



EXCLUSIVE: The Hunt For Bin Laden—Task Force Dagger

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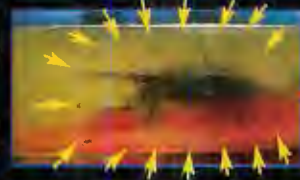
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Joe Raedle/Getty Images

On the Cover

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 44.



REUTERS/Lee Jae-Won



AP Photo/Hasan Sarbakhshian

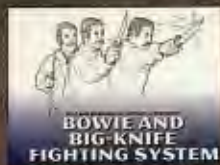


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BOWIE AND BIG-KNIFE FIGHTING SYSTEM

by Dwight C. McLemore

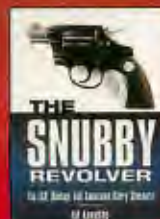
This valuable training guide provides insight into Jim Bowie, the 'Bowie knife' and the fighting systems associated with both. The 200+ pen-and-ink drawings in this book are so skillfully executed that they vividly convey the movement of the training sequences. Whether you want to learn to fight with a big blade or just want to find out more about Bowie, this book is for you. 11 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 240 pp. #BBK \$35.00



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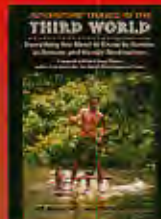
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Command Guidance

BY J.D. CASH

SOF Was There First

The recent media uproar created by John Solomon's excellent series of articles about the bungled OKBOMB investigation is really old news to fans of this magazine. That's because, for years, SOF readers have been able to follow the blood-trail the cover-up artists left behind, on these pages.

It all began with Lt. Col. Roger Charles', USMC (Ret.) exposé in November of 1997, *Prior Warning: Could the Feds Have Prevented the OKC*

ed on downtown Oklahoma City.

Since Charles' first piece, we have teamed-up and co-written others — using sensitive government documents to prove the OKBOMB investigation was never meant to ferret out all those guilty.

Last year, SOF published a three-part series about the OKBOMB fiasco, using hundreds of pages of government documents that I obtained through the Freedom of Information Act while working as a reporter for the *McCurtain*

... THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SERVED AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE FBI, ATF AND DOJ AT THE TIME OF THE BOMBING, THAT SHOULD NOW BE MADE TO TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ABOUT WHAT THEY KNEW — AND WHEN THEY KNEW IT.

Bombing? And with this first groundbreaking national story, Robert K. Brown and his staff, have regularly gone out on a limb to see that the American people got the truth about a failed sting operation in OKC that went terribly wrong.

SOF readers learned four years ago the FBI and ATF had crucial intelligence from a paid confidential informant about threats emanating from a group of white supremacists poised to strike on 19 April 1995.

When the bad guys delivered their crude but very effective truck bomb, 168 persons of all ages were left dead. Some 500 more were injured and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage was inflicted

on downtown Oklahoma City. Many of those same documents were used in the current AP series written by Mr. Solomon.

The fallout for the DOJ remains: To identify and prosecute all the bombers, means exposing a terrorist-training operation in eastern Oklahoma actually run by the FBI through an agent of the German government, Andreas Carl Strassmeir (a.k.a. *Andy the German!*)

You See The Problem?

Limiting the investigation to Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols was the only option for FBI Director Louis Freeh and Attorney General

Continued on page 81

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Flak



Kris Eggle



Your March SOF article about the Mexican border was great. Murdered Park Service Ranger Kris Eggle is my son! His murder underscores the dramatic increase in danger and problems on our Mexican border.

You summarize well the actions by Ranch Rescue and others who volunteer their time to help control this border, which most definitely is out-of-control because of Federal Government neglect.

President Bush talks tough about Iraq, but seems to do nothing to protect our own borders. This only encourages more illegal trafficking.

My additional purpose in writing you is to suggest you contact our family for more details about our crusade to achieve reform of both National Park Service and Department of Interior Law Enforcement. Our mission is also trying to inform the American public about how lax our government leaders have been and still are in reform and tightening up the illegal-immigration policies.

We would be delighted to speak with you and offer our assistance in any way possible.

Sincerely,
Bob Eggle
Captain, US Army Infantry, Retired
Combat wounded VietNam Veteran
bobeggle@yahoo.com

Border Security

I have an idea for securing the border with Mexico that I've not seen mentioned by anybody.

There have been proposals to use the U.S. Military to patrol and secure the border. These proposals run into the face of the *Posse Comitatus* Act of 1878, which would have to be altered or abolished before the U.S. military could become involved.

I know how to get around *Posse Comitatus*. The border needs to be patrolled, but not by the U.S. Military. Rather, let the border be patrolled by military-style units which are under the control of the new Department for Homeland Security.

Forces under control of Homeland Security would not need as much training as soldiers of the U.S. military. Probably they could do quite well with the level of training that police officers receive. As such, Homeland Security troops would come cheaper.

The members of the Homeland Security Army could be volunteers, or they could even be drafted, which could result in even more cost savings. While the U.S. Military has a number

of good reasons for not wanting to draft citizens into its own ranks, I think these reasons would not apply so much to an internal, domestic army under the aegis of Homeland Security.

James A. Nollet

The Posse Comitatus act prohibits using Army personnel for local law-enforcement duty. If you want to use military personnel for law-enforcement functions and do not want or need to declare martial law, you use Marines or Navy personnel— as has been done. However the mechanism for patrolling the border is already in place: It's called (would you believe) the U.S. Border Patrol. Unfortunately, they are under-staffed and under-resourced. The first order of business would be to give these few good men the personnel and resources they need, then a clear mission statement that they are there to close the border to all illegal activity. Duh-uh! And some rules of engagement that support that mission statement, and the safety of the men whose duty it is to carry it out would be a good idea as well ...

Ballad Of The Red Beret

I just purchased your latest issue and much to my chagrin, noticed some very serious errors in the article entitled "War Rages In West Africa's Ivory Coast."

In several of the photos, the captions label the French forces as members of the Foreign Legion when in fact, the red berets clearly mark these paratroopers as members of the *troupes des marine* or Marine Paratroopers. While not a Marine Corps in the same sense as the U.S. Marine Corps, current French Army *troupes des marine* are the direct descendents of the old colonial regiments.

France renamed all their "colonial" regiments in 1958 while still engaged in the war in Algeria. I would have thought the editors of SOF would have done a better job of catching such a glaring error.

Paul Connors
Historian, 177th Fighter Wing, NJANG

Normally, we would — but we can't catch what we don't have a chance to see. As soon as we received our advance copies of that issue, we began laying in cheap whisky to handle the onslaught we knew would follow. The letters came, of course, and we are printing yours as it was one of the very few polite ones. The story received late attention from a francophone, but non-editorial staff member, and unfortunately no editor got to see the captions and photos for that story in color until the advance copies came from the printer: a maroon beret and a green beret are both black in a black-and-white editor's proof. You will note as well the similarity of the Para hat badge (page 46) to an airborne legionnaire's. ☒

LET'S ROLL!

"★★★★ 'Let's Roll!'
is right on target."
- The Guardian

"Two trigger fingers up!"
- Leatherneck Magazine

"The movie sucked dead camel
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- Baghdad Weekly

"Let's hope there isn't a
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SMC's Top Ace: Setting The Record Straight

SOF was copied on the letter below, from NRA Board Member Dwight D. Van Horn to General William L. Nyland, USMC. Both men count the privilege of having had Joe Foss as a friend. This letter or its purpose require no explanation, but the action this letter seeks to initiate would benefit from a show of interest and support from constituents who appreciate what great men such as Joe Foss have done on behalf of our nation, and who value the accuracy of historical record as pivotal to its value for future generations.

SOF readers are encouraged to write their elected federal officials and ask for their support in setting the record straight. And, if you would like, please copy SOF on the response you get from your senators or congressmen. As a Medal of Honor recipient, general officer, top USMC Ace, state governor, President of the American Football League, President of the NRA, or as a loyal friend, Joe Foss was known by all who dealt with him as a man of absolute integrity. Join us in this effort to assure the integrity of the historical record.

January 21, 2003

General William L. Nyland,
Assistant Commandant,
United States Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear General Nyland:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the memorial service for Joe Foss in Scottsdale on January 9. The services for Joe were poignant, inspirational and at times humorous, much like Joe himself.

I was particularly impressed with the portion of your eulogy that talked about how much the Marine Corps history and heroes were ingrained in new recruits during basic training, thus perpetuating the rich and storied history of the Marine Corps that dates back to November 10, 1775 at Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia, and includes men like Smedley Butler, Dan Dailey, Chesty Puller and Joe Foss. Your comments raised a question that I had once asked Joe. Why was Major Joe Foss not recognized as the Marine Corps highest-scoring Fighter Ace? That honor going, incorrectly, to Col. Gregory Boyington. Joe's response was, essentially; "That's OK." Very typical of Joe's humility and bent towards self-deprecation. He was too much of a gentleman to draw attention to himself.

Joe Foss' record of shooting down 26 enemy aircraft is unequaled by any other Marine Corps Aviator. Col. Boyington's claims of shooting down 28 enemy aircraft are incorrect. I don't disagree with Col. Boyington receiving credit for the enemy aircraft he shot down while flying with the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers). That being said, AVG records are quite clear that Col. Boyington was paid for two aerial victories, not six. Using the correct AVG records would reduce Col. Boyington's total to 24. Further, when Col. Boyington was shot down and subsequently captured on his last mission, he was witnessed to have shot down one enemy aircraft. After his release from a Japanese POW camp, Col. Boyington claimed that he had shot down three enemy aircraft on his final mission. Col. Boyington was given credit for those unwitnessed second and third enemy aircraft, contrary to Marine Corps policy at the time. This should bring Col. Boyington's correct total of enemy aircraft destroyed to 22, placing him behind Maj. Joe Foss' 26 and the 25 enemy aircraft credited to 1st Lt. Robert Hanson.

I would submit to you, Sir, the following list of published books that will substantiate the foregoing facts:

- *Roar Of The Tiger*, by Brig. Gen. James H. Howard, USAF, MOH
- *The Black Sheep*, by Bruce Gamble
- *Black Sheep One*, by Bruce Gamble
- *USMC Credits For The Destruction Of Enemy Aircraft In Air-To-Air Combat World War 2 (Victory List No. 1)*, by Dr. Frank Olynyk
- *AVG & USAAF (China-Burma-India Theater) Credits For The Destruction Of Enemy Aircraft in Air-To-Air Combat World War 2 (Victory List No. 4)*, By Dr. Frank Olynyk
- *Stars & Bars*, by Dr. Frank Olynyk
- *Pushing The Envelope*, by Maj. Gen. Marion E. Carl, USMC and Barrett Tillman

I would respectfully request that you take the necessary steps to ensure that those United States Marines yet to come will learn that Major Joseph Jacob Foss is the United States Marine Corps' top-scoring Fighter Ace. This request is especially made in regards to your eulogy at Joe's memorial service.

God Bless Joe Foss, God Bless the United States Marine Corps and God Bless America.

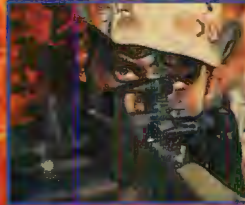
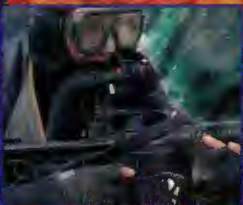
Semper Fidelis.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight D. Van Horn

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Bulletin Board

Why the UN Deserves Your Support

Well for one thing, all the Good Work they do to alleviate the suffering and inequality around the world. For instance, did you know that the great humanitarian state of LIBYA was recently elected to head the UN Human Rights Commission? They can now join fellow HRC members such as Cuba, Zimbabwe, China, Vietnam, Syria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Congo and Algeria. Noted Human Rights Watch Executive Director Ken Roth, "the greatest challenge [for the HRC] is going to be overcoming the tendencies of thugs to flock to it."

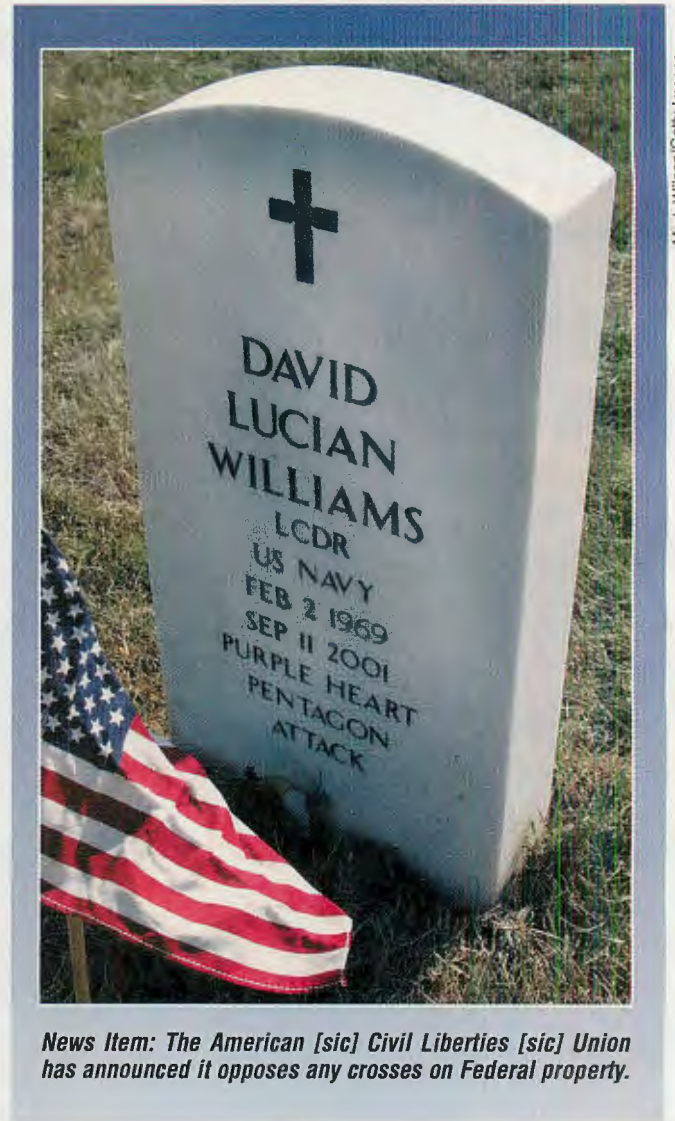
Rosemary's Baby

Some people have real talent, and others have a real talent for being a first-class horses neck. Case in point is actor George Clooney, former actor on "ER" and nephew of classy singer and actress, the late Rosemary Clooney. Accepting an award from the National Board of Review in New York, he told the audience, "Charlton Heston announced again today that he is suffering from Alzheimer's." Called on his boorish comments, Clooney replied, "I don't care. Charlton Heston is the head of the National Rifle Association — he deserves whatever anyone says about him."

Said Charlton Heston, "... I feel sorry for George Clooney — one day he may get Alzheimer's disease. I served my country in World War II. I survived that — I guess I can survive some bad words from this fellow." Elizabeth Wilson of the Alzheimer's Association told the *Enquirer*, "we've been inundated with e-mails from people across the country expressing outrage. It was a totally insensitive joke at the expense of a man who had the courage to come forward, reveal that he had been diagnosed with this tragic disease — and by doing so gave hope to others that attention would be focused on it and perhaps find a cure. It was particularly hurtful to the four million Americans who suffer from Alzheimer's and the 18 million more who love and care for them."

Not The Real Thing

"Mecca Cola"? Tunisian-born French citizen Tawfig Mathlouthi is marketing a Coke® knock-off with a recipe he got off the internet, that offers soda-slurpers disenchanted with "un-Islamic" drinks such as Pepsi® and Coca-Cola® an equal chance for diabetes and tooth decay. Mathlouthi



News Item: The American [sic] Civil Liberties [sic] Union has announced it opposes any crosses on Federal property.

promises 10% of the profits will go to Islamic charities and another 10% to European charities. Plus, Mecca Cola-drinkers will have the satisfaction that they "don't drink stupid, drink committed" as the label promises. Host of an "Anti-Zionist" radio show on French Radio Mediterranee, Mathlouthi says he is marketing the cola in France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, the UK, Spain and the United Arab Emirates with orders for 16 million bottles — and that a large California store is interested as well.

Apparently a consummate talker and salesman, the talk-show-host-cum-marketer says that when Muslims "buy an American good they know they are helping American impe-

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rialism, which helps the crimes of the Zionist entity, and that they are giving money to kill their brothers," in a quote by WorldNetDaily. Then, in an interview with the *New York Times*, he condescendingly said, "we have to bring the United States to be a partner, and not a guardian. America is the foster parent of the Arab world, and the Arab peoples are like minors under the guardianships of the United States."

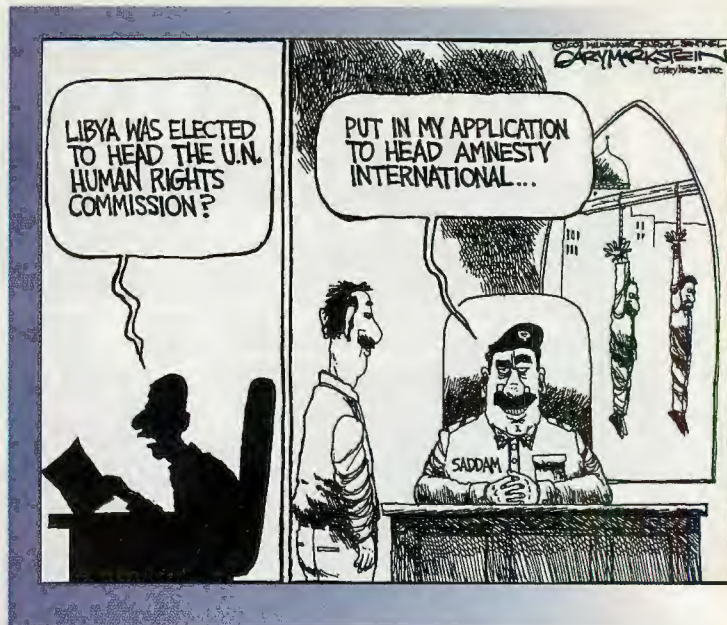
Le Monde noted that Mathlouthi can curse "the criminal barbarian regime of Saddam Hussein" on his radio show, then "personally take four anti-war delegations to Baghdad ..." Ahah! We know the secret of Mecca Cola: It goes down easy, because you can drink out of both sides of your mouth.

Springboarding from the anticipated success of Mecca Cola, Mathlouthi plans to open a chain of Hallal Fried Chicken joints, and start "Tele-Liberte" broadcasting from the UK, as well.

Several Muslim-market sodas came on the market after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, and sales were heightened a few years ago when a cleric ruled that Coke® and Pepsi® were "un-Islamic." These include the Iranian Zam-Zam Cola (named for Islamic holy water) and Qibla (named for the directions faced when praying toward Mecca), and Star Cola, which is sold in the Palestinian areas. Also on the market in the Middle East are Yasser Arafat Chips (Egypt) and Hero Chips, which feature the picture of a boy about to throw a rock at an Israeli tank.

"Mecca-Cola is not just a drink," WorldNetDaily quotes Mathlouthi, "it is an act of protest against Bush and Rumsfeld and their policies."

I'd like to buy the world a Mecca, and teach it har-mon-ee ...



Small-Business Call-Up?

When a big company loses people to a call-up of military reservists, the remaining work force can usually fill in with more effort and little disruption. But when a small business loses help who are called to active duty, the proportional impact on operations of that small company can be affected dramatically — especially if the call-up is broadly based and

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—Amado Garcia, Miami, Florida SWAT, Former USMC Recon

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they lose more than a small percentage of their staff. The good news is, the disruptive impact of losing chunks of the workforce or of management personnel can be largely mitigated by making contingency plans in advance. Making plans can be a lot easier with help from people who are good at such a specialty, even easier if it's free. Here are some SBA web sites that deal with various facets of the problem, and free help of various kinds that is available: www.sba.gov/reservists/ and www.sba.gov/VETS. For dope on all the various SBA programs, you can also call the SBA Answer Desk at: 800-U ASK SBA, or check out their extensive web site at www.sba.gov.

Jawbone Of An Ass?

Late last January, a bomb exploded on the road between Jerusalem and the West Bank settlement of Gush Etzion. Normally this would not be news, as

attempts at blowing people up in Israel are an everyday occurrence, and this one in particular did not really injure any people except for a bus passenger who was treated for shock. But it has caused world-wide outrage among the feeble-minded, because this was not a suitcase bomb, nor a car-bomb, but donkey-bomb, loaded by Palestinian terrorists and detonated via cell-phone as an Israeli bus drove by.

Blowing up busloads of women, kids and old folks, is fine, of course (tally since September 2000 is 729), but blowing your ass away to do it really got those at PETA riled. PETA President Ingrid Newkirk fired off a fax to Yasser Arafat bemoaning the fact they had "watched on television as stray cats in your own compound fled as best they could from Israeli bulldozers," beseeching Arafat to "appeal to all who listen to you to leave the animals out of this conflict".

Uuuuuuh-huh. And the scariest thought is, her vote counts just as much as yours: *More* if you don't bother to vote. See why you'd better?

Good News Via John Farnam

[27 January], the Judge in West Palm Beach, FL in the Raven pistol case, ruling on post-trial motions, issued a directed verdict overturning the entire judgment against Valor Corp, the pistol's distributor.

You will recall this is the case where 13-year-old Nathaniel Brazil, upon being suspended from school, went home, retrieved a .25ACP Raven pistol he had stolen several days earlier from his "grandfather" (actually, no relation), returned to school with the gun, and shot his teacher in the face, killing him. Brazil was tried as an adult and convicted of murder. This present case is a civil suit, sponsored by Handgun Control Inc, against Valor Corp.

With the judgment against Valor now being overturned, the only remaining judgments are against the school district (which wasn't a party so isn't liable to pay the judgment) and the elderly "grandfather" (judgment-proof by virtue of no significant assets) who owned the pistol and kept it unsecured where Nathaniel Brazil could take it.

The jury found that the pistol in question contained no design defect, no manufacturing defect, and was not "negligently made" (whatever that means).

In ruling on the motions, the Judge agreed that the fourth issue, the only one on which the jury had found Valor liable (for not selling the pistol, in 1988, with a trigger guard lock) was improper under Florida law.

This is a tremendous victory for the good guys, as Handgun Control, Inc. was trying to prove the Raven pistol was "inherently defective," simply because it was small, inexpensive, of small caliber, and therefore had "no legitimate purpose other than as a crime gun." NO gun manufacturer provided trigger-guard locks with their pistols in 1988, when the Raven was sold, and Valor wasn't even the manufacturer. The manufacturer, Raven Arms, has been out of business for years.

If allowed to stand, a decision against Valor in this case might have been usable to say that ANY seller of ANY gun, new or used, big or small, at least, as far back as 1988 if not further, would be liable for criminal misuse of the gun or for gun accidents."

Comment: You won't hear about any of the above on the mainstream media, as it is bad news for them and their left-wing agenda. When good news like this comes along, being the ideological prostitutes that they are, they simply pretend they didn't see it.

