — Kings and Sheiks. Whatever exists today is because of that. Why change regimes in the name of democracy now when the Kings and Sheiks are said to be pro-West and the U.S. has accepted the status quo?"

Now the U.S. has a change of mind and is talking about so-called road maps. The Kuwaiti government has no choice but to support the Americans but the citizens will not support willy-nilly what you will do in Iraq. Some say all that you are doing is to protect Israel and the plot is to install spineless puppet regimes in this area. Talking about such schemes at this time gives Hussein unnecessary leverage, giving him strength and power because he points out the U.S. aggression. He has now assumed the status of Arab Hero. U.S. plans are ill-thought-out.

The U.S. needs to show evenhandedness for both sides.

Israelis are killing with F-16s bombs and tanks. Palestinians throw stones and have automatic rifles in an unequal match that is almost a massacre. The U.S. does not apply sufficient pressure on Israel to implement internationally agreed-upon peace plans. Then there is linkage. The Middle East, no matter whatever bad deeds Saddam does, believes that he is defending the dignity of the Arab world. Saddam should not be given this advantage. If it solves the Israel-Palestinian problem, the U.S. would be popular. Everything hinges on the Palestinian problem.

If the U.S. gives the feeling that it is a friend of the Arabs it would be popular, just as there is not much resentment towards the British because they did good things. America came "bang bang," then left unfinished business. You created the Mujahideen who became the Taliban. Now, there are attacks on Karzai (Afgani President) and Afghanistan will become the hideout for the Taliban because you are busy elsewhere. You should finish what you start and that costs much less than what they are spending. With a little development Afghanistan will not become the haunt of terrorists. So much money is spent in the high-tech war in Afghanistan with cluster bombs yet success is doubtful and



(opposite) A U.S. Army M1A1 Abrams tank plows through the desert sands on 8 December 2002, near the Iraqi border in Kuwait. The tank, which is part of the 464 Armored Brigade, is participating in a exercises named Operation Desert Spring near the Iraqi border. (above) Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry await the ramp from their squad's Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle to raise as they prepare to conduct dismount drills with 1st Platoon along the Iraqi border in northwestern Kuwait, on 9 December.

"I was here 9-11 of this year," Nussio said. "I signed-in for material after training in the States and in six days — two days after screening — I was shipped out. Our equipment has been upgraded but is not that much different than in Desert Storm." He apologized for running off as he shoved

his way through the crowd to grab a front-row seat to catch the action.

"This is our life — all day long, every day, no free weekends, nights, or holidays. We do organize talent shows and boxing matches. Christmas we had intramural football games and a bonfire and talent show on New Year's Eve to try to make the holidays less painful," Hommel said.

The desert-warfare specialist forces of the 3rd Infantry Division are training for urban combat and conducting tank exercises in anticipation of fighting Iraqis in the streets of Baghdad. It is estimated that upon orders, they could be in Baghdad in four-days' time from their location near the border. A 1,000-bed medical ship — prepared for chemical and biological weapon treatment equipment — was deployed to the Gulf.

"This is the first time I was really emotional for not being at home with my family after almost twenty years of service. I have two kids," a senior officer requesting anonymity said. "The hard part is the uncertainty. We wait but are not sure for what, or when we will need to act."

A sense of secrecy and silence weighed down any interactions with the troops beginning with the briefing by the public-relations officer and continuing as the guards who accompanied us hovered in the background

Continued on page 76

the area is relapsing. Here the U.S. plans to overthrow Saddam Hussein when you could have done that before, but then you argued that you did not want him to become a hero as an excuse for not occupying Baghdad in 1991. The Saudis, who don't want it either, wonder why you build up after 12 years when you could have justified eliminating Saddam before and gotten support from the Kurds in Iraq, and from Iran. Now Turkey is against it although it is not saying much.

The UN inspectors are searching every nook and corner and finding nothing. I am certain they will not find anything. One could take ten boxes then hide them out if it is biological or chemical weapons. No technology or laser gun can find them although 100 inspectors say we have new technology. It's a game. Let's see what the inspectors can find. There must be a logical justification and a convincing explanation or you cannot attack or world opinion will go against you. Most think Iraq is complying yet the U.S. wants to attack anyway, confirming Middle Easterners' belief that Bush will not be convinced anyway.

The Kuwaiti military will very much participate and they will call it self-defense. But the Kuwaiti government is apprehensive. Change brought from outside is not acceptable. Saddam, who is Sunni, stabilizes the Sunni-Shi'ite conflict in Iraq. Iraq is fairly well-blended with its Shi'ite holy places that are centers for pilgrimages. Any disturbance or change from outside is seen with apprehension

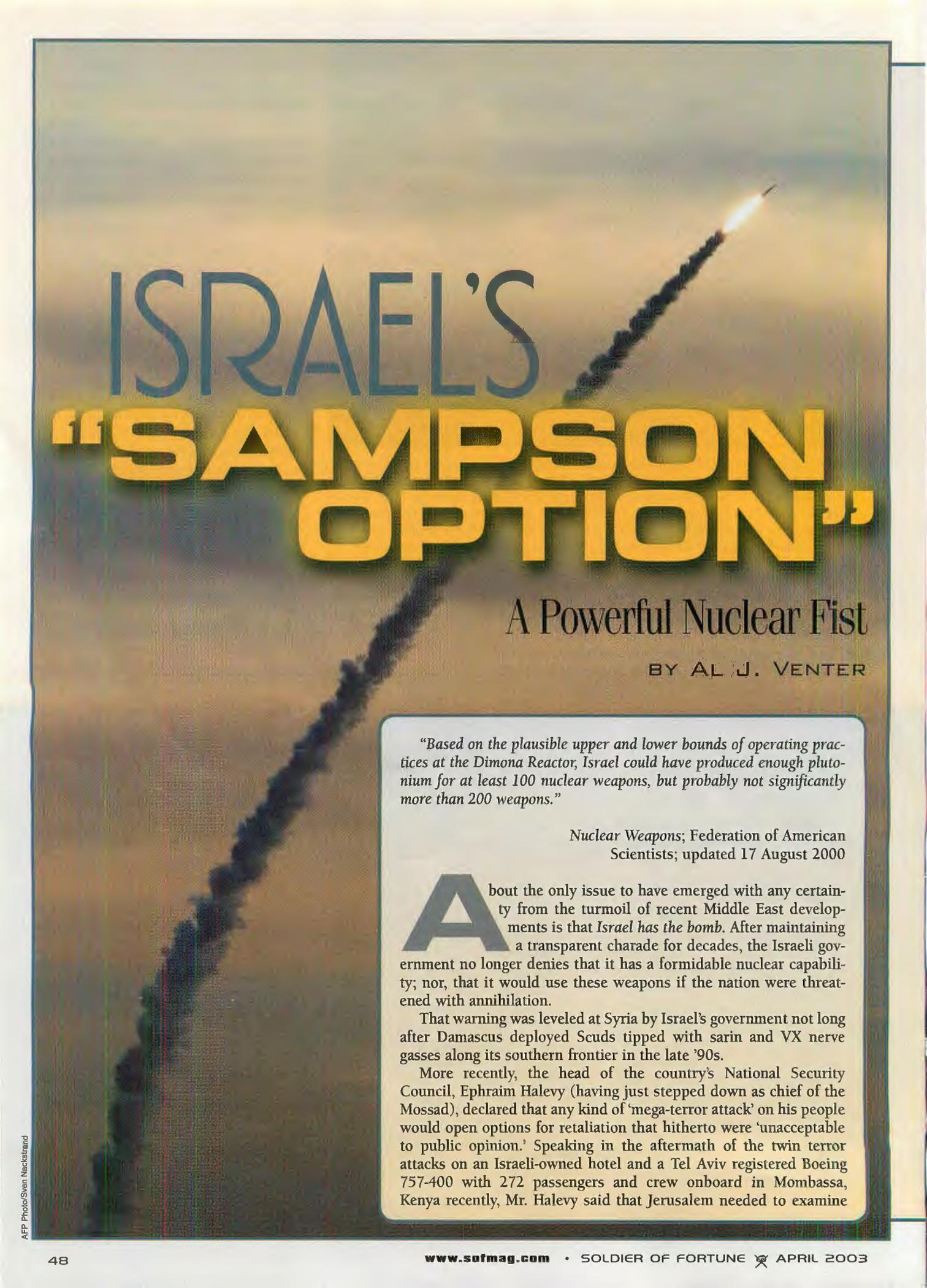
because it disturbs a hornet's nest. Afghan and Iraqi warlords positioned to replace existing regimes are being bribed in the hurry for immediate success.

Before Sadaam had taken over there was always bloodshed in the streets. Now the only bloodshed is Sadaam's. Iran, with its majority Shi'ite, is the biggest trouble-maker and threat to the Sunni-controlled Iraq. Sunni-controlled Kuwait will support the Sunni faction in Iraq. No Shi'ite, whether Iranian or Iraqi, wants the U.S. in the Gulf so that they become less powerful.

There will probably be a long, bloody, three-way civil war if the U.S. attacks and Iraq will be fragmented. Twelve years of sanctions have demolished the economics of Iraq and the people are starving. In the event of an attack, there will be an enormous refugee problem.

Most governments in the Middle East are one-man shows with ruling progenies like Syria and Jordan that have father-son dynasties. Mubarak of Egypt is grooming his son, and in Libya Kadafi is grooming his son. There is no democracy and the governments are accepted with their tribal character that is not conducive to Western-style democracy. If you move too fast, it will not work, because it has to gradually over the years attain acceptance. The people have to be asked and they have not been given the chance to speak. Present governments have become legitimized and if a man is elected today he will be assassinated tomorrow."

— M.B.



ISRAEL'S "SAMPSON OPTION"

A Powerful Nuclear Fist

BY AL J. VENTER

"Based on the plausible upper and lower bounds of operating practices at the Dimona Reactor, Israel could have produced enough plutonium for at least 100 nuclear weapons, but probably not significantly more than 200 weapons."

Nuclear Weapons; Federation of American Scientists; updated 17 August 2000

About the only issue to have emerged with any certainty from the turmoil of recent Middle East developments is that *Israel has the bomb*. After maintaining a transparent charade for decades, the Israeli government no longer denies that it has a formidable nuclear capability; nor, that it would use these weapons if the nation were threatened with annihilation.

That warning was leveled at Syria by Israel's government not long after Damascus deployed Scuds tipped with sarin and VX nerve gasses along its southern frontier in the late '90s.

More recently, the head of the country's National Security Council, Ephraim Halevy (having just stepped down as chief of the Mossad), declared that any kind of 'mega-terror attack' on his people would open options for retaliation that hitherto were 'unacceptable to public opinion.' Speaking in the aftermath of the twin terror attacks on an Israeli-owned hotel and a Tel Aviv registered Boeing 757-400 with 272 passengers and crew onboard in Mombassa, Kenya recently, Mr. Halevy said that Jerusalem needed to examine

the new reality created by the country's enemies.

Israel's neighbours perfectly understand the implications of what has been termed by some as Israel's capacity for 'ultimate retaliation'.

Already in June 1996, *Al-Quds al-Arabi* was quoted as saying that Israeli commanders "have their fingers on the triggers of 300 nuclear warheads, modern factories for the manufacture of missiles and satellites." While its editors weren't specific as to how these numbers had been computed, that figure has been repeated numerous times in just about every publication in the Arab world.

Several authoritative sources have been more specific. In 1973, *Time Magazine* quoted reliable Israeli and American sources and disclosed that Israel had 13 nuclear bombs.

Ten years later, the jailed Israeli nuclear dissident, Mordechai Vanunu, revealed that the real figure was somewhere between 100 and 200 fission bombs and that the tally included a number of fusion weapons. By February 1997 — according to a report in *Jane's Intelligence Review* — the stockpile had risen to "400 deliverable thermonuclear and nuclear weapons."

What is clear from numerous sources — several of them intentionally leaked by the Israeli Government to a create a "fear factor" amongst its Arab adversaries — is that nuclear ambiguity fostered by the Jerusalem Government for more than a quarter of a century appears to have served its purpose: well enough, at very least, to have prevented another war. Israel, in the words of Nicholas Valry who published "Israel's Silent Gamble with the Bomb" in *New Scientist* on 12 December 1974, declared that "Israel (has) used their existence to guarantee a continuing supply of American conventional weapons, a policy likely to continue."

In the subsequent period, Israel has moved from producing basic fission weapons to fielding American 175mm and 203mm self-propelled artillery pieces capable of firing nuclear shells and manufacturing low-yield neutron bombs. Some evidence has been published in the West that it has "micronukes" as well as "tinynukes," both of which would be useful for attacking point targets and other tactical or barrier (mining) uses.

