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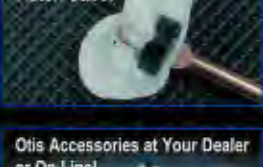


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On the Cover

Troopers from the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan roust bad guys from a bunker ... but if needed, will that M9 fire twice? See page 20 for how bad laws lead to bad equipment for the troops ... and what you can do about it.

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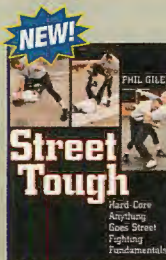


Foreword by John Plaster



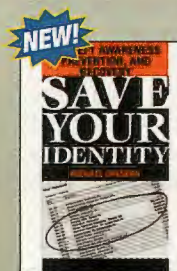
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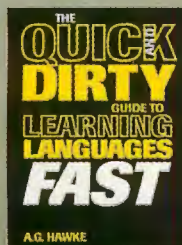
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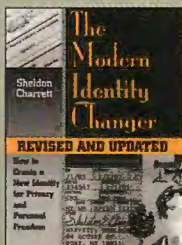
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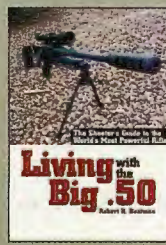
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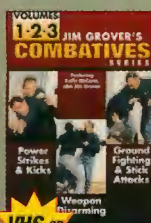
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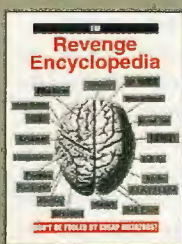
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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

BY JIM WARNER

## A Vietnam POW Looks At Kerry

I have known Senator John McCain for 33 years. I have known Senator John Kerry for the same length of time. Sen. McCain I met in person, in a prisoner of war camp. In the same camp, I came to know about Senator Kerry, but only by reputation. In the Spring of 1971, Senator McCain was in the same camp with me, a camp the Communists told us was a punishment camp which we had been placed in because we were "reactionaries," with "bad attitudes." I only knew John Kerry through his words, but I encountered his words while in the same camp and at the same time as I met Senator McCain. In the 2000 presidential election I supported John McCain because, from my personal knowledge of him gained in that camp, I knew that he was fit to serve as President. In the 2004 presidential election, again based upon my knowledge gained in that camp, I oppose the election of John Kerry because I believe that he is unfit to serve as President.

In November of 1970 U.S. forces staged a commando raid on the prisoner of war camp at Son Tay, in North Viet-Nam, only 20 miles from downtown Hanoi. The North Vietnamese, in panic, began shutting down the outlying prison camps and moving American prisoners to the most secure location available, the infamous Hoa Lo prison in Hanoi, the prison we called "the Hanoi Hilton." There, with all 348 of the prisoners captured in the North together in one place, the Communists attempted to impose order. Their attempts were resisted. By January, an

attempt by the Communists to forbid religious services in our cells led to a series of confrontations known by some as "the Church Riots." Finally, on March 19, in order to put a lid on things before they got out of hand, the Communists took 36 men whom they identified as the ring leaders and took them to a small camp a few miles south of Hanoi. Somehow, I was included in that number.

In this camp, which we called "Skid Row," the Communists appeared to have dispensed with the periodic interrogations which we referred to as "attitude checks." The "attitude check" needs to be explained. Throughout our imprisonment, we were constantly interrogated by political officers, a position which has no counterpart in the armed forces of non-communist countries. It is a central belief of marxism-leninism that our beliefs are the product of "objective material conditions." If one is not a marxist, it was only because he has not yet been exposed to marxist doctrine under the appropriate material circumstances. Thus, Communist armies travel everywhere with a baggage train of socialist missionaries eager to make converts.

Every prisoner of war camp in North Vietnam had at least one political officer, as well as some junior officers who assisted the political officer. It was their task to show us that we were wrong to oppose the spread of communism. I am sure that in the early years, they were confident that

*Continued on page 81*

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### *Eyes of Texas...*

On 10 April 2004 I was driving south with a friend out of San Antonio when a Texas State Trooper pulled me over. He explained that my passenger was not wearing a seat belt, which is a violation of Texas law. He asked for my driver's license and proof of insurance. Then he asked if I had any loaded weapons in the car. I said yes and gestured to the driver's side door. While I was getting my license, he asked what I did for a living. I told him that I was a writer and editor for SOF. From that moment on his attitude changed. He examined my license and insurance card and said that I wasn't getting a citation. He returned my documents, and then he did something that no other law enforcement officer has ever done during a traffic stop. He smiled and shook my hand. I don't know if it was my Vietnam Veteran license plates or my working for SOF, but it was a welcome change.

N.E. MacDougald

### *Czech the Facts*

In various Czechs papers and magazines appeared a number of various anti-American articles. But one of them from the magazine *Tyden* (a *Week*) annoyed me over the limit. Because its author is [allegedly] an officer of the Czech Republic Army, Vaclav Vetvicka [pronounced *Vaaslaf Vietvichka*], who is at present a student at a U.S. Army School in Ft. Knox.

The issue of *Tyden* No. 11/04 contained his article "Zoldneri s plnyimi kalhotami" [Mercenaries who shit their trousers], where he is reporting about mass desertion from the U.S. Armed Forces to Canada and other countries, mentioning also some helping services to deserters, by some Carl Rising-Moore, who established a traditional underground railroad to Canada, as in the days of slavery.

According to Vetvicka, more than over 20,000 people all together deserted to Canada now.

From time to time I have been allowed to correct his nonsense. So, please, is there somewhere any statistic about such desertion? Vetvicka was reporting actually only about one case, some Jeremy Hinzman, who, as reported, enlisted to obtain an education, not to kill people, so with his wife Nga Nguyen he escaped [sic] to Canada.

Well, if this guy really is a student at U.S. Army School, he [sounds like] a pregnant louse planted there from here by good communist cadres.