— John Farnam

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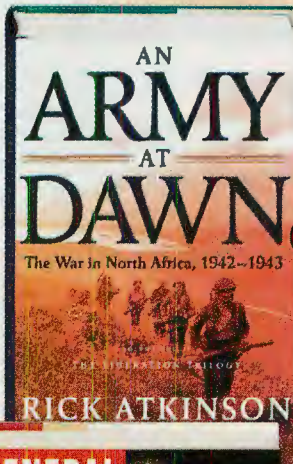


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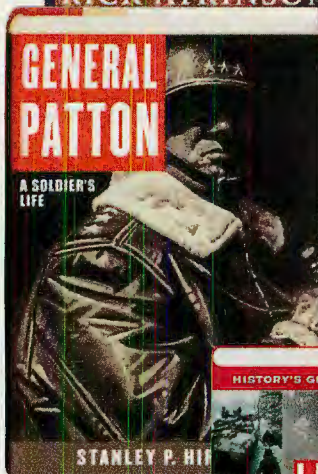
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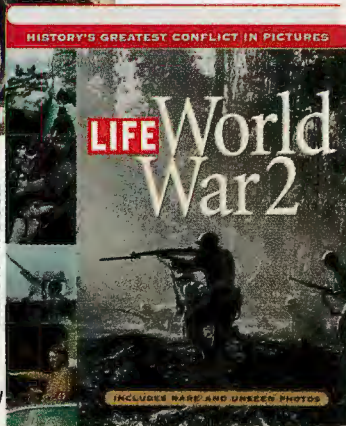


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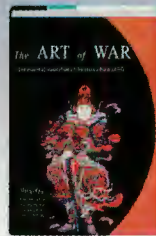
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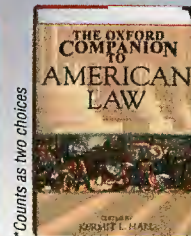
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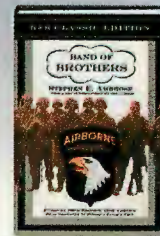
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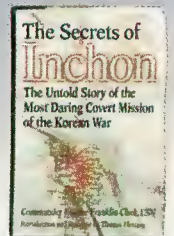
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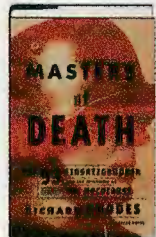
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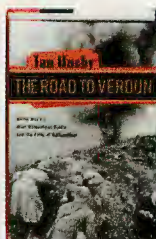
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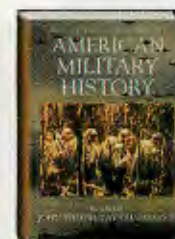
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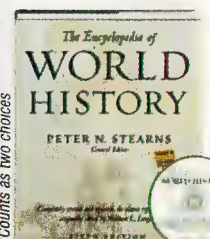
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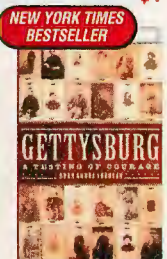
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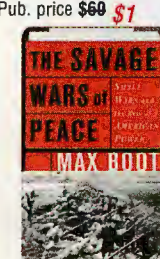
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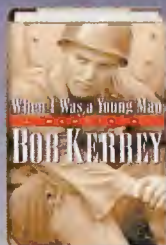
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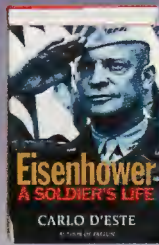
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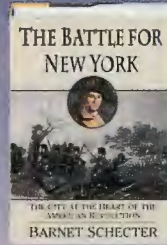
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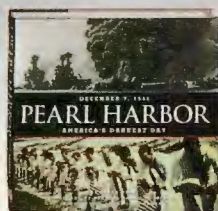
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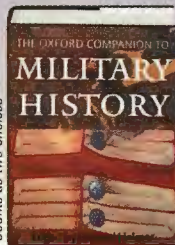
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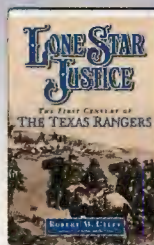
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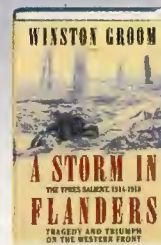
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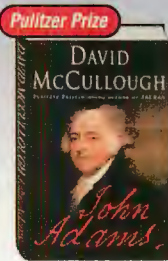
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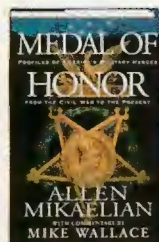
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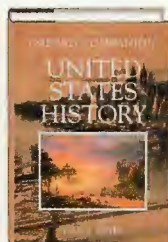
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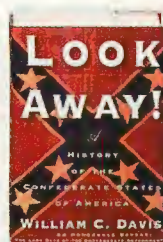
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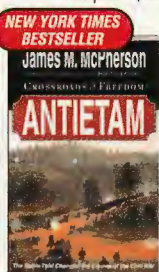
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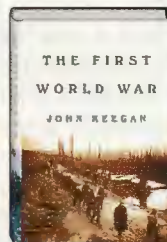
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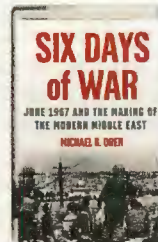
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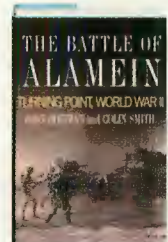
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Philippines Update

More Than Military Action Needed

BY DONALD KIRK

MANILA — U.S. troops are again in the southern Philippines, advising Philippine forces in their war against Muslim guerrillas. An advance party of U.S. troops arrived in southern Mindanao in mid-January 2002, and 300 U.S. military advisers stayed on through the coming fall, training Philippine soldiers. The mission may be frustrating, if not dangerous at times. Brigadier General Donald Wurster, commanding the U.S. troops, had to cancel a hospital visit on the rebel-infested island of Basilan as a result of guerrilla threats. Philippine leftists claim the United States is training Philippine forces for the buildup against Iraq. The militant alliance of rebel organizations said U.S. troops were scheming to set up another rear base for war in the Middle East even as Philippine forces launched a new offensive against communist guerrillas, as well as Muslim extremists.

Low-level guerrilla war in the southern Philippine engages small numbers of American troops in a search for terrorists with links to al-Qaeda against the background not only of communist revolt elsewhere but also of protests over the government's failure to deal with the rising gap between rich and poor. The fresh contingent of American advisers arrived more than two years after the ouster in January 2001

of Joseph "Erap" Estrada, still held on corruption charges and viewed as a threat to the regime of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The statistics reveal what Arroyo — and Philippine forces — are up against. As Arroyo proclaimed the launching of "an anti-corruption campaign to raise the moral standards in politics and the economy," the national statistics office acknowledged that 24 million people, 28.4 percent of the population, cannot "provide for minimum basic needs." Twice that number are underemployed, subsisting on part-time wages of less than \$100 a month, cramped into fetid shacks in urban "squatter areas" or rural slums without running water, electricity or sewage. Conditions are worst in the half-dozen southern provinces that are ranked among the nation's 10 poorest and, for centuries, have been the breeding ground of revolt by impoverished Muslims against rule by Spanish colonialists, and then the Americans who took over from the Spanish more than a century ago.

Revolt only intensified with Philippine independence after World War II and the rise of a government in Manila that Muslims saw as another colonizing force with designs of dominating and exploiting them.

Government efforts at granting a limited measure of autonomy, negotiating ceasefires and compromises have failed to diminish the threat of kidnapping for ransom and assassinations, often in the form of beheading, by guerrillas, some of them members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf Group most closely associated with terrorism elsewhere in the region. The Abu Sayyaf remain entrenched on Basilan, off the southern coast of the large southern island of Mindanao, despite an American advisory program last year that failed to make a positive dent in the war against the rebels. Against this background, the Philippine Southern Command in Zamboanga, in southwestern Mindanao, said it had received enough signs of impending attack by Abu Sayyaf rebels to convince General Wurster it would not be wise to go to Basilan to dedicate a 25-room hospital that had been a pet project of American troops.

Wurster, his right hand resting on a pistol at his side, put the relatively low-level revolt in the southern Philippines in a global context, telling reporters it was part of the anti-terrorist struggle being waged everywhere. Critics seized upon that theme to claim that the United States saw the southern Philippines as a battleground in the build-up against Iraq.

"The United Nations can easily make the Philippines a staging area," said the New Patriotic Alliance, known as Bayan, the umbrella organization for an assortment of leftist



AP Photo/Pat Roque

U.S. Army Special Forces fire their M4 carbines during a shooting exercise Thursday, 16 May 2002 inside a military headquarters in Isabela City on Basilan island in southern Philippines. U.S. forces were on the island as part of the joint military exercise and to train Filipino soldiers in counterterrorism.

groups. The Bayan said the United States needed troops in the southern Philippines "in case they use the Philippines as a jumping-off point for their operations in the Middle East."

That charge reflected a popular view that the United States would like to reestablish the large air and navy bases used by U.S. forces from the time they defeated Spanish colonialists and then Filipino revolutionaries until 1992, when the Philippine Congress refused to approve a new bases agreement. Intelligence officials, however, see the region as providing a rear base for Muslim guerrillas not only in the Philippines, but in nearby Indonesia and Malaysia. Guerrilla leaders have received training from terrorist groups in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and members under their influence were associated with the bombing in Bali last October in which nearly 200 people were killed. Terrorists have also struck in Zamboanga, a predominantly Catholic city where people still speak a Spanish dialect. An American soldier was among 13 people killed in a bombing there in October 2002.

This year's mission is a follow-up to last year's programs in which approximately 1,000 U.S. troops participated.

Their purpose, said Wurster, is to "upgrade the capability of Filipino soldiers in combating terrorism." The Philippine defense secretary, Angelo Reyes, defended the U.S. mission, anticipating "a high degree of interoperability" between Philippine and U.S. forces, resulting in "effectiveness and readiness to be able to cope with the requirements of national defense and security."

The Everpresent "Bite"

Much of the training focuses on Basilan, whose governor, Ustadz Wahab Akbar, proudly offered his island province "as the place of the exercise." The mayor of Lamitan, the site of the hospital that Wurster was unable to visit, said the Abu Sayyaf had been "continuously on the run." The Abu Sayyaf, he told local reporters, were "like a virus" for which "we need to continuously take antibiotics." For that reason, he said, "We are not thinning out our deployment of troops." Such talk, however, conflicted with a widespread view among Filipinos that the Abu Sayyaf have survived on Basilan, and elsewhere, as a result of understandings with local commanders to whom they have given bribes.

In a country in which 20 percent of the budget is believed to go into personal coffers, Arroyo, in Manila, called for "fighting entrenched interests that have stood in the way of progress and prosperity, that continue to block the way to a better standard of living for the vast majority." Teodoro Casino, spokesman for the Bayan, said it was time Arroyo put her words into action. "If the reforms we have long been asking for are not achieved," he warned, "she might end up like President Estrada."

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

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Korean Update

Time For The U.S. To Saddle-Up

BY DONALD KIRK

First, the three young toughs shouted anti-American obscenities, then they hit their victim from behind, trying to pin him against the wall and stabbing repeatedly. The knife just grazed his stomach as he connected with two of the assailants with punches to their heads, spun away and ran up the stairs of the pedestrian underpass to the nearest entrance to the Yongsan base in the heart of this thriving capital. That, in brief, was what happened to Lieutenant Colonel Steven Boylan, public affairs officer for the 8th United States Army, the historic unit that rescued Korea from communist invasion in the Korean War, one evening in December.

The 8th Army, as Korean War veterans will remember, bore the brunt of the North Korean invasion in June 1950, then rampaged up the Korean peninsula to the banks of the Yalu. Caught by surprise by thousands of Chinese "volunteers" in November 1950, the 8th Army retreated south, then advanced again, recapturing Seoul and holding the line across the Korean peninsula. The 8th Army has been here ever since, guarding the invasion route to Seoul, but it's under hostile pressure from a different enemy, leftists shouting "Yankee Go Home" while North Korea develops nuclear warheads above the "demilitarized zone" that still divides Korea half a century since the Korean War.

The attack on Colonel Boylan epitomized the anti-Americanism sweeping the Korean peninsula. Korean leftists have also tossed Molotov cocktails into American bases, hung anti-American banners on water towers in two small posts and demonstrated almost daily. "We don't know what to make of it," said Boylan, back at his desk the day after the incident. "We don't know if these are isolated incidents or where it's going." The incident that touched off the protests was the killing in June of two Korean schoolgirls by a 50-ton U.S. army armored vehicle during a military exercise near Uijongbu, the northern Seoul suburb that is home to Camp Red

Cloud, headquarters of the Army's Second Division. American military officers and diplomats apologized so often for the killing of the girls that they seemed to be running out of ways to say, "We're sorry." Finally, they came up with one more apology, this one from President Bush, who relayed his sorrow first through the American Ambassador, Thomas Hubbard, and then directly to President Kim Dae Jung by telephone. Why it took half a year to wring the A-word from Bush was never stated, but the answer was clear. After a military court in November acquitted both sergeants who were on the vehicle, Korean radicals, backed up by a wide segment of the populace, charged the trials were a sham and a shame and went on their slogan-shouting anti-American binge.

The deaths of the two girls made anti-Americanism an issue in the campaigning for president in which the conservative Lee Hoi Chang, calling for a tough policy toward North Korea, appeared at one stage to have been the front-runner. He might have held the lead had it not been for the huge anti-American sentiments engendered by the accident. The radicals who tried to storm the American embassy, defended by rows of Korean policemen in Darth Vader-like masks, were just the most visible foes of the U.S. military presence. A Gallup Poll taken before the election on 19 December showed that half of the 1,054 people polled expressed "dislike" of the United States. The left-leaning candidate, Roh Moo Hyun, nominated after a series of primaries by members of President Kim's Millennium Democratic Party, struck a popular chord when he vowed not to "kowtow" to Washington. His election seemed to hang in the balance after Chung Mong Joon, the president of the Korean Football Association, who had been responsible for bringing the World Cup soccer finals to Korea in June, the night before the election withdrew his support from Roh. One of the heirs of the Hyundai business fortune, Chung objected to Roh's saying he would "mediate"



Reuters/Lee Jae-Won

A protester holds a sign criticizing U.S. President George W. Bush at a rally near U.S. embassy in Seoul, 5 December 2002. South Korea's civic groups demanded that U.S. President George W. Bush directly apologize for the death of two South Korean schoolgirls killed by a U.S. Army vehicle. They also pressed for a revision of the bilateral Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) governing the status of U.S. troops in Korea. The accident has sparked months of demonstrations demanding the U.S. soldiers be punished under local criminal laws.

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between the United States and North Korea. The offer suggested that South Korea was on the North's side. The next day, however, Roh defeated Lee by a margin of 2.3 percent.

The election of Roh has opened an exciting period in Korean history. In his first press conference Roh spoke as though there would be few surprises and no shocks, but an air of uncertainty hangs over his administration. The uncertainty increased several days after the election when North Korea announced that it was removing the seals from the cooling pond containing 8,000 spent fuel rods that could be turned into plutonium for nuclear warheads. The North Korean decision marked another step in a spiraling escalation since James Kelly, the American assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, visiting Pyongyang in early October, extracted from the North Koreans the confession that they indeed had a separate program for developing nuclear weapons. The North, it turned out, had been working all along on building warheads that would use enriched uranium rather than plutonium. Much of the technology came from Pakistan in a deal in which the North shipped the same kind of missiles to Pakistan that it also sends to such middle eastern clients as Iraq, Syria, Libya and, yes, Yemen. The implications of the nuclear program are frightening. The North could some day soon conceivably mount nuclear-tipped weapons on missiles that could be fired several thousand miles. As if all that were not enough, the North has a stockpile of biological and chemical weapons that it is also capable of shooting at targets near and far.

Further evidence of the North's missile program was the cache of North Korean missiles discovered in December hidden beneath bags of cement in an unflagged vessel that was stopped by a Spanish ship as part of a force monitoring traf-

fic to the Persian Gulf. American inspectors found the weapons but let the ship sail on to Yemen after Yemen strongly protested what it viewed as an act of piracy. In fact, there was nothing illegal about the arms trade, and the United States had no business getting its Spanish ally to stop the ship, which U.S. intelligence had been monitoring ever since its departure from North Korea a month earlier.

It was in February that U.S. intelligence officials came up with their most worrisome estimate of what the North was doing, reporting that satellite imagery showed the strange movement of tarpaulin-covered trucks at the nuclear complex at Yongbyon. The trucks, it was suspected, were carrying those 8,000 spent fuel rods to another facility for extracting the plutonium needed for building nuclear warheads. Those spent fuel rods, it was said, could produce enough plutonium for five or six bombs. The U.S. command in Seoul responded by placing a freeze on orders for U.S. troops nearing the end of their tours, and the U.S. commander for the Pacific, Admiral Fargo, was reported to have requested that the United States send an aircraft carrier to waters off North Korea. There were additional reports that the United States hoped to add another 2,000 troops to the 37,000 U.S. troops already here. Possibly the freeze on end-of-tour orders was intended as the means for carrying out the build-up. All the while, everyone from President Bush on down, notably Secretary of State Colin Powell, insisted the United States had no intention of "invading" North Korea. Such remarks, though, did not altogether remove the possibility of a preemptive strike. No one quite imagined that North Korea would open a nuclear war, but there was and is the possibility that the North could export its newly minted nuclear warheads to the same clientele that purchases its missiles. Or,

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By Jim Curley, Insider Training Division, TRS

Dear Friend:

Right now it's after midnight, and I've got the joint locked up as tight as Fort Knox.

Fact is... I'm pumped with adrenaline and sweating like a pig... *because I would not be surprised at all if there was someone just outside the door waiting to take a shot at my head.*

We have pissed off some very nasty people. How? By convincing someone who knows their secrets... to *share it all...* on a super-secret video that I am releasing one at a time.

The package is ready to be shipped out to you tomorrow, in a plain brown box with no identifying marks. All you gotta do is give the word, and it will be in your hands quickly. If you like, you can see it free.

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pening in your life. It is that powerful. It is that *shocking*.

Here's the story: I know you are very skeptical at this moment. With all the fighting systems available out there, it seems insane to think there could BE any system that NO ONE ELSE HAS EVER SEEN.

Well, I'm deadly serious. These are not military secrets, or CIA, or any other formal organization who's mad at me. Nope. It's much, *much* worse.

Think about it. Do you have any idea who the BADDEST ASS FIGHTERS are over the last couple of centuries? It's not the Russians, not by a long shot. No Samurai ever got this skilled in hand-to-hand. It's not the Filipinos. Not the Vietnamese guerilla fighters. Not the Mafia.

Nope. The most *feared...* most *respected...* and most **hyper-skilled fighter** who ever walked this earth... was the Plains Indian.

Forget about what Hollywood has done to history. No Native American fighter ever rode around a circle of wagons looking silly until a settler got a bead on him with his flintlock. That's dumb, stupid myth. Lies. Americans have an uneasy memory when it comes to Native Americans, and the TRUTH has been hidden a long time.

The Plains Indians (Apache, Comanche, Cherokee, Pawnee) held off the *entire U.S. military...* despite



Randall Brown may hold multiple black belts in "Asian" martial arts, but when he discovered he was part Cherokee and Apache, he studied and mastered the vicious "Plains Indian" fighting style. He did not "build" this system. It's 100% "pure" Native American... and he insists anyone can learn this "lost" brutal system quickly and without a lot of fuss.

being outnumbered 100-to-1, despite lacking any technology advantages. The **ONLY** reason Native Americans eventually lost was through attrition — they just couldn't match the population of settlers swarming across their territory. They lost *only* because a tidal wave of humans overwhelmed them.

In fighting skills, however, the *lowliest* Comanche warrior could wipe out an entire *troop* of "civilized" soldiers all on his lonesome. Part of it was the warrior's knowledge of the land and nature — he could run 20 miles without getting winded, and hide for weeks without a trace.

But more importantly... he excelled at **hand-to-hand fighting**. Especially...

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You don't have to be a big guy. You don't have to be in super-hard-ass shape (or even *be* in shape at all, really). *No special skills are required, no strength, no nothing.*

The fact is... you can just WATCH these kill moves... and suddenly be more dangerous than you ever imagined. **Instantly.**

So why all the secrecy? The few Native Americans who practice these nasty killing arts *aren't* eager to share them with the civilization that almost wiped them out. Jeez, you can understand that.

There are people out there who are OUTRAGED we are offering to teach guys like you these super-secret hand-to-hand killing arts. VERY pissed off. And that's why I'm walking around pumped with adrenaline, ready to attack any shadow that moves.

HOWEVER... the guy we convinced to DO the sharing of these skills... **turns out to be probably the most RESPECTED fighter we've ever come across.**

His name is Randall Brown, and he ain't afraid of anybody. Despite the fact he had to beg and prove himself to the Native American fighters who taught him these skills. It took Randall *years* to win the confidence of the men who finally revealed these brutal arts to him.

So, why is he sharing it with you? Simple. These skills are quickly becoming so secret... they're about to *disappear*. Just like so many American Indian languages have vanished, never to be spoken again. Randall agonized over this decision for a long, long time. No amount of money or begging from us would sway him.

Nope. He's not doing this for any other reason... **than to make sure these amazing skills are not lost to history.**

How brutal are they?

Well let's just say that Randall is a 12th degree black belt and grandmaster. He is 4th degree black belt in

Yondan, an expert at Sambo combat, and an authorized instructor in six other martial arts. So he's no fluke. But he insists that this "Plains Indian" form of fighting is the most lethal, brutal, and viciously effective thing you'll EVER run across.

You see, when he discovered he had some serious Plains Indian blood in him (he's Cherokee/Apache/Irish)... he began a journey that took him all over the U.S. and Canada, to reservations, small towns, and finally to the Great Plains. Where the *real* action was.

What's so special about these skills? Well, for starters...

- You will learn to snap an attacker's neck with three different (and very easy) moves. (It's even *worse* for him if he has snuck up on you.)
- **You will learn the most devastating punch ever thrown by a man against another man...** a move that can stop a heart, yet will not hurt your hand. (And requires no strength.)
- You will learn how to quickly "break down" an attacker twice your size and weight... *turning him into a pile of bleeding beef at your feet in a matter of seconds.*
- You will learn how to escape from having your hands tied... reverse a knife-to-your-throat situation (very nasty and bloody)... how to flip monster-sized attackers as easily as tossing a box of cereal across the room (breaking his back, and pulverizing his guts in the process)... **and a dozen more easy moves that will shock and incapacitate ANY sized attacker.**
- And... you will learn astonishing "instant take out" moves you have **NEVER SEEN BEFORE.** Not anywhere. Not by anyone.

Now I want to make something clear. Randall stresses that he did NOT add an ounce of "Asian Martial Arts" to this system. He did not "build" or piece together his own system. No way. What he teaches you is nothing but pure, distilled, untouched "Plains Indian" fighting techniques — an extremely savage and brutal fighting system the Plains Indians used in the extremely savage and brutal world in which they lived. This is completely

unique and unlike anything you've ever seen before.

But you're *not* going to suddenly turn into a hard-assed Indian warrior just by watching this tape. No. To do that, you must undergo rigorous testing and training... stuff so nasty it makes Navy SEAL training look like a picnic.

But you WILL (simply by watching this video package) "own" the most vicious fighting tactics and skills. Very quickly.

It's *intense.*

It's going to rock your world, instilling *sizzling new confidence and mega-dangerous self-defense moves* that will shock and surprise the hell out of anyone who dares attack you.

And... it's going to happen so FAST your head will spin.

Are you scared? Some guys are — they're afraid to even watch a video like this.

It is NOT for the weak willed or the timid.

But I'm pretty sure it's for YOU. That's the only reason I've risked my own ass to get this message out to you and why I've got the video package ready to ship out immediately.

Here's what you need to do right now: We convinced Randall to let us film him revealing ALL his most savage and dangerous secret moves and tactics. Very impressive stuff. Very brutal.