It is perhaps ironic that the Germans, of all nations, have given Israel its most powerful potential striking power by providing three Dolphin-class 800 submarines built by Emden's Thyssen Nordseewerke and Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft in Kiel. The last of these was recently taken into service.

The security blanket drawn over these small attack-craft has been almost impossible to penetrate, but what is known is that Jerusalem has embarked on a program of creating a second strike capability with nuclear cruise missiles. This gives the Jewish State kind of capacity that could well change the arms race in the Middle East.

A senior Israeli defense official confirmed to the U.S. Natural Defense Council in Washington, D. C., that the Dolphins (which cost \$300 million each) would carry modified U.S. Harpoon anti-ship missiles. He conceded that making them nuclear capable would require an Israeli-developed warhead and guidance kit for land-attack targets, both of which the country is known to have been working on for some years. In this regard it might be recalled that in March 2000, the Bush Administration rejected Jerusalem's request for a dozen long-range BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles, the same weapon which exists in a nuclear-tipped version for delivery by America's attack undersea craft.

Always A Nuclear Objective

Throughout its comparatively short history, Israel has vigorously pursued a nuclear objective. The idea of acquiring fission weapons first took hold after many talented Jewish scientists immigrated to Palestine after World War II. Once



(opposite) An Israeli Arrow missile soars through the air shortly after its launch in the latest test from the Palmahim Air Force Base. (above) View of the Israeli nuclear facility in the Negev Desert outside Dimona. Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician, spilled Israel's nuclear secrets to a British newspaper in 1986 and a short while later was abducted to Israel to stand trial. He is currently in the 13th year of an 18-year jail term. Vanunu claimed Israel had built 200 atomic bombs at the Dimona site.

the program was on track, it even conducted nuclear tests on domestic soil. The West German Army magazine *Wehrtechnik* claimed in its June 1976 issue that the first such underground tests in the Negev took place in 1963. Other reports mention a nuclear test at Al-Naqab, also in the Negev, on 2 November 1966.

The government was again accused of doing so near Eilat on 28 May 1998 by a member of the Knesset and Egyptian scientists made similar charges immediately afterwards, both of which were denied by the Israeli deputy defense minister.

That Israel tested nuclear weapons in the south Indian Ocean on 22 September 1979, at a time when Israel was still cozy with South Africa's apartheid government, has again come to the fore of late. South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad was quoted in the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*

two years ago as saying that there “was definitely a nuclear test.” He confirmed that the bomb was South African. Interestingly, exactly that was also told to *Soldier Of Fortune Magazine* by a source within South Africa’s nuclear facility at Pelindaba, outside Pretoria, before it was decommissioned under the auspices of Vienna’s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

An Israeli reporter added that “this was the first time an official spokesman of the South African Government had actually admitted that the flash was the result of a nuclear test. The statement contradicts declarations by his predecessors that South Africa never ever conducted such tests,” he declared.

Then, to obfuscate matters, the usually elusive Pahad claimed afterwards that he had not made the statement attributed to him. His press secretary told the *Albuquerque Journal* (quoted in an article, 11 July 1997) that the deputy minister “did not admit” that a nuclear test took place. Instead, she insisted that he had been quoted out of context.

All this was uttered in spite of the fact that Pahad was initially quite happy to acknowledge the tests, but apparently changed his story after the issue was raised in Parliament back home. More significant is the fact that three nuclear blasts were specifically mentioned and that the circumstances were confirmed by the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria.

The American writer, Seymour Hersh, in his analysis of the issue was even more forthright. Referring to a brilliant “nuclear explosion-type” flash picked up by the U.S. Vela satellite, the blast was the third test of a neutron bomb, he explained.

“The first two were hidden in clouds to fool the satellite and the third was an accident — the weather cleared.”

There have been at least four occasions since 1967 that crises in the Middle East have brought the Israeli nation to nuclear alert.

In his book *The Sword and the Olive*, the esteemed Israeli commentator Martin van Creveld recalls that prior to the 1967 war, Israel — with substantive French help — worked furiously to develop at least one nuclear device before the outbreak of hostilities. That war was imminent was obvious to everybody. Nasser was of the opinion that it would take the Israelis another year to achieve a nuclear objective.

In fact, by the time Cairo sent in its troops to blockade the strategic Straits of Tiran, gateway to Israel’s southern port of Eilat — the final act that actually precipitated the Six Day War — Israel had managed to construct two gun-type atom bombs, each with a yield of between 17 and 20 kilotons.

The Egyptians were very much aware of what was going on in the Negav at Dimona where the French, a decade before, had started building the secret EL-102 underground nuclear that was to process plutonium to provide fissile material for Israel’s nuclear

weapons program. There were even plans to bomb the facility, but Nasser later quashed these for fear of possibly dragging Washington into what was regarded as a regional conflict.

Indeed, Israel considered the Egyptian Air Force overflights of Dimona on 16 May 1967 directly linked to a pre-strike reconnaissance. Egyptian warplanes over such a sensitive resource is regarded today by some observers to be one of three “tripwires” that ultimately drove Israel to war; The others were Egyptian troop movements along Israel’s borders and the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping force in Sinai.

The second Israeli nuclear alert came on the afternoon of 6 October 1973 when Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack that was later termed the Yom Kippur War. A third took place soon afterwards. Moscow, in a bid to limit a major military disaster after one of Egypt’s armies had been isolated by the IDF east of the Suez, sent a batch of nuclear weapons to Cairo in an attempt to boost flagging morale.

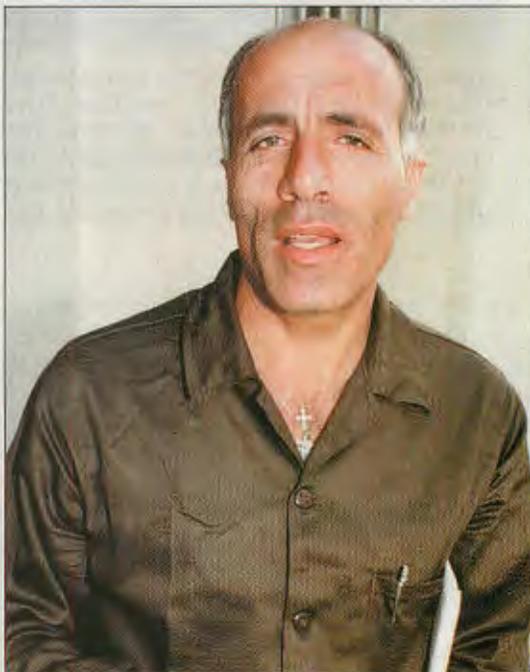
The *American Aviation and Flight Magazine* claimed that the two Soviet Scud brigades, deployed in Egypt late October 1973, had nuclear warheads. Another report speaks of the Americans detecting nuclear-trace emissions from a ship that the U.S. shadowed after it had left the Dardenelles, though neither of these reports is backed by hard evidence. To be fair, Langley rarely issues statements about its operations.

Israel went into full nuclear alert once more after seven Scuds were fired at Tel Aviv and Haifa by Iraq on 18 January 1991. This time, according to Lieutenant Colonel Warner D. ‘Rocky’ Farr — author of a comprehensive paper titled *The Third Temple’s Holy of Holies: Israel’s Nuclear Weapons*, published by the USAF Counterproliferation Center, the alert lasted the duration of the war, altogether 43 days.

It was then that the Shamir Government warned that if the Iraqis were to use chemical warheads, Israel would retaliate with nuclear weapons. One Tel Aviv commentator was heard to recommend at the time that Israel should signal Saddam Hussein that “any Iraqi action against its civilian population — with or without gas — might very well leave him without his Baghdad.”

Perhaps the nearest that Israel came to using nuclear weapons was after Egypt and Syria jointly launched the October war of 1973. It was a brilliantly timed and executed two-pronged invasion from the north and south, when on the eve of the Jewish Yom Kippur, the Arab armies of both countries sent their armies onto Israel soil. Additional armoured elements from Iraq — with limited help from some Jordanian units — gave support along Syrian lines in the Golan.

Caught off guard, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) was hardly prepared for a major conflict. Despite warnings of a possible invasion, the hubris from past military victories resulted that only a small number of regular forces and ill-equipped reservists were on duty along the country’s frontiers. Israel’s defense lines quickly crum-



File photo from 21 June 1998 of Israeli nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu as he walks in prison to attend court.

bled. Within days alarming reports of stockpile depletions started to filter into the defense ministry. Issues were exacerbated by Russia's support for the Arab cause: Egyptian and Syrian air- and ground-losses were made up almost immediately on orders from Moscow.

Colonel Farr brilliantly encapsulates that critical week in his Counterproliferation Paper:

"Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, obviously not at his best at a press briefing was, according to *Time* magazine, rattled enough to later tell the prime minister that 'this is the end of the third temple,' referring to an impending collapse of the State of Israel. 'Temple' was also the code word for nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Golda Meier and her 'kitchen cabinet' made the decision on the night of 8 October, and the Israelis assembled 13 20-kiloton atomic bombs. The number and, in fact, the entire story, says Farr, was later leaked by the Israelis as a great psychological warfare tool.

"Although most probably plutonium devices, one source reports that they were enriched uranium bombs. The Jericho missiles at Hirtbat Zachariah and the nuclear strike F-4s at Tel Nof were armed and prepared for action against Syrian and Egyptian targets. Also targeted was Damascus with nuclear-capable long-range artillery, although it is not certain that the IDF had nuclear artillery shells. United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was notified of the alert several hours later."

With that, Washington decided to open an aerial resupply pipeline to the Holy Land and Israeli aircraft began picking up supplies later the same day. The first U.S. flights touched down on 14 October.

The rest is history, except that it is not generally acknowledged that the munitions air bridge over the Atlantic became the biggest supply operation to take place since the end of World War II. It was matched in intensity by a similar aerial pipeline between the USSR and the Arab capitals involved in the invasion.

Previously Mysterious Dimona

Though Dimona is no longer the only nuclear facility in Israel and, if one is to judge by the number of compensation claims in Israeli courts, the facility is now badly dated, it has played a remarkable role in the country's bid to achieve nuclear parity. In the '60s, it already had a plutonium/tritium production reactor, an underground chemical separation plant and nuclear-component fabrication facilities.

The United States first became aware of Dimona's existence after U-2 flights in 1958 captured the facility's construction, but it was not identified as a nuclear site until two years later.

Although France provided solid help in developing the Israeli nuclear program to start with, President de Gaulle eventually put a stop to this association, largely because of pressure from Washington and the fact that the link was alienating many of France's former colonies, several of whom had large Muslim communities. But by then, Israel had what it needed to go it alone, except that it had to turn to South Africa and Argentina for the uranium which had previously come from Niger, Gabon and the Central African Republic.

Initially, the Franco-Israeli connection prospered on the basis of solid mutual interest. When the United States embargoed certain nuclear enabling computer technology from France, Israel breached the gap, got what was needed and passed it on to Paris. For a while there were Israeli scientists directly involved in the French nuclear program and,

REUTERS/Yannis Behrakis



An Ultra Orthodox Jewish man watches Israeli medical personnel participate in a simulated chemical attack exercise outside Bikour Cholim Hospital 2 January 2003. Israel stepped up preparations for possible Iraqi missile attacks in the event of a U.S. war on Iraq. Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel in the 1991 Gulf War, killing one person and causing damage in residential neighborhoods.

in return for this know-how, the French shipped back to Israel reprocessed plutonium. They also gave the Jewish State several ingredients for nuclear weapons construction: apart from the reactor there was a factory for plutonium extraction from spent fuel and, most important, initial design specifications for the bomb itself.

Similarly, when France conducted its first nuclear tests in the Pacific, the Israelis, according to Avner Cohen who wrote *Israel's Nuclear History* were allowed 'unrestricted' access. Such was the depth of association, that one expert postulated that the French nuclear tests in the Pacific in 1960 made two nuclear powers, not one.

What comes across forcibly throughout this period is that the level of subterfuge employed by Israel to achieve its nuclear goal, made Saddam Hussein look like a rank amateur. Deceiving weapons inspectors about the true purpose of Dimona warrants a comprehensive study of its own.

Colonel Farr cites various sources to indicate the remarkable lengths that Israel went to conceal what was going on at

Continued on page 79

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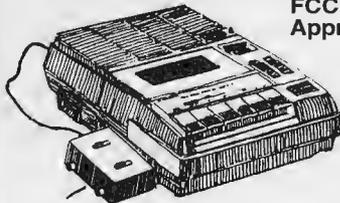
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MERC WORK

GOES LEGITIMATE

PART 1

An About-Face On Mercenaries?