Sincerely  
Jan Benes  
Oboriste, Bohemia, CZ

I was unable to find any "statistics" regarding deserters from the U.S. Army heading to Canada, because there have not been enough to make any sort of database. The assertion there is any use for an "underground railroad" for GIs to "escape" to Canada is utterly preposterous: any GI who wants to go to Canada needs no more than a bus ticket and some form of identification, such as a driver's license, and he just walks/rides across the border. And those who want to desert and have no criminal charges, are usually just given the boot, as they represent unproductive weight for the Army to carry. The figure of 20,000 already having deserted to Canada to avoid service in Iraq is beyond silly: it is just childishly stupid. As in, dumb beyond rational comprehension. During the decade of the Vietnam War, there were some few who deserted and went to Canada, and many more of draft age went there to avoid military service: But some 30,000 Canadians volunteered for service in the U.S. armed forces during the Vietnam era — and I think we really got the best part of that trade!

It is quite possible that "Vaslav Vetvicka" is training at Ft. Knox, although most trainees from Eastern Europe have been going to Ft. Polk.

What is hard to believe, however, is that the Czech Army would waste overseas training on such a credulous individual — and it's even harder to believe he is an officer.

Two of the most valuable fruits of your "Velvet Revolution" are free enterprise and a free press, but the American experience has shown that there will always be crooks in the former, and liars in the latter. The good news is, freely expressed truth is the best defense against both. Good luck. It's a never-ending fight, but worth it.

### *Military Support for Bush*

(Forwarded to us from the Internet)

Without a doubt, Bush's humor is to his credit, and especially where WMDs are concerned, humor is Bush's perfect — maybe his only — shield against the partisan attacks that rain on him every day. Speaking as a member of the U.S. armed forces, I personally never cared if Iraq had WMDs ..... Good for the president for having the humility and the character to be able to poke fun at himself. For me, this makes him even more impressive as a leader, and if there is any shame to be had, it goes to the president's sworn civil enemies in the press, the Democratic [sic] Party and other divisions of the left. They claim their attacks are for the good of the soldiery. This is a bald lie, and they know it, and it's time someone started calling them on it. These people don't give a tinker's damn about anyone in uniform. They see us as Nazis and storm troopers and stupid, midget-minded pawns. Not much has changed since the '60s.

They loathe us now as they loathed us then, during my father's generation, and the crocodile tears they cry for our



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fallen troops aren't worth the Kleenex that catches them. I pray that Bush earns a second term, in spite of it all.

B.T.

Current member of the U.S. military.

## One Vote From Iraq

Hi SOF Magazine: I live in Iraq and I want to thank every soldier [who has] come to Iraq. I'm sorry for the Soldiers who die here. We like them.

Shylan Sarmed  
shylan\_sa@hotmail.com

## Uncle Sam Wants You

If any one should talk about a reputable and prestigious army, count on the U.S. Army. However, I am a male citizen of Nigeria, a resident of Lagos, 25 years of age, a high school graduate and a Christian. I identified with the American military struggle in the fight against terrorism, having watched your documentary on the CNN television. Apart from my admiration of your orderliness, I believe that I would benefit from the bravery, science, disciplining tactics and dedication of your officers toward the rank and file. Moreover, I believe that U.S. Army is a venue where one can exhibit his talent in humanitarian assistance. Especially, in rescue operations and perhaps contributing his part in the fight against terrorism, and for global peace. Please sir, guide me on the best possible means of being recruited into the [U.S.] Army. I am eagerly waiting for your urgent response, and will be happy, if my request will be favorably considered.

Yours faithfully,  
MERIT NWAJOHN  
Lagos, Nigeria

*Foreign nationals interested in U.S. military service should contact the nearest U.S. Consulate for current information. If your country has an embassy, contact the office of the Military Attaché.*

## Jobs First

I would like to comment about the "Command Guidance" article about Senator Kerry. I appreciate this article; it is very informative. But ... my concern in this Presidential election is JOBS — job loss and outsourcing. The Republicans have not yet recognized that job loss and outsourcing are a problem. They are saying it is good. They are saying that we are part of the "Global Economy". If we are part of the "Global Economy" then why aren't jobs coming to the U.S.? The Republicans are encouraging companies to give our jobs to people in other countries. This may over-ride Senator Kerry's association with VVAW. Outsourcing adds a new terrible dimension to job loss. Outsourcing throws people on the scrap heap not due to lack of education, skills, experience, nor productivity, but because someone in another country works under a lower set of wages and prices. The U.S. workers are not at fault. Another new terrible dimension that outsourcing adds to job loss is that it makes education worth-

less. Education is worthless because it can't be used. The statements by politicians and economists about workers needing to be retrained are just another way of saying "If they don't have bread, then let them eat cake." Many outsourced people can't get jobs because there aren't any jobs — even minimum wage jobs. Senator Kerry is the only presidential candidate who acknowledges the problem. I hope the Republicans reverse their position that job loss and outsourcing are good for the U.S. If President Bush applied outsourcing the way the CEOs of many U.S. companies are doing, he would outsource the Federal Reserve System, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, and the Pentagon. He would outsource the entire JCS because he could find General Officers in other countries who would work for less. Job loss and outsourcing mean that the U.S. is not self-sufficient where it should be.

George King  
Evanston, Ill.

*I haven't heard either candidate articulate a convincing redress to this problem, so will just quote Abe Lincoln, who said perhaps tongue-in-cheek, but quite succinctly: "When we trade overseas, we get their goods [services], and they get our gold. When we trade at home, we have the goods [services] and the gold."*

## Likes SitRep

I read SOF for the "SitRep" column. I find it's about the only written arena where you can find the information I wish to know. I would like to see more international news on terrorism. I cannot stand people who only know how to parrot Rush Limbaugh, and think they are "fully informed" as to current events.

Randall Newton ADC (Aviation Machinist Chief) Retired

## American Mercs?

Can you please send me some contacts for American mercenary units, I am an ex Australian service man and would like to no if mercenaries really exist. I may be able to join up if they are recruiting. I'm not sure of the requirements, but do need the cash, short-term mission if possible.

*We know of no "American Mercenary" outfits offering short-term work for those who need cash. There are a number of corporations in the security business, but like any corporation, they seek only qualified, reliable employees interested in long-term employment.*

## Cover To Cover

I am a subscriber and want to commend you on your excellent reporting on our troops in the world's hot spots. Whenever I get my *Soldier of Fortune* I read it cover to cover before the day is done. It's too bad that none of your excellent journalism ever gets to the rest of the civilian population. They should know that for every one of our brave men

*Continued on page 79*



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# BULLETIN BOARD

## Correction:

The phone number of the automated phone for the Firearms Coalition of Colorado, as listed in the June issue of SOF in the story about Steve Schreiner, was out of date and incorrect. The correct number is: 303-296-GUNS (4867).