What he showed us fits on two video tapes. I'm not sure just how long I'll be able to offer these tapes to you, because, frankly, it's dangerous stuff.

So you cannot wait. You must order right away. In fact, it's a real possibility that this will be the first and last time you ever hear of this incredibly brutal fight system -- anywhere. So take advantage now of your chance to see this entire package **FREE.**

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and give whoever answers this "code" number:

117-IF-23

Please... you must use that code. It lets me know exactly where you came

from and believe me -- we are NOT letting this material out without all the necessary precautions.

Your tapes will be rush-shipped to you in a plain, unmarked box. I said you can see everything for free, if you choose... and I mean that. But you'll need to give us your credit card number over the phone, and we will ding you. Or, if you want to order with a check or money order (payable to TRS), you can clip and mail in the Priority Order Form you see below.

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Why? Because... you get a **full, unconditional 6 month 100% Money-Back Guarantee.** Order the videos, and check them out for yourself. If you aren't absolutely, beyond a shadow of a doubt blown away by what you learn... just send them back. And I'll rush you back a full refund of your purchase price.

No questions asked.

No hassles, either.

That means... you can watch, learn, and even *use* everything you see on the tapes... for an entire six months. If you send the tapes back for a refund... that means you've just seen the most amazing secret new fighting skills...

For Free!

Why am I being so generous? Easy. I know how hard it is to *believe* what I'm telling you. There is so much bull in the martial arts world... so many dumb-ass "experts" touting nonsense... and so little "real" stuff... that you'd be insane NOT to be skeptical.

And... this *really is* everything I've said it is. What Randall shares with you will change *everything* you know and believe about hand-to-hand fighting. It will literally change your life... and it will happen...

Overnight!

So I'm not worried about any financial bloodbath from this hyper-generous guarantee. I totally trust your judgement -- no one here is going to question your decision.

And I would be astonished if you weren't just as blown away as I am over this amazing new fighting revelation.

BUT YOU MUST ACT RIGHT AWAY! Like I said, you probably won't see this again. And if I don't hear from you immediately... let's just say that I doubt you'll ever get your hands on this amazing video package.

Don't let that happen.

You don't risk a penny.

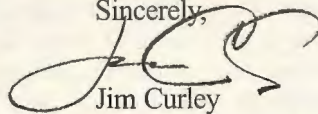
You will NOT hear about these skills anywhere else. This will be the most **"inside the circle"** material you are *ever* witness to in your life.

People are risking a *lot* to get this stuff out to you.

So call right now. You will have the video package in your hands in just a few short days. And you can see it all for yourself... and decide then what you want to do. But you can't decide if you don't order. And if you wait, you could miss out altogether.

We're expecting your call.

Sincerely,



Jim Curley

P.S. Remember... you **MUST** use the

code: 117-IF-23. You must call us right now, while your thinking about it -- you may never get this chance again.

P.P.S. Almost forgot something. I will also send you a...

FREE VIDEO!

This bonus video was shot after Randall insisted we include material on how to train to be a full warrior. This is amazing material. Like I said, the real warrior training makes Navy SEAL training look like a Brownie Girl picnic. Just watching this free video will shake you up. And if you get a wild hair... and actually decide to start *training* like this... **you will quickly beef up and become the leanest, strongest and most agile you've ever dreamed of being!** Best part: No visits to the gym, no weight training, no fancy nothing. Just exactly the same "natural" training Plains Indian fighters have gone through for centuries.

Very cool stuff. And... this bonus video is yours free, to keep no matter what you decide later. (It's easily worth fifty bucks, too.) Again, though, you must call right now to get it.



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the North could share the technology. Or both.

The news of the North's nuclear activities was vastly complicated by confirmation of long-held reports that the South Korean government channeled millions of dollars to the North, possibly to entice the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, into inviting President Kim Dae Jung to Pyongyang for the first inter-Korean summit in June 2000. Auditors in South Korea said, yes, the record showed that nearly \$200 million was funneled through Hyundai Merchant Marine, which had been organizing boat tours to the resort area of Mount Kumkang since 1998, shortly before the summit. President Kim, author of South Korea's "sunshine" policy of reconciliation, did not acknowledge the purpose of the payoff other than to say it was for the sake of inter-Korean relations and to suggest that South Korean prosecutors drop the investigation. North Korean media blasted the whole investigation as part of a "sinister" plot and threatened to back out of a number of projects, including construction of road and rail links. The debate dominated the headlines here, and is sure to remain hot news for the foreseeable future. As we were constantly reminded, Kim Dae Jung won the Nobel Peace Prize shortly after the summit. Clearly he was fearful that full exposure of funding to the North would undermine all that he sought to accomplish before stepping down in February at the end of his five-year term.

Under the circumstances, one might think South Koreans would share some of the anxiety about what the North is doing. Oddly, however, people here seem more concerned about what U.S. troops in the South are up to. It doesn't seem possible that Korean-American relations can drift along as before, characterized by nasty incidents amid frequent high-level expressions of goodwill that have little real meaning for

most people. The activists who have been demonstrating as close to the American embassy as the police will let them are not likely to permit Roh as president to forget the support that he gave them during his campaign even though he stopped short of identifying closely with the more extreme elements. Demonstrators holding candles and signboards have become a permanent fixture in a small plaza near the embassy. U.S. officials responded with a charm offensive, as seen in the speed with which Ambassador Hubbard called on Roh on the morning after the election and then the alacrity with which Bush followed up with a phone call inviting him to Washington.

What was it that Roh had said during the campaign about refusing to go to the United States just to have his picture taken? Regardless, Roh will have to pursue the theme of diplomacy and dialogue with the North, as he has repeatedly promised. His goal is to try to turn the American administration away from the hard line pursued by Bush for more than two years. Roh's election also means the government will be reviewing the entire military relationship with the United States. That problem may be just as difficult as North Korea. Washington is not going to agree to a revision of the status-of-forces agreement that would enable Korean courts to try American soldiers for anything that happens in the course of a military exercise. No other status-of-forces agreement between the United States and any other country carries such a provision. Status-of-forces agreements on the legal position of Korean troops on overseas missions are modeled after the status-of-forces agreement on American troops in South Korea. The outcome of the talks on the agreement may be a decision by the United States not to hold exercises outside American bases. If negotiations break down completely, the

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United States could consider withdrawing its forces from South Korea.

How Roh's government will respond to these negotiations remains a mystery. Initially, it seemed conceivable that the new government would settle for an understanding under which United States military strength in Korea would be vastly reduced. If anti-American demonstrations continue, a number of Americans believe this solution would be desirable. Roh himself could call for a reduction in forces if the United States is unwilling to agree to a substantive change in the status-of-forces agreement. The demonstrators may have the wrong idea if they think Americans really want to be here. The Americans did not come to conquer Korea but to defend the South against communist aggression. They managed to accomplish that goal even if they failed to reunify the country. If the Americans are no longer needed, there is no reason why they should stay, especially if they are no longer welcome. Koreans, with Roh's election, have the chance to consider seriously the American role. His policy toward North Korea will also provide a real test of North-South Korean relations. No one could be more open than he to negotiations with the North on the most humanitarian terms. He has said the South should go on providing aid to the North regardless of its nuclear program or the presence of more than a million troops above the demilitarized zone. If the North turns its back on him and refuses anything in return, such as regular inter-Korean family visits and mail service and regular road and rail links, then the world will know there is no way to deal with that regime on any rational level. Roh's presidency will provide what may be the last and best opportunity for North-South reconciliation. As president, Roh has the chance to perpetuate Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine" policy as an enduring legacy.

From a foreign perspective, the election of Roh ushers in a period of testing of the strength of the policy of reconciliation as well as the durability of the U.S.-Korean relationship. No relation can remain static. Change over time is inevitable. With South Korea's rise as one of the dozen or so largest economic powers in the world, there is a desire among many South Koreans to demonstrate that the country is truly free of the need for foreign troops. Korea cannot fulfill its potential, though, until it is one unified country. Roh's outlook, as seen in the campaign, offers some hope

for achieving that goal, if not during his five-year term, then over the next decade or two. With hope, there is also the chance of failure, or at least a realization of reality. Roh's election was a triumph of democracy in which the major candidates offered sharply different policies. The first year of Roh's presidency will, if anything, be more exciting than the campaign. Korean history as I have watched it since first coming to Seoul in 1972 has been full of surprises, good and bad. It is safe to predict more surprises as Roh struggles to fulfill the dreams offered in campaign program and slogans.

Whatever happens, though, Bush himself will have to apologize again, in public, in his own voice, for all Koreans to hear on the evening news, for the deaths of the two girls if he ever wants to revisit Korea. There is no way, at this stage, to accomplish the aim of U.S. officialdom, notably the American command, which from the outset wanted to have the tragedy viewed as a mere "road accident," one of those things that happens, sad but life must go on. Actually, however, all the apologies as well as the court-martials of the sergeants on the vehicle that killed the girls had the aura of a cover-up for officers who didn't have the courage to fall on their swords and confess their malfeasance. A hint of the story emerged in the court-martials when the officer serving as presiding judge said the captain in command of the company to which the sergeants were assigned would not testify after his lawyer said he would answer no questions on the grounds he might incriminate himself.

The captain, identified only by his surname, Mason, could have incriminated a lot of people beside himself. He would, on the stand, have been asked why the armored column had moved out in a hurry on that beautiful June morning without a briefing. The troops, in their tenth day of a 14-day exercise, were tired, as testimony revealed, and no clue what else was going on. All they heard were the words, "Let's roll," uttered by Captain Mason. No one knew that another column from the same brigade was advancing down the narrow road toward them. The two sergeants, on the lead vehicle, saw the column as they rounded a curve, veered to the right, and crushed the girls beneath them. The driver, Mark Walker, could not have seen them since they were on his blind side. The other sergeant, Fernando Nino, on the lookout on the

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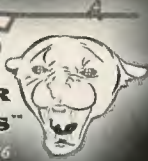
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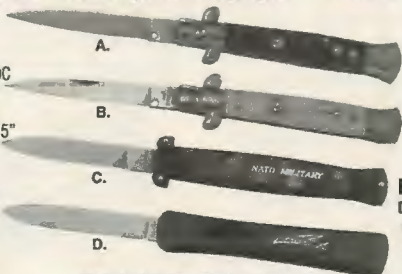
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right, saw them seconds before they were killed, blurted a few words over a radio link to Walker that wasn't working, then said, "My God," as the vehicle crunched over them.

As the sergeants were sent home to keep them out of reach of pipe-bomb-tossing activists, Koreans were still calling for trials by a civilian court. Otherwise, one Korean woman asked, should we hold the armored vehicle responsible and park it in jail? The Army refused to reveal the contents of the messages passed down the chain of command. Testimony in an open court of inquiry by ranking officers would have revealed these orders. General Leon LaPorte, the top U.S. commander, avoided the issue. He could not, he said at the same press conference at which Hubbard read the Bush apology, discuss a matter that was still under investigation.

Korean observers often compared the case to that of the rape of a young woman on Okinawa by an American GI several years ago. The case was both worse and not so severe. It was far worse in that the girls were killed; it was less severe in that, no matter what some people insist, it was clearly an accident that occurred during a military exercise.

This point, however, did not really address the underlying concern of many Koreans, namely that of why American troops are still here nearly half a century after the end of the Korean War. Young Koreans seem unaware of the suffering inflicted by the war while the country basks in a level of prosperity that no one could have imagined when the war ended. The Korean relationship with the United States has been central to that prosperity, but the tragedy of the two girls has come to symbolize the presence of a foreign force in a country that would like to think it could now stand independently, free of foreign control. Rather than make scapegoats of a couple of young army sergeants, Koreans should have demanded more than apologies from the officers in the chain of command above them. Those at the top should not have hidden so easily behind expressions of remorse. They should have been held accountable and the record laid bare for the sake of U.S.-Korean relations as well as basic justice. Only then would the apologies, from Bush on down, have real meaning.

Donald Kirk is a longtime contributor to SOF. ✕

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(Hint: Whatever Your Answer, The Odds Are... It's Wrong!)"



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You stroll around thinking 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.

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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.

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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 Two Key Principles Used To Win Every War, Battle And Streetfight... 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:

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- 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.**

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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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Adventure

Quartermaster



Gobi Roof Rack

The Right Rack
To Carry
The Right Stuff



The best vehicle and the best gear may not equal more than the best intentions if there is no way to carry what you need on the machine, and the new Gobi Roof Rack's whopping 96 x 63 inches (18 square feet, independent of sun-roof opening) ensures you will have the capacity to carry, leaving room inside for other essential impedimenta and personnel.

The frustration of digging a spare wheel from beneath the rig in the mud and snow is not something you have to deal with if it is securely mounted for fast access on a Gobi Roof Rack — nor is a wheel taking up space inside when you want to carry a redundant spare.

Many very good ideas loose a lot between the inspiration and the marketplace, but in this instance the core idea was to build a roof rack as good as it could be made, from the best spec materials, following a well-thought-out design and utilizing the latest proven technology. The troops at Gobi have done well on all counts. The frame is of 16-gauge, 1" welded steel tube and the cargo deck is 3/4" 9-gauge expanded metal. Hardware is stainless steel and the rack, tire mount, front and rear light bars etc. are black-texture semi-gloss powder-coated. Laser-cut, powder-coated steel brackets bolt the unit to the factory roof track. The fairing is black Lexan®, and attaches to the front light-bar. The tire mount is three-sided, a semi-circular tubular frame that gives six-point tire contact and has adjustable-height wheel hub sup-

port, designed for factory supplied tire and lug nuts.

Shown on the Hummer H2, the Gobi Roof Rack is available at Hummer dealers nationwide, as are other items such as the Gobi Rear Door Ladder — but Gobi also makes their excellent new roof rack for other vehicles as well, and they also do custom models for your exact needs. A sage once observed that amateurs think tactics, and seasoned professionals think logistics: Gobi's Roof Rack is destined to become the favorite of seasoned professionals.

For information on a dealer near you, for ordering direct, or for further information on custom specifications, contact: Gobi Racks USA, Dept. SOF, 2040 Clay Street, Denver CO 80211; phone: 720-479-9372; fax: 303-200-0495; or via E-Mail: designers@id2denver.com.

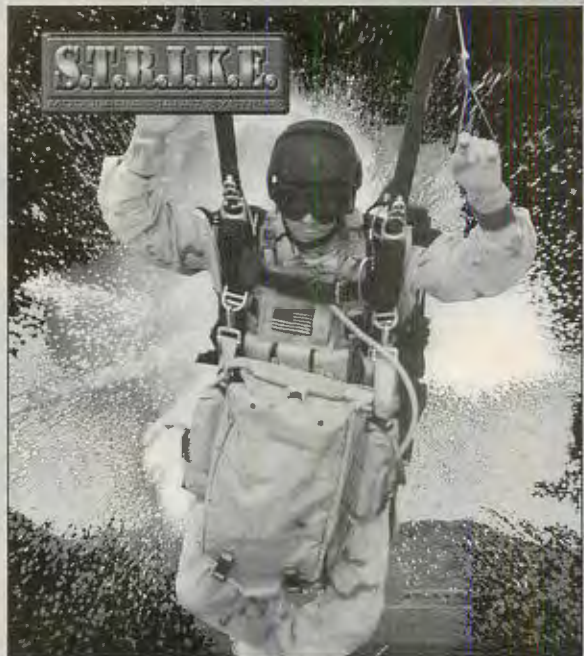
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(Soldier Tactical Retro
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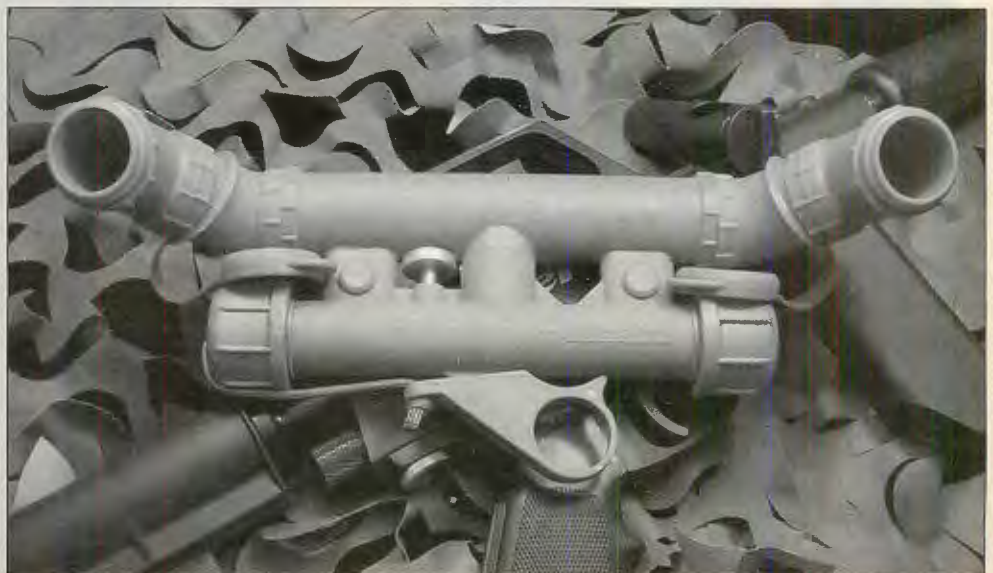
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Contact BlackHawk, Dept. SOE, 1133 Executive Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320; phone: 800-694-5263; fax: 757-436-3088; check-out their on-line catalog on the web at www.blackhawkindustries.com.

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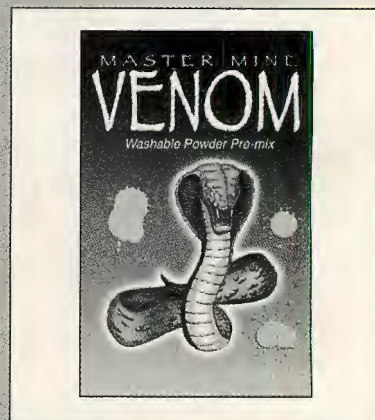
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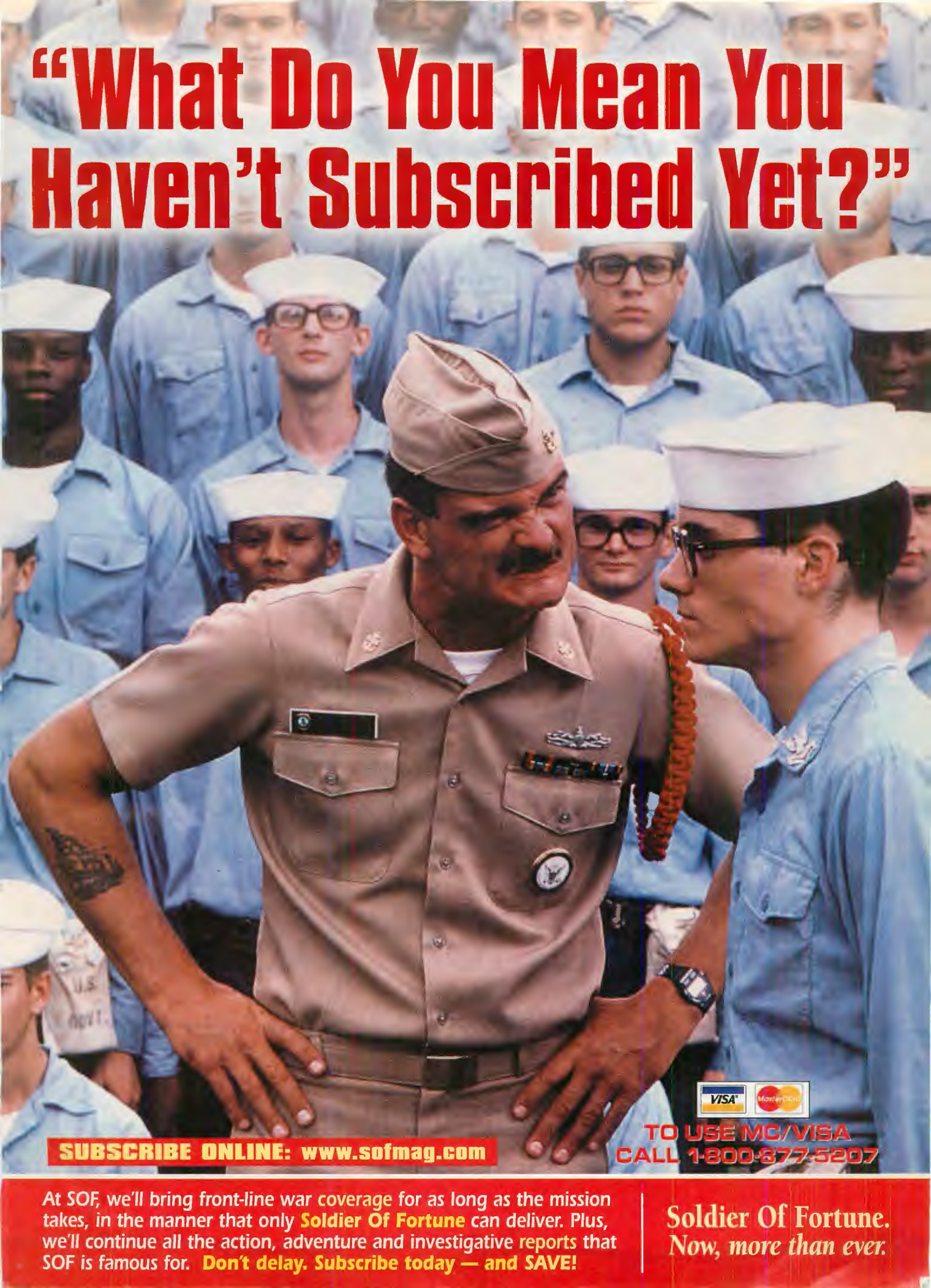
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Holding The Line With Ranch Rescue

PART 2

Volunteers Interdict Drug Loads.

TEXT & PHOTOS BY ROB KROTT

Editor's note: After risking their lives to halt drug-trafficking, Krott and his fellow volunteers ("vigilantes" to some negative-thinkers) were to receive nary a pat on the head from most local law enforcement whose general attitude was "You're on our turf, pal, don't show us up."

Krott and his associates had set-up their base camp when they encountered an unmarked Black Hawk chopper ("Yes, Virginia ...") gyrating in an "S" pattern; hardly being shy about advertising its position.

Unintimidated and content to let the pilot fine-tune his maneuvering techniques, the volunteers again set out in search of smugglers.

We arrived at the hilltop and split into two teams of four each. As we provided perimeter security the camera team constructed the hide, clearing out the inside of a large bush just off the trail and opposite a barbed-wire fence. I issued final coordinating instructions to the camera team and then some movement instructions to the security team, which was to move tactically off of the hilltop and back about 1.5 miles south and east to the vehicle. At approximately 1800 hours I led out down a steep draw, followed by Jer and Johnny with Jack bringing up the rear. The terrain was difficult, so it took us about 15 minutes to get off the steep slope and down into the fairly flat grassy pasture area. We skirted the woodline in the fading light. We'd been moving about 20 minutes when we heard shouting and screaming coming from the hide site. It was still daylight, but nearly last light as the sun was setting. Pappy and Jim were outside the hide and down the trail clearing foliage for better observation when they saw six men humping up the trail with bundles on their backs. Having encountered them at that time they'd obviously been moving during the day from Mexico or had a way station nearby.

"Alto! Alto!"

They dropped the bundles and tore-off, three bouncing off the barbed-wire fence.