TEXT & PHOTOS BY AL J. VENTER



"For the mercenary is a simplistic fellow. Not for him the strutting parades of West Point, the medals on the steps of the White House or perhaps a place at Arlington. He simply says: 'Pay me my wage and I'll kill the bastards for you.' And if he dies, they will bury him quickly and quietly in the red soil of Africa and we will never know"

— Frederick Forsyth in
Send in the Mercenaries,
Wall Street Journal, 15 May 2000

With the events of 11 September 2001 behind us, a new strategic equation tends to dominate world issues. These days, when the natives in some African or South American backwater become restless, the big powers tend to look the other way: They have more important issues with which to contend. The possibility of Whitehall dispatching a helicopter carrier like HMS *Ocean* to West Africa to assist a government in maintaining order (like it did in 2000) is, as a consequence, unlikely.

Another solution must be sought. Since it was the dogs of war that cleared the bramble patch in the old days, it'll probably be those who rise to the occasion once more.

By proposing in early 2002 to license Private Military Companies (PMCs), Britain now follows the American lead in giving tacit support to what is regarded by many military specialists as the most logical option. While the concept of hiring mercenaries has powerful detractors, the actions of these freebooters in recent years have shown that they are both efficient and cost effective. Indeed, in the broader scheme of international politics, they're arguably the most reliable troubleshooters about.

Interestingly, South Africa is about to follow suit, all of which tells us that the work of the soldier of fortune might not yet be done.

To understand this sudden change of heart, you need to look at a few of

Modern merc ops, such as in the Ivory Coast, often involve a colorful melange of official local forces, commercial military companies, and freelancers representing various interests in the conflict.

the more salient comments made by London about the biggest merc operation of the past decade. London spoke of the role of the merc company Executive Outcomes in rescuing Sierra Leone from the disaster of being overrun by a psychopath who made a fetish of cutting off the hands and feet of children: Taken directly from the UK Government's Green Paper, *Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation*, published in February 2002, it says, "The relative stability achieved following Executive Outcomes operations [in Sierra Leone] enabled elections to be held."

About EO's role in Angola where a two-year war was fought by mercs to oust the rebel leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi — or at least force him to the negotiating table — Westminster is even more flattering: "Although the numbers involved were smaller — Executive Outcomes never had more than 500 men in Angola and were usually fewer, compared with Angolan armed forces of more than 100,000 men — it is generally regarded as having played a critical part in securing victory for the government forces."

The British Government makes the point that the UN operation (UNAMSIL) currently on the go in Sierra Leone costs the international community — that means you and me — about \$600 million a year. Though the rebels have been vanquished, a large UN contingent remains in place in this West African state, and Britain declares that the use of mercenaries there is an excellent option.

I quote: "It is at least possible that if the tasks of UNAMSIL were put out to tender, private companies would be able to do the job more cheaply and more effectively. It is also possible that such forces might be available more quickly to the UN and that they would be more willing to integrate under a UN command than is the case with such national contingents.

"Many of the problems that arise when a sovereign government employs a PMC would not apply if it were contracted to the UN or to another international or regional body. It would not for example be a threat to sovereignty or stability; and the question of exploitation of raw material resources would not arise. There would also be no difficulty in monitoring the performance and behavior of a PMC employed by the UN. As the UN Secretary General

has suggested, however, "there is not yet much political support for such ideas." Kofi Annan got into the act with this astonishing admission that both American and British media ignored at the time. Speaking at the annual Ditchley Foundation lecture, he stated: "Some have even suggested that private security firms, like the one which recently helped restore the elected President to power in Sierra Leone, might play a role in providing the United Nations with the rapid reaction capacity it needs. When we had need of skilled soldiers to separate fighters from refugees in the Rwandan refugee camps in Goma [in 1994], I even considered the possibility of engaging a private firm. But the world may not be ready to privatize peace."

As one sclerotic observer — a bibulous hack sitting in a Freetown bar — was moved to comment when he heard the news: "Times are certainly a-changing."

The Past Was Rough, The Mercs Were Ready

It was different in the old days. Jim Penrith, one of the last of the Old Africa Hands, recalls how easy it was to become a mercenary when there were parts of Africa in turmoil: Those were interesting times. Based in Nairobi, he worked for several years for an international newspaper group and developed a knack of telling it like it was.

He was downing *waragi* like there were no tomorrow, grimacing when the potent banana-based firewater hit base. You needed a copper-lined gullet to drink the rough Ugandan liquor and I shook my head when he invitingly waved the bottle at me.

I looked around the White Gardenia bar, my favorite watering hole in the Kampala of the late '60s, and seeing no one I knew, sat down at his table. He had already made a serious dent in the *waragi* but he appeared perfectly sober. I noticed that his heavily muscled forearms and bush jacket collar had a fine coating of red *murrum* dust. He'd evidently driven a long way on border back roads.

"So, *mon ami*, what are you doing in Uganda?" I knew from experience that the quickest way to terminate a conversation in jumpy Uganda was to admit to being a visiting journalist.

"Just looking around," I said.

He asked whether I'd ever been across the border into the Kivu province



Even led by a Russian-built BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicle manned by mercs, it is heavy going through the West African bush.

of eastern Congo. No, but I'd been in Katanga when the Congo blew up in June 1960 after the Belgians abandoned their colony overnight, taking even the electric plugs and light bulbs with them. I mentioned several other places I'd visited in Central Africa over the years since then and let drop the names of some of the better-known mercenary officers I'd bumped into. I didn't actually lie and say that I'd been a mercenary, but nor did I mention that I'd been there as the Nairobi bureau chief of the Argus Africa News Service (AANS).

"All that was in the days before things quieted down," I said. He leant across the rickety table and gripped my arm. "The Kivu, *mon ami*, is about to take fire," he said, "and I am looking for men to join the force of Jean Schramme."

The waragi now seemed to have loosened his tongue and I listened attentively as he outlined the plan that would see "Black Jack" Schramme and his mercenaries drive Mobutu's Armée Nationale Congolaise out of the province and take over the major administrative center of Bukavu, on Lake Kivu. He said he was authorized to recruit throughout East Africa and offer generous pay in U.S. dollars, deposited in a bank anywhere in Europe.

I said I was interested and he asked me to meet him again in the bar in a week's time. The Kivu rebellion was scheduled to start two weeks after that.

Back in my office in Nairobi I fired off a cable to London for transmission to Alan Syer, head of the AANS in Johannesburg, informing him of the planned uprising and said I intended to drive from Nairobi to Shangugu in

Rwanda to wait there for the mercenary offensive to begin. I reckoned that I would be the only journalist on the spot when Schramme and the men known as *les Affreux*, "The Frightful Ones," stormed Bukavu.

The reply astounded me: It said that our London office had checked with their sources and could find no hint or whisper that anything was likely to happen in peaceful Kivu. In effect, the AANS discounted the report of its own representative in Black Africa. They had listened to the mandarins 6,000 miles away in London.

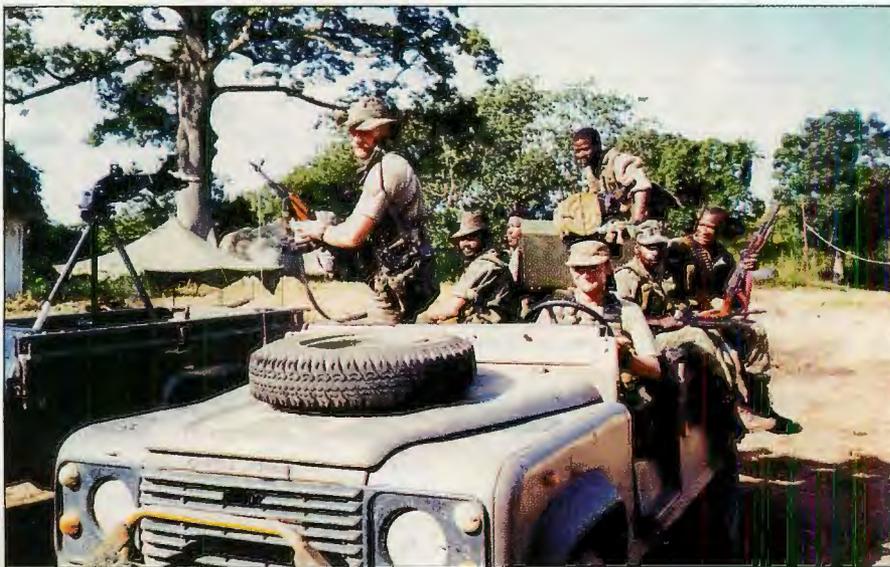
A few days before Schramme's planned uprising, I set out to drive to Shangugu. Within 48 hours I was sitting on the veranda of a hotel perched on a rise looking out across Lake Kivu and

down on the narrow bridge linking the sleepy little Rwandan village with the road into Bukavu. All seemed peaceful so I walked across the bridge into the Congo. A mile further on, the road turned around a bluff and I could see the sprawl of Bukavu. The next minute I was staring into the barrels of half a dozen Kalashnikovs held by Congolese soldiers who were screaming at me in a language I didn't understand, but whose meaning was quite clear. I turned round and slowly walked back down the road to the bridge. It was the longest walk I've ever taken and my shoulders felt as wide as a barn door.

Back at the hotel I joined a knot of locals drinking beer under covered awnings, waiting for the war to start. It was like sitting at a drive-in cinema. First, hordes of Congolese soldiers came pouring pell-mell down the road, tearing off their military insignia and throwing their weapons into the lake as they raced across the bridge to the safety of Rwanda.

Half an hour later the sun shone on a scene that was pure cinematic cliché, a scene that American movie maestro John Ford would have been proud to have directed. Round the bluff and etched across the skyline came the rag-tag mercenary column, a single line of Jeeps, each with a .50-caliber Browning machine gun mounted on the back. Flying from an aerial in the lead vehicle was the old familiar flag of Tshombe's Katanga.

Once again I hurried across the bridge, this time to hitch a lift with the convoy as it wheeled and headed back to Bukavu. In a plush suite in a desert-



Group of Executive Outcomes mercs during the onslaught on the diamond fields in Sierra Leone.

courtesy New African magazine

ed hotel I drank looted wine with the mercenaries while waiting to interview Jean Schramme. The interview with the chain-smoking war dog was everything a journalist could ask for. Punctuation was provided by a couple of loud *crumps* as the Bukavu bank vaults were broached with explosives. The Frightful Ones were collecting an advance on their pay.

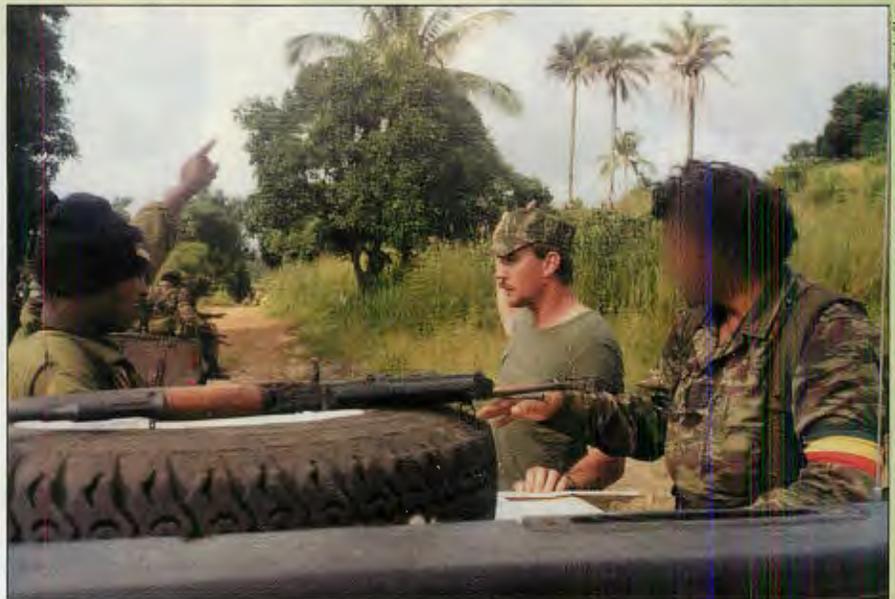
As I'd predicted, I was the only newsman at the fall of Bukavu. I wondered how the "experts" in London were explaining this coup.

Cost/Benefit Ratio Favors Private Enterprise

Why, then, has the West done an about-face on mercenaries? One reason could be the cost of employing such people for certain UN functions, which, the Green Paper stated, "could be much lower than that of national armed forces."

It's worth mentioning that not long before that historic event, former Sandline chief executive Colonel Tim Spicer hit the crux of it. He declared that peacekeeping deployments in Africa were doomed to failure until the United Nations recognized that issuing blue helmets to ill-equipped and inadequately trained troops from helpful nations was a futile exercise. Just because they were the countries that came forward and proffered help, was not enough reason to use them, he declared.