## Three Purple Hearts and No Limp?

Surfing a chat room recently, we read a comment from a former brown-water navy skipper regarding Sen. John Kerry's three purple hearts to the effect that, "three purple hearts, and no limp? Something's fishy..." although he was reserving judgment since he was not there to see it. But those who were, are coming forward.

Lieutenant Commander Grant Hibbard USN (Ret'd) recently told the *Boston Globe* that he can still remember John Kerry's first "Purple Heart" wound, and that it resembled "a scrape from a fingernail." "I've had thorns from a rose that were worse," Hibbard told the *Globe*.

Following a 3 December 1968 skirmish with VC near Cam Ranh Bay, "He had a little scratch on his forearm, and he was holding a piece of shrapnel," Hibbard told the *Globe*. "People in the office were saying, 'I don't think we got any fire,' and there is a guy holding a little piece of shrapnel in his palm." Hibbard was not particularly impressed with Kerry's pursuit of a Purple Heart for a "wound" that was apparently less traumatic than, for instance, a Botox injection.

But "I finally said, 'OK, if that's what happened ... do whatever you want,'" Hibbard said. "After that, I don't know what happened. Obviously, he got it, I don't know how."

## Arachnids, Ready To Eat?



courtesy 1st Bn, 1st Marines

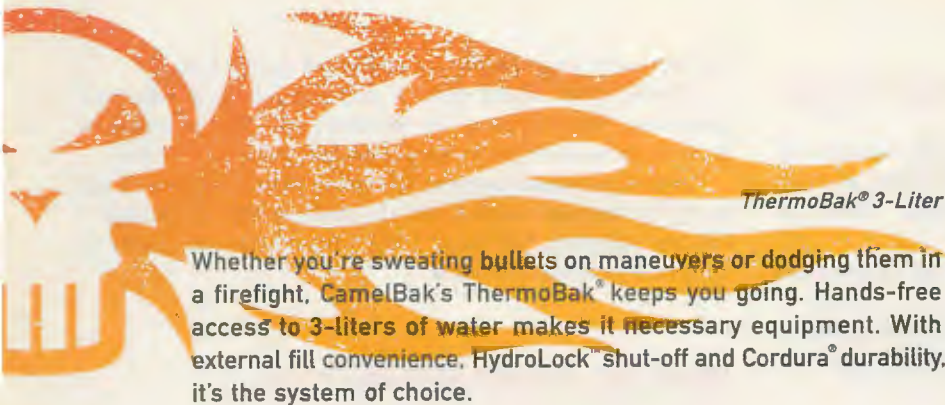
*The only bug-out the Marines will ever do: A fringe benefit for Leathernecks in Iraq is all the camel spiders you can eat. For free. An arachnid that looks like the "sun spider" of the Sonoran desert on steroids, "camel spiders" are ugly but harmless except to the arachniphobic press corps.*

## WW II Victory Museum

*What is past is not only prolog, it is pretty damn interesting as well – such as this 1940 Humber Hexonaut GS amphibian, which you can see at the World War II Victory Museum in Indiana. This and acres of other fascinating, well restored pieces of equipment are on display 3 miles south of Auburn, at exit 126 of Interstate 69. It is open from 0900 to 1700 Monday through Saturday and 1200 to 1700 on Sundays. Standard admission is \$8.00. WWII veterans are admitted free and veterans of other wars pay only \$4.00. Group rates are available. For more information on the World War II Victory Museum, museum updates or information on how you may support the museum, please call 260-927-9144 or log onto the museum's website at [www.wwllvictory.org](http://www.wwllvictory.org).*







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You, in fact, can help. Contact your favorite manufacturers and gun magazines and ask them to put a link on their website home page that will link, when "clicked", directly to [CLINTONGUNBAN.com](http://CLINTONGUNBAN.com).

If they refuse to do so, ask them for an explanation why not.

Yours for the Second Admendment,  
Robert K. Brown, Editor/Publisher, SOF

## "Self-Reported Injuries That Were Virtually Nonexistent..."

...Is how B. G. Burkett, award-winning author of *Stolen Valor* and far and away America's top fraudulent-vet debunker, says the former Naval officers who were blessed with John Kerry in their commands will characterize his much-celebrated war wounds. In an interview with Steve Malzberg of WABC Radio, Burkett noted, "He never got a day of treatment, he never spent a day in a medical facility. These were all self-reported wounds, [about] which you're going to hear from some swift boat guys in the future as to the nature of these wounds." Burkett told Malzberg he had earlier spoken to Kerry's former Naval commanders, who

are preparing to go public about Kerry's decorations.

"You're going to get quite a showing [of those who will speak out]. I don't know [the number] yet. They're trying to get it unanimous of every swift boat guy who ever served.

"You've got some major rallies being planned against John Kerry by Vietnam veterans on the mall, at the convention - this type of thing. And we're going to make America aware of John Kerry's military record."

## Heads Up: Korean Surplus Ammo

Reports are making the rounds of Korean surplus .30-06 ammo experiencing case-separation failures, sometimes causing damage to the rifle itself. Ben Zychalski told *The Garand Collectors Association Journal* that three of 17 rounds he fired suffered separation failures, the last round also splitting the stock. The Garand is one tough old bird, and surplus "bar-gains" can be tempting - but *caveat emptor!*

## Scumbag Alert

Ceramic Body armor was in short supply in the Fall of 2003 and troops were dying for lack of it - while Marine SFC Marvin Funiestas was stealing them and peddling them on eBay.



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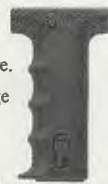
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- Interior of grip serves as a plugged storage compartment.
- Push button mounting & adjustment.