When I heard the shouts I halted our team and we assumed a tactical defensive posture while I tried to reach the camera team by radio.

"Romeo 3, Romeo 1, over!" No answer.

"Romeo 3, this is Romeo 1, do you have contact, over?"

Not the best choice of words. We'd heard no gunfire, yet, so there wasn't "contact" in the normal sense. I wondered had they bumped some drug-runners already or did somebody lie on top of a snake? There was no answer, but the shouting continued coming from the hilltop as we continued moving back to the hill.

"Romeo 3, this is Romeo 1, do you have contact?" Again, no answer.

(opposite) The 12 members of the tactical team which interdicted two groups on drug smugglers and recovered 300 pounds of marijuana. (right) Jack Foote and a RR volunteer and clothing and improvised gear dropped by group of six drug smugglers interdicted on host's property in broad daylight. Smugglers were seen carrying an SKS and an AR-15 or M16. Note the duct tape on hand-guards as field-expedient mount for a SureFire weapons light.

I looked up the hill for any sign of their SureFire lights. Jack noted the time: 1818 hours.

Just 15 minutes from our departure from the hide site.

Then an excited voice broke squelch. "Romeo 1, this is Romeo 3, contact, contact, contact!"

I exchanged a few choice words over the radio with the camera team, then got comms with our Reaction Team (Romeo Base) at the ranch house, approximately 2.2 miles southeast of the hide. I ordered them to immediately load-up in Warms' Bronco and to link up with us at the hide.

It took nearly 20 minutes for us to get back to the hilltop and we were all dragging ass. The camera team was no longer in the hide, but spread out in a tactical circle around several bales of marijuana rigged in field-expedient backpacks made from burlap and twine, with automobile seat belts as shoulder straps. From yards away I smelled it: the sweet, sickly, stench of raw marijuana.

I received a quick sitrep from the camera team and sent Jack and Jerry Lee to the right flank for security and Pappy and Johnny to the left and down the trail. Jim Fish, Arnie R., Rick Bannister and myself, held fast and pulled the bundles in close to a tree off the trail.

Arnie had his .308 G-3 clone up on its bipod and Rick had clipped his drum magazine into his AR. These guys were ready to lay down some serious fire if necessary.

But I didn't think anyone was coming back for the marijuana, with or without, guns. The load wasn't worth dying for.

The moonlight provided just enough light to make out the trail, the overhead power lines, and the barbed-wire fence. All three paralleled, marking the route, and we settled in for a wait. Russ and Warms were on their way with the rest of the team — five men total.

About half an hour passed. The right-flank security heard movement in the brush due east of us, but it was well over the



crest on the other side of livestock fence and not line of sight. It might have been "mules" trying to work their way around us and back home to Mexico, or it might have been deer or other wildlife. The right flank just sat tight and stayed quiet.

Russ's Reaction Team moved to link-up with us. Now we had our entire team of 13 volunteers on the hilltop. But there was no way to get a ground vehicle up to the hilltop where we had captured the load. Leaving the surveillance team in their hide-site for the rest of the night, nine of us would hump the dope back down to our vehicles. We were not about to leave it just so the drug mules could come back for it later.

In the dark with the heavy loads we couldn't take the same route our unencumbered security team had in twilight. Moving the longer way around, Russ led our group off the hilltop winding through the brush while picking the easiest terrain available. Humping the 50-70-pound backpacks was tough on the guys, already loaded-down with weapons and other gear and winded from exertion.

With Stampede and Jack covering the rear we made a listening halt after fewer than five minutes of travel down the mountainside, pausing on a spur that overlooked a small valley. A slight breeze kicked-up at that point, which provided a welcome relief even in the dry 70° temperature. We stopped for another rest halt 10 minutes later. The men carrying the dope-filled backpacks were tiring fast from the weight and the rough terrain. They needed both hands free at times to keep balanced with the heavy load. We swapped-off carrying the loads. When Jack tried to stand up with one of the bales on his back, he couldn't: He was exhausted from humping up the hill twice already that night. Elevation was above 5,000 feet and most of the team were haggard in their breathing as sweat ran from every pore. Finally, we reached flat pasture and hugging the the treeline tactically crossed the last 300



(above) Rick Bannister, former Navy corpsman assigned to Force Recon during the Gulf War, inspects fenceline. (below, left) Part of the tactical team humps interdicted marijuana for turn-over to sheriff's deputy.

meters of open pasture to the vehicles. We loaded the bales onto the pickup. More than one of us had wondered out loud about what would happen if we encountered U.S. Customs or Border Patrol in the dark with several bales of marijuana aboard. So as not to spook any drug-smugglers up on the ridgeline we rode back across the San Antonio Ranch without lights, scanning the surrounding terrain as our truck ghosted across the dark pastures.

Back in the ranch house everyone ate some food, cleaned weapons and gear, took shifts on local security and radio watch, and got a few hours sleep. About 0300 the four-man team on the hill stopped another group of smugglers in a similar fashion. They decided to leave the position and brought four more large bales of marijuana off the hill. I loaded up a small team in a pickup and we met them at the end of the property. In less than 24 hours, we had gone from first setting foot on the ranch to busting two loads of dope being smuggled by foreign criminals across privately owned U.S. property.

280 Pounds Of Dope

Foote reported our confiscation to law enforcement. Border Patrol flubbed the call but eventually he was able to reach the local sheriff. He also called members of the news media that morning. Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputy Ruben Laredo picked-up the 13 bundles of burlap-wrapped marijuana at around 1400 while the media filmed it. Deputy Laredo estimated the weight at 280 pounds.

Tim Stellar, of the *Arizona Daily Star*, who had previously reported on the story of the Park Ranger shot and killed at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, told me he didn't think it necessary for me to carry a weapon for protection on

the border. When we offered to let him camp out on a hillside, he said, "Drug smugglers won't bother me."

An arrogant reporter from Channel 13 in Tucson, Bud Foster, was a perfect example of the anti-gun, left-wing media. With statements, not questions, about "Mexican-hunting vigilantes" and "machine guns" he obviously wanted to put a bias on the story so I terminated his interview. He later wrote an inaccurate story without checking his facts. We were the bad guys.

Someday perhaps one of his family might get hooked on Mexican heroin or maybe get assaulted or robbed by an illegal alien who just waltzed across our border and he'll wonder how it all happened ... and look for someone to blame.

The most honest media coverage we received was from Lupita Murillo, of KVOA-4 TV, in Tucson.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff Tony Estrada wasn't happy about the drug seizures. He told several reporters his primary concern, since he learned of the Ranch Rescue operation, was what might happen if we encountered typical border-crossers and tried to arrest them. Estrada told the *Arizona Daily Star*, "The concern is that these individuals, as well-meaning as they may be, could cause a major problem down there. They don't have the training or the authority to be intercepting loads down there. That's better suited for law enforcement."

He questioned the approximately 18-hour lapse between the time the smugglers dropped the initial load and the time the Sheriff's Department was notified. He also questioned why Ranch Rescue members moved the bundles from the spots they were dropped to a place near the ranch house.

"Obviously, they wanted the impact of this particular event to reflect favorably on their presence, and they wanted the media there before we got there," Estrada said. "It could have been handled much better."

We all wondered if he wanted us to give the drugs back to the smugglers.

Firstly, we had more training in rural drug-enforcement operations than his deputies. Our volunteers included former Light Infantry, Special Forces, Ranger, and Marine Force Recon veterans, as well as former federal, state drug-interdiction, county, SWAT, and local law-enforcement officers.

We were hardly "cherries."



John with interdicted marijuana and his .308 Autauga Rifle with SureFire sniper light.

The combined military and law-enforcement experience of our team on that hill that night undoubtedly exceeded that of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. Yet Tony Estrada commented on our abilities, training, and experience, or lack thereof. How would he know? He and his entire department were nowhere in sight when those drug-smugglers walked across private property that night.

As for our "authority," since when is a American citizen prevented from saying "Halt!" to trespassers on private property at night?

As for contacting his office, there was no cell-phone reception from our area in the Canelo Hills and we doubt any of his deputies were going to climb one of them at night to hump 70 pounds of dope on his back. Whereas we had five carloads of cops and agents following us the day before, when we wanted to turn over a load of drugs we couldn't find any. Typical. "Where's a cop when you need one?"

If local law enforcement was equipped or inclined to conduct rural law-enforcement operations in that area they could interdict drug loads on a daily basis. It would, however, necessitate getting out their vehicles, putting rucksacks on their backs, and actually walking in the woods.

Over the next two days we conducted additional reconnaissance patrols in the area finding tequila bottles and fire rings on top of ridgelines and lay-up areas stocked with food and water for the drug mules. One rest position was set up to accommodate as many as 20 men. Stopping the drug-trafficking in that area is simple: A National Guard light infantry company could seal that county's border.

Ranch Rescue's mission was a success. As the rancher's wife said in a thank-you letter to Jack Foote, "I had two weeks of peaceful sleep. The first in a long time. Thank you."

According to Foote: "We are quite proud of what we have accomplished and we make no apologies whatsoever. We are equally proud of the fact that no criminal complaints have ever been filed against Ranch Rescue, nor against any of our volunteers during our field missions. That alone speaks volumes for the absolute legality of what we have done and what we will continue to do in the future. We have plans in place for three more missions on border-county private property and discussions taking place for many more. We are not going to stop what we have been doing. We are going to expand and increase our efforts. I guarantee it."

Rob Krott, SOF's Chief Contributing Foreign Correspondent, is a former U.S. Army and 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.

E-Mail: volunteer@ranchrescue.com
Website: www.ranchrescue.com

Press can contact the national spokesman for Ranch Rescue, Jack Foote, for inquiries or interviews: 915-888-0518.

High-Speed AND Low-Drag

When we started putting together a volunteer team to patrol the ranches in Arizona I initiated some frantic calling around to procure expendable equipment items for my own use and that of the team. Taking gear items manufactured by *Soldier Of Fortune* advertisers would make for real world field tests. Several of our frequent advertisers were enthusiastic about supporting SOF's Chief Contributing Foreign Correspondent on an assignment. Many of our advertisers and friends were very helpful and forthcoming with greatly appreciated gear. Just as well, as I'm tough on field gear and usually missing some essential items from the last "trip." Our advertisers were only told it was for use by a private-sector-initiated operation on the Mexican border. I certainly hope the manufacturers aren't unhappy that this real world mission — a private sector ranch security operation — morphed into a private citizen drug interdiction by happenstance!

SureFire squared us away with tactical lights. Russ and I both had dedicated forend Model AB Series weapon lights on our carbine model AR-15s. They are integrated units that replace the handguards. With a momentary switch, a rocker switch for constant light, and LED navigation lights, they were essential pieces of gear. If you own a carbine AR-15, an HK rifle or carbine, or a SIG rifle, you've got to have one of these. We also jury-rigged several other weapons for night ops by duct taping SureFire E1E Executive lights to the



Krott with the bare necessities: BDUs and Weapon.

forends. SureFire makes a variety of adapters, mounts, and switches, but we only had the lights. John was kitted out with a scope tube mount for a Millennium Series weapon light that added nighttime versatility to his Autauga Rifles .308. I carried a Millennium Series M2 Centurion as my personal tactical light and other team members carried E2E Executives with a red or blue lens attached. A Millennium Series M4 Devastator was used by the surveillance team and unfortunately became an unexplained combat loss somewhere in base camp. *Hmm.* The high-intensity lights were invaluable for lighting up the operational area, especially when trespassers were encountered. These lights have a "shock" effect as well. Almost like having a battery operated flash grenade. SureFire provided lots of lithium batteries for the lights and also sent eight ball caps and eight OD or black Team SureFire logo T-shirts for the team. SOF likewise provided a dozen OD

SOF-logo T-shirts. After a few days humping around the Canelo Hills it was nice to have clean duds. I wore my black SureFire T-shirt "Maximizing Human Performance in the Tactical Environment" home as I'd run out of clothes.

CamelBaks were essential. We sucked down a lot of water. Arizona has a hot, dry heat and if you're carrying about 40 pounds of rifle and equipment and then load up 75 pounds of confiscated marijuana for a march through the mountains you certainly need water. It was definitely "hydrate or die." We had no hot-weather casualties; even though some team members weren't acclimatized. I



A SureFire Executive Elite E2E (top) and M2 Centurion (bottom).

credit that to our constant use of CamelBaks. The HAWG model with its 1200 cubic inch storage in daypack type set-up made excellent patrol rucks. Vipers, MULES and Thermobaks were also used. All were provided in woodland camouflage. Those team members without adequate extra canteens were happy to have a CamelBak. To quote CamelBak, "So when mission tempo is high and you are relentlessly on the move, you need a ready supply of clean, cool water, you need CamelBak."

ARKTIS is a well-known English manufacturer of military spec ops and SWAT gear distributed in the U.K. and Europe and is now making its products available in the U.S. ARKTIS provided two combat-assault vests, including an olive-drab Long Range Patrol Vest. It will replace my faithful U.S. Army issue ALICE LCE on several field future operations. These vests are outstanding and must be seen to appreciate



ARKTIS 1604 Long Range Patrol Vest is a superior piece of loadbearing gear. courtesy ARKTIS

their quality and versatility. ARKTIS vests are adaptable to carry hydration bladders such as CamelBaks and they readily adjust for use with body armor. I was very pleased with the vests. ARKTIS also sent an olive-drab ARKTIS Rainshield. This is a new addition to the ARKTIS catalog and I snapped it up for myself. A lightweight, storable, hooded and zip-front waterproof jacket, it was great for an extra layer of warmth. I love this jacket and highly recommend it as an addition to anyone's gear locker. Be careful or your wife or girlfriend may try to steal it. ARKTIS also makes a Stowaway Shirt, a water resistant windproof that is similar except it is hoodless. I didn't have an opportunity to field test one of these but I plan to get one.

Ontario Knife Company sent a Spec Plus Marine Combat, a Freedom Fighter Fighting Knife, and an RTAK machete.



Ontario Knife Company's Freedom Fighter Fighting Knife (above), and RTAK machete. courtesy Ontario Knife Company



These heavy-duty combat knives were a welcome addition for field and camp duties. The RTAK (Randall's Training and Adventure Knife) was of great help in building hide sites. Actually designed as a bush blade / survival knife by my good friend, Jeff Randall, the 17"-long RTAK is used by the Peruvian Air Force Jungle Survival School and other military and drug eradication units worldwide. I recommend it and also the Freedom Fighter Fighting Knife, which I think is an extremely well-balanced knife for being 13" in overall length. It can also be pressed into service to whack brush in a pinch.

KA-BAR Knives also provided knives. I've carried a KA-BAR on my LBE since I was a 17-year-old



courtesy Kabar

Kabars got the job done. A Black Kabar with 2" serrated edge and a D2 Impact Spear Point (inset).

infantry private and one of their knives has seen service with me from the Korean DMZ to Bosnia to Angola and beyond. I currently have a new model black KA-BAR with serrated edge in a Tim Wegner Kydex sheath. I think they're great field knives and an unbeatable bargain for the price. I was also born in Olean, NY, where the blades are made and have relatives working in the factory so I might be biased. KA-BAR knew this and on a recent visit home they provided me with some knives for my next "adventure." So for the trip to Arizona I had two black KA-BARs with serrated edges and Kydex sheaths; a D2 Spear Point which is an interesting new design of a laser-cut, D2 sheet stock tool steel 4-1/2" blade with contoured Micarta handles; and a D2 Extreme clip blade folder.

Kirk and Kyle Rovinsky of Armed Forces Merchandise Outlet (AFMO) were very helpful. AFMO is the place to go (online or their two Texas retail stores) if you want genuine GI combat boots, jungle boots, and desert boots, etc. They also give a 10% discount if you tell them you saw their ad in *SOF*. AFMO has been supplying the military since 1926 and while the company emphasis is on footwear they sent me woodland camouflage BDU uniforms; boonie hats; ponchos; and two camouflage nets from CamoSystems.com that were invaluable. We used the camo nets to build hide-sites. They were lightweight, compressible, and quiet and rustle-free. They packed into stuff sacks that could be rigged as butt packs on the back of LBE belts. I've since learned, strangely enough, that they're manufactured in Vietnam.



Poncho from Armed Forces Merchandise Outlet. courtesy AFMO

Continued on page 80

TERRORISM

SITREP

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

AMERICA AT WAR

CALL TO ARMS

Taped voice of bin Laden commands Muslims to revenge Iraqis. "We stress the importance of suicide bombings against the enemy." U.S. EXPATS warned to prepare to evacuate embassies and keep prescriptions, passports and food stocks in event of "terrorist attacks." MASS CASUALTY ATTACK to rival 9-11 planned, according to intelligence officials. ORANGE ALERT, second highest alert, declared. Citizens told to prepare to seal homes in event of chem-bio attack. FARMERS warned terrorists might infect herds with hoof-and-mouth disease. FBI estimates 100 al-Qaeda cells in U.S.

UNITED STATES

Benevolence International Foundation's Syrian-born, U.S.-naturalized leaders Mohamed Bayazid and Ennam M. Arnaout tried to provide nuclear chemicals for bin Laden in Sudan, to be used in U.S. Embassy bombings in East Africa. UNSUSPECTING DONORS: Microsoft, Hewlett Packard said to have made donations.

SOUTH KOREA

Rumors of strategic strikes against North Korean nuclear sites rejected. North might retaliate by unleashing thousands of rockets and long-range artillery hidden in tunnels, aimed at Seoul.

PHILIPPINES

U.S. troops deployed in Muslim guerrilla stronghold of Sulu archipelago to train Filipino troops in counter-terrorism, to fight Abu Sayyaf Group that kidnapped dozens of Americans in two years. ARRESTED: Two Abu Sayyaf members.

BAHAMAS

SEALs conduct counterterrorism operation dubbed "Giant Shadow." U.S.S. *Florida*, *Ohio*, *Michigan* and *Georgia* missile submarines of Cold War fame are being converted to carry on operations to detect chemical-weapons facilities built by terrorists on nearby islands.

INDONESIA

AMMONIUM NITRATE found: Two tons, similar to that used in Bali bombings of home on Sulawesi island — 250 kilos found on Christmas. ARRESTED: Jemaay Islamiyah leader Mas Selamat bin Kastari, fugitive in foiled plot to blow up U.S. embassy in Singapore.

COLOMBIA

FARC, shifting its terror from rural empire, unleashes bloody urban campaign. SOCIAL CLUB RIPPED APART: Car bomb kills 35 and injures 200 in worst attack in Bogota in decade. EXECUTED: U.S. citizen and Colombian sergeant. KIDNAPPED: Two Americans held as "war booty" after plane crashes. U.S. officials fear attacks on U.S. interests are designed to draw U.S. into half-century-old civil war, forcing U.S. to fight on three fronts — Iraq, Colombia, and North Korea

GERMANY U.S. Embassy in Berlin closed after terrorist warning. Interior Minister Otto Schily says threat "at least as high as it was before 9-11."

UNITED KINGDOM Armor and tanks deployed to London Streets, after warning received of missile attack against civilian aircraft at Heathrow Airport. UNPRECEDENTED anti-war demonstrations fueled by reports that Iraqi threat was exaggerated by government report, which plagiarized outdated academic piece.

CZECH REPUBLIC GO EAST al-Qaeda. Intelligence sources warn that members of terrorist units traveling on fake Pakistani passports plan attacks in Czech Republic, Germany, France and U.K.

FRANCE MECCA-COLA Cola war. "No more drinking stupid. Drink with Commitment" — slogan of new soft drink selling like hotcakes. French/Arab manufacturer told BBC Mecca Cola combats "American imperialism and Zionism by providing a substitute for American goods and increasing the blockade of countries boycotting American goods." British, German, Belgian, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, and Danish Islamic supporters join Middle Easterners to the tune of millions of bottles since cola launched a few months ago — 20% of profits go to Palestinian and European charities.

SAUDI ARABIA BOYCOTTS U.S. GOODS — U.S. exports to Saudi Arabia declined 40% in first quarter of 2002, one indicator of anti-U.S. movement. Americans warned to leave.

ETHIOPIA LIBYAN President Muammar Qaddafi threatens, if U.S. bombs Iraq: "terrorism will prevail if you follow the course of war" (in speech to African Union in Addis Ababa).

ISRAEL Saddam look-alike bodyguard "the Gatekeeper" held by Israeli intelligence in Negev desert, informed Mossad of Saddam's secret arsenal, including motorized underwater chemical mines that creep along seabed and surface to detonate beneath battleships. CAPTURED: 10 Islamic Jihad members, who had killed 16 Israelis. POSSIBLE ATTACK of Lebanon by Israel.

IRAQ ASSASSINATED: Kurdish minister and two officials by Ansar al-Islam (Helpers of Islam) operatives masquerading as peace negotiators. LINK TO AL-QAEDA: U.S. intelligence and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan claim that Ansar al-Islam is Iraqi link to bin Laden. Group denies accusations; says U.S. using them to hype case against Saddam. Group positioning itself if Saddam overthrown, claims civil war fight against de facto Kurdish government. Kurd leader Mullah Krekar said to have trained with bin Laden in '80s.

PALESTINE 140 suspected suicide bomber homes destroyed by Israel since August. Dozens of innocent Palestinians killed.

ITALY ARRESTED, 28 Pakistanis suspected as al-Qaeda operatives.

GREECE "November 17" terrorist group members on trial. PROFIT FROM TERROR: Right-wing newspaper publisher allegedly involved in terror- and assassination-protection for business? magnates for big bucks.

NEPAL 49 U.S. Special Forces operators train local troops in counterterrorism techniques.

PAKISTAN Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) said to harbor Taliban leaders who cross into Afghanistan to launch 90% of rocket attacks against U.S. bases. LASHKAR-E-TAYYABA group, number 36 on U.S. terrorism list — group implicated in killing *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, and bombing buses and churches.

It was the largest buildup of American military forces since the Gulf War 12 years ago. But the opponent was the same: Saddam Hussein's Iraq and its 380,000-strong armed forces, about one-third its strength in 1991.

The U.S. deployment was smaller as well, with about 200,000 soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors, compared with 550,000 in Desert Storm. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld could risk a smaller force. For one, the Iraq army and its air defenses were much weaker.

"My estimate is they are 10 to 15% of the effectiveness of what they were in January 1991 — if that high," said retired Air Force Colonel John Warden, a Persian Gulf war-planner.

Secondly, Rumsfeld has become enamored of the power of precision-guided weapons: If you can take out more targets in a shorter period of time with "smart" weapons, then you do not need a huge ground force. In the Gulf War, about 10% of aerial munitions were precision-guided. This time, the Air Force and Navy unleash arsenals in which nine out of 10 munitions are smart. The biggest advancement was the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), a satellite-guided bomb that is impervious to cloud cover and can hit a target within a few feet. In the Gulf, only the Air Force F-111 and F-15C

AMERICA
AT WAR

ON THE Brink

BY ROWAN SCARBOROUGH

REUTERS/Stephanie McGehee



were able to drop laser-guided bombs. The JDAM did not exist, and the B-2 stealth bomber, which holds 16 2,000-pound bombs, was not yet ready for combat. In the Navy fleet, only the since-retired A-6 Intruder dropped laser-directed bombs.

New Campaign, New Technology

Today, every bomber and tactical jet has the ability to drop either JDAM or laser bombs, or both. The Air Force demonstrated this new flexibility during the war in Afghanistan, where lumbering B-52 bombers played the role of a much smaller close-air support jet. The B-52 Stratofortress hovered overhead. When Army Special Forces found a Taliban target, they relayed the geographic coordinates to the heavy bomber, whose crew programmed the JDAM's global-position-system link and dispensed the weapon.