"Establishing, enforcing and maintaining peace in volatile regions of Africa requires a more robust and effective form of intervention," another Sandline operative said, adding that perhaps there was a more radical solu-



Merc squad, during Executive Outcomes bush operations to take the diamond fields.

tion. The major powers should continue to accept the offers of other nations, he suggested, but they needed to supplement this with the kind of expertise available from private military companies that could provide cadres of experienced officers and NCOs. They, in turn, could plan, lead and enhance the skills of those forces in the field.

PMCs were ideally suited to accomplish all this, Sandline had originally declared in a policy statement. It wasn't lost on many observers that PMCs, mercenaries, hired guns — call them what you will — had already proven their mettle, not just to monitor, but actually to end conflict, in Africa in particular.

The modern-day mercenary falls into several categories and, for a variety

of reasons, the public perception remains skeptical of them all.

While Colonel Mike Hoare built his reputation on the rock of what he set out to accomplish in Moise Tshombe's troubled Katanga of the '60s, he demolished it a decade or so later by trying to invade the Seychelles in an operation botched as much by bad planning as booze. Since then, there have been mercenaries in a score of countries including both Congo's, Angola, Eritrea, Togo, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Mozambique, Chad, the Sudan, Uganda and others on just about every continent.

Some of the involved we've already met — like Neall Ellis, Bob MacKenzie and the Marafonos of the world, all three of whom fought in Sierra Leone. There were others, such as ex-French Foreign Legionnaire Paul Fanshaw.

Which brings us to American commentator Robert Kaplan. In his 1994 *Atlantic Monthly* article, Kaplan predicted a growth in the use of civilian military-type "Special Forces." Such a development would come about partly due to cost, he suggested. He went on to say that by buying "private" protection, the international community would get it as cheaply as possible, while they were preoccupied warding-off a new enemy, the skilled, high-tech terrorist. He wasn't only speaking of Africa.

Kaplan also saw special forces as being able to meet the needs of cities in North America, where the future will "be brutal to industrial-age armies with big tanks and jets, and kind to corporate-style forces in urban settings." Why not turn to corporate structures them-



French merc "Christophe" (in black ammo vest) prepares to board Neall Ellis' Mi-24 in Freetown. He flew as a side-gunner, manning a GPMG. Merc crews often comprise many ethnicities, whose common denominator is their competence in soldiering.



(above) Mercs at one of the temporary bases established in West Africa's diamond diggings around Kono. (right) Local forces often play a role in merc operations — as they did in the Congo and



Angola, but they're often a hindrance. In Sierra Leone they were usually smashed or on drugs most of the time.

selves, instead of changing the nature of the armies our publics pay for?

Doorshakers In Cammies

This begs the question: Will private security companies replace armies at home as well as abroad? In some senses, they already have. Private security companies have proliferated worldwide: There is barely a large corporation, airport, housing estate, dockland or industry that doesn't have uniformed security people on its staff.

Private security companies can be very well—"regulated" in the public interest, a point made by David Shearer who wrote the classic work *Private Armies and Military Intervention*¹ for Britain's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The history of regulation, however, bears frequent witness to how eventually the regulators have served the

interests of the regulated. Only transparency and understanding can prevent this, not only in the public interest, but also in the interest of the investors who make up private companies, particularly those involved in resource development in Africa, where mercenaries have been so much in the news.

As if to anticipate the possible resurgence of organized professional fighters bringing order to areas devastated by civil war, there was a sudden market surge in mercenary recruitment in the year 2002.

A television documentary produced in the Ukraine, and shown on Kiev's commercial station ICTV, exposed a huge network of mercenary activities in recent years behind what was once known as the Iron Curtain, in countries such as Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus and others.

The documentary exposed a world

network created by officers of the former Soviet Military Intelligence Directorate (GRU) and detailed the hire of mercenaries, arms smuggling and illegal sales to rogue nations as well as human trafficking. Of course, Africa featured prominently. The TV program also dealt with supply and demand. It showed that whereas Ukrainian soldiers of fortune had previously been paid \$5,000 to train and fight in Laurent Kabila's Congo, there had been such interest in being recruited that, 18 months after the death of that despot, these people were lucky to get \$900.

Brigadier-General Ian Douglas, a retired Canadian soldier, has his own views on the subject. Not long ago he made the case for the UN to use "private security firms" to fulfill peacekeeping requirements. The general believes that

Continued on page 78



Freelance gunship flown by South African merc Neall Ellis pounds insurgent positions at the crossroads town of Kamakwie in Sierra Leone. The rebels were waiting in ambush for a government convoy.



Some merc forces — like Executive Outcomes — even provide the air power with which to maintain an anti-insurgency operation, such as this Mi-17 on the landing in Sierra Leone's Koidu diamond fields.

Ivory Coast Update: More Merc Confusion

BY AL J. VENTER

In Abidjan, on the West Coast of Africa, the locals talk of 'Ghost Fighters,' but then only because so many of their faces are white.

On the other side of the front — well into the kind of distant interior that Joseph Conrad once referred to as 'the heart of darkness' — they're called mercenaries. It's no secret that this increasingly able insurgent band has them too.

Meantime, both sides deny — most times vehemently — that there are "war dogs" involved in what is largely a domestic dispute. That despite the fact that there are tanks, APCs, Russian-built Mi-24 helicopter gunships and East European SAM 14/16s ground-to-air missiles involved.

All the combatants are fighting for a succession of African causes that have been muddied by religion, graft, nepotism and the kind of bizarre political confusion that only Africa could spawn. Interestingly, as long as the money is good the cause — for the majority of these freebooters — is irrelevant.

Conditions in the Ivory Coast have deteriorated markedly since we last reported on this war.

It now involves about a half a dozen African states, as well as France, Libya, U.S. politicians of all hues, South Africa, Lebanon's trading community (of whom there are thousands in the region, many of them sympathetic to bin Laden and every one of them intent on acquiring a stock of raw diamonds), as well as an array of mercenaries that would gladden the heart of Frederick Forsyth.

What is clear is that unlike Sierra Leone — where the rebels were an ill-trained, sporadic and badly supplied group of irregulars — the rebels in the Ivory Coast are thoroughly familiar with the task ahead. They are both disciplined and well-equipped: Some units have the most modern weaponry in the Russian arsenal, courtesy of Libya's Colonel Gaddafi.

Asked why this was so, veteran Merc pilot Neall Ellis replied: "Because they've been trained by South Africans." It was also his view that this war did not happen by accident. It had been brewing a long time, fostered by the kind of fundamental Christian/Muslim differences that have brought bloodshed to Nigeria, Kenya, the Sudan and, more recently, the Central African Republic.

As far as Ellis was aware, a substantial body of former South African military vets had been active with the rebels for some time: One source, he told *Soldier Of Fortune*, talked about two years.

Today, these same war dogs provide the rebel army with a range of expertise that has resulted in anti-government forces becoming a tough, resilient force. Put to the test against French troops, they haven't wavered.

It is worth noting that France has deployed 2,500 of its best soldiers — including a battalion of French Foreign Legionnaires — to this Francophonic state since last October. But they have made little impact. About all that they can do is try to maintain static positions between the belligerents, and then with some difficulty. Meanwhile, the fighting continues.

A number of European observers have noted that the war is escalating. There have been casualties, both among the French troops and the rebels, including some combat deaths. One of the Hinds was brought down by rebel gunfire, but not seriously damaged.

Nor have conditions been helped by a group of South African mercenaries (originally hired by French interests) offering their services to the Abidjan Government at half-price. An immediate result was the firing of almost all of them by those who had done the hiring.

This change does not appear to have affected their comrades — many of them formerly with Executive Outcomes who continue to fly the three dilapidated Mi-24s that were



French Foreign Legionnaire with FRF2 7.62 caliber sniper rifle scopes-out the area.

bought from Bulgaria. These gunships and their crews have been involved in scraps across the length of the country.

Latest news is of fighting around the towns of Man and Toulepleu, the latter on the Liberian border and on the main road to Monrovia from where much support reaches the rebels. Liberia has been a consistent source of succor for South African mercs who, until recently, were involved in Charles Taylor's efforts to hold power in his own civil war.

But it is Ouagadougou, capital of the predominantly Islamic Republic of Burkina Faso, that is at the heart of the revolution in the Ivory Coast. It is through that airport that most war supplies for the rebel command are flown in, much of it from Libya, and quite a bit from several former East European states including Bulgaria and Romania.

Other reports mention some South African and Angolan weapons supplies and instructors having entered the fray, though in this case, with government forces. ✕



Holding The Line With Ranch Rescue

PART I

SOF Stops Drug-Smugglers

TEXT & PHOTOS BY ROB KROTT

Editor's Note: Some pseudonyms are used to protect individuals still holding sensitive positions with the U.S. government or law enforcement and to protect local residents from retribution. Faces were masked for photos because of possible retribution by criminal elements. According to J.J. Johnson of The Sierra Times, because private initiatives such as Ranch Rescue interfere with the financially lucrative trafficking of drugs and illegal migrants, some Mexicans have voiced their intent to conduct armed attacks against groups such as Ranch Rescue. They plan to shoot at the "militia members" from across the border during one of their missions on private or public land

Huffing and puffing up the hill, I swapped my semi-auto Bushmaster CAR-15 to my left hand and keyed the radio mike: "Romeo Base, This is Romeo 1, I need immediate support! Romeo 3 element has interdicted drug-smugglers, how copy, over?" Our Ranch Rescue tactical team had stopped its first of several drug-traffickers crossing from the Mexican border.

I first learned of Ranch Rescue from a memo SOF publisher Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.) sent me when I was on my way to visit Gunsite in Paulden, AZ. Ranch Rescue is a grassroots volunteer network dedicated to protecting and defending private property rights for all Americans, regardless of race, color, creed, or religion. Ranch Rescue has chapters in nine states and is growing nationally. Ranch Rescue was formed in 2000 when former U.S. Army infantry officer Jack Foote of Abilene, Texas, was inspired by

news accounts of Cochise County rancher and businessman Roger Barnett patrolling his ranch east of Douglas. Barnett claims that he and his brother, Donald, have detained at least 8,000 illegal border-crossers and criminal trespassers over the past four-and-a-half years and turned them over to the U.S. Border Patrol.

Barnett, who always carries a 9-millimeter pistol, told reporters, "If you go out there and you're not armed, you're a fool. Who's going to protect you out there?"

Previously, Ranch Rescue focused on helping ranchers fix fences and clean up trash, though they were usually armed and wearing uniforms. Ranch Rescue completed two missions in mid-2001: Operation Owl and Operation Condor. Operation Owl was a 10-day fact-finding mission in the border states while Operation Condor was a three-day Ranch Rescue California mission, conducted along the Mexican border from 19-21 July 2002, on the private ranch of Bob Maupin in rural east San Diego County. Maupin is well-known along the border as a DEA tipster who was held at gunpoint on his ranch by uniformed Mexican soldiers in the employ of the drug cartels (see "America's Border War: Mexican Army

(opposite) Part of the tactical team carries interdicted marijuana for turn over to sheriff's deputy. (below) Jerry uses an Ontario Knife Company RTAK to chop brush for a hide. His ARKTIS Recon Vest holds his CamelBak hydration bladder and a SureFire Millenium Series M4 light. Another volunteer with AMFO BDUs, Spike Camp boonie hat, Ontario Knife Company Freedom Fighter Fighting Knife, and CamelBak H.A.W.G. pulls security.





(above) The RR tactical team moves from ranch property to ranch property via Forest Service roads. (below) Russ and Krott on patrol. Both their AR-15s are equipped with SureFire lights on integral handguard mounts. Russ' boonie hat courtesy of Spike Camp and BDUs from AFMO.



Incursions Onto U.S. Soil," *SOF*, March 2003). Ranch Rescue conducted security patrols alongside Maupin's own security volunteers, successfully deterring cross-border criminal activity; provided volunteers for fence-repair on Maupin's private property; and conducted mounted patrols using Maupin's fully restored WWII armored half-track. Foote told *SOF*, "We conduct our operations on private property at the invitation of the landowner or manager of each property. Our efforts take place only on the private property of border county landowners where we have a signed Express Consent Agreement, a legal contract, in hand. As invited guests of the private landowners, we are legally allowed to be present on their private property 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for as long as our agreement stipulates."

Foote frequently advises any "activists," news media, or anyone else who objects to this SOP to complain to their Congressman — they'll probably get the same placating responses the border landowners receive when asking for protection from criminals crossing from Mexico.

Operation Hawk was the first time the group has mounted an operation focused on surveillance of criminal trespassers, actually drug-smugglers. Our host's property was 10,000-plus acres, remote, mountainous, and very heavily wooded. The intent was to set up a base camp and from there deploy three-man teams to observation posts (OPs) in a line to cover the southern approaches to the property. Ranch Rescue wanted at least one team of 10 volunteers, a reaction force, to be able to quickly move to interdict if necessary. The OPs would try to videotape the drug-runners first, then interdict, if possible, with the reaction force.