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## BULLETIN BOARD

Arrested last November, Funiestas was recently sentenced to 10 years in prison, on charges of conspiracy, wrongfully selling government property, and larceny. Assigned to the Weapons and Field Training Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Funiestas sold between 100 and 110 the ceramic-reinforced vests before he was arrested. Investigators believe another Marine, not yet charged, dummied reports about the number of vests in inventory, then sent vests to Funiestas, who sold about \$88,000 worth of equipment for \$35,000 to \$40,000. Marine Prosecutor Capt. Mark Spalding said that most of the vests were sold domestically, but others were shipped to Canada, Puerto Rico, Japan and South Korea. Two or three went to China, causing concerns that the PRC may try and reverse-engineer the design of Point Blank Interceptor Ballistic body armor.

Federal authorities are trying to retrieve the stolen vests. One unwitting eBay customer in San Diego bought two vests and shipped one to a son-in-law in the Army, who was stationed in Kuwait and had not been issued a vest.

### VA Searching for POWS — CONUS

In recent years, VA benefits and services for former prisoners of war have been improved and expanded. However, there may be as many as 11,000 former POWs who are not receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. The VA is of the opinion that most missing former POWs are World

War II veterans, and is attempting to expedite efforts to find them and their survivors.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is encouraging VA employees and others to use any available network or group to assist in this outreach effort. Anyone who knows a former POW can help by encouraging them to contact the VA through a local/county/state veterans' service office, by calling 1-800-827-1000, or by going to the VA's POW Web site <http://www.vba.va.gov/blin/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm>.

### Sand Flea Attacks

The Army has treated nearly 400 patients infected with leishmaniasis parasites since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom last year.

Leishmaniasis is spread by bites from sand fleas found in Southwest Asia including Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Most leishmaniasis victims have mild cases of skin lesions and are returned to duty after 10 days of antibiotics. Scarring can occur if untreated and there is no vaccine. Preventive measures include (don't laugh) limiting outdoor activity at dusk and during the evening when sand fleas are most active. Try protective clothing and insect repellent, and treating uniforms and bed netting with permethrin. Symptoms may not appear for 2-6 months.

Personnel deployed to Iraq are deferred from donating blood for one year after departure from Iraq. Victims are per-

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## BULLETIN BOARD

manently deferred from donating blood.

Visceral leishmaniasis infects the liver, spleen and other internal organs and may be fatal if not treated.

— Richard Rongstad

### Grave-Site Locator Now On Web

The VA has made it easier and faster for the public to get answers about family history, old war buddies or famous war heroes, by putting on the Web some 3.2 million records for

veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War. The VA's nation-wide grave-site locator is at: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov). The site also has records for some state veterans cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

### From The 'Dish To Iraq?

Marine grunts report a preponderance of Somalians among the bad guys being captured recently, as opposed to Syrians and other *ferengees* as encountered early on in Iraq. Go figure.

### Kerry On The Web

Londoners may have Hyde Park, but the rest of the world has the Web. And Mericans also have the First Amendment, so if the Fourth Estate doesn't serve their interests they go to the web and sort it out themselves. Here, in no particular order, is our latest collection of Anti-Kerry web sites, with the latest additions listed first. None of these are sponsored by nor vetted by SOF, but they will no doubt all be of interest to SOF readers.

[www.ron-siddell.com](http://www.ron-siddell.com)  
[www.greenberet.net/Kerry/index.html](http://www.greenberet.net/Kerry/index.html)  
[www.vnsfvetakerry.com](http://www.vnsfvetakerry.com)  
[www.nojohnbkerry.org](http://www.nojohnbkerry.org)  
[www.Kerry0votes.com](http://www.Kerry0votes.com)

[www.senatorFlipFlop.com](http://www.senatorFlipFlop.com)  
[www.powmiafamiliesagainstjohnkerry.com](http://www.powmiafamiliesagainstjohnkerry.com)  
[www.johnfnkerry.com](http://www.johnfnkerry.com)  
[www.dirtykerry.com](http://www.dirtykerry.com)  
[www.nicedoggie.net](http://www.nicedoggie.net)  
[www.vietnamveteransagainstjohnkerry.com](http://www.vietnamveteransagainstjohnkerry.com)  
[www.kerrymyths.edcnet.com](http://www.kerrymyths.edcnet.com)  
[www.kerryquotes.com/index.html](http://www.kerryquotes.com/index.html)  
[www.kerrysucks2004.com](http://www.kerrysucks2004.com)  
[www.notokerry.com](http://www.notokerry.com)  
[www.vetsagainstkerry.org](http://www.vetsagainstkerry.org)  
[www.hanoiJohnkerry.com](http://www.hanoiJohnkerry.com)  
[www.geocities.com/michaelkansas2003/jkiw/](http://www.geocities.com/michaelkansas2003/jkiw/)  
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*Informed Comments From A Friend Who Manufactures Rifles:*

"I was invited to a conference at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indiana last year. The purpose of the conference was to provide those of us in the U.S. domestic gun industry with knowledge of problems our government is having with the currently issued M4 Carbine.

"A government official told us that their internal model shop wanted to build a run of M4 carbines chambered for 30 Soviet (7.62X39), as USSOCM, referring to the current M4 (chambered for .223), has stated that, 'It has never met our requirements.' He then showed us a 30-round, 7.62x39mm magazine, which fit an M4 receiver. He asked if any of us

---

**"Sometime, before we get into a big war, the U.S. military needs to get rid of our current generation of 'varmint rifles' and start issuing real rifles. We need to do it now, while we have the chance."**

---

could manufacture this magazine, as the 'magazine ban' had driven the original manufacturer out of business. We all expressed our opinions about the magazine ban and the politicians who supported it and, to a man, assured him that none of us were interested in the least, under present laws. He nodded his head in reluctant acknowledgment.

"Some courageous manufacturers have developed the 6.8mm cartridge. This cartridge is an improvement over the .30 Soviet, and a vast improvement over the .223. This round and military rifles chambered for it are desperately needed for our armed forces right now, particularly with our current active deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan. The immediate hold up is the fact that no domestic manufacturer wants to make this new rifle, if they can only sell it to the government. With no prospect of civilian sales, there is zero interest in this undertaking among American manufacturers, like me.

So, critical progress is now stalled and will be for the foreseeable future.