Although the buildup this time was

The U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 41st Artillery fires a 95-lb. projectile from a 155mm Howitzer in the Kuwaiti desert, 11 February 2003.

Of War

Does A Weakened Foe Insure Victory?

REUTERS/Dag Fagrov

smaller, it was still a massive effort. The Air Force, and the Navy with five carrier battle groups, positioned about 800 aircraft. The Army moved two heavy divisions, the 4th Infantry, from Fort Hood, Texas, and the 3rd Infantry, from Georgia. Hundreds of tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles were loaded on freighters at ports in Texas and Georgia, while soldiers traveled by air. The Army moved the 101st Airborne Division, a light-infantry helicopter-assault force, from Fort Campbell, Ky., to Jacksonville, Fla., where Apache attack helicopters and Black Hawk troop carriers were lifted onto ships for the trip to the region.

Marines moved by sea from ports in North Carolina and southern California.

"We Are Ready Now"

In the Gulf War, it took the four branches more than three months to get

Continued on page 72

(left) A U.S. army vehicle drives near the military camp "New York," some 32 km. south of Iraqi border in the Kuwaiti desert, 17 February 2003. (below) A column of U.S. Marine Corps M1-A1 tanks from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines rolls out at the crack of dawn 17 February 2003, leaving USMC Camp Grizzly in the northern Kuwaiti desert near Iraq.

AFP PHOTO/Paul J. Richards



Enticement To War



“Don Corleone” Revisited

BY AL J. VENTER

About the time the Bush campaign for toppling Saddam Hussein got into gear in the fall of 2002, some pointers to the man's seemingly dual personality emerged from the mouth of his long-time mistress who, with the help of friends, managed to escape to the West in the summer of 2002. No effort at disinformation this; the tidbits provided by the 54-year-old tyrant's moll, Parisoula Lampsos, showed another side to the man who set himself and his country apart from the international community.

Ms. Lampsos had some interesting things to tell America, including the fact that she had been Saddam's lover for 30 years and was one of a string of women who shared his bed.

While he enjoyed watching videos of his enemies being tortured, often to death, he also had a human side, she revealed, like dyeing his hair, eating desert gazelle for dinner and enjoying a tippie, usually Scotch. His favorite movie, she said, was *The Godfather*, which makes you wonder because there are only so many times you can view any film and still enjoy the, by now, horribly predictable outcome.

She also mentioned that Saddam uses Viagra and enjoyed dancing to Frank Sinatra, all innocent enough for a man who has used deadly sarin and VX nerve gases to destroy his enemies. Not only did he kill members of Iraq's Kurdish population, but thousands of Iranians also died during the seven-year war of the eighties that left more than a million mothers' sons dead on both sides of an ever-shifting front.

The overriding perception in the West is of a man who has a predilection for extreme actions.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair made some revelations of his own about Saddam Hussein in his Iraqi dossier made public early September 2002. The Iraqi despot, he disclosed, was responsible for a large number of executions. He gave us some of the details:

- 4,000 prisoners executed at Abu Ghraib Prison in 1984.
- 3,000 prisoners executed at the Mahjar Prison

Iraqi Kurdish, Hamidah Hassan, holds a picture of her brother Mohammad (top), who is a victim of the 1988 gas bombing of the Kurdish city of Halabja, during a protest 28 January 2003 against President Saddam Hussein's government outside the United Nations office in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)-controlled city of Suleimaniya, northeast of Baghdad.



AFP PHOTO/Behrouz MEHRI

between 1993 and 1998.

- About 2,500 prisoners executed between 1997 and 1999 in a 'prison cleansing' campaign.

- 122 male prisoners executed at Abu Ghraib prison in February/ March 2000. A further 23 executed there in October 2001.

- In October 2000, dozens of women accused of prostitution were beheaded without any judicial process.

- Their guards routinely rape women prisoners at Mahjar.

- Methods of torture used in Iraqi jails include using electric drills to mutilate hands, pulling out fingernails, knife cuts, sexual attacks and 'official rape.'

- Prisoners at the Qurtiyya Prison in Baghdad and elsewhere are kept in metal boxes the size of tea chests. If they do not confess they are left to die.

Mr. Blair also detailed some of the activities of Saddam's son, Uday, who, he declared maintains a private torture chamber known as the Red Room in a building on the banks of the Tigris disguised as an electricity installation. In 1994, he created a militia that used swords to execute victims outside their homes and he has personally executed dissidents, notably in the Shi'ite uprising at Basra, which followed the Gulf War.

Nobody is immune to persecution, not even members of Saddam's family. A cousin of Saddam, Ala Abd al-Qadir al-Majid, fled to Jordan from Iraq citing disagreements with the regime over business matters. He returned to Iraq after the Iraqi Ambassador in Jordan declared publicly that his life was not in danger. Met at the border by Tahir Habbush, Head of the Directorate of General Intelligence (the Mukhabarat), he was taken to a farm owned by Ali Hasan al-Majid.

There, Ala was tied to a tree and executed by members of his immediate family who, following orders from Saddam, took turns to fire bullets at him. In total, some 40 of Saddam's relatives, including women and children, have been killed.

What is clear to the observer of current events in the Middle East in Europe and Asia is that the political view presents a very different picture from what one hears and sees in America.

In Europe, for instance, it is largely the media that leads the appeasement charge, very much as it was in 1939. Then there was a powerful lobby that urged the Free World to ignore what was going on in Germany. There was, as a consequence, a considerable body of opinion — even in America — to let Hitler get on with whatever he was doing.

It would seem that the international community is faced with this selfsame syndrome today. So much of the criticism of American actions to protect itself from international terrorism comes from those who know least about the esoterics of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) disciplines. They also show little regard for history. In many instances emotions are driven by ignorance of what is taking place in this California-sized country of about 25 million people right now.

For a start, those who would rather let things stay as they are tend to ignore the facts: there have been two Iraqi invasions of its neighbors and he has bombed both his own citizens and those of Iran — either with chemical or biological weapons — and, in Iran's case, both. None of this is rumor or speculation, it is chronicled by history and the ongoing threat is serious enough for all key health workers in Britain to have been inoculated against smallpox.

'If deemed necessary, millions more doses will be distributed to protect the whole 58 million population,' Reuters



AP Photo/Hasan Saibakrahman

An Iraqi Kurdish fighter from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) prepares a mortar for firing against Ansar-al-Islam Islamic radicals, believed linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda, in the outskirts of Halabja on Friday 17 January 2003. The fighting took place about 9 kilometers (6 miles) from Halabja, a city notorious as the scene of a poison gas attack by the Iraqi army in the waning days of the Iran-Iraq war in March 1988. 5,000 Kurds were killed in the attack.

reported on 10 October 2002.

While Saddam Hussein has neither the human nor economic resources to even remotely threaten the world the way that the Third Reich did, his weapons of mass destruction are far more potent than anything that Germany fielded in World War II. Being the ultimate manipulator and having deployed them before, he could do so again. Having done so, he would volubly protest his innocence.

That, too, has a precedent. Is there anybody who can provide real evidence as to who bombed the U.S.S. *Cole*; or blew up the two American embassies in East Africa with horrific loss of life; or motivated the first bombing of New York's World Trade Center; or blew up the Khobar Towers killing dozens of American servicemen and women? We have a pretty good idea who was responsible, but, as they say, 'There ain't no smoking gun.' Not yet, anyway.

The question begs: Is the world community going to wait for an Iraqi-engineered smallpox attack to ravish European or American cities, or for one of his atom bombs to blow-away half of Chicago before his tyranny is checked?

That concept is not as far-fetched as some would like to make it. Loaded on to a freighter, it could — using the St Lawrence River and Great Lakes — arrive in America's heartland long before any customs inspector gets anywhere near the ship.

Europe might look at these issues a little differently were it Paris or Frankfurt in Saddam's sights. Sixty-five years ago they also did nothing and we now appreciate the consequences of that culpable lapse of judgment.

Tons Of Manufactured Nerve Agents — Including Novichok?

Had the Iraqi leader been another President Mubarak or King Abdullah, there would have been no need for an invasion. Nor would the soldiers of a variety of nations be preparing themselves for a war that is likely to be different from any other. Saddam Hussein, we are now aware, has prepared — by international standards — a modest but deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, or in the argot, WMD.

Which brings us back to the oft-overlooked fact that the man has used some of these weapons against his enemies and by all accounts is ready to do so again. Why else would he have manufactured hundreds of tons of nerve agents including tabun, sarin, cyclosarin (GF) and VX? Those are the ones we know about: There could be others.

In a submission before the House Armed Services Committee on 10 September 2002, biowarfare expert Dr. Richard Spertzel — who spent years trying to uncover Saddam's secrets while heading the biological wing of UNSCOM in Iraq after Operation Desert Storm — told all members present that there was some evidence that the Iraqis might now also have the deadliest nerve gas of all, Novichok.

A product of the Cold War, Novichok is a dozen times more potent than any other agent and, worse, it easily penetrates all known gas masks produced in the West — and Israel's included.

How serious then, is Saddam's threat? There aren't many people who aren't aware that the Iraqi leader used chemical

weapons against the Kurds. Nor does everybody know the full extent of its deployment in the war with Iran, or that Iraq also used biological weapons in that struggle.

In a fact sheet issued by Stockholm's International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in May 1984, authors Julian Perry Robinson and Jozef Goldblat list these atrocities in great detail. This development was all the more bizarre since both Iraq and Iran are signatories to the Geneva Protocol which prohibits the use of 'asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices, as well as the use of bacteriological methods of warfare.'

The study came after consistent reports by Tehran Radio of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi Army on the Southern Front.

Shortly afterwards, the Iranian Foreign Minister told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that there had been at least 49 instances of Iraqi chemical attack in 40 border regions. A week later Baghdad launched a major counter-offensive in the border marshlands to the immediate north of Basra where, at Majnoon Islands, Iraq has vast untapped oil resources. This waterlogged region was a strategic military location where a large artillery battery enabled the Iranians to keep both defensive and offensive control of the Iran/Iraq frontier. I quote:

... Iraq used chemical weapons on at least 14 further occasions, adding more than 2,000 to the total number of people wounded by poison gas.

Another report published a decade ago attracted almost no attention at the time, but has just been reprinted. It

Aram Kader Saeed (right) demonstrates how to use a charcoal filled mask that his mother, Seber Ali (left), made for their family to use in the event of a chemical attack on their home town in Sulaimaniya, Iraq. Many Kurdish residents fear that Saddam Hussein will attack Sulaimania in the event of a U.S.-led war.



July 2003

appeared in the April 1991 issue of *Military Medicine* (Vol. 156) and provides a thorough review of a biological (and chemical) weapons attack by Iraq in the war with Iran:

A bombing took place in March 1984, on 5,000 Iranian troops stationed off the southwest corner of Iraq with the initiation of the Kheibar Offensive. The authors, Texan doctors Hooshang Kadivar and Stephen Adams say that Iraqi planes dropped a number of bombs over Iranian troop concentrations:

‘These exploded silently in mid-air, giving no indication of their lethal content. Among the biological agents dispersed were Trichothecene Mycotoxins; toxins that affect multiple organs systems in the body simultaneously. They were used in conjunction with conventional chemical agents including mustard gas, tabun and lewisite. The Iranians suffered a 15 percent mortality rate as a consequence of this action. By all accounts Tehran’s forces were caught completely by surprise and the incident apparently had a severe effect on Iranian troop morale.

“Never Underestimate Saddam Hussein.”

So, in answer to the most obvious question being asked in the streets of London, San Francisco, Paris, New York and elsewhere, as to whether Saddam Hussein would actually use the weapons of mass destruction he is purported to have at his disposal, you need only look at the preparations he made prior to Operation Desert Storm to bomb Coalition Forces with nerve and bacterial agents (including anthrax).

As Dr. David Kay told me shortly after returning from Iraq (where he headed UNSCOM’s nuclear inspection team): “Never underestimate Saddam Hussein.”

That much was powerfully underscored by Britain’s International Institute for Strategic Studies in September 2002 when it released its think-tank dossier, *Iraq’s Weapons of Mass Destruction: A Net Assessment?*

The important revelation here, according to the Institute, is that Saddam Hussein could have nuclear weapons within months if he were successful in acquiring fissile material. This august body also states that Saddam, based on his record and the extraordinary array of unconventional weapons he had been hiding from the world prior to the Gulf War in 1991, remains heavily engaged in developing nuclear, biological and chemical warheads.

It is worth recalling that for all his posturing, Saddam wouldn’t have taken himself and his country to the brink if he didn’t believe that he had at least a sporting chance to achieve some kind of a victory at the end of the next phase of hostilities. He blundered in his tactical planning in 1991 — but that certainly doesn’t mean that he will do so again.

What was critical at that time was that he still needed fissile material with which to arm the three atomic bombs that his weaponization team had assembled. We now must consider the fact that he again called this group together in 2000 and he wouldn’t have done so had he not already acquired the wherewithal to make waging war a viable option.

How he set about trying to build his atom bombs has been comprehensively covered in a variety of publications, including several of those in the *Jane’s* stable. This is sobering stuff, if only because such a device — whether manufactured by Iraq, Iran, Pakistan or North Korea — doesn’t have to be dropped on any city from aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs. It could be detonated in the approaches to Haifa harbor or after it reaches one of the container depots in Baltimore. There are no rules in this horrendous game.

More of Saddam’s WMD program was highlighted in Britain’s *Observer* in late September 2002. This was a special



AFP PHOTO/BIHROUZ MEHRI

New-born Iraqi Kurd baby, Banan Faeg, from the town of Halabja, is shown 20 October 2002 to have malformation of the fingers. Halabja was bombarded by the Saddam Hussein regime in March 1988 with chemical weapons as a revenge for Kurdish militia’s support to enemy Iranian troops. Medical reports said genetic illnesses in the city were on the rise, suspecting the toxins were still slowly altering victim’s DNA.

report by Peter Beaumont in London and Nick Paton Walsh in Moscow.

The two journalists spell out the lengths to which Baghdad was prepared to go to acquire fissile material for Iraq’s nuclear program. They also detail contacts with companies in Belarus where, they maintain, Iraq acquired a variety of technical equipment such as high-specification machine tools including diamond cutters, a powder-metal production line and a plasma spray machine, all of which would have potential nuclear usage. Much of this was subsequently smuggled into Iraq through the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

Iraq’s contacts in Minsk were still viable in the summer of 2002 when its deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Military Industrialization, Abdul Tawab Mulla Howeish, was in that city to sign a new protocol authorizing scientific and technical exchanges between the two countries.

At the end of this deeply clandestine and duplicitous activity, it is one of the unsettling truisms of the era in which we live — highlighted by Messrs. Spertzel and Kay before Congress — that the only time we will know whether or not Iraq has a nuclear capability is when Saddam uses this weapon for the first time. Meanwhile, the building of his own version of an atom bomb continues. The same with chemical and biological weapons.

Which leads to one of the more prescient comments made by Britain’s *Economist* shortly before we went to press. In an article titled “A Ghastly Probability” by their columnist, Lexington, discussed some of the implications related to the events that will always be remembered as 11 September. Talking of the war, dreadful in its consequences, he penned:

“And war is different. In war, the long conflict itself is what matters. Individual atrocities — even one as big as September 11 — become secondary, important not so much in themselves but for what they tell you about the wider struggle. Wars, including long-drawn-out ones against terrorists, take on a momentum of their own.”

Al J. Venter has been a contributor to SOF for 27 years. ✕

THE HUNT FOR BIN LADEN

TASK FORCE DAGGER

REVIEWED BY MAJOR JIM MORRIS, USA (RET.) AND
MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS R. "HAWK" BUMBACK, USA (RET.)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBIN MOORE AND RANDOM HOUSE

Random House

\$24.95

On Sale: after 11 March 2003

For Book Tour Info Visit: www.thehuntforbinladen.com

Editor's Note: Obtaining a review copy of The Hunt For Bin Laden — Task Force Dagger was no small task. The publisher's security appeared to be even tighter than the Pentagon's Iraqi war-plans head-shed. Only CBS' 60 Minutes II, ABC's 20/20 and Primetime, and NBC's Dateline were allowed to get a pre-read, and then just 21 days in advance of release, which put a serious dent in SOF's efforts to publish these exclusive reviews prior to our deadline.

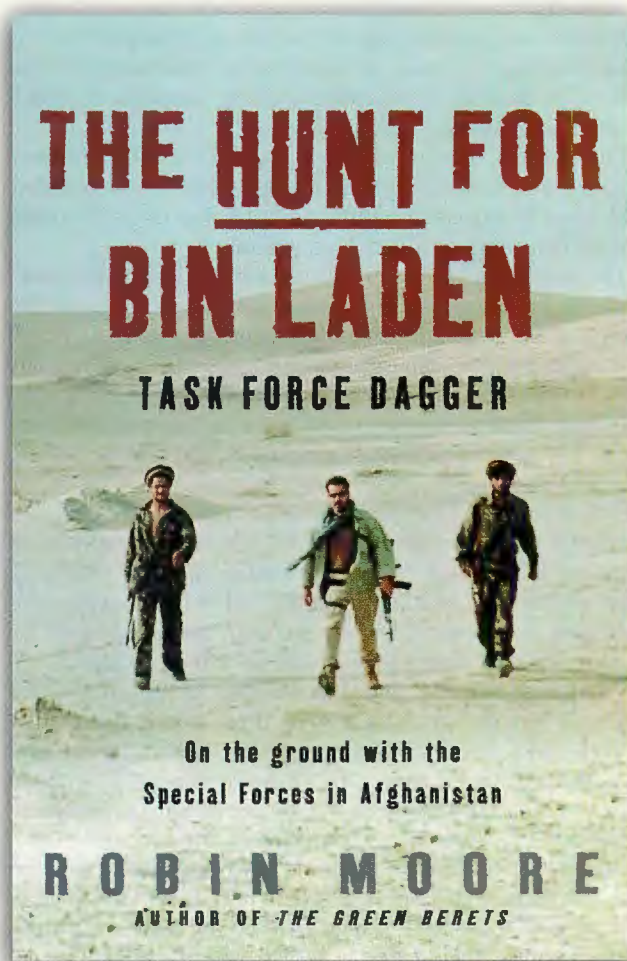
Soldier Of Fortune asked for, and received, the first-ever inside look by any print magazine or newspaper at this anxiously awaited — and soon-to-be-controversial — book.

Two reviews on this hot new tome follow, the first by retired Special Forces Major Jim Morris; the second by retired Special Forces Master Sergeant Thomas R. Bumback.

This is the book you've been waiting for. At least it's book I was waiting for.

Remember back to the recent past when Special Forces was galloping across bleak and desolate Afghanistan, and you wish you could be there too; wishing you could know the full, accurate and inside story?

Recall the articles you did read — many confused and grossly inaccurate — written by journalists who had never served and who did not comprehend the military — and its role in war?



If your blood is not stirred, chances are you're running on empty.

And remember those circulating E-Mails, letters from Afghanistan, declassified after-action reports, and those few stories that actually made sense?

I recall hoping that the full story would eventually surface, and spark a subsequent plethora of related books and a spate of fantastical movies.

Well, this is the first book, and thus up to now the most authoritative; a work which will establish a standard by which all subsequent efforts will be judged and compared.

It is fitting, and perhaps even inevitable, that this book would be authored by Robin Moore, the man who wrote *The Green Berets*, a classic which, among other things, launched a new genre, and a deluge of books about U.S. Special Forces in Vietnam.

This elderly gentleman has managed — *again* — to join Special Forces (of course known by the general public by the more familiar monicker “Green Berets”), and to be present in key moments of a chapter illustrating some of their greatest glories. Moore guides you through volatile Afghanistan as seen through the eyes of SF operators — team by team — battle by battle. If your blood is not stirred, chances are you’re running on empty.

The Hunt For Bin Laden ... makes it clear that the only reason SF got this opportunity to excel is because President Bush put the screws to our military to get results, and get ‘em damned fast. When nobody else appeared ready to step to the plate, SF leaped into the batter’s box, ready to swing for the fences.



A Special Forces team with their Mujahideen allies.

Indecision at the highest uniformed level spoiled at least two chances by Special Forces to get bin Laden. Outside-the-box SF operators on the ground were eager to lay it on the line; but above them, inside-the-Beltway-mentality generals were afraid to risk their reputations. So close, but no cigar.

Jim Morris served three tours with Special Forces in Vietnam.

REVIEW BY MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS R. BUMBACK, USA (RET.)

Black Hawk Down! — in the snow.

There is no other way to describe it, *The Hunt For Bin Laden* — *Task Force Dagger* carries forth in the true tradition of blockbuster war books. Like General Hal Moore’s epic battle story in Vietnam, written with Joe Galloway, *We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young*, *The Hunt ...* is destined for a film, and your bookshelf.

Robin Moore’s *The Green Berets* was written as *faction*, his unique blend of fact and fiction, and it worked. But in *The Hunt ...*, there is no *faction*, only fact. Plain, stark, fact.

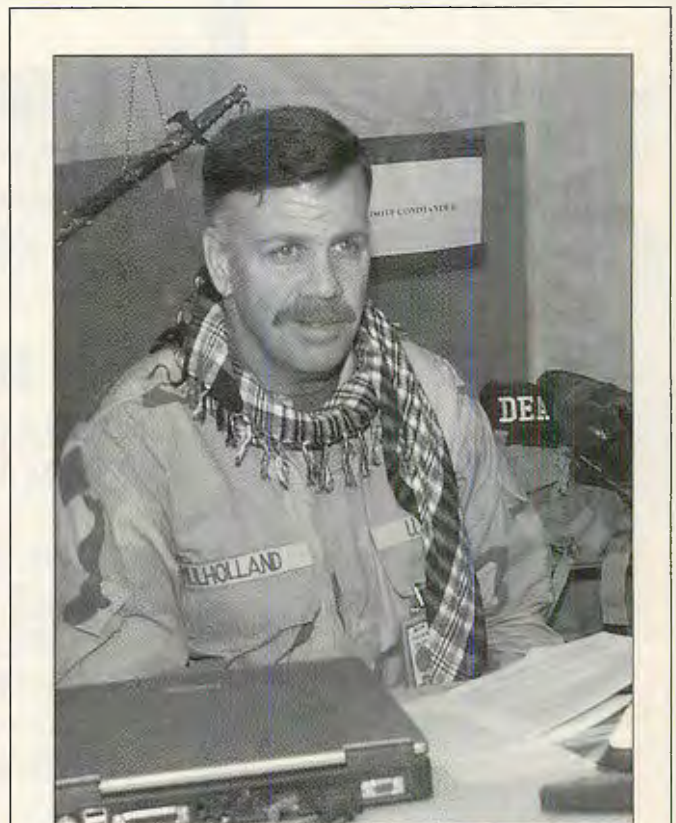
In its pages, this *fact* is referred to as *ground truth*.

The dialogue reeks of modern war, and little is held back in the sweeping reality of the text. It is all there: the pain, suffering, the fear, the courage, the sardonic morgue humor of war, the strength somehow found in its jaws — and the honor in fighting the good fight.

Unlike *Bush At War*, Robin Moore’s *The Hunt For Bin Laden ...* does not describe and rehash the planning, debating, arguing, and preparation from the guided eyes of a politician, or arm-chair conventional general who in 30 years has yet to have a round *whiz* by his head. It tells the story from the gut-level perspective of the Special Forces sergeants on the ground; guys with their ass in the grass who will do the killing, and the dying.