Tactical Team

Organizing the team began a flurry of phone calls and emails to get everyone geared-up and on their way to AZ. A number of *SOF* advertisers contributed gear. Many of the tactical team, likewise, were connected to *SOF*: Jerry Lee (reserve MP sergeant) was a regular at *SOF* Conventions in the 1980s and both Jay North (ex-SWAT) and David Russ (USMC / ARNG) were vendors at *SOF* Conventions. Henry Warms (U.S. Army Ranger) was a frequent *SOF* Conventioneer and a winner of the *SOF* / Al Mar Knife Competition. Russ, Martin Pappy, and Steve Penn (USAF) all served as advisors with *SOF* sponsored anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua. Other team members included, Mike Stampede (Force Recon and French Foreign Legion), Rich Bannister, (Navy corpsman / USMC Force Recon), Joe Warren (U.S. Navy), Arnie R. (light infantry), Jim Fish (light infantry), Dave Boeing, Kevin Guy, and former light infantry officer Jack Foote.

Along with a few others and myself this formed our "tactical team" numbering about 20 people. Thirteen of us would be directly involved in interdicting groups of drug mules, some armed, and recovering almost 300 pounds of marijuana. Also assisting on security operations were Dave Cheney, Tim Meyer (a retired Army intel NCO and a former Customs agent), "Chris Maric" (a former AZ county sheriff's deputy), and "Shawn" from RR California. "John McCourt" assisted with radio communications and flew air-reconnaissance. Dozens of others were involved in the overall operation, camp set-up, and technical support. About half the tactical

team was airborne-qualified and the same number had hot-war experience. Five of us were also former law enforcement. The average military and police experience was 12 years.

The Threat

Our host had experienced multiple encounters with armed drug-smugglers on his property near Patagonia, AZ (east of Nogales), who crossed in broad daylight, in groups of 10 or more, carrying heavy packs full of drugs and brandishing AK-47s and SKS rifles. His employees have received death threats and there is a bounty offered by the drug-runners on their heads. It's suspected that some of the residents of nearby Patagonia were heavily involved in the drug-smuggling with the possibility of a corrupt local law enforcement involvement.

Two of the LEOs (Law-Enforcement Officers) that RR spoke with said the drug-runners were using bounding overwatch tactical techniques to move across the border. Another said the drug-smugglers were training their own paramilitary units, and that both Mexican and American mercenaries were conducting the training. In one case, a LEO overheard someone with one of these paramilitary unit speaking English with a Texas accent, so it appears that there are "advisors" involved in the actual movement of drug loads across the border. This is all hearsay, albeit from cops, but if it is even half-true it is sobering.

A local rancher and his brother (both USMC veterans),



Jerry inspects clothes discarded by drug smugglers. His boonie hat courtesy of Spike Camp.



Penn inspects cave found along smuggling trail. Team cleared cave using SureFires. The cave, used as a rest-stop by drug-smugglers and illegal migrants, was full of trash and discarded items, all originating in Mexico.

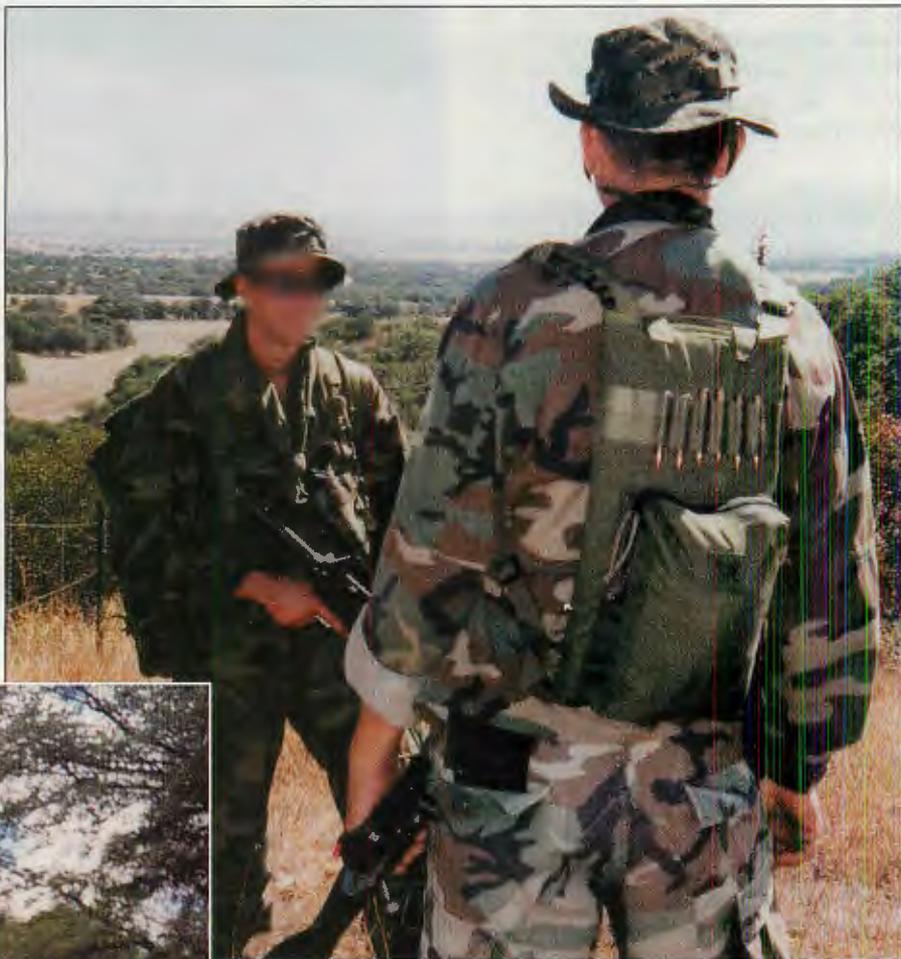
along with two others, were fired upon by a vanload of trespassers who they believe were Mexican drug-smugglers. The rancher and his brother were armed with an M-1 carbine and a semi-auto AK. Their friends had pistols. They all fired back, putting several rounds through the van that was on the Mexican side of the border. Border Patrol agents witnessed the vehicle fleeing to Mexico from the ranch property, but did not detain the criminals.

Note: SOF has been provided classified excerpts of Serious Incident Reports (SIR) filed by various Border Patrol Stations & Sectors nationwide from our law-enforcement sources in BP, Customs, and INS. One SIR listed a military incursion considered a "threatening-type (aggressive/suspicious)" near Nogales a year previously. "Two Mexican soldiers from the 38th Battalion were encountered approximately 1/2 mile West of the Nogales Police pistol range in Oso Wash, which is approximately 1/2 mile North of the International boundary. When questioned by Customs Agents, the soldiers stated they had heard what they thought was AK-47-fire and came to investigate. The soldiers returned to Mexico when informed they were in the U.S."

Dan Bauer, of the U.S. Forest Service, told *Human Events* that in addition to officially documented incursions of Mexican military personnel, there have been others involving people "who appear to be Mexican military or paramilitary." There are only five Forest Service law-enforcement officers in the

Coronado National Forest. They and other law-enforcement officers sometimes face armed men in Humvees participating in drug-smuggling operations. Last year, 90,000 pounds of marijuana were interdicted in the Coronado National Forest and the U.S. Forest Service makes seizures in highly developed campground areas several times a week. Thousands of undocumented aliens cross through the forest every year and drug-smugglers have worn trails in the forest that look like Forest Service trails. American citizens camping or hiking in the forest are at obvious risk because of the criminal activity.

Because of these multiple threats — armed drug-smugglers, cartel mercenaries, and “lost” army patrols possibly in the employ of the drug cartels — the tactical team would be armed,



(above) Jim (at left) and John confer over trail sign. John carries an Autauga Rifles .308 and an Eagle Industries hydration pack with a CamelBak. (left) A Ranch Rescue volunteer equipped with AMFO BDUs, boonie hat and poncho; SureFire light taped to his AR; and camouflage net supplied by AMFO.



mostly semi-automatic AR-15s or CAR15 / M4 clones. Arizona is an open-carry state and U.S. citizens may wear an unconcealed sidearm in public. The weapons were all semi-auto and 100% legal. Border residents habitually go armed in this, and other border areas. Various ranchers I spoke to were all wearing sidearms and/or accompanied by a long gun in their vehicle. One tow-truck driver had his piece locked-and-cocked in plain view on the dashboard sans holster. The city-slicker reporters from Tucson who come down in broad daylight for a quick interview might go unarmed, but any one else out in the hinterland carries a firearm. Despite the misinformed “experts” in the media and “activists” who later cranked out self-serving propaganda, we didn’t have any machine guns.

Your Tax Dollars At Rest

The team conducted a general recon of the area including driving through the ghost town of Duquesne and the border village of Lochiel. At Lochiel a decrepit wire-mesh fence with gaps and holes is all that supposedly impedes illegal

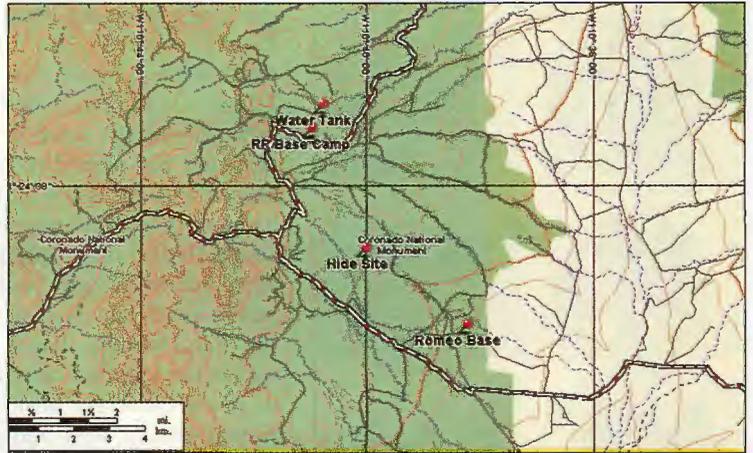
immigration and drug-trafficking. Dismounted missions on the first three days included foot-pursuit and tracking of a trespasser; establishing observation posts on two separate water tank locations where illegal trespassers get water; and reconnaissance of several trails leading from the border. Initially, we saw little law-enforcement presence in the area, just the occasional border patrol vehicle parked along the road many miles to the north.

But that changed once our presence was reported.

Then we were harassed by law-enforcement officers' surveillance on a daily basis. Jack actually met and shook hands with one FBI agent and one U.S. Customs agent (immediately nicknamed "Mulder and Scully") while we were exiting the property one day to travel on public forest roads. They only asked us one question: did we intend to look for trespassers' tracks on the ranch property. To use a favorite expression of Jack Foote's "Well, *duh*. No other questions, no serious inquiry at all. Jack was dressed in full-camouflage and carrying a holstered sidearm while the above conversation took place. This did not seem to bother "Mulder and Scully." The rest of us in the trucks were also packing and had most of the long guns down and out of sight, so as not to appear "threatening."

During the week a local sheriff's deputy, no doubt on surveillance duty *against us and not drug-runners*, was spotted sneaking through the woodline along the property with a large rucksack on his back. Warms, reconning the perimeter

Jack (left) and Pappy take ten while on recon/security patrol. Pappy bumped the first group of drug-smugglers and yelled "Alto!"



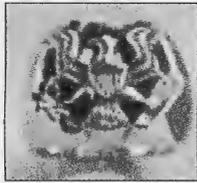
Area of Operations in Canelo Hills near Lochiel and Duquesne, AZ.

surprised him and waved hello. A few days later while entering our base camp Tim saw another law-enforcement professional duck down in a wash near the front gate of the property. Tim stopped his pickup and asked, "Hey, you okay? You need anything? Want some coffee?"

We were in our base camp when a pickup truck came towing a livestock trailer. The driver owned adjacent property and had a gentleman's agreement with our host to cross each other's property. He asked myself, Warms, and Russ if he could drop his horse off with us while he used the livestock trailer to move some cows from one pasture to another. He was thankful that we were there, because he could safely leave his mount with us and not worry about having it stolen like two other horses stolen from that same pasture where we



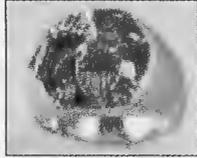
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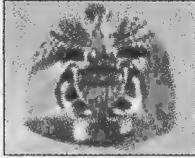
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were camped. When he returned to our campsite, we spread our topo map out on the hood of his pickup truck. He was the ranch manager for a San Antonio Ranch owned by the Nature Conservancy along the border. The Nature Conservancy had not allowed any cattle on the ranch in the two years that they had owned it, so he was concerned with the many footpaths that he had found — all running roughly north-south. He had seen groups of smugglers there before and gave us permission to access both his deeded property and the San Antonio Ranch property to watch for criminal activity. He sought us out because our host had explained to him who we were and what we were trying to accomplish. Jack had him complete the standard Express Consent Agreement that Ranch Rescue uses with every landowner host giving legal assent to access the property and to act as his Limited Agent for dealing with any criminal activity that we encountered. After getting the Express Consent Agreement, the rancher returned to his chores and Ranch Rescue got to work. I asked the RR pilots to go up again for an air recon. Jack showed me the permission to conduct surveillance there from the ranch manager. It was a detailed and signed form. Two in our group had witnessed the ranch manager signing it. Our "permission" would cause some later controversy in the press.