"We thus see how the 'magazine ban' is significantly harming our troops and the nation's ability to successfully prosecute a war. It has never, nor does it currently, impacted violent crime in the slightest. Everyone needs to contact their Senators and Congressmen and demand that the 'ban' be allowed to sunset.

"Sometime, before we get into a big war, the U.S. military needs to get rid of our current generation of 'varmint rifles' and start issuing real rifles. We need to do it now, while we have the chance."

*Comment: Thank heaven the Big War hasn't started yet. When it does, pray we are ready! Since this was written, Barrett has put a 6.8 rifle in production for civilian and police sales and in anticipation of military need – let us hope others will follow.*

*Can you believe this? Have we met the enemy, and he is us? Friend, Jeff Chudwin writes:*

"A police officer and friend, just deployed to Iraq, is serving there now as a Marine officer. He is the thick of the fighting. He has only two Beretta M9 magazines, and both (Checkmate) have weak springs. Pistol magazines are in short supply there. Ones that actually work are in even shorter supply!

"His close friend in an adjacent police department was contacted and asked to assist my friend by acquiring several OEM (Beretta) pistol magazines and sending them over. The magazines were immediately ordered from a local police supply house, but we were told that we cannot make the purchase due to the ban on purchasing high capacity (normal capacity) magazines. ATF is asked to intervene. They arrogantly told us 'The military must take care of their own.' The chief of the department cannot even sign for the magazines, because 'the purchase is not for performance of law enforcement duties.'

"Result, the Marine officer cannot obtain additional magazines through the military, and we cannot support him from our end unless we send him 'Clinton clips' (ten-round mag-



azines) or locate pre-ban magazines. We are sending Wolff spring kits."

*Comment: Stupid gun laws, designed from the beginning for harassment and little else, are now interfering with our war effort, and no one at BATE, indeed the whole federal system, seems to care. While our Marines die, bureaucrats and politicians dither!*

Further good advice on M9 magazines from one who is there:

"If you are carrying an M9 when you go over, purchase some good magazines (OEM, Beretta) for your weapon. 'Checkmate' magazines that the Marine Corps is currently issuing with your weapons are crap. During our first run in the desert, if I did not clean the magazines at least twice a day, it was a guaranteed failure to feed.

**"... When it comes to weapons, cleanliness is next to Godliness. If you don't believe that, say hello to St. Peter for me. Your chances of a personal encounter are excellent!"**

It was rare to get off more than two shots without a feeding issue. Unacceptable. I personally don't want to find myself equipped with a non-functioning pistol when the shooting starts. When it comes to weapons, cleanliness is next to Godliness. If you don't believe that, say hello to St. Peter for me. Your chances of a personal encounter are excellent!"

*Comment: when the "magazine ban" "assault" rifle law was enacted, it had a built-in Sunset clause so it could be allowed to die a natural death after it did not perform as promised. Not only has it failed to perform as promised as any sort of deterrent to criminal activity, we see where it is having ill effect on national defense issues. Contact your senators and congressmen TODAY and tell them to let it sunset.*

A marine veteran with a collection of earned Purple Hearts from Vietnam, John Farnam is one of today's preeminent firearms trainers. He may be reached at JSFarnam@aol.com . ☒

*Instantly Puts the Power of Life and Death in YOUR Hands...*

**"If You Had To Kill To Save Your Life, Could You Really Do It? If Your Life Depended On It, Would You Know How?"**

# LETHAL STRIKES

**Shocking NEW Video Reveals HOW TO KILL With Your Bare Hands! Learn 13 Lightning Fast, Heart Stopping Death Blows & Boa Constrictor Death Chokes!**

Dear Friend,

My name is Jason Marks. I don't want to offend anybody, but **LET'S GET REAL:** When "Self-Defense" becomes "Do or Die," you need to know **How to Kill** instantly, without breaking a sweat.

Would you like to have those skills, so ingrained, that they switch on automatically when you need them most?

If so, **this is going to be the most important thing you ever read.** Here's why:

About 2 years ago, some young punks shoved me against a wall and put a knife to my throat. I thought I was prepared for it but I wasn't. I always imagined I'd be able to handle myself in this situation, but in fact...

**I Completely Froze!**

Luckily for me a cop car pulled up and the punks ran away, because I'm convinced that a  **Couple of Seconds Later** and I would've been cold meat!

You see, when the Grim Reaper appears, he doesn't give a damn about your rank or how good your form is. The Scum of the earth have no moral boundaries and they will stop at nothing to get what they want!

At that point, you'll be operating entirely on the Lizard Brain, the most primitive "Fight or Flight" part of your brain.

You won't have time to "think about it," or do fancy movements that look great in tournaments and movies. You'll automatically do one of two things:

1. **Unleash a rapid-fire barrage of nerve exploding, heart-stopping strikes, or...**
2. **Get carried off on a stretcher...or worse, in a Body Bag!**

I hope you never have to feel your veins turn to ice and your stomach sink as you know, *right then and there*, that you're about to be Beaten Bloody, Raped or Killed. But let's face it: **in today's world - it could happen at any time!**

The Karate schools aren't teaching this - they have rules, formalities and safety procedures they must observe to keep the soccer moms and sports-enthusiasts happy.

The scumbags and criminals on the street have **never** stepped into a dojo - but they **BRUTALIZE, RAPE and KILL every day!**

One Violent Crime every 5 Seconds  
- Bureau of Justice Statistics

How do you deal with someone who can do that - and has lots of experience doing it? **HERE'S HOW: you learn what they know - How to Brutally Destroy, Maim or Kill without Hesitation or Doubt.** It's that simple.

When some bloodthirsty thug chooses you as his next piece of meat, if you can't do what he can do - you're dead! Here's the good news...

Andrew Scott teaches Law Enforcement, Military and Corporate personnel these techniques and charges thousands of bucks for it.