Charismatic Northern Alliance Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud had been assassinated by al-Qaeda/Taliban hitmen just two days prior to 9/11, a tragedy that would make things far more urgent for the formation of Task Force Dagger.

Moore’s book describes how Special Forces Colonel John



Robin Moore’s book describes Special Forces Colonel John Mulholland’s role in the formation and deployment of Task Force Dagger, unleashing hell on the Taliban and al-Qaeda, just five weeks after 9/11.

Continued on page 76

POLICE/MILITARY EQUIPMENT

- BATONS
- BODY ARMOR
- HANDCUFFS
- METAL DETECTORS
- MINE DETECTORS
- OPTICS
- NIGHT VISION
- SPY EQUIPMENT
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Resurgent Dogs Of War

The Market For Military Skills, As Merc Work Goes Corporate

TEXT & PHOTOS BY AL J. VENTER

Military companies are not a passing phenomenon. Military Force can stabilize a crisis, challenging the view that negotiation in the absence of coercion is sufficient to reach a settlement ... states and international organizations need to rethink current perceptions of the private military sector as an unpleasant aberration.

— David Shearer in his introduction to *Private Armies and Military Intervention*

When SOF was last in Freetown, Neall Ellis, South African merc and old friend of the magazine, was preparing a proposal for a small force of 88 combatants (including 16 Air Wing personnel) that he believed he could put together at short notice if operations were to be expanded in Sierra Leone. It covered basic operations over a 60-day period and involved communications equipment, protection, logistics, support, a small field hospital (with staff), as well as the positioning of personnel and equipment.

He listed a requirement of 53,000 U.S. gallons of Jet A-1

aviation fuel (at U.S. \$1.62/gal, which was cheap at the time) together with about 3,000 gallons of diesel.

To that, Nellis added capital equipment costs at \$1.5m each for two Mi-17/7 medium transport helicopters plus their respective spares packages. Also needed, he reckoned, would be a light reconnaissance aircraft plus night-vision equipment at \$150,000 for the package. Overall, he estimated that about half-a-million dollars would cover ammunition. Transport, probably from Eastern Europe, would be another \$150,000.

AFP Photo: Géraldine Gobet



Hired by the Ivoirian government to bolster government forces, mercs with an eclectic assortment of weapons and ordnance played a pivotal role in the recent/ongoing war in Ivory Coast (see sidebar). Here they unload from the Mi-17 that brought them to the

airport at Yamoussoukro in December. Realities of commercial military operations applied in this scenario: Mercs can do the job, but they work for a paycheck and if not paid, like any contractor, they go home.

Neill Ellis' total package (with a 10% contingency for the two-month period) amounted to just short of \$4 million, which is perhaps a little more than what Sierra Leone's UN operation cost the international community towards the end of that war for roughly 48 hours. If you expand Nellis' ball game over roughly a year — without having to spend on more capital items — it would average out at even less.

A more elaborate breakdown for what he termed "A Proposal for Deployment of Air and Ground Forces — Two Months" such as offered to the Zaire Government towards the end of that rule, was made up as follows.

Proposed Budget For 533 Personnel For Two Months (U.S. Dollars)

Salaries for 533 personnel (ground force)	\$5,822,000
Salaries for 33 flight personnel (expatriate)	854,000
Rations for three months @ \$15/pppd + reserve	594,828
Medical equipment & machines plus insurance and hospitalization	1,510,000
Air charter costs personnel, equipment, re-supply	921,250
Communication equipment and satellite charges	192,000
TOTAL REQUIRED	\$9,894,078

To this figure would be added a 20% contingency and planning fee of just on \$2 million, giving a final contract total of almost \$12 million. The extra amount, he told me, was a "sweetener" for the minister involved, to push the project through — standard fare in Africa.

Obviously, the majority of those involved would be locals, who are customarily paid less than that received by expatriates who are brought into the country from abroad. Second, the number of personnel for such an "Air Wing" would, of necessity, be flexible. Also, it would vary according to the number and type of aircraft available.

Outsourcing As A Practical Matter

Medical requirements would include medevac by air and hospitalization of wounded in South Africa, though (as with Executive Outcomes) it includes finance for a personal death insurance fund payable to the dependents of Air Wing members killed in the line of duty. Also in the figures would be repatriation of the body as well as funeral costs. Any funds not so used would be returned to the government on completion of the operation.

Apart from medicines/equipment, food and communication systems, the client government would be required to provide all other logistical requirements, including vehicles, aircraft, fuel, weapons and ammunition. If these were not available, Nellis and his partners would be in a position to source all requirements for government account. This equipment would remain in-country on completion of the contract.

If the services of the "Air Wing" so formed, were required beyond the initial two month contract period, the monthly contractual amount payable in advance would be U.S. \$4,700,000.

As for hardware, one can buy most of the basics off-the-shelf in countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. There's a lot of surplus about in the warehouses of some of the CIS states, where good military materiel can be had at much less than you'd pay for the same stuff in London or Paris.

A good Asian copy of the American M16, for instance, comes at about \$350 each. A crude crib of the AR10 costs even less, though Thailand's version of Heckler & Koch's 33/93



Sierra Leone mercs Neill Ellis and his time Shi'ite sidegunner, Hassan, eventually helped to turn the war around on the West African coast. Here Ellis plans air op.



Hind gunship is prepared for a sortie in Sierra Leone with 80mm air-to-ground rockets. Unlike with the more common NATO 57mm rockets, gunships have to stand off a bit when using the larger projectiles to avoid their own shrapnel salvos.

needs solid input if you're going to force costs down. But, as one gun nut suggested, why buy NATO calibers when there are AKs a-plenty out there and they're going at a quarter the price?

Standard squad weapons like the RPK, the Degtyarev DPM light machine gun or the PKM machine gun might cost a bit more, depending where they come from and how many rounds have been through their barrels. Anybody with reliable Serbian contacts can get a container-load of the old Yugoslavian M76s wholesale.

Scratch a bit and you're likely to come up with a few Israeli, Ukrainian or South African dealers who also handle more complex items such as claymores, grenades and mortars. Discretion is necessary in such dealings: They're usually under surveillance when they're in someone else's town. Their activities have also been highlighted on the web.

Armor, too, is available. There's enough surplus hardware floating about in Europe to satisfy most needs. You should be able to come up with sufficient BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles to put a couple of divisions into the field. They're relatively cheap, too. Quality refurbished versions can be had for as little as \$100,000 each, but that doesn't

include shipping and their engines will probably need some attention. Heavy armor and tanks are usually more of a hindrance than help in primitive terrain, a description that fits just about all of Sub-Saharan Africa north of the Zambezi.

Ed Soyster, a 35-year U.S. Army veteran and former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, added his bit. He said that if you accept there is a national treasure called retired and former military people, "and if you bring them together to form a company and give them the necessary resources and support, they can accomplish just about anything." Soyster's role as a spokesman for Military Professional Resources Inc. puts him in a position to judge, if only because MPRI is the biggest in the business of private military companies (PMCs). Some others prefer the acronym MSPs, or military service providers.

Strictly speaking, where MPRI is concerned, one needs to distinguish training from combat support, because this American company does not fight others' wars for them.

Still, if there were not a need for their services, such bodies wouldn't exist. There are many of them, including Sandline International and AirScan International, Inc. (a

The French, The Mercs, And The Balkanization Of Ivory Coast: An Update

The joke in Paris these days concerns the role of the French military — including the Foreign Legion — in the Ivory Coast. To the titter of embarrassed laughter, there are those who say that troops mustered there under the tricolor are about as useful in that West African state as was the Dutch Army in Rwanda in the mid-Nineties.

The cut is unkind, but it is not without basis. About all that the Elysées Palace has achieved in this country, which produces a sizable chunk of the world's cocoa, is to provide a measure of respectability to a bunch of rebels that receive most of their arms from Gadaffi, think that Hizbollah will save the world, and make no secret of their admiration for bin Laden.

The French even invited the various rag-tag leaders to Paris to negotiate a peace of sorts. That accomplished, the fighting started again.

There are some curious parallels between what is taking place right now in the Ivory Coast and the demise of the old Yugoslavia. For starters, both nations began to unravel following the deaths of their strong-man founding fathers. In fact, once the staunchly Christian President Felix Houphouët-Boigny passed on nine years ago, the Ivory Coast went through a distinctly xenophobic period and it was mainly northern Muslims who were the victims.

Both countries also faced insurrection. It is no coincidence either, that the presence of foreign military mediators — France, in respect of the Ivory Coast and a UN "peacekeeping" force in the Balkans — are common denominators of sorts. Most relevant is the Christian/Islamic imbroglio that became

major issues in both countries and which, in the end, led to thousands of deaths, many of them innocents.

Part of the problem stems from a leading Islamic leader, Alassane Quattara, being barred from standing in the country's presidential election. That act triggered disturbances throughout the north and west and an invasion of rebels across the Ivoirean border from Libya and Burkina Faso.

Unable to resolve Ivoirean issues by peaceful means and faced with a civil war that was affecting all of its neighbors, Paris decided to lend a hand and mediate. It was the French who demanded that President Laurent Gbagbo appoint an Islamic leader, 69-year-old Seydou Elimane Diarra, to the position of Prime Minister. Further, Gbagbo now shares power with Diarra, something that would have been impossible had either Tito or Houphouët-Boigny been alive.

While most observers regard Diarra's appointment as interim, few are aware of the damage that has resulted. Diarra is a Muslim from the north and his choice is seen as evidence of appeasement to the rebels who have managed to seize much of the north in the four-month civil war. What is clear to anyone with even a nominal understanding of African politics is that the accord is mightily flawed. The concept of sharing power is about as alien to Africans as free and fair elections.

Several African states, among them Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Angola, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, Togo, both Congo Republics and many others besides — demonstrated long ago that to the African political psyche, any such solution is impractical. Simply put, it can only lead to more violence.

In the Ivory Coast, issues are further fudged by Libya and Burkina Faso providing dissidents in the Islamic north with financial and material aid, as well as the provision of secure bases for groups of anti-Abidjan revolutionaries from which to strike into the Ivoirean heartland.

Florida-based company providing worldwide air, ground and maritime services).

For its part, MPRI — run by a group of retired generals — handles anything from military training programs in countries facing war, to setting up a coast guard service in Equatorial Guinea. It has used a \$3.5m budget funded by USAID to “review the Nigerian military in order to formulate a plan for its professionalization and modernization.” As they say, nice work if you can get it.

MPRI clearly illustrated its capabilities when it took the bunch of ragtag and usually drunk militias that passed for a Croat army to islands off the Dalmatian coast and taught them from the basics up. Within a year, they were formed into disciplined units under a central command.

As Ian Bruce tells us in his insightful commentary *Guns for Hiring and Firing* “in 1995 these Croats launched Operation Lightning Storm, a counter-offensive which combined tanks, artillery and infantry in an unstoppable assault which drove the Bosnian Serb army out of the Krajina region.” Those efforts — coordinated by a dedicated bunch of American professionals — marked the beginning of the

end of Serb domination of the Balkans.

More Than One Master?

The downside is what one veteran termed “almost intimate relations” with the Pentagon. Among the majority of undeveloped nations, in an era of burgeoning “Washingtonphobia,” that kind of conjunction is likely to work against you. But the fact remains, politics aside, MPRI has acquired an enviable reputation as an organization that can deliver.

Mercenary-related work can take many forms. For instance, contracts worth more than \$170 million for training Saudi Arabia’s National Guard and Air Force went to the Vinnell Corporation and a sister company, partly owned by Washington’s Carlyle merchant banking group. It’s perhaps not altogether coincidental that the company’s chairman is former U.S. Secretary of Defense, Frank Carlucci.

Vinnell advisors subsequently provided “tactical support” and advice to the Saudi military where, in a spate of brief, bloody battles in 1979, the force retook the Al-Haram Grand

Continued on page 68

Conversely, the Ivory Coast has been receiving under-the-counter aid from several African and Western countries, among them South Africa, Angola and the United States. Washington in particular, has made it known that it opposes the establishment of another African dictatorship, whether ruled by Muslims or not.

Western observers in Abidjan have been appalled at France’s recent efforts at mediation. The magazine *l’Intelligent* describes the situation as an “absolute nightmare.” What this former colonial power does not understand, or possibly, might have forgotten, is that the word “appeasement” simply does not feature in the lexicon of African politics.

With almost no exceptions — as history has proved in recent years — political dominance in the majority of African states is absolute. This is underscored by the reality that it does not take the majority of African leaders long to assume single-party mantles. In most cases, any form of opposition to the thus ensconced government is viewed either as subversion or sedition. Case in point: As we go to press, the leader of the opposition in Zimbabwe is facing charges of treason in the country’s high court.

In those few African states where fully-fledged opposition parties are allowed representation, several are faced with either with low-level insurgencies or intrafactional religious rebellions: Nigeria has seen tens of thousands of deaths following hostilities between Christian and Muslim communities in recent years. The Ivory Coast is fated to follow a similar path.

The escalating military struggle in the Ivory Coast has been a long time coming and there is no doubt that the country’s Muslims do have a legitimate gripe. Following a meeting between President Gbagbo and Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso last December, it was disclosed that close to half a million Burkinabes — out of a total of two million living in the Ivory Coast — have been forced to flee. More than 40,000 crossed friendly borders since last 19 September, when the rebellion began.

Though the summit was moribund, both leaders agreed that the situation was all but out of control. Gbagbo qualified his stance by saying that his country was broke and unable to

support “millions of foreign workers in a depressed economy.” That followed Ouagadougou’s foreign minister, Yousouf Ouedraogo, declaring that the persecution of his people in the Ivory Coast, almost all of whom were Muslims, had to stop and was a precondition for any settlement.

Now there are fears that civil disturbances in the Ivory Coast could spread, if only because the insurrection follows similar civil wars in the nearby states of Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The prospect of such a debacle developing wasn’t lost on Ms. Carolyn McAskie, UN Secretary General’s Humanitarian Envoy for the crisis in the Cote d’Ivoire. It was her view that if differences between the parties were not solved, the situation could develop into a full-scale war. As the BBC pointed out shortly afterwards in a Q&A session late last January, such a war might ultimately lead to the collapse of the French-guaranteed CFA currency unit used by all Francophone states in the region.

She also raised the spectre of a domino effect ultimately affecting all of West Africa, Ghana especially, since it is the only Ivoirean neighbour not yet faced with civil unrest.

Though not everybody supports these views, it is no secret that many of the social and political components in Ghana are identical to those of the Ivory Coast. There are huge numbers of expatriates in both states (as well as a preponderance of Burkinabes), both economies are depressed and there is a broad, though ill-defined Christian/Muslim division between north and south in the old Gold Coast

And as we go to press, Ivoireans, thoroughly disenchanted with the “peace” brokered by France, are violently demonstrating in front of the French embassy in Abidjan. For their part, the French have flown in more French troops to protect/evacuate Europeans — and the Ivoirean government is flying in a fresh supply of mercs.

—A.J.V.

The X-Treme Duty Family

Springfield's New
X-Treme Duty Pistols
Combine Proven And
Innovative Features.



Having studied firearms for more than 50 years, I consider myself very fortunate to have had my hands on many fascinating guns. One of them is Springfield's X-treme Duty (XD) pistol.

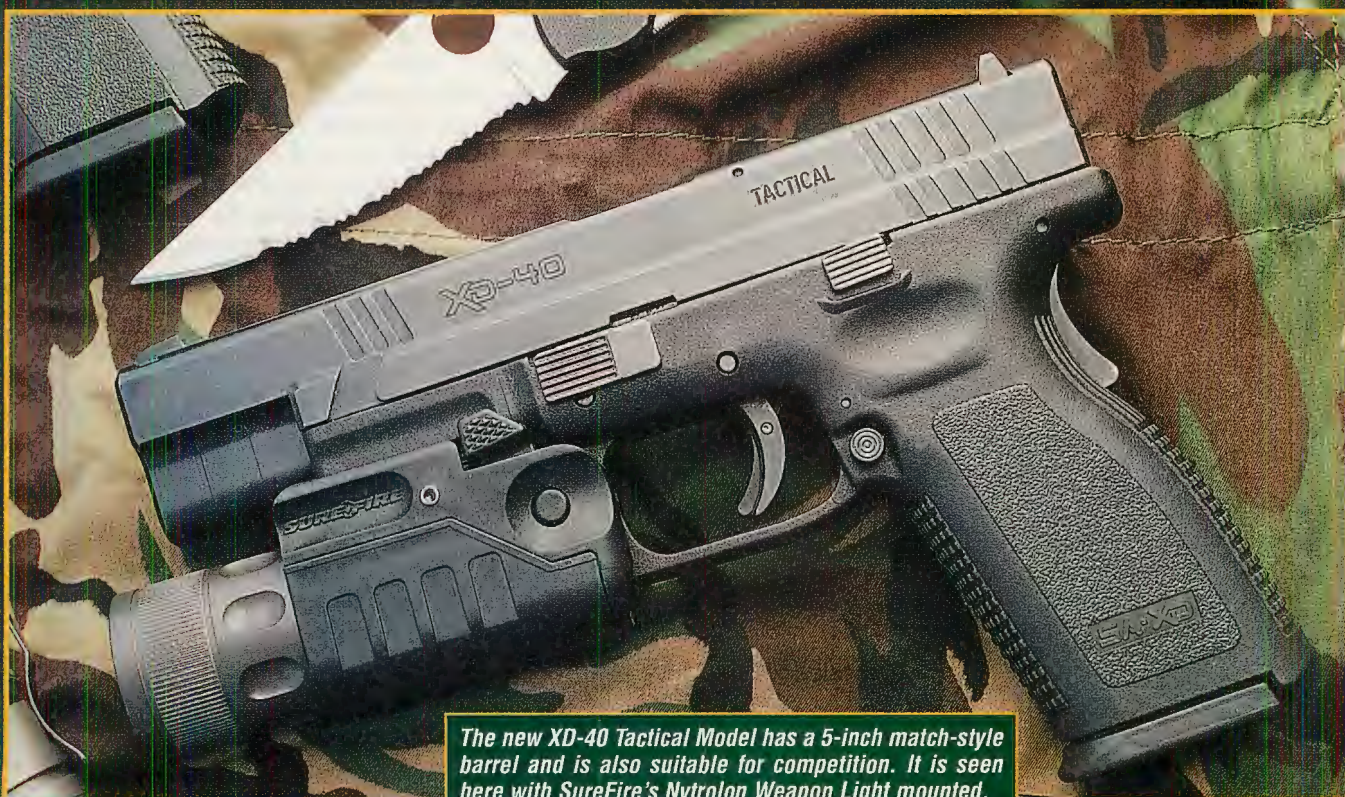
Incorporating a host of advanced design features, what is perhaps most surprising about the XD pistol is that it is designed and manufactured by IM

TEXT & PHOTOS BY
GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Metal, of Croatia, a country that ceased to exist after World War II until the crumbling of the Soviet Union and disintegration of the nation of Yugoslavia.

Although behind the iron curtain, Croatia not only survived, but main-

tained its own identity within Yugoslavia and kept up with the emerging technologies of the Western world quite well. With the breakup of Yugoslavia, Croatia stepped right into a free-market economy with a production capability that turned many heads. Croatian ability to produce many high-quality indigenous small arms during the painful split with



The new XD-40 Tactical Model has a 5-inch match-style barrel and is also suitable for competition. It is seen here with SureFire's Nytrolon Weapon Light mounted.

Serbia was a surprise to many.

The XD pistol now consists of an improved family of pistols based on the excellent HS2000 pistol that was first imported to the United States in 9x19mm caliber. The letters "HS" stood for *Hrvatski Samokres* that translates to "Croatian Pistol." In my opinion, it's one of the best new pistols to come along in some time.

Incorporating a number of proven features, the XD pistol amounts to a blending of some of the best pistol design ingredients in the world. Beginning with the slide, this part is totally computer numerically controlled (CNC) machined from high-grade steel. During heat-treating it is *Bruniral* coated for a matte black life-time of hard use and rust protection.

Housed into individual dovetails in the slide are the XD's front and rear sights. Made of steel, these sights use the three-white-dot system and should last the life of the user if not the gun. At the rear of the slide are cocking serrations that are just wide enough and deep enough for proper purchase. Unlike its HS2000 9mm predecessor, the XD also has three such grooves at the front of the slide in order to complete a proper pressure check to verify that the pistol is loaded. Near the left front of the slide is a vertically angled cutout that at first glance is puzzling: This notch allows the takedown lever to swing upward, but more on this later.

On top of the slide at the rear of the ejection port is a pivoting lever that serves as a loaded-chamber indicator. Although this has been referred to elsewhere as the extractor, it has nothing to do with the extractor that is located inside, on the right side of the slide. Easily verified by feel, the loaded-chamber indicator can also be viewed (if there is light) to let the operator know there is a cartridge in the chamber. In the rear of the slide is a cocking indicator that protrudes so it may be checked in the same way. If the user is in doubt, it takes only a second to verify that both these parts are protruding and that the pistol is ready.

Mated with the slide is a conventional barrel similar to that pioneered by SIG and also used by Glock, S&W, FN and many others. While this barrel locks against the front of the ejection port and looks like most improved Browning short recoil barrels, it is enlarged at the muzzle, like barrels used on match pistols. Consisting of dual captive springs, the recoil spring



The XD pistol is available within Springfield's V-10 configuration, with 10 ports in its barrel, and slide cuts for the exhaust gasses. Note the loaded chamber indicator at the rear of the barrel.

system of the standard XD pistol telescopes to save space.

At the front end of the recoil spring system is a fixed standoff device that creates a result similar to a full-length guide rod. Where the slides of most other pistols can be pushed back, causing the mechanism to disconnect, the XD's stand-off device prevents this in case the gun must be used in a life or death contact situation.

Made of the most modern polymer, the XD's matte-black frame has a number of advanced features.

With a very robust dust cover portion, the frame houses the metal plate bearing the pistol's serial number. It also leads to the wide, generous trigger guard that features a grooved, extended portion for the supporting index finder there, but there's more. Unlike the early HS2000, the XD's dust-cover portion incorporates a Weaver-style rail. Insite Technology and SureFire both produce tactical lights for use on this rail. At its rear, the XD's trigger guard features a custom-style undercut, to allow the gun to sit slightly lower in the hand. On the frontstrap is crosshatch checkering to adjust to about every hand.

The XD-9 Sub-Compact features the same controls as its larger siblings.



Pointability

Finished in matte, the sides of the XD's grip panel will not cause excessive wear on clothing, but up the back is the same coarser crosshatch checkering found on the frontstrap. Designed to be as ergonomic as possible, this grip shape is very comfortable and is also angled so the XD points naturally with its sights lined up each time. To test the XD's pointability, hold it at low ready, look at your target, close your eyes and bring the pistol up. Unlike some other autopistols, the XD's sights will be right on target for most shooters.

In the XD's tang is a grip safety. Not only is this a true safety, but if not fully depressed, it also prevents the slide from being fully retracted. If you've ever had the slide of your pistol retract when it was pushed into your holster, you get the picture. This is easily avoided with the XD40 by not depressing the grip-safety when re-holstering.

Made of robust nickel-plated steel, the XD's magazine not only has great lubricity and rust protection, but it also falls free every time the ambidextrous magazine release is depressed. That's right, this magazine release can be depressed inward from either side to drop the magazine for instant reloading. What's more, 50% of the release travel is protected from accidental depression by the frame.