Armed with that permission and our completely legal semi-automatic rifles we moved out for a recon of the ranch. As we drove to the area on National Forest roads we passed all five of the LEO vehicles that had been shadowing us parked in a lay by. All were busy having a coffee and donut chat. It soon looked like the Keystone Kops as they scrambled to mount up their vehicles and follow us. What they didn't count on was Henry Warms falling back in his Bronco to hold up the whole column while we drove into the ranch property, covering our tracks at the turnoff, and replacing the gate. Ranger Warms then came four-wheeling in the back way miles down the road. He had stopped to chat with the by then chagrined law enforcement and asked if they were going to follow. Unable to cross onto private property uninvited they declined. They only knew the general five grid squares he might be headed to with no idea where we were.

We cleared the ranch, checking the houses and outbuildings for any sign of trespassing. Driving out the valley to the

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limit of the ranch property we dismounted a ten-man recon up on the ridgeline, a north-south running terrain feature and two light infantrymen, Jimmy Fish and Arnie R., both school-trained military trackers cut sign. The trackers quickly found a high-traffic trail.

The trespassers were using a power line as a "handrail" for nighttime navigation until it bisected with a barbed-wire fence-line. The trail was readily spotted looking out the ridgeline as a light brown line running up and over the saddles and hilltops. This was where we would most likely encounter drug-traffickers.

We returned later that afternoon with hide-site material and sleeping gear. We used the ranch house area (with its outside water source) as a base camp and staging area for our vehicles. Taking a four-man surveillance detail (Jimmy Fish, Arnie R., Martin Pappy, and Rick Bannister) along with Jack, Johnny, and Jerry Lee for security we moved out in Johnny's truck.

About 1500, we were driving out the valley towards when an unmarked Black Hawk helicopter buzzed us. It flew an "S"-shaped pattern over the general areas where we meant to build our hide-site.

Somebody didn't want us in that AO.

Next month's conclusion underscores the professional competence, bravery and dedication of Krott and the other Ranch Rescue volunteers. Their success, however, is met by stony hostility by local law enforcement whose turf had been trod upon, and whose lack of motivation had been "one-upped."

Rob Krott, SOF's Chief Contributing Foreign Correspondent, is a former U.S. Army officer, and a federal law-enforcement officer. ☒

Interested In Volunteering or Contributing to Ranch Rescue?

Mr. Jack Foote,
National Spokesman
Ranch Rescue Texas
1071 North Judge Ely Boulevard
PMB 6460
Abilene, Texas 79601-3853 U.S.A.

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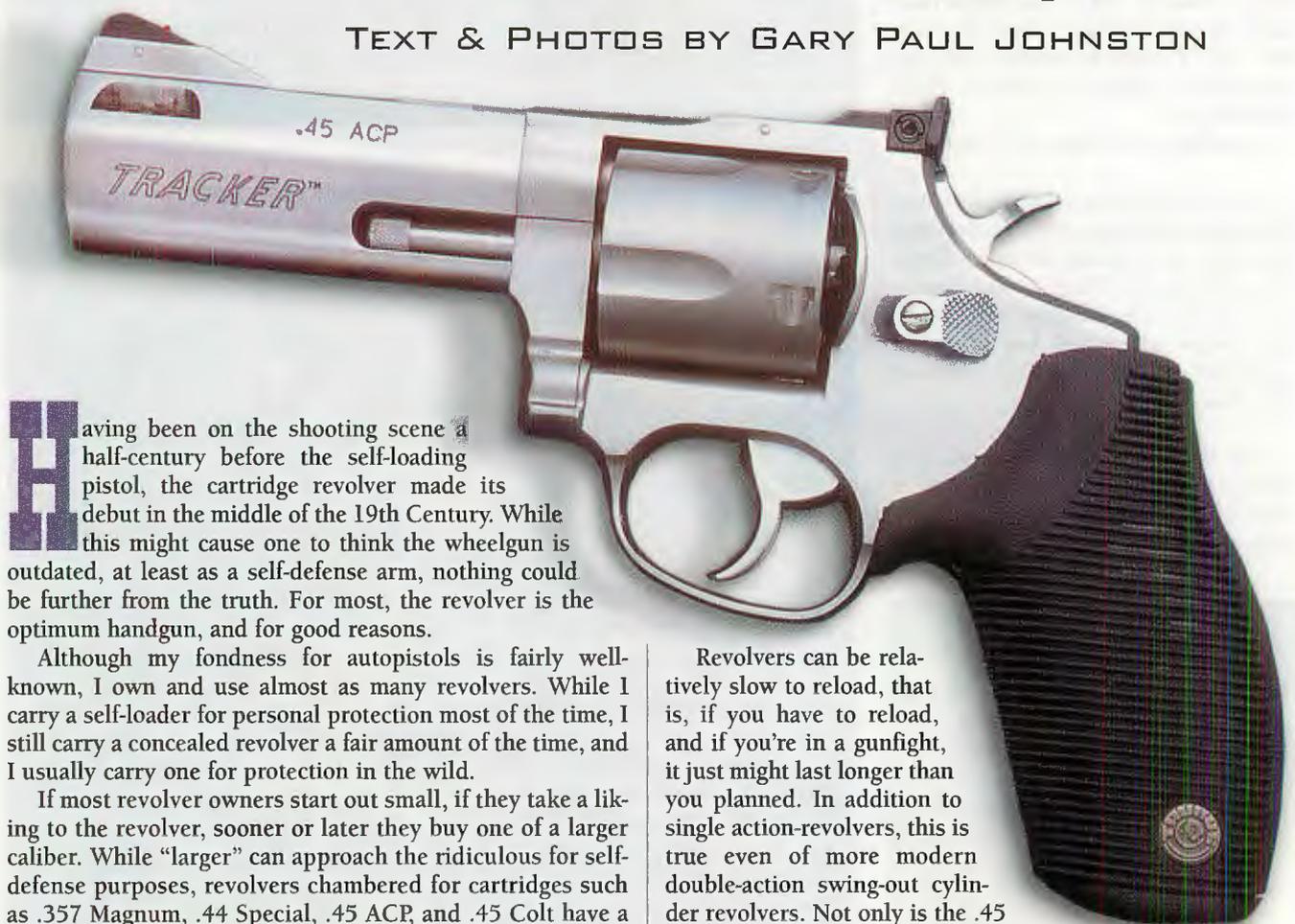
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The New Taurus .45 ACP Tracker

The .45 ACP Isn't Just for Autopistols.

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON



Having been on the shooting scene a half-century before the self-loading pistol, the cartridge revolver made its debut in the middle of the 19th Century. While this might cause one to think the wheelgun is outdated, at least as a self-defense arm, nothing could be further from the truth. For most, the revolver is the optimum handgun, and for good reasons.

Although my fondness for autopistols is fairly well-known, I own and use almost as many revolvers. While I carry a self-loader for personal protection most of the time, I still carry a concealed revolver a fair amount of the time, and I usually carry one for protection in the wild.

If most revolver owners start out small, if they take a liking to the revolver, sooner or later they buy one of a larger caliber. While "larger" can approach the ridiculous for self-defense purposes, revolvers chambered for cartridges such as .357 Magnum, .44 Special, .45 ACP, and .45 Colt have a real place in the personal-protection circle. I've carried all three of these either on-duty, off-, or both. With any one of these four calibers being suitable for defensive purposes, I must admit I tend to lean toward the .45 ACP for more than merely its size.

Revolvers can be relatively slow to reload, that is, if you have to reload, and if you're in a gunfight, it just might last longer than you planned. In addition to single action-revolvers, this is true even of more modern double-action swing-out cylinder revolvers. Not only is the .45 ACP as big, or bigger than the oth-

The new Taurus .45 ACP Tracker revolver is ready for personal protection in the deep woods or downtown. Its full-moon clip holds five rounds of .45 ACP ammunition.

ers, but it can also be loaded with "full-moon" clips in a modern double-action revolver. Now a clip is not a magazine, or vice versa. A clip is a device that holds cartridges "together" and is inserted with them into the gun. In the case of a revolver, the clip is more or less round, or star-shaped, and not only stays in the gun with the cartridges, but is also ejected still holding the empty shells. This is different from a "speed-loader," which is only a charger.

Since the .45 ACP cartridge is rimless, this round requires a clip of some kind in order to be ejected from a swing-out cylinder, double-action revolver. While such clips have been made in two-shot and three-shot styles for six-shot revolvers, it is the full-moon clip that has remained most popular. Since modern .45 ACP-caliber double-action revolvers hold only five shots, the full-moon clip is the only game in town.

The Taurus .45 ACP Tracker

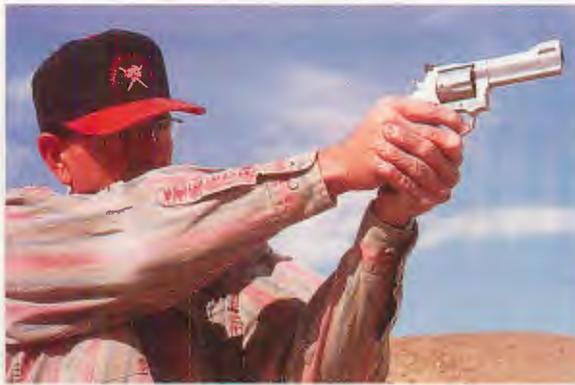
Recently, Taurus International, of Miami, Florida, added a concealable five-shot .45 ACP-caliber double-action revolver to its line. It is called the .45 ACP Tracker, and is the latest member of the Tracker family that includes revolvers from .17 Hornady to .480 Ruger caliber.

Made of stainless steel, the Tracker comes with a 4-inch, heavy under-lugged barrel, adjustable sights, and recoil-absorbing wrap-around rubber grips. To further reduce recoil, its barrel has an integral muzzle brake with eight ports to divert gases straight up to dampen muzzle flip.

Operating exactly like a Smith & Wesson double-action revolver, the Tracker has its own built-in, limited-access locking system. Consisting of a proprietary-sized hex screw in the rear of the hammer, this part is turned one "click" outward with the special "key-ring" wrench furnished, to prevent the hammer from moving to the rear. The pistol is finished in a fine matte stainless.

Recently, I received a sample of the new Taurus .45 ACP Tracker to test for SOF. I found this revolver to be of very high quality, which is no surprise coming from Taurus. Its action was smooth and its lock-up positive. Along with extremely comfortable grips, the Tracker also has excellent sights.

With the Tracker, I received a sampling of Taurus' new TCB.45ACP HEX Bullet



Longtime handgunner, Gil Angelotti, checks out the Taurus .45 ACP Tracker on his range in Colorado.

ammunition. Loaded exclusively for Taurus by PMC, this round uses a unique copper bullet made by Barnes Bullets, of Utah, and is loaded with a special blend of Hodgdon Powders. Weighing 185 grains, this hollowpoint bullet has a muzzle velocity of 1,050 fps.