It can't be learned from a book, **you must see it in action**, so I talked him into letting me put it all on a video - **that you can watch in a single evening!**

**RIGHT NOW** is your chance to get these Deadly Techniques and **Make Them Your Own** for only \$37 bucks!

After you absorb this new video, I'm sure you'll agree with me - **it'll be the most valuable training video you'll ever own! Period. And**

I can Prove it to you. Why would I say such a thing? Because you'll learn:

1. **How to fire death blows before he knows what hit him.**
2. **The best (& worst) places to strike.**
3. **Shell out blistering combos, each strike more lethal than the last.**
4. **Mentally Program yourself to fire off a deadly sequence - without thinking.**
5. **Three Master Keys to making sure you score a Lethal Strike - every time.**
6. **What your Dojo isn't teaching, could get you killed!**

Listen. There are lots of guys selling videos in the magazines that have some really good stuff to offer, but this is the **only** video that gets to the bottom line and shows you **How!**

And the most important thing is: **it doesn't matter how old, slow, skinny or clumsy you are, or even how much you weigh! Even a Skinny Nerd can drop a Prison Hardcase like a sack of potatoes with these techniques!**

**"As a veteran Military Police officer, I've been in just about every kind of violent encounter you could imagine...I know this stuff would work."**

- Mark Underwood, Dallas, TX

Order within the next 14 days and you'll get these 2 FREE Bonuses:

**FREE Bonus #1: "MASTERING FEAR: The Street Survival Secrets Audio Tape" (\$20).**

**FREE Bonus #2: "The MENTAL WARFARE SECRETS Manual" (\$420)**

**"THAT'S \$140 in FREE BONUSSES!"**

And, the first 50 people to **call right now** get a **3rd FREE Bonus!** The **SHOCKING Report: "Everything is a Weapon: Utilizing Your Environment for Lethal Strikes."** This report is so bloody and effective, they tried to ban it!

Don't put it off because once they're gone, they're gone, and I really mean that. You don't want to miss out on this, so be one of the first 50 to call now and you get \$207 worth of hard-hitting explosive material for **Just \$37 Bucks** plus \$8.00 S&H (foreign orders add \$12.00).

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**WARNING:** By purchasing you Certify that: 1.You are over the age of 18 2.You understand that Lethal Strikes is for Academic Study Only 3.You Release the Instructor from all Liability 4.You will not disclose the material to those who would harm others maliciously. © 2004



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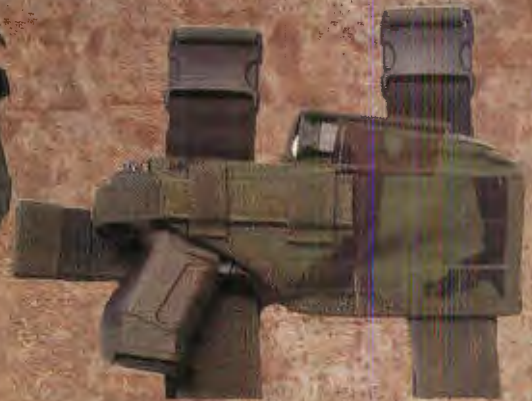
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# Part Time Warriors, Full Time Cops

## *Reserve MPs Rock the Casba in Iraq*

TEXT & PHOTOS BY J.S. MOSBY

**D**espite the daily diet of an IED here, a rocket from CNN there, the situation in Iraq had largely settled into a huge police action, with large-scale engagements dwindling away as insurgents and opportunists developed second thoughts about locking horns with large, U.S. gunslinger units. This has largely held, despite a stinging offensive by militants supporting rogue cleric Moqtada Al Sadr. Things have gotten quiet, as again negotiations replaced outright, full-scale engagements. The ground here, however, is still fraught with threat of ambush and IEDs across lines of supply that are stretched precariously across several hundred miles.

U.S. Guard and Reserve MP units have played a big part in the turn around. During the height of problems last winter and most recently the Sadr Offensive, Guard-Reserve MPs racked up major road time and provided a blizzard of firepower against convoy ambushes. They really came into their

own, however, as the shift towards civil law enforcement took hold. With al Qaeda types infiltrating to organize, train and direct militant groups, cloak and dagger, organized-crime style stings have taken on new importance. Guard and Reserve law enforcement has risen to the challenge.

It is no wonder. Stop and chat with any of their units and you'll find patrol cops, narcotics and homicide investigators, SWAT snipers and other assorted, real-world PD types with hundreds of arrests and convictions under their belts. Many

*Part beat cop, part gun truck, a Guard-Reserve MP Turtleback shepherds a convoy over a hostile road net north of Baghdad. With a strong showing from civilian law enforcement in their ranks and with more firepower than they ever dreamed of back in the U.S., GR MP units bring both raw combat power and gumshoe cop skills into the Iraq equation.*





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| Quartz Frequency            | 32,768 Hz   |
| Accuracy                    | Within ±20 seconds per month under normal temperature (+5°C to +35°C). Depending on surrounding temperature, this range may be exceeded during charging.          |
| Operating Temperature Range | -5°C to +55°C   |
| Storage Temperature Range   | -10°C to +60°C  |
| Other                       | Overcharge protection, low battery alert  |
| Battery Life                | Approximately 1 month (on a full charge, one dial illumination and external illumination operation per day). Actual battery life depends on operating conditions. |
| Illumination (LED)          | Dial illumination: Approx. 5 seconds<br>External illumination: Approx. 20 seconds   |
| Driving System              | Stepping motor  |
| Battery                     | Secondary Li-ION batteries  |
| Watch Weight                | 7.0 oz.   |
| Dimensions                  | 45 mm (W)   |

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soon found themselves at Brigade level, assisting gunslingers in the delicate transition from find, fix and destroy — to case files, evidence collection and delicate undercover investigations.

### You're in the ARMY Now

As soon as the big rotation started back in December, however, friction erupted between regular MPs fresh in from the big PX and guard-reservists who'd been in the shit for almost a year. One group of homeward-bound MPs reported that a sergeant major just in from Germany had declared that their FOB in central Baghdad was now considered a garrison post, with all the attendant chicken-shit rules that went with it. This was apparently stated before the guy had even located the latrines and the PX, never mind developed any real situational awareness on the ground. Mortar, rocket, IEDs and a few good stoning incidents began to clear up his confusion real fast.