Reminiscent of the thumb rests on the frame of the Glock, those on the XD are unobtrusive. Also similar to the Glock is the XD's slide stop that is protected by raised portions of the frame. However, different from any other pistol that comes to mind is the XD's takedown lever. Positioned on

the left side of the frame like that of the SIG and Beretta pistols, the takedown lever of the XD differs in that it is rotated *clockwise* to the *up* position rather than down. This is the reason for the clearance cut seen on the left front side of the slide. This vital feature is explained below in the takedown procedure.

Unique Trigger

Looking something like the trigger on the Glock, the XD's trigger also has a locking device. When pressing the trigger, the trigger lock is automatically and unconsciously first depressed as part of the firing cycle. Although the XD's trigger feels like one of the best double action triggers I've ever used on an autopistol, any aspect of a mechanical double action operation is more academic.

When the XD is aimed and the trigger is pressed, the



The key to its extra margin of safety is the XD's takedown lever. The pistol's slide must be locked to the rear before it can be disassembled, guaranteeing that a chambered round will be ejected.



Safariland's Model 6400 holster for the XD pistol proved excellent.

result is a significant amount of spring-loaded take-up before the firing pin safety is depressed and then the sear. This feels exactly like a true double action, and there is actually a small amount of DA movement in the striker, but it is not pre-set as in the Glock. I prefer to describe the XD's trigger as a long-stroke, two-stage trigger.

As with any double-action handgun, the XD's action amounts to yet another safety feature. Under high stress situations, if one has the finger on the trigger, he or she must first pull it back until it engages the sear. The DA-style take-up provides an extra margin of safety in the form of a reminder when the final resistance is encountered, and gives the operator an opportunity to let off the trigger if a split second decision is made not to fire. As a police officer, this has happened to me several times.

The XD also has an out-of-battery safety. The disconnect is closely timed to prevent the gun from firing if the barrel is only slightly unlocked due to the slide not being fully forward. The locking block of the XD houses the main frame-rails. Machined from solid steel stock, the heat-treated locking block also houses the lower portion

of the feed ramp. Together with the forward rails that prevent debris from entering the mechanism, the rear rails are part of the polymer frame.

Disassembly

Fieldstripping the XD requires that the magazine first be removed. It is also vital that the chamber verified as EMPTY. However, here's where the vertical takedown lever comes into play. In order to rotate this lever up, the slide must be locked to the rear. If, after removing the magazine, one forgets to check the chamber, when the slide is retracted to lock it back any round present will be ejected. There's the backup safety system — the slide must be locked back to rotate the takedown lever. With the slide locked back, rotate the takedown lever 90 degrees clockwise to its vertical position. Then, while holding onto the slide, depress the slide release and allow the slide to slowly go forward until it stops. Now, pull the trigger and release, and pull the slide group off the front of the frame.

However, the only viable safety on any firearm is the one between the ears. If a user allows the slide to go forward and has forgotten to remove the loaded magazine the slide will feed a round into the chamber, and if the trigger is then pulled, even with the takedown lever up, the pistol will fire. Stupid is as stupid does!

With the slide group removed, the recoil-spring group and barrel can easily be removed for cleaning. No further disassembly is recommended or necessary, and reassembly is in reverse order.

Although I found it fairly easy to remove all the components of the slide, except for the extractor, do not try this at home. The striker spring and its associated parts are under tension and could cause eye injury if let go during both disassembly and reassembly.

Poly Dunk-Kit

Incidentally, before you put your XD back together you may want to give its polymer frame a good cleaning with the brand-new Poly Dunk-Kit from Cylinder & Slide. Especially formulated for polymer frames, this solution cleans them thoroughly yet gently, and will not damage polymer frame of any gun.

Lights

For our tests, we obtained the M3 Tactical Light and M6 Light/Laser Sight from Insite Technology and a Nytrolon Tactical Weapon Light from SureFire. Powered by common lithium batteries, these lights mount instantly and are removed almost as quickly. The power switch of the M3 and M6 can be used intermittently with the support finger, or locked in a constant "on" mode. The SureFire has an "on/off" switch only, but provides 60 lumens of blinding light. All three lights worked well on the XD pistols.

An XD For Everyone

In addition to the initial XD 9mm and .40 S&W caliber pistols,

Springfield X-Treme Duty Series

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.40 S&W, 9x19m and .357 SIG
Velocity:	1,100 fps
Operation:	Short-recoil
Type of Fire:	Single-action, semi-automatic
Barrel Length:	4.08 in.
Overall Length:	7.2 in.
Weight:	32 oz.
Feed Device:	10-shot box magazine (12-shot and 15-shot for law Enforcement)
Safeties:	Trigger, grip, firing pin, and out-of-battery safeties
Sights:	(front) Steel combat blade with white dot or tritium insert (rear): Steel combat "U"-notch with two white dots or tritium inserts
Finish:	Matte black Brunirial and matte black polymer frame
Price:	\$489.00 (suggested retail)

Springfield now offers the pistol in .357 SIG, as well as in several variations. One of these is a "V-10" version with a ported barrel and slide cuts above them to vent exhaust gasses. Another is the XD Tactical, a 5-in. barrel long-slide version suitable for both duty and combat competition. The XD can even be had with XS Express Sights, but that's not all.

Now there is a new, short variation of the 9mm XD called the XD-9 Subcompact (X-treme Duty Sub Compact). With a barrel just 3 inches long, the subcompact version is only 6-1/8 inches in overall length. What's more, unlike any other pistol of its size, the XD-9 SC also comes with its own short integral light-rail. In co-operation with Springfield, Insite Technology has developed a version of its M3 light especially for the XD-9 SC. Called the XML, this light barely protrudes from the front of the slide.

Recently, I tested five samples of XD pistols including the new XD-9 Subcompact model. Others included a ported XD9, XD40s with both standard and XS Express Sights, and the new long-slide XD40 Tactical. As with earlier samples I've tested, all exhibited excellent quality throughout.

Leather

With a common problem for any new pistol being the availability of holsters, several holster manufacturers already make holsters for the XD40, including High Noon, Michaels of Oregon and Safariland. For our tests, we obtained samples of both Safariland's duty and tactical holsters designed around its new Levitation System. The tactical rig was made to accept the Insite Technology light.

Continued on page 79

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SPYDERCO'S WTC RESCUE KNIFE

A Special Knife In Honor Of Special Americans

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

ON 11 September 2001, I was getting ready to head home from a law-enforcement training conference in Ft. Worth, Texas, sponsored by XS Sights. It was my birthday, and while it was no big deal, it had always been my day, the same as your birthday has probably always been your day.

After I'd put on the motel coffeepot and showered, I turned on the TV to see one of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers on fire. The news channel reported that a "small" plane had hit the building just a few minutes earlier. Then they showed a close-up of the impact: There was no doubt in my mind that it was a full-size jetliner. I could clearly see the imprint of the long wingspan, two engines, and the fuselage, and I knew it was no accident. I also knew they would never be able to put out the fire.

Then, as I was calling a friend in New York City, I watched the second plane hit the other tower and there was no doubt in my mind that we were at war. As the stupid news people speculated whether or not it could be a double accident, I turned off my TV and

hurried down to the lobby where I knew all the other guys in the class would be grabbing something to eat and watching the big screen TV there.

I sat down with Gary Jackson, retired U.S. Navy SEAL and Operations Manager of Blackwater Training Center, in North Carolina. I said, "Well, that's two," and he answered, "Yeah, and I'm waiting for three and four." It didn't take long.

As we all sat and watched in horror and rage as Americans were jumping to their deaths, I commented that the buildings could never withstand the heat from the fire. Then, even



The Spyderco WTC Rescue Knife comes in a deluxe wooden box with the same New York City skyline laser-engraved into the lid.

though it was hard to believe the surrealistic image of the first tower as it came down, I clenched my jaw realizing that thousands of innocent people were taking their last breaths.

Sick cannot describe the feeling we had as we waited for the second tower (the first one hit) to come down. It came all too soon, but this time, we could see the entire collapse. It is an indelible impression from which I will never recover. The terrorists took my day and made 9-11 every American's day to remember.

In the attack on New York's World Trade Center, two thousand, eight-hundred and nineteen innocent — yes, totally innocent — people were murdered in this atrocity committed by Islamic terrorists. All of them were victims, but some of them were also heroes. We will never know them all, but we are fortunate to know a few who were employed at the WTC, from accounts of those they helped save at the cost of their own lives. We also know all the emergency-service Americans who, in the end, sacrificed their lives to get everyone they could out of the doomed buildings.

Just after the atrocity, Spyderco Knife Company learned that the WTC cleanup crew was having difficulty cutting certain materials, such as fiberglass. Since its knives were especially designed to cut through a variety of materials, Spyderco donated 300 of its Rescue Knives to the cleanup crew. Each was engraved with "In Memory of America's Finest, 9-11-01."

Spyderco also learned something else. A respected and loved NYPD Officer who died in Tower #1 was also a Spyderco collector and aficionado. His name was John D'Allara. A former teacher, D'Allara was a 14-year veteran of the NYPD who lived with his wife, Carol, and sons Johnny, 7, and Nicholas, 3. He intended to go back to teaching after he retired.

Spyderco's Sal Glessner got an even better idea, something that would generate funds to assist the 403 families of the men and women who ran into the buildings while all others were running out. The WTC Rescue Knife was born.

The Steel

The knife would incorporate actual steel from World Trade Center Tower #1 where Officer D'Allara lost his life. With a great deal of help and support, a piece of a steel girder was obtained from Tower #1 (steel removal was videotaped by the NYPD crew to verify authenticity), and was shipped directly to Spyderco. Much consideration was given to the many possibilities on how to use the steel in the knife. The decision was made not to melt the steel, but to create a shape from the raw metal in a way that needed no explanation that it represented the WTC. Ultimately, it was decided to create the New York skyline, as it was before 9-11, silhouetted before the sun, with no words necessary.

Because the steel was twisted and deformed, the task of transforming it into delicate, accurate skylines was challenging, to say the least. The handling and preparation of the steel, annealing, surfacing, cutting and EDM shaping of it into skylines was time consuming and expensive. Each piece was then hand sanded and individually coated to prevent

rust. Much of the work was done free of charge to assist in the project. The result is unique and memorable.

The Knife

To frame the skyline, a new knife design was created, and a special mold was made to securely nest the piece in the handle. The blade is a 3.5-inch serrated sheepfoot (Rescue) made from Crucible's new CPM-S30V (particle metallurgy stainless super steel). Of the family that Spyderco calls the MeerKat, the knife has a spider-web gripping surface on its well-proportioned handle, and a skeletonized belt clip on the opposite side. This knife was also chosen to introduce Spyderco's new unique ball bearing lock. Other than the FRN handle scales, the entire knife was made in Spyderco's Golden, Colorado facility.

To honor the 2,819 souls lost in New York that day, Spyderco is producing this number of sequentially numbered pieces. There will be seven additional "thank you" WTC Rescue Knives made for special people who contributed their time to the project. Following the total of 2,826 pieces, the mold will be reworked to insure that no more will ever be

made. Each knife comes in a custom, presentation wooden box with the same New York skyline laser-engraved on the lid and a signed letter of authenticity from Spyderco.

The price of the WTC Rescue Knife is \$225, with 100 percent of the profit donated directly from Spyderco to the New York Police and Fire Widows and Children Benefit Fund in memory of the firefighters, law-enforcement professionals and medical personnel lost on that terrible day.

John D'Allara Rescue Knife

In the wake of the WTC Rescue Knife, Spyderco will replace the New York skyline with the Spyderco bug logo, and the knife will become the John D'Allara Rescue Knife. Otherwise identical to the WTC Rescue, this knife will continue in the Spyderco Saving And Serving (SAS) model lineup, in Officer D'Allara's memory. There is no greater honor than to sacrifice one's own life while saving that of another.

Mercy Band

While awaiting delivery of my WTC Rescue Knife, I learned of another product that goes hand-in-hand with the WTC and John D'Allara Rescue Knives. Called the Mercy Band, it is reminiscent of the POW/MIA bracelets that bore the names of those missing in action during the Vietnam War. Made of a 6-inch strip of sterling silver, the Mercy Band can be had with the name of any victim murdered during any of the 9-11 attacks. Under the name can be chosen the appropriate title to include WTC, FDNY, NYPD, Pentagon, Flight 93, Flight 11, Flight 175, or any other. Available from UNL Designs, the Mercy Band retails for \$29.95.

For information, contact Spyderco, Inc., Dept. SOF, 20011 Golden Gate Canyon Rd., Golden, CO 80403; phone: 800-525-7770 (spyderco.com); and UNL Designs, Dept. SOF, 1605 Torribio N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112; phone: 505-296-0792 (unldesigns.com). ✕



Spyderco's WTC Rescue Knife has an inlay of the New York City skyline before the atrocity of 9-11. It is made of steel from World Trade Center Tower #1, where New York City Police Officer John D'Allara was murdered. Sterling silver Mercy Bands are now available with the name of any victim of the 9-11 attacks.

Resurgent Dogs Of War

Continued from page 61

Mosque in Mecca after Shi'ite zealots occupied it by force.

Although the operation was a bloody shambles and many innocents were killed in the crossfire, had the fundamentalists not been checked, they might have threatened Saudi's ruling Wahhabi-orientated dynasty. It is also worth nothing that at least two Vinnell-trained Saudi armored brigades fought in the Gulf War and it seems they put up a good show.

Then there is Levdan, one of a variety of low-profile Israeli firms that for many years have peddled military assistance. Not long ago the company completed a three-year mission in the Congo (Brazzaville) where about 200 Israelis trained the armed forces and the elite guard protecting President Pascal Lissouba. This Congo Government — not to be confused with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) across the river — afterwards agreed to buy more than \$10 million worth of Israeli weapons and military equipment (but fat lot of good it did: Lissouba was soon afterwards deposed in a putsch that was supported by the Angolan military).

Another company, formerly British and now American (acquired by the New York Stock Exchange-listed L3 Communications), is Defense Systems Limited (DSL), founded by former Guards and SAS officer Alistair Morrison in 1982/3. In its day, DSL provided a variety of services including mine clearing, training of military personnel and provision of security in Algerian oil fields, Colombia and many other countries, as well as administrative support for UN operations.

There are dozens of such firms offering military help in one form or another, though it's a struggling market with fluctuating supply and demand. Executive Outcomes, certainly the most successful when it came to raw combat, fought in several countries and was negotiating a contract to go into Mexico to deal with the Chiapas rebellion when South Africa banned foreign military involvement by its nationals. Within a year of the legislation being passed by Cape Town's Parliament, Executive Outcomes was history, though many of its more experienced hands went on to fight freelance in Angola and the Congo. Some of them are still there.

Looking at the broader, international perspective, it is Africa that could most urgently use help from the "hired gun" community. The trouble is that the countries that need it most are usually broke. In the case of Sierra Leone, for instance, Neall Ellis has been battling for more than two years to get the money he is owed — in excess of \$2 million.



Preparing a pair of BMP-2s for action in a West-African merc operation. Like the ubiquitous AK, these infantry fighting vehicles are regarded as among the most reliable of former Soviet military hardware.



Ethnic elements such as the Hunter Detachment in Sierra Leone were a vital adjunct to any kind of merc operation: These were bush people and their anti-rebel sentiments and "jungle intelligence" were always valuable.

ICI, the American helicopter communications company that likes to use Mi-8s for its tasks, pulled their choppers back to Guinea while I was in Sierra Leone.

It was the same old story of conflicting interests. Though the U.S. Government pays ICI for its services, its associate company, PAE — towards the end of the war — was not successful in obtaining contracts with the UN even though these were desperately needed at the time. It took a couple of years almost, but Nellis told me that they were back with two of their trusted Mi-8s — and getting their monthly bills and salaries paid by Washington. Last heard, they had allocated about 20 hours a week to the Sierra Leone Army and also flew free hours for some NGOs such as Geneva's International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The only company, so far, to have come directly to grips with the kind of savagery espoused by the rebels of Foday Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front is Executive Outcomes, with whom Sandline's executives maintained close ties over several years.

As Michael Grunberg says, over a 21-month period, an average of about 150 EO soldiers, supported by a solitary gunship (and then only for part of the time) together with two transport helicopters did their thing in Sierra Leone and turned the war around. He should know. Operating from his home in the Channel islands, Grunberg helped put Executive Outcomes on the map and is regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on the subject of PMCs. As he says, apart from retraining elements of the Sierra Leone Army, they drove the rebels back from the edge of Freetown and systematically destroyed their fighting capability in the bush. The cost was a modest \$20 million a year, including the provision of all the necessary equipment.

Bottom Line: Mercs Get Job Done

The result of EO's intervention was the signing, in November 1996, of a set of peace accords between the rebels and the government. Part of the deal, ultimately, was that EO's service should be terminated. And when that happened, the rebels abrogated the peace accord and sent their people back into the bush. Within a hundred days of EO's departure, the rebels were easily able to orchestrate another coup.

Enter Nigeria and the intervention of a 10,000-strong regional military force named ECOMOG, again advised and

assisted by Sandline. With the British company gone, the UN stepped in and deployed a mammoth force totaling 13,000, sometimes more. It also had a billion-dollar-a-year budget and more freeloaders than any other comparably-sized force in the history of modern warfare.

The situation would be a joke were it not so serious.

Then *Time* magazine ran a major feature on EO in May 1997, where it described the company as one of the world's leading purveyors of private military muscle. In an article titled "Soldiers for Sale," by Adam Zagorin, it declared that "the Cold War is over, but with demand for military muscle stronger than ever around the world, hired guns are going corporate."

Peculiarly for a magazine that usually takes an exemplary politically correct line, it even had kind words for chief executive Eeben Barlow, who was "fast becoming the soldier-of-fortune set's answer to GE's Jack Welch." It described Barlow as a slim, fair-haired, forty-year-old "military marketer extraordinary."

The magazine went on: "He puts a cheery face on one of the world's oldest professions, mercenaries or 'military consultants' as most prefer to be known." *Time* did highlight Barlow's earlier work as a one-time intelligence agent for a South African military unit that, it said, carried out assassinations, adding that now "he prefers gray flannels to fatigues."

Certainly, EO was high-profile in those days. "At an arms show in Abu Dhabi in 1997, the Executive Outcomes booth quietly competed for business with mercenaries from Britain, France and the U.S.," *Time* reported.

It's not only the indigent lands that are affected. At the height of the revolution that eventually toppled him, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, as we have seen,

proved time and again that the very rich, while blessed with deep pockets, sometimes have extraordinarily short arms. Consequently when things got really bad, many PMCs refused to answer his call. There were even units of his national army defecting because many of the soldiers hadn't been paid, some for up to a year.

This must be an achievement, surely, that qualifies for a Darwin Award. When this ailing tyrant finally died, he was rated among the richest men on earth.

Even Sandline and EO turned down the opportunity to go in and help, mainly because of Mobutu's lack of international recognition and acceptance. It is also a truism that like the Congo (then Zaire), the countries that have employed PMCs for combat support have tended to turn to them for help only when, as Grunberg suggested, "the barbarians are at the gate."

Even today, after the assassination of Mobutu's successor — the equally ruthless tyrant Kabila — nobody is quite sure how much of the national treasury Mobutu managed to salt away into Swiss, Caribbean, Channel Islands, Monegasque and other banks over the past quarter-century. In truth, all he had to do to keep his troops happy was give them enough money to buy beer, feed their families and educate their children, in about that order of priority. Without fuss, he could then quietly have struck a deal with Executive Outcomes the moment Kabila and his Tutsi henchmen appeared on the horizon and then he or his sons might have brutalized the country for another generation.

Legitimizing Modern Mercs

In an article in London's *Sunday Telegraph* in November 1998, defense correspondent Andrew Gilligan provided his readers with an insight into Colonel Tim Spicer's idea of a



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This former Scots Guard officer began by calling for an office of mercenary regulation which, he said, would vet personnel, approve operations and even send observer teams in to act as "referees." They would also "blow the whistle" on controversial operations, which — on the face of it — might appear to be reverting to the UN concept of how never to combat a brush-fire war. What the international community didn't need, he averred, were out-of-control, gun-slinging undesirables.

Objectively, said Spicer, "there is absolutely nothing wrong with providing military services to people who don't have them. It is done in exactly the same way that you get bankers, doctors and construction workers in Third World countries ... we are not a sort of moral crusading white legion that goes about the world knocking off the bad guys." As a commercial organization, Sandline aspirations were tempered by "trying to do it for the right people, and not somebody who comes along with a fat check," he added.

The corporate overview of Sandline activities details the mission as three-fold: working only for recognized governments, international institutions such as the UN and genuine, internationally recognized and supported liberation movements, though the last option does open a frightful can of worms. As we have seen, Chechnya — like Afghanistan before it — remains a horrific prospect to the majority of Russian mothers with sons in uniform.

Its policies, says Sandline, must be legal as well as moral and should be conducted to the standards of First World military forces. Further, they should be in accord with those of key Western governments and undertaken exclusively within the national boundaries of the nation involved. In other words, cross-border raids and follow-up operations are not an option.

Also banned, obviously, are dealings with terrorist organizations, drug cartels and organized crime, illegal arms trading and nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) proliferation. Sandline suggests that the company adopt a self-regulatory approach to the conduct of its activities.

Were a regular government to approach Sandline about a crisis that offered an immediate threat, how long before the company could muster, equip and deploy a force? On that point, Grunberg said, there were several imponderables, including the size of deployment, distance from muster and supply sources, the geographical extent and size of the threat (in terms of numbers involved), cost effectiveness and so on. For instance, were it on the scale of what was taking place in Sierra Leone today, he reckoned that he could have something effective up and running "within weeks."

"Sandline has on its books the names, addresses and qualifications of over three thousand professional soldiers. All of them approached the company for jobs, the majority through the company's website.

"These are all military people with years of qualitative experience. Quite a number have seen combat. Out of that lot (and with the many connections that the company has accumulated over the years) it would not be difficult to put together a cohesive team of several hundred good men who would end Sierra Leone's civil war within months rather than years," Grunberg noted.

Executive Outcomes, he reminded us, had already done it, twice — once in Sierra Leone, and again in Angola.

"So can we," he suggested.

Al J. Venter has been the SOF contributing editor for Africa for more than two decades. ✕

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On The Brink Of War

Continued from page 45

into position. This deployment, while slowed by indecision in the Pentagon on which units to deploy and when, was accomplished in half the time. By the end of February, the Air Force, Navy and Marines were set to launch an attack, while Army units continued to flow into the Gulf on Iraq's south and into Turkey on its north. "We are ready now," General Michael Hagee, Marine Corps Commandant, told reporters in Kuwait in early February. Kuwait itself, which was invaded by Saddam's Republican Guard in 1990, touching off Desert Storm, showed the most conspicuous signs of the new war. While Bahrain (headquarters for the Navy's 5th Fleet), the United Arab Emirates, Qatar (headquarters for Gen. Tommy Franks) and Oman also housed troops, Kuwait was the launching point. North of Kuwait, moving toward Iraq, the landscape became a giant Army fort, with tents, portable toilets and showers, armored vehicles and Hummer convoys in every direction. Patriot missile batteries stood sentry in anticipation that Saddam might launch a pre-

emptive missile strike. Huge shipping containers, each holding three tons of equipment, waited to be unloaded.

The military set up tent cities called Camp New York, Camp Virginia and Camp Pennsylvania in honor of those killed and wounded by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorists in the 11 September attacks.