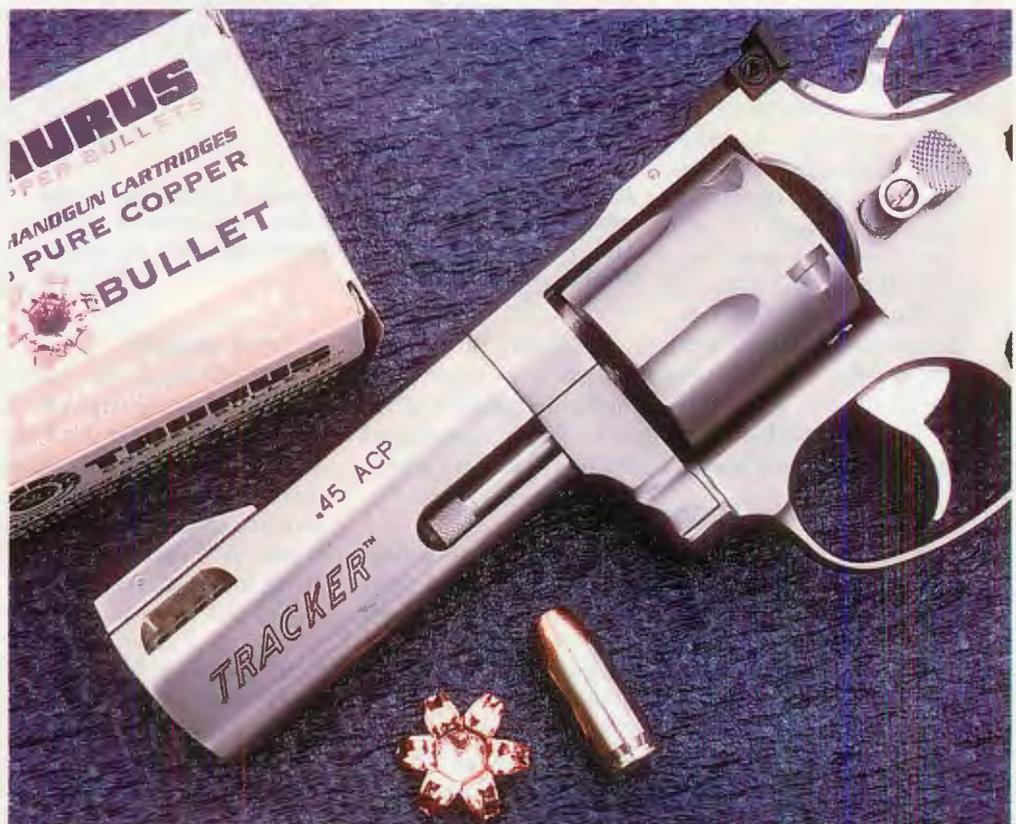
Shots Fired

I not only found the Taurus TCB.45ACP ammo to function perfectly in the Tracker, but all other factory ammunition I loaded into the special five-shot full-moon clips that came with

the gun, worked flawlessly as well. The ported muzzle and soft rubber grips were especially appreciated when firing the heavier 230-grain .45 ACP bullets from such makers as Black Hills, COR-BON, Remington, Winchester, and others. However, the ports seemed even more effective with some of the higher-pressure, lighter-weight bullets, such as COR-BON's 165-grain .45 ACP.

I expected pretty good accuracy from the Tracker, and it delivered, with many groups being 2 inches or less at 25 yards using sandbags. All functions were smooth and sure.

If you're in the market for a .45 ACP double-action revolver that you can afford and will enjoy shooting, check out the Taurus .45 ACP Tracker. For information on its entire line of fine firearms, contact Taurus, International Mfg., Inc., Dept. SOF, 16175 N.W. 49th Ave., Miami, FL 33014; Tel.: 800-327-3776; on the web at: taurususa.com.



Precision cut into each side of the Tracker's barrel, are four ports for a total of eight. These fight muzzle flip and felt recoil by diverting the muzzle downward. It is seen with Taurus' new HEX Bullet .45 ACP ammunition.

Taurus' NEW Hex Bullet

You Can Lead A Horse To Water, But
The Bullet Doesn't Have To Be Lead.

The most popular material for bullets continues to be lead, and for several reasons: Lead is easy to work with, is inexpensive, and is heavy. With the first two criteria easily understood, lead's weight may require a bit more explanation.

Originally designed around black powder, bullets could only be fired at a maximum of about 1,700 feet per second (fps) from a rifle. At this relatively low velocity, it was found that lead retained much of its velocity and, thanks to its weight, its momentum, out to several hundred yards. In short, it worked.

When propellant technology made a quantum leap with smokeless powder just over a century ago, lighter and smaller bullets came into vogue, as they could be propelled significantly faster and, because of their flatter trajectory, used more effectively at longer ranges. Although these bullets still used lead, they had a jacket made of copper.

Not as heavy as lead, copper is still relatively heavy in the family of metals. Although fairly tough, it can be softened with the addition of zinc or other metals. This not only makes copper easier to work with, but, together with bullet design, also allows it to provide excellent terminal ballistics (expansion). Copper also fouls the bores of guns less than does lead.

Barnes Bullets

Famous for its copper-bullet technology, Barnes Bullets has been somewhat revolutionary in the design of solid-copper projectiles. By adding just the right type and amount of other elements, Barnes has been able to get copper to perform much like lead, and without the possibility of shedding jackets or other bullet material.

One of Barnes' latest and most exciting developments is its HEX Bullet that is currently loaded by PMC in .45 ACP exclusively for Taurus International Mfg., Inc. Designated as the TCB.45ACP (Taurus Copper Bullet .45 ACP), this 185-grain projectile has a deep hollowpoint cavity and an ogive that is scored into six segments. Being made of 99.95% pure copper, the remaining secret elements cause

the material to be more malleable. The result is that this bullet provides reliable, uniform expansion.

With a muzzle velocity of 1,050 fps, the HEX Bullet expands up to a full 1 inch in 10% ballistic gelatin, and penetrates up to 10- plus inches depending on the barrel length of the gun it's fired from; this from a gaping hollowpoint that measures 1/4" across. It's relatively light weight offers recoil that is very manageable.

Not Just For Revolvers

Although Taurus introduced its TCB.45ACP ammunition in conjunction with its .45 ACP TRACKER revolver, the HEX Bullet works equally well in .45 ACP-caliber autopistols. In shooting this ammunition in several 1911-style pistols it proved reliable, accurate and easy to control. I especially liked this round in my compact Para-Ordinance stainless steel C7.45 Compact Light Double-Action (LDA) pistol. A favorite carry pistol, the C7.45's light, smooth double-

action makes shooting the .45 ACP a real pleasure. Muzzle velocities ran from 1,017 fps to 1,052 fps from revolvers and autopistols with barrels of various lengths.

Especially appreciated was the fact that the HEX Bullet fed through all pistols it was tested with. Since my supply of TCB.45ACP ammunition was limited, not a lot of rounds could be fired from each pistol, but one .45 ACP autopistol, that is somewhat particular about the hollowpoints it likes, ran perfectly with the HEX Bullet.

In the overall accuracy department, the HEX Bullet produced 25-yard groups of from 1.87" to 3.23" from the same batch of guns, with the autopistols producing slight-

ly better accuracy.

In addition to the features of the HEX Bullet already mentioned is the fact that lack of any lead in the bullet material means that this bullet is non-toxic. While I believe that, except for small children, the danger from airborne lead is over-exaggerated, the Government's trend toward banning it at shooting ranges continues to loom over our heads. If it succeeds, all such practice will be limited to using bullets that contain no lead. In this regard, the HEX Bullet and other non-lead projectiles may indeed become the future of shooting sports.

If you're an enthusiast of .45 ACP-caliber handguns, you'll want to check-out Taurus' new TCB45 ACP HEX Bullet ammunition. Although I've had no word on it, I look for this new bullet to be available in additional calibers soon. In the meantime, for more information contact Taurus International Mfg., Inc., Dept. SOF, 16175 N.W. 49th Ave., Miami, FL 33014; Tel.: (800) 327-3776; (tausususa.com).

— G.P.J.



Not just for revolvers, Taurus' new TCB.45ACP Hex Bullet ammunition is seen here with the Para-Ordinance C7.45 LDA. The new cartridge worked perfectly in this, and several other .45 autopistols.

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Making Of A Psychopath

Continued from page 34

prisoners be packed into a freight train during the hottest month of the year. The boxcars were then closed and sealed and the train sent on its way. Without ventilation, by the time the train arrived at its destination, most of the prisoners had died. Fawzi says Saddam is notorious for executing people with his own pistol.

"From time to time, he would go to one of his security services and order the chief to bring out one of the prisoners. Saddam would draw his pistol and shoot the prisoner dead. Then he would laugh."

During the Iran-Iraq war, one of Ayatollah Khomeini's principal conditions for peace was that Saddam Hussein be removed from office. After the war had gone on for years, Saddam was informed that his Minister of Health had suggested that Saddam step down temporarily, so that Iraq could make peace, and then resume the presidency once the war was over. In a conference with his ministers, Saddam mentioned that someone had suggested he step down for a while. It was an interesting thought, he said, turning to his Minister of Health.

"Isn't that right?" he asked him. When the minister nodded, Saddam asked if the doctor would mind joining him in the other room for a few minutes. They hadn't been gone but a few seconds when the other ministers heard a gunshot. When Saddam Hussein came back into the conference room, he was blowing smoke from the barrel of his pistol.

"The Iraqi media told the public that the Minister of Health had been executed for importing expired medicines and drugs, but that was not the responsibility of the Health Ministry. Saddam had been waiting for an opportunity to get rid of the minister, to cover his own tracks. The dead doctor was the one who had given the fatal injection to the former President, General al Bakir," said Fawzi.

The tendency toward violence is a tribal heritage in Iraq. It is still used to settle disputes. And to this day, General Fawzi concludes that, "Saddam Hussein is a prisoner of that custom."

Now in the Gulf with U.S. forces, Dale B. Cooper is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

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Tune-Up In Kuwait

Continued from page 47

while we were meeting with the troops.

Pork In The Kuwaiti Desert

It was time for the 'gourmet spread,' a grab-it-yourself buffet — barbecue chicken wings and legs, hamburgers, assorted chips and pop were accompanied by *faux bierre*. For dessert — Hostess Twinkies and chocolate Ding-Dongs.

"The Twinkies and Ding-Dongs are a little extra stuff the soldiers are familiar with like they get at home," said Reginald Hughes, CW2 Task Force Food Division Chief.

"I'm the guy they come to and complain when food is bad. You can never please 125,000 people. Things are improving though since the dining facilities are now mobile— one on each camp — where previously the food was cooked in one location and catered out. I order a variety of food based on food preferences."

His colleague, Paulette Roberts Detwiler, resident food supervisor, joined him.

"Like once we served lamb. Everyone



Dr. Martin Braun

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Reginald Hughes, Food Division Chief, and Paulette Roberts Detwiler, Resident Food Supervisor, keep the troops' bellies full. Apprehension of Kuwaiti spy, who planned on poisoning U.S. troops, calls for increased security on procurement and distribution of chow as never before.

gagged, asking what it was. We never served that again. We had lobster last week. On Christmas and Thanksgiving we had the works — turkey, ham, roast beef, mashed potatoes, collard greens, corn, and shrimp cocktail.

We thought maybe we could go

home for Christmas, but that didn't happen. We've got to have a positive attitude," she said. "We have no choice. Complaining doesn't help."

"Staying busy — that helps," Reginald added.

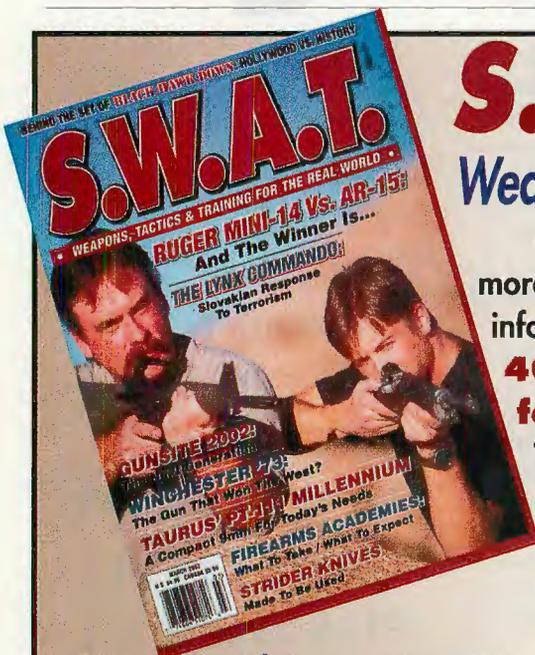
Brutality Is Basic Entertainment

The crowd had become even more boisterous and rowdy as two female contestants entered the ring.

"The guys go crazy when the girls start to fight and brutalize each other," Margaret Capel, of Kentucky, who had just come in from physical training, explained. "There are lots of females here — probably around 100, filtering in from Fort Stewart."

Beer cans were popping, but if anyone got high, it was from the enthusiasm of the fights. "It's non-alcoholic, but the troops like to hear the cap pop," one officer was quick to point out. Kuwait's "dry laws" were not being violated, even though the camp is one-and-a-half hellish hours away from Kuwait City over bumpy unpaved roads that challenge the sturdiest of SUVs and dislocate joints and rearrange organs.

"I have been here since September," Capel said. "My parents freaked-out when they heard I was coming to the



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After physical training, Margaret Capel, KY, and Cassandra Walton, GA, join the festivities. Capel estimates there are over 100 female troops in the AO.

Gulf. My grandfather, a WWII vet, was especially upset. He told me 'I thought I had put in enough time in the Army for our family.' It's so different now," Capel continued. "He thought I would be on a boat. He's really worried. I have been in the Army for 4-1/2 years. I was supposed to be out in September, but a freeze was put on and I was involuntarily extended by Executive Order. I thought it was pretty bad at first, but I'm getting more used to it. Coming over as a group helped a lot.