*While some combat arms units encounter problems with muslim conventions while conducting searches, the MPs, with their strong showing of females in the ranks, have no such problems. In firefights, female MPs have shown no qualms at all about putting lead on target, either.*

"We pulled into an FOB here in Baghdad a couple of weeks ago and the kid at the gate won't let us in," Sergeant Jamie Kollins, a patrol cop from Springfield, Illinois, told us. "He told us that his first sergeant said no vehicles with 'graffiti' were allowed. They were a quartermaster unit fresh in from Germany and apparently our platoon crest counted as graffiti. No problem, we said and told them to escort their own convoy and started to drive away. They chased us down the street and we never heard anything more about the crests. They're on a learning curve but they'll figure out what's what soon enough."

Aside from the regulation book being tossed about, there were also sneers from the regulars about the order and discipline of part-time, citizen soldiers. Units who've been logging serious "Road Time" on Iraq's deadly highways know what really counts and it doesn't necessarily include boot polish. Snide remarks were usually silenced with a sharp, "So, how many convictions do you have and for what?" or "So, what's

the biggest narcotics case you've ever worked?" But mostly, the GR guys just kept quiet and led by example.

Slowly, everything the regulars had been jibing them about, from driving patterns to route selection, was illuminated. One case involved the GR habit of a scatter plan and radical lane change when going under overpasses and bridges. At first, the regulars scoffed and kept to their neat lines and even spacing... until a cinderblock took out one of their hardened windshields. After that, the regulars scattered and lane changed even more wildly than the old hands.

Over the intervening weeks both parties started seeing eye-to-eye on much more, and developed a greater understanding of each other's worlds. When the guard-reserve guys started heading home in earnest, they departed with a new camaraderie based on mutual respect, and left well-broken-in units behind them. For their part, most regulars took a 180-degree turn in their views of their GR brethren and now speak highly of them.

### A Perp is a Perp is a Perp

"It's been quite a task to get people to think out of the box and start to see this situation through a law-enforcement lens," said Ray Richards, a Tennessee cop attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry. "They kept asking me how they could 'fix their target.' They didn't like it when I started talking about case preparation, investigations, evidence handling and the like. That I was a staff sergeant talking to O-4s and above took some getting used to as well.

"Over and over I tried to get them to look at the situation with the insurgents in the same way we look at narcotics trafficking back home. 'But they're running guns,' they'd say and I'd reply, 'No, they're running product; it's just that the currency here is IEDs, not cocaine.' When we started putting guys in Abu Ghurayb prison for 25 years, they started seeing my point."

It's that kind of perspective, when mated with the combat power of a gunslinger brigade, which has cut deep swaths through the insurgency and made the remaining fighters extraordinarily cautious. Guard and Reserve MP formations are uniquely qualified to provide it for the simple reason that it's what they do back in the world. As crazy as the world can get, you still can't compare policing a U.S. base in Germany with policing Chicago's East Side or South-Central LA.

One example of the law enforcement mindset they've sowed is the use of modern evidence-gathering technology, used in the field with regular gunslinger units. Aggressively applied during checkpoint stops and search operations, such police gadgets have netted insurgents that would have otherwise come up clean.

While there is still a very, very long row to hoe in Iraq, the street-wise policing style that Guard-Reserve MPs brought with them from their home communities will no doubt leave a lasting imprint.

A frequent contributor to SOF, J.S. Mosby is an Army veteran and former U.S. Border Patrolman. ✕



# "Picture Two People, Locked In Mortal Combat, One Strangling The Other. Now, Imagine Yourself In This Scene And Tell Me... What Would You Do?"



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

**K**ick him in the groin." "Strike the arms or punch the solar plexus." "Grab the hands." "Stomp on his instep"

The list is always the same.

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

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

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

They're always the one being choked.

But think about it... couldn't this have been the scenario?

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

Possible? Of course. It's just that no one sees it this way. It's human nature. We shy from victory, from domination. It's the way most of us are built... unless you're a criminal...

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

**What went wrong?** Just this. You ASSUMED he only wanted the wallet. After all, why would anyone stab someone over a few measly bucks? **YOU** certainly wouldn't do that if you were robbing someone.

And that **IS** the problem. With thinking like that...

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

See, nothing bothers him. Certainly not your morals. With a total disregard for society and it's rules, he has no regret whatsoever in cramming a blade into your gut... to get what he wants.

You stroll around thinking 15 years of martial arts training or that 6-week self-defense course or some reality fighting video gives you the edge you need against someone like this. Wake up!

**You are hopelessly training techniques** (then praying they work) against someone who isn't "training" for you. How many criminals in federal pens spent years sweating through JKD workouts before committing their crime? How many are Jujitsu experts?

**Not a one!** They excel at just one thing: doin' it. No training, no practice, no techniques. And certainly 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!

Larkin trains you from the get-go how to kill, if necessary, to survive a life-or-death confrontation.

He doesn't advocate violence. TFT just demystifies it. He's often quoted...

## "Violence Is Rarely The Answer. But When It Is... It's The Only Answer."

Look... others in Soldier of Fortune try to impress



Tim Larkin, creator of *Target-Focus Training*

you with how bad they are; their accomplishments in the "secret world" you aren't privy to; their guru status.

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

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

**No bones about it:** Larkin's record is impressive. He trains units from all the top echelons of federal law enforcement and military special operations groups. It's

not surprising since he comes from that world and is well known there. But everyone in Soldier of Fortune tries to claim this so you'll rarely hear him talk about it.

He's an awesome communicator and trainer, and is amazingly approachable for someone with his abilities and credentials. And he's trained 1,000's of CEOs and others in high-risk positions around the world — all very real people.

But why is this so important? Why is TFT being sought out in all these other arenas?

**Because it works!** Because you "get it" immediately. Not after weeks or months or even years of training... but **right now**... as soon as you experience it. And...

## Not Only Is It Usable... Instantly... But Just Like Riding A Bicycle It Stays With You Forever... Even If You Never Practice It Again!

**Here's why:** the key lies in the fact this is the only system based totally on the PRINCIPLES (not techniques) that determine the outcome of any physical confrontation. Combine these with three supporting methodologies that form the foundation of every fighting system on the planet and you have a complete system usable by ANYone for handling ANY violent confrontation. With this information you can look at anything out there... including your own training... and know immediately if it's worth keeping.