Staging In Kuwait

The main base is Camp Doha, outside Kuwait City, where Army ground commanders will direct the attack from a new command center that is linked to the master headquarters in Qatar and to Gen. Franks. While some soldier logisticians busied themselves unloading containers and moving tanks from port to the field, combatants went daily into the Kuwait desert, near the Iraq border, as both a show of force to Saddam and a tune-up for the upcoming land battle. Shaving each morning was mandatory to make sure protective gas masks fit snugly.

Kuwait, whose existence is owed to the Allied men and women who liberated the country in the winter of '91, has given British and American commanders cart blanche to move troops where needed. The war plan called for moving the

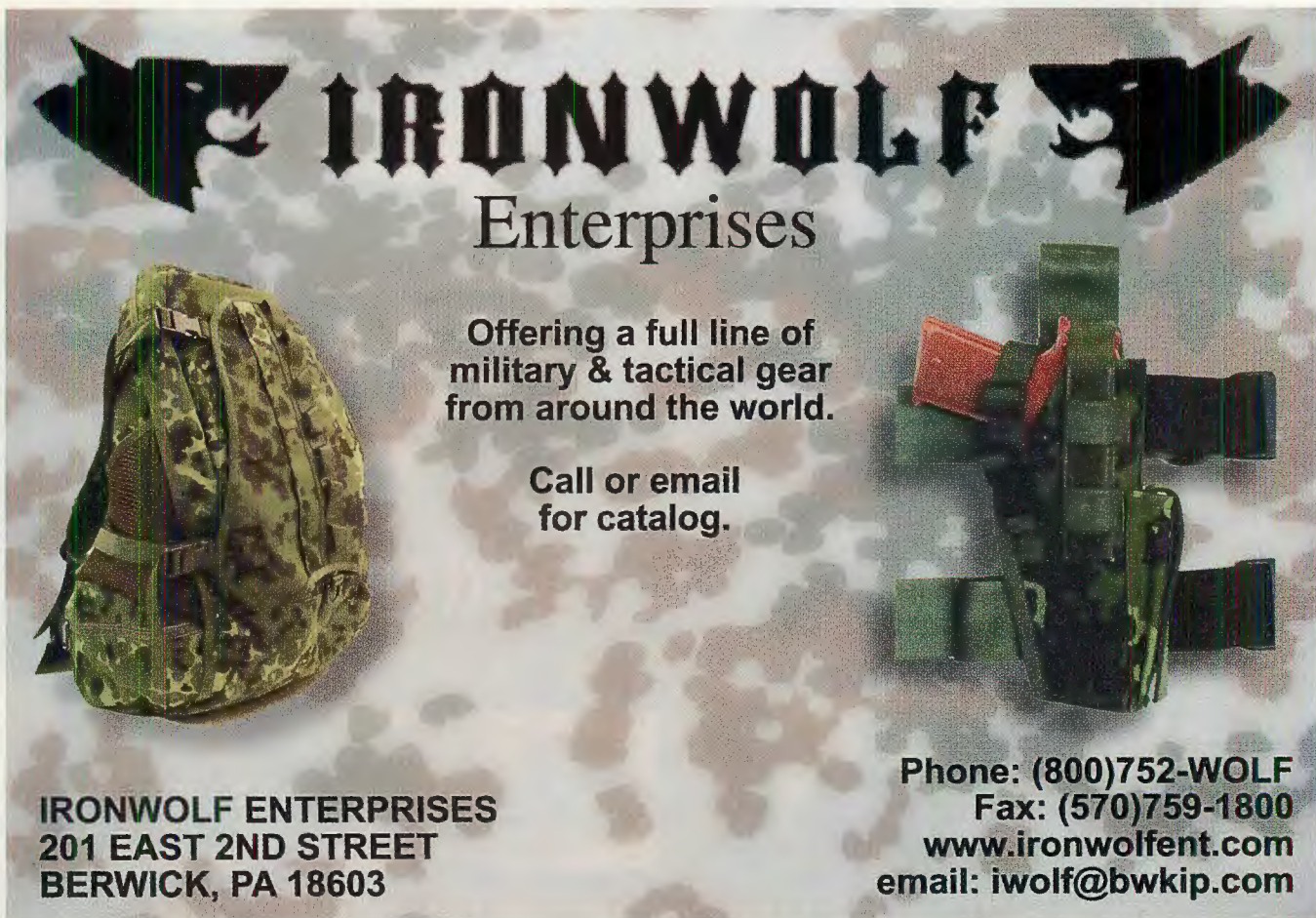
mechanized 3rd Infantry Division, and Marines, into Iraq from Kuwait, while the 4th Infantry advanced from Turkey to put Baghdad in a north-south noose.

One big plus for America and her allies helped them in the Iraq current crisis: Iraq's military stood at 30% of its capability of 1991. And its air defenses, in the opinion of military analysts, were a mere shadow of their lethality in Desert Storm. The pounding it took in 1991, and the scarcity of spare parts during a decade of economic sanctions, reduced a once overlapping, integrated system into a hit-and-miss operation. Said Richard Hallion, author of *Storm Over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War*: "I'd say we destroyed the vast majority of their integrated air defense system."

Before Desert Storm, some Air Force officers estimated the allies might lose as many as 150 aircraft. As it turned out, the suppression of enemy air defenses proved so effective the coalition only lost 38 planes to hostile fire.

Safety From Sanctions?

Warden said the allies this time may lose 10 planes or fewer. "To find a better, denser air defense system in 1991 you had to get up around Moscow," he said. "It was very good. A tremendous amount



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of redundancy. The French built the air-defense control system for the Iraqis and it had significantly more capability than what I had as a wing commander in Europe a few years previously. It was a very impressive system." Today, he says, "Everything I can gather says that the Iraq air defense is a very small shadow of what it was 12 years ago. There is simply not much left there."

Said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom McNerney, "I'm not worried about their SAMs [surface-to-air missiles] because our SEAD [suppression of enemy air defense] is going to take



UNSCOM/CNP/Archive Photos

What force multipliers does Saddam have in his arsenal? Only the terror weapons of mass destruction abandoned by civilized nations: poison gas and biological agents. Although Saddam has not chosen to show them to UN weapons inspectors, they are poised for use when it best suits his purpose.

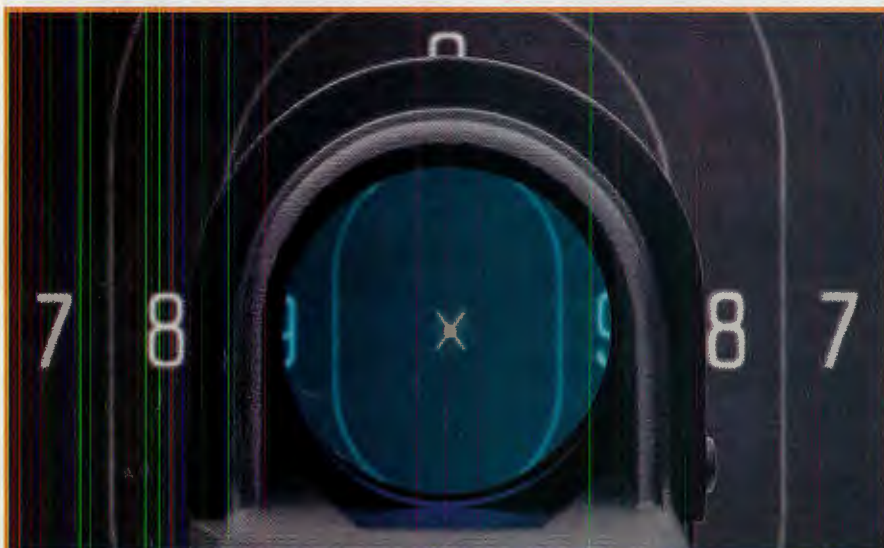
care of the SAMs. I think our SEAD will be overwhelming ... The advantage we have is we fly in the no-fly zone every day."

One potential problem was the state of the Air Force's premiere command post, the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. The highly computerized, wide-bandwidth facility is able to process massive amounts of target information and control hundreds of aircraft. But according to an internal Air Force report obtained by *The Washington Times*, the center this summer was not ready to run a major theater war, such as an invasion of Iraq. An Air Force spokesman said Gen. John Jumper, the service's chief of staff, was addressing the problems.

Streamlining Control

There is significant confusion about roles, responsibilities and chain of command throughout key areas within the [CAOC]," said the report by a team of officers. "It is difficult for operators to know who to take direction from and who they talk to, to get things done." The report added, "The organization is not currently poised to smoothly transition to a MTW."

The 100-plus-page document also said the center was at times overwhelmed, as it runs air operations in the southern no-fly zone over Iraq and in Afghanistan. "The differing dynamics of these operations have led to a somewhat ad hoc organization optimized for none, and not well-suited to expand to an MTW-size conflict," the



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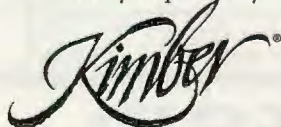
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report says. Various staffs "are all mixed into one operation, creating unclear lines of command authority and supervisory responsibilities."

Exit Strategy: Clean-Up, Build-Up, Go Home

While the military buildup proceeded this winter, back at the Pentagon a new organization, the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance was writing a plan for post-war Iraq. The broad outline called for a two-year transition to a new free and democratic Iraq ruled not just by Saddam's Sunni Muslims, but also by Kurds and Shi'ites as well.

First, Gen. Franks would rule the country for a number of months, advised by a diverse Iraqi council. Some American units would focus on rebuilding, feeding and administering medically, while other units destroyed Iraq's components for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. General Franks would purge Baghdad of Saddam's Ba'ath Party henchmen. Ministry, by ministry, the four-star general planned to turn the administration of Iraq back to Iraqis. "It's important to stress that the United States would have a commitment to leave as soon as possible for Iraq belongs to the Iraqi people," said Douglas Feith, under secretary of defenses for policy. "Iraq does not and will not belong to the United States, the coalition or to anyone else."

Said Secretary of State Colin Powell, "The plans that we are looking at for the future would include using the institutions that are there but purged of Saddam Hussein's cohorts, and build on what's there and put in place a new government and get out as fast as we can."

At some point, with a new Iraqi legal code in place based on Arab tradition, Iraq would conduct elections leading to a new president and legislative body. "It has an educated population," Powell said of Iraq. "They are traders. They are entrepreneurs. They are bureaucrats. And I think all of that gives us a base to build on, unlike some of the other places we've dealt with over the years, such as Afghanistan, where truly there was total deconstruction of the society and of the infrastructure that we are now rebuilding ... The goal would be to get them on a path so that increasingly more and more was handled and managed by the Iraqi people themselves, and that less and less was managed by the international community."

Rowan Scarborough writes for The Washington Times. ☒

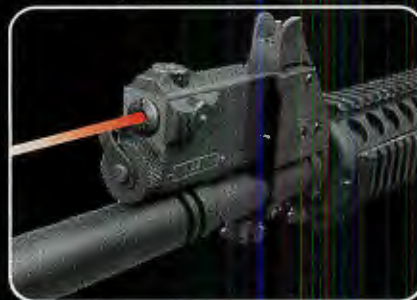
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Task Force Dagger

Continued from page 51

Mulholland formed and deployed Task Force Dagger to unleash hell on the Taliban and al-Qaeda — just five short weeks after 9/11.

To his credit, Robin Moore steers clear of policy-analyzing debates and, instead, gets down to the conduct of this shadowy form of war. Who authorized the link-up between the Green Berets and Northern Alliance, and how was the conventional Army made to agree to this union?

I am not sure if anyone outside of the Special Operations (SpecOps) and intelligence communities has ever heard of Task Force Dagger.

The Hunt ... transports you inside the beating heart of America's War On Terror, then spirals you down a main artery onto the front lines with a Special Forces detachment cutting-down al-Qaeda terrorists.

Query the average American (which I have many times) on how many

No more than 200 Americans would face the thousands of Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters ...

American soldiers fought the war in Afghanistan, and they will inevitably say somewhere between 5,000 and 40,000. They are usually shocked to hear the truth.

The first days of the war were incredibly swift and dynamic, with Kabul falling only months after the first Special Forces troops hit the ground.

It is these first 90 days in which 70 percent of Moore's *The Hunt ...* takes place.

According to the informed account therein, following the 9/11 attack Task Force Dagger was almost immediately formed by the Special Operations Command and other entities at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and elsewhere.

Now the shocker: No more than 200 Americans would face the thousands of Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters who controlled most of Afghanistan as their base for worldwide terror operations.

But to achieve victory over this formidable foe, the Green Berets would require the assistance of the late Commander Massoud's Northern



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

These recommendations are based on our knowledge of the individuals below. Only voting for the 19 individuals, as opposed to voting for the maximum allowable of 26, will increase their chances of being elected.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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Esmond, Rhode Island | 15. Don Saba
Tucson, Arizona |
| 2. Scott Bach
Newfoundland, New Jersey | 9. Manuel Fernandez
Mission Hills, California | 16. Robert Sanders*
Punto Gordo, Florida |
| 3. Robert K. Brown
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Grand Island, Nebraska | 17. Ronald L. Schmeits
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| 5. Donald M. Causey
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Trumbull, Connecticut |
| 6. Jeff Cooper
Paulden, Arizona | 13. Edie P. Reynolds
Raleigh, North Carolina | |
| 7. Barbara L. Cubin
Casper, Wyoming | 14. Wayne Anthony Ross
Anchorage, Alaska | |

*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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Alliance rebels.

The Hunt ... begins very much like *Star Wars*; a painfully few Special Forces operators, present-day Jedi Knights, brandishing their equivalent of light sabers, known as the M-4 Carbine equipped with laser designators, land on a pockmarked planet, the civilization on which is darkly primitive, as if time-warped in some long-ago era.

Touching-down in their "spacecraft" (i.e. MH-47 and Black Hawk helicopters), they step onto the desert sand and breathe in the thin air. Back-to-back, prepared to engage a far superior enemy, they encounter "the sand people" on Tatooine, fighters of the Northern Alliance.

Quickly striking an alliance against a tyrannical enemy led by a dark and evil prince, they join forces and gallop into battle astride variety of creatures — Toyota 4x4s, broken-down Russian UAZ jeeps, and even horses.

One team will fight their battle in a mud fort, another in towering 14,000-foot mountains, another in barren

Author Robin Moore describes the decision to use the Green Berets, saying Rumsfeld had unleashed his dogs of war.

deserts, and another in what could double as 1880s' Dodge City.

By the time I finished reading *The Hunt For Bin Laden — Task Force Dagger*, I was in awe of this force America had unleashed against our enemies.

Author Robin Moore describes the decision to use the Green Berets, saying Rumsfeld had unleashed his dogs of war.

There are good guys, like Donald Rumsfeld, who the Special Forces operators obviously love, and bad guys, like Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden, who the SF warriors are desperately trying to kill. But the bad guys aren't just al-Qaeda and Taliban.

Regrettably, they include the bureaucratic conventional generals, who hesitated and caused the Special Operations Forces to lose bin Laden in Tora Bora; preppy CIA bunglers and outright incompetents, and double-dealing Pakistan which was sticking the knife in our back the entire time.

This sure-to-be-controversial book also exposes the yet unreleased casual-

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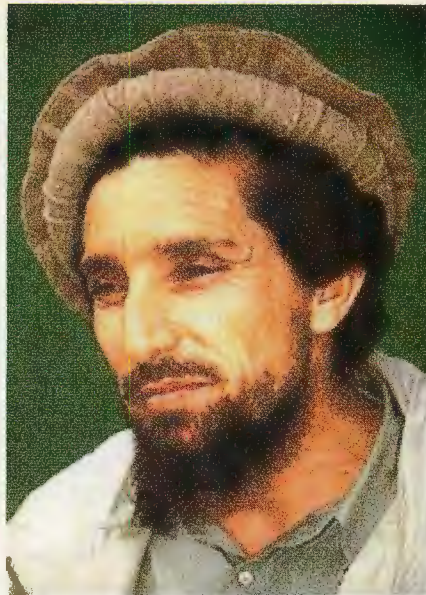
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Northern Alliance Commander Massoud's assassination two days before 9/11 would make imperative the formation of Task Force Dagger.

ty figures from the early part of the war, when the Green Berets were slaughtering al-Qaeda like diseased cattle. And (shades of Vietnam) how General Franks and his cronies opted to vastly inflate the enemy casualty figures five months later when his regular Army was getting mired-down.

Green on Green. It's the term used to describe friendly fire casualties; miscalculations that took the lives of more Special Operations operators in Afghanistan than al-Qaeda bullets.

It is of no surprise that *The Hunt ...* has the epic style and reality of *We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young*. You see, Random House published both of them, and they both had the same editor and guiding hand, Random House V.P. Bob Loomis, who also edited and oversaw publication of the British/Afghan classic, *The Great Game*. ✕

Master Sergeant Thomas R. "Hawk" Bumback, USA (Ret.), served with Special Forces units for 24 years and officially retired in 2002 from the U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL.

The Hunt For Bin Laden
TASK FORCE DAGGER

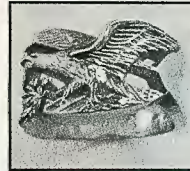
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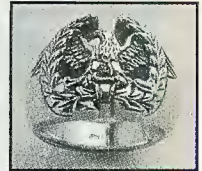
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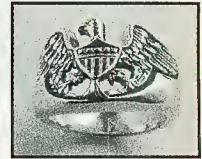
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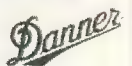


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Continued from page 65

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Here the XD-40 Tactical is seen field-stripped. The pistol comes apart without the need for tools and goes back together in seconds.

found that all the XD samples digested anything fed to them as smooth as silk. No malfunctions were experienced and the pistols proved combat accurate with most producing 5-shot groups of 4 in. or better at 25 yards, but the guns preferred some loads better than others. Our sample XD-9 Subcompact produced slightly larger groups than the longer pistols.

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Continued from page 41

Some of the volunteers on the team were fighting over some of Spike Camp's donations: Canadian Army digital camouflage- (or "relish;" it looks like green pickle relish) pattern boonie hats. The green camouflage only recently fielded with the Canadian Army was a hit with team members who wanted something "different." It actually worked very well in the heavy green foliage on the hillsides. Spike Camp also ponied up map cases, stuff sacks, and a first-class OD fleece jacket (for myself) that was just the ticket on the cool Arizona mornings before the sun was shining.

— R.K. ☘

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Command Guidance

Continued from page 6

Janet Reno. The FBI would never survive a scandal of such magnitude.

Letting a half-dozen killers walk away from the needle was certainly more important to FBI career bureaucrats, than owning up to their remarkable stupidity and blood-soaked miscalculations.

For a few years the FBI was able to hide thousands of pages of evidence linking McVeigh to others who were never charged in the crime. But now, those documents are bubbling to the surface. And as Nixon aide H.R. Haldeman lamented during the Watergate scandal, "Once the toothpaste is out of the tube, it's awfully hard to put it back in."

It's now time to demand that AG John Ashcroft bring to justice *all* those responsible for the 20th Century's bloodiest act of domestic terrorism on U.S. soil. If a handful of federal prosecutors have their license to practice law taken away in the process, and some federal agents go to jail for destroying evidence and obstruction of justice, so be it.

A fresh batch of FBI agents can begin the process very easily, because there are (or should still be) more than 1,000 latent fingerprints stored at the Hoover Building, collected from McVeigh's car and motel rooms.

During the Nichols' trial, FBI fingerprint expert Louis Hupp admitted that he asked to run those prints in the FBI's supercomputer, to see who McVeigh's accomplices were. Hupp testified under oath that his supervisors at the FBI twice said: NO!

The FBI didn't have to run those fingerprints, because a small circle of agents already *knew* McVeigh was part of a gang of bank bandits called the Aryan Republican Army. And most of those neo-Nazis had been trained at a Christian Identity Compound called Elohim City, by *Andy the German* — an international intelligence mole planted at the camp to monitor the White Power movement.

Very clearly there are people who served at the very highest levels of the FBI, ATF and DoJ at the time of the bombing, that should now be made to testify before congressional committees about what they knew — and when they knew it.

And let there be justice for all. ✘

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Sound Off

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

Soldiers Beware

In his State of the Union address, President Bush gave yet another strong warning to Iraq, while Axis of Evil member North Korea continued threatening the objects of its dissatisfaction as well.

But on Feb. 12, an army of scarred and ornery warriors will once again be walking the walk instead of talking the talk, invading this nation's capital for real. And they won't be Saddam's thugs or Kim's crazies — but true-grit American heroes protesting the raw deal they've gotten from dishonest politicians with short and shifty memories.

Barely a month before [at press time] Bush's Missiles of March will more than likely thump Iraq, thousands of World War II and Korean War vets — all more than 70 years of age — will travel by train, bus, plane, car, horseback, wheelchair and shoe leather to stand tall together in front of the U.S. Supreme Court while they tell the nation how the capital gang has hung them out to die on promised lifetime health benefits for retired vets.

Their skipper — leading the class-action lawsuit — is Medal of Honor recipient-turned Florida lawyer Col. George Day, now flying with a briefcase full of hard facts instead of the Air Force jet fighter he piloted over Vietnam. Although the feisty three-war vet has been battling this case for years, only now, after much shameful government double-talk, backpedaling and welshing, is the case finally going before the highest court of our land.

Their story is as old as war and peace: how promises were conveniently forgotten or baldly broken; how the Justice Department has cynically used stonewalling and other slippery delaying tactics, knowing full well that these senior citizens are dying daily — which statistics show will save the feds big bucks if and when the liars lose.

Bush clearly stated during his campaign for the presidency and again after his boots hit the Oval Office that the nation must keep faith with our vets and that vows made by our government must be honored.

But despite all the polished political words, the promised medical support is still AWOL.

Navy vet Jerry Bell says: "This is our last chance to show how we feel about being betrayed. When warriors are treated in such a shameful manner, both the fabric of our country and its military institution are in question."

Billboards around Washington are delivering that same



message with the hard thud of a 155-mm. barrage: "WWII/KOREA RETIREES FIGHT TO RECOVER STOLEN MEDICAL CARE. 'COURT SAYS THEFT IS OK.' WHO IS RIGHT, WARRIORS OR GOVT?"

Despite George Washington's wise warning — "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation" —

American vets from our Civil War to Desert Storm have been consistently treated like orphans.

Most recently, more than 161,000 Desert Storm vets have been disabled, and almost 10,000 have died from Gulf War Illness. During the near-decade they spent pleading for help, in pain and dying, their ingrate government kept insisting that their wounds — now proven to be caused by U.S.-destroyed Iraqi chemical munitions and an assortment of other killer cocktails such as oil-fire fumes, untested inoculations and local bugs that they weren't protected against — were "all in their heads."

Now Bush and his war hawks — *who almost to a man dodged service in the Vietnam War, just like the majority of our members of Congress* — are again sending warriors to employ the military solution in the Gulf at even greater risk, since the Pentagon has just admitted the bio/chem suits our attacking troops will wear are good only for bunker duty.

There's already a buzz of putting plans in place for bulldozers to mass-bury our sons and daughters who fall from germs. Not that this scenario would trouble the dedicated folks in Veterans Affairs. You know, no messy claims or protesters to worry about down the track.

Consider the pattern of betrayal: We rebuild Afghanistan but don't take care of our heroes, or spend the bucks on the right bio/chem suits to protect our troops.

It seems that the motto, "Lest We Forget," is no longer the American way. Now, it's "Use 'em, abuse 'em — and lose 'em.

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

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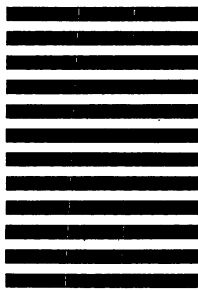
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