"Now I look forward to cheeseburgers and hot showers. It's been really windy, cold and miserable lately so at nights we just stay in our heated 10-man tents. This is the first time I have had to live like this. I was stationed in Saudi for six months in 2000 for routine deployment where we lived in a village the King had built for some Bedouin tribes. I had a double-bed and the place was a palace compared to this. I was in Korea on 9-11 where I lived off-post and learned to love the Koreans, but then they put a lock-down [on] after that for security purposes. Guess I've been lucky. Most of my friends have been to Florida or Kentucky but I've seen a lot of the world. There is no timeline for

when we are going home."

What Is A Normal Day?

"We get up for physical training, go to breakfast and work all day. In the evenings we watch movies or go to the gym. Some have portable DVD players and movies that get traded around. We can go to camp Doha, but not to Kuwait City. Even though they are beginning to sponsor trips for groups to go into the City, I don't know if I would want to go in after what people say," Capel said.

She was voicing the concerns of many of the troops with whom we spoke. Several Marines had been shot at by Kuwaiti fundamentalists; one had died. The troops that did wander into town were extremely cautious, inspecting their vehicles inside and out before they got into them. They were always on alert, refusing to stay in places unless they were crowded with locals.

This war is different than Desert Storm. Most Kuwaitis are not welcoming this operation nor the U.S. presence, and some are reacting with random violence. The troops are uneasy with their vague mission, unsure of what is ahead and are unconvinced of any justification given thus far for what they are about to face. ✕

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there is a place for these firms, citing the work of Executive Outcomes in Sierra Leone and Angola in 1995.

"Look what EO did in Sierra Leone. Without them, there would have been no peace to pursue. They literally stopped the war," he states. Ironically, that "peace" was soon overtaken by a coup, launched by the Sierra Leone Army in May, 1997. The revolt was ended in February 1998 following armed intervention by ECOMOG, the West African peacekeeping force built around the incompetent, corrupt Nigerian army.

At the same time, it has been argued that the UN must be "more practical" in peacekeeping. In 1995, Douglas helped organize an \$8-million operation that saw 1,500 Zairean troops hired by the UN in Zaire, to provide security for the refugee camps along the country's eastern border. He says the cost would have been \$80 million if "traditional peacekeeping troops" were used. Indeed, he declared, it was a very practical solution to something that could have turned out quite tricky. Douglas thinks that, ultimately, common sense will drive the use of private security companies.

In a related article on post-Cold War mercenaries, *USA Today* said that "private military companies are working hand in glove with various governments to fight their wars in a businesslike manner." That was followed by observations from Dianne Alden in an article titled "Soldiers R US: The Corporate Military." Among a raft of comments, she suggested that the modern mercenary force "is no longer an unkempt, unprofessional band of soldier wannabes."

Alden continued: "They are, for the most part, organized former military officers and enlisted men from all ranks and nations. Ostensibly advisers and strategists, they also conduct warfare in places where official government armies are not prepared to go."

¹ David Shearer, *Private Armies and Military Intervention*: Adelphi Paper 316, IISS, London, 1998

Next month, Venter describes a typical proposed merc operation; describes those companies now in the arena of providing commercial military services; and chronicles tales of modern successes and failures. ✕

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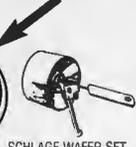
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Israel's "Sampson Option"

Continued from page 51

this Negav base that is formidably ringed by multiple AAA missile batteries. Initially, it called the place a manganese plant. As U.S./Israeli relations soured — because Jerusalem ignored the American call for transparency — an agreement was finally reached in 1962 to allow inspectors on site. But this, too, became a farce.

"Inspectors saw only the above-ground part of the buildings, not the many levels underground and the visit frequency was never more than once a year (twice a year had originally been agreed upon). The above-ground areas had simulated control rooms and access to all underground areas were kept hidden while the inspectors were present. Elevators leading to secret underground plutonium reprocessing plant were actually bricked over," he stated.

Then, in a complicated undercover operation, 200 tons of uranium oxide — known in the argot as "yellow cake" — was obtained from a West German front company and transferred from one ship to another on the high seas.

For several years, Israel had to rely solely on the F-4Es that it had acquired from the United States should it need to use its nuclear arsenal. Leonard Spector disclosed in 1986 — at a time when Israel was producing between three and five bombs a year — that these were delivered with their nuclear-capable hardware intact.

Since then, the F-16 has become the backbone of the Israeli Force and the longer-range Boeing M-16I Ra'am (Thunder) version which can hit at targets 2,800 miles away with a 36.7-ton take-off-weight is today the aircraft of choice for any kind of envisaged nuclear strike. In 1999, the IAF announced that it would buy 50 F-16Is (with a maximum speed at altitude of Mach 2.5) at a cost of \$2.5 billion and would start receiving them over a two-year period beginning early 2003. That contract gives the Israelis an option to buy 60 additional aircraft and, should that happen, delivery will continue through 2008.

Nobody is certain where these aircraft are to be based (and the Israelis aren't saying). Apart from Tel Nof, bases mentioned in this regard are Nevatim (southeast of Neesheba), Ramon (in the Negav) and Ramat-David (in the north of the country).

Jerusalem's quest for a missile-capable

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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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bility began at roughly the same time that it started work on an indigenous atom bomb. In the early '60s, the Jewish State signed an agreement with the French company Dassault to produce a surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of about 150 miles and able to carry a 1,600-lb. payload. The first 30 missiles were delivered three years later. Following the Six Day War, Paris embargoed any new equipment transfers and Israel was forced to go it alone.

First-off, the Israeli production line was the Jericho missile which the CIA cited in 1974 as evidence that Israel had nuclear weapons. Langley stated that such a missile made little sense as a conventional weapon and that it was in any event "designed to accommodate nuclear warheads."

The Jericho II — with some striking similarities to the U.S. Pershing II — followed with its first test in May 1974. It reached its objective of 500 miles A year later, according to U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, its range had been almost doubled. The range of the Jericho II has since been increased to about 1,125 miles, which brings most of the major players in the Islamic world within range.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists disclosed late 2002, that following Israel having launched several Ofek satellites into orbit atop Shavit (Comet) three-stage rockets in 1988, this missile might be converted into a long-range ballistic missile with a potential range of up to about 4,500 miles. Significantly, with the loss of its missile test beds along the South African Cape coast, Israeli rocket launches now take place from the Palmikhim air base north of Tel Aviv and unusually, are fired westward across the Mediterranean and against the earth's rotation. This adjustment requires even more thrust and test results achieved with the Jericho II to date could probably be increased.

In April 2000, Israel test-launched a Jericho missile into the Mediterranean after informing the U.S. in advance. It impacted close to an American warship that reportedly thought it was under attack.

Martin van Creveld has also speculated — which he rarely does without good reason — that Jerusalem is currently pursuing an R&D program to provide MIRVs (multiple independent reentry vehicles) on their missiles.

Al J. Venter has been an SOF Contributor for 27 years. ✕

Continued from page 6

later, Chairman of Campus Crusade for Christ. Over time, we became good friends and Joe came to Alaska on many occasions, staying with Barb and me at our home. One evening, our #2 son, Brian, who was about twelve or thirteen at the time, got the opportunity to watch the movie "Flying Tigers" with Joe Foss in our kitchen. Joe had Brian spell-bound with his tales of flying during the war and Joe would carefully explain to Brian which scenes in the movie were accurate and which were not, and why they were not.

Joe later helped Brian get into the U.S. Naval Academy by writing a letter of support, telling the Superintendent if Joe went to war again, "the first guy I'd choose to take with me would be a fighting man like Brian Ross."

Perhaps that's why Brian joined the Marines upon graduation. Brian, now a Captain in the USMC, will be leaving in the next few days for the Mid-East.

Joe even gave me his wartime Colt .45 on the condition that I eventually give it to Brian who Joe called "a fine Marine."

It was a pleasure to spend an evening, or even an hour, with Joe. He had wonderful stories, and a great attitude about life. He'd say "It's a great day! And at my age, every day is a great day!" Joe had a fascinating way of expressing himself that came from his younger days on the farm in South Dakota. It got so that I would write down what I called "Fossisms" after spending time with Joe. Some of my favorites were:

When indicating to someone that they were nitpicking in their argument — "That's like backing into a buzz saw and then trying to decide which tooth cut you first."

"That's a bad deal. It's like having shorts on that are too small."

"If you are going to get married, you might as well get someone who'll get you out of the box elders and into the oak trees."

"You get to know politicians better if you put a little hay into their barn."

And, referring to Bill Clinton — "That guy is like having a cow pie in the middle of your dinner table."

Joe Foss was a true American hero. He believed in and fought for America. And America has lost something precious, now that Joe is gone.

He'll be missed. ✕

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Sound Off

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

Who Cares!

Sure, "First Human Clone," and "Lott Heads KKK," are headlines that get max ink. That's what sells papers, pumps ratings and keeps the conglomerate cash registers ringing.

But [don't] our news media have a moral responsibility to inform the public about potentially serious disasters just a sand dune away?

We're only weeks away from sending our troops into the poisonous caldron of Desert Storm II, where casualties could be as catastrophic as the last time our soldiers stood tall in that unforgiving desert and suffered at least 160,000 disabled and dying WIA (Wounded-In-Action) and 10,000 KIABGN (Killed-In-Action-By-Government-Neglect). [You may e-mail traprock@crocker.com for casualty elaboration.]

But the injuries were for the most part self-inflicted, caused by U.S. military incompetence rather than the sort of horror-filled missiles and shells our soldiers might well run into this time around if and when we find Saddam's doomsday weapons the hard way.

Concerned members of outfits such as Soldiers For The Truth and the National Gulf War Resource Center Inc. have done everything but torch themselves into crispy critters to get this story front and center.

SFTT President Robert McMahon has contacted almost every major news outlet in America, pleading for coverage. "Maybe some parents and spouses would like to know that Iraq's Republican Guard won't be the most insidious enemy their loved ones will be facing," he wrote.

The "insidious enemy" McMahon refers to is in part the Iraqi battlefield itself, a death pit of spent radiation and bio/chem weaponry served up with a lethal cocktail of local bugs, deadly fumes and poisons that still haven't been fully identified after a decade of medical research. And then there's the enemy within, the far-from-adequate bio/chem-protection and -detection gear earmarked for our grunts.

According to one Pentagon report, about 130,000 troops who were downwind when U.S. Army engineers destroyed a weapons depot were exposed to low levels of sarin. Now epidemiologist Dr. Robert Haley has published a footlocker full of studies suggesting there might actually be 200,000 Gulf War vets with illnesses linked to brain damage resulting from exposure to sarin-like toxins. And many vets and scientists believe other sarin exposures occurred in January 1991 when allied bombs destroyed Iraqi ammo dumps.

A recent U.S. General Accounting Office report states



that "serious problems still persist" regarding the protective masks, suits and detection-gear. And a December 2002 Army report states that more than half of its protective masks and nearly all of its chemical-weapons alarms are either "completely broken or not fully operational."

A Pentagon spokeswoman has counterattacked, insisting, "The Pentagon has substantially improved individual protective garments, gas masks and chemical detectors since the Gulf War."

But a line sergeant I'd trust with my life says, "The only improvement I've seen since the Gulf War is now that we have the M-40 Protective Mask instead of the M-17A1, we can change our filters without committing suicide."

Why won't the media or Congress touch this story when we could be only weeks away from destroying the lives of another generation of American heroes? Is it the prevailing attitude that war is a nasty business, but our all-volunteer force signed up for it? Or is it just that no one who could make a difference cares about what they perceive as blue-collar bio/chem fodder mainly from metropolitan slums or small-town America?

Maybe the media are displaying such a total lack of interest in whether our GI Joes and Janes will make it through Saddam's nightmare simply because most haven't served and can't identify with a fighting force made up of kids who come from poor families with nada political pull in an America that's fast becoming too much like England circa 1600; a land of serfs and the privileged who sit above the salt.

Kids who are primarily from the wrong side of the railroad tracks where the used pickup trucks are parked, who didn't go to Yale, Stanford or the other elite schools in-between. The same kids who've filled bodybags and been screwed over by Veterans Affairs since the Greatest Generation members were given their due during and after World War II.

And nothing's going to change until the draft calls up each and every one of America's boys and girls to defend Old Glory.

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

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

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

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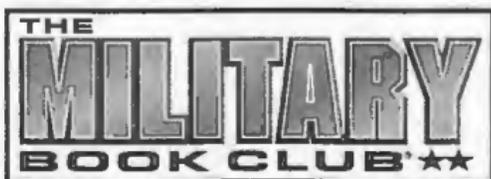


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