*"It was the most effective days of training in hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon that I or everyone else had ever experienced."* Brian (last name withheld), US Border Patrol, S Carolina

Last year Larkin trained over 600 CEO's in Europe. This year he'll spend 57 consecutive days training others in England, the Far East and Asia, and India. These folks are eating his stuff up because TFT principles and methodology are as effective in the 'combative' world of business as they are in a truly lethal fight, and for the exact same reason... **RESULTS.**

**Think about this:** If these people can get this much from his material, imagine how much more 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 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 \$1,500.00, international events start at \$9,500.00, and personal training for small 2- to 4-person sessions is \$10,000.00 and more.

That's why, in a daring move with potentially serious ramifications, he's released a new WEAPONS-focused

version of his TFT system that shows you how to defeat a violent criminal in a **WORSE-than-worst-case scenario**. After seeing his program... a life-or-death confrontation in a dark alley. is a piece of cake.

Not only does this new series take you inside the criminal mind, it goes way beyond... showing you how and why you must first learn to USE a weapon... if you ever hope to defeat a criminal using it against you! Highly unconventional and extremely controversial it teaches you how to get your focus off the weapon... and onto defeating the REAL threat.

Some foolishly feel this stuff is too violent, totally ignorant of the fact you don't always have to push it to the levels shown on these tapes.

## It's Very Easy To Ramp This Down To Fit A Lesser Situation But It's Impossible To Ramp Up And Kill Someone If You've Never Trained For It!

Some will be shocked, dismayed, offended and outraged that anyone would dare show this stuff. They'll raise a stink... and do everything possible to get this yanked. But better you see this on video than experience it first-hand on the street!

Everything you'll see here is vintage TFT. You learn to hurt someone very quickly (every sequence shows killing movements right from the start). There's no size, speed or quickness required. Anyone can learn this because it's based on principles not some guru's skills.

Guys that have been in the trenches for years are blown away by the simple brutality and effectiveness of this system and the competence of Larkin's instructors, including their knowledge of anatomy and how to inflict trauma on the human body.

Each averages 10 years of training and surprisingly most aren't 'jocks'. Many have advanced degrees; five hold PhD's! His advisory board includes two medical doctors who assure everything you see about inflicting trauma on the human body is totally accurate.

*"With this system: 1) You will learn what Larkin says you will learn, and 2) The course is exactly as advertised — intense, targeted, focused training designed to produce immediate results."* Mark D. Fabiani, Crisis Mgt Consultant, La Jolla, CA

**Let's cut to the chase:** this program is extremely controversial and NOT for everyone. If you'd never consider killing someone threatening your life or if you're hoping to see lots of useless predetermined techniques or cool setup moves — you can stop reading here. This is only for those who want to learn to defeat a criminal in a life-or-death situation.

Listen. I understand you may find this hard to believe. That's how I felt too until I saw the videos. Unfortunately there's not room here to adequately describe the shocking reality of what Larkin has created for you. That's why he's not asking for a penny of your money now. Instead he'll spend his own cash to put a 17-page Special Report into your hands that will prove everything you've just read and explain why this program is so DIFFERENT from anything you've seen before.

All you need to do to get his **FREE** report is pick up the phone and call **888-811-9347**. There's a short message and then you can leave your name and address so the report can be mailed to you. It's voicemail so you can call 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and no one will hassle you.

Don't fool around and miss this opportunity. It doesn't cost you a thing. Call now or go on-line at [www.targetfocusweapons.com](http://www.targetfocusweapons.com).



# SOG REVELATIONS

## *SOF Exclusive Look At The Men Of SOG ...Who Gutted The NVA*

INTRODUCTION BY JOHN STRYKER MEYER

For more than a decade *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* was one of the few publications in the United States that printed stories about America's secret war in Vietnam from 1964 to 1972. In recent years the conventional press and publications have begun to publish works detailing the heroics and exploits of the men Green Berets and their indigenous personnel who ran missions deep behind enemy lines without conventional ground support or artillery cover. The secret war was conducted under the aegis of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam — Studies and Observation Group, or simply SOG, or Command & Control (C&C).

Paladin Press recently released its second coffee table pictorial detailing the exploits of the men who ran missions across the fence into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam on top secret missions. The latest heavy-weight is authored by SOG veteran recon man Frank Greco called "Running Recon: A Photo Journey with SOG Special Ops Along the Ho Chi Minh Trail" with a forward written by John Plaster, author of Paladin's "SOG: A PHoto History of the Secret Wars." *Running Recon*, is 431 pages, loaded with previously unreleased photos, copies of secret messages, and some gripping stories. Plaster's 2000 SOG book is 487 pages. Both document the men who ran recon and the company-sized operations, both detail the air crews who supported the recon teams, and both write about SOG legends — sadly, most unknown to the American public — and the Green Berets and their indigenous

troops who fought the secret war against all odds while incurring a casualty rate that exceeded 100%.

During the Vietnam War, 3.2 million Americans served in Vietnam. Of that number, about 20,000 were Special Forces, of which approximately 2,000 Green Berets actually ran recon missions. Plaster and Greco are among those warriors and provide insight into their exploits while recording for history the longest secret war ever conducted in U.S. history.

*SOG: A Photo History of the Secret Wars*  
*Running Recon: A Photo Journey with SOG Special Ops Along the Ho Chi Minh Trail*  
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Gunbarrel Tech Center  
7077 Winchester Circle  
Boulder, Colorado 80301, USA

Both books cost \$79.95.  
*Running Recon* is 458 pages & *SOG* is 496,  
according to the Paladin Press Website.

*John Stryker Meyer spent two years in SOG and recently released a non-fiction account of his first year in SOG in a book titled: "Across The Fence," available at Realwarstories.com, Tel.: 314-291-7975*





*The first reconnaissance team to run a mission into Laos was Recon Team Iowa, code-named Spike Team Iowa. It launched from Kham Duc Oct. 18, 1965 and over the next seven years had a number of outstanding American team leaders, including M. Sgt. Dick Meadows, left, pictured here with RT Iowa. Meadows captured 13 POWs during his tenure in SOG. The remaining four recon teams were Idaho, Alaska, Kansas and Dakota.*





*SOG also had Hatchet Force companies that ran trail interdiction missions or were sent in after recon teams engaged in heavy conflicts with the North Vietnamese Army. This is CCN's Da Nang-based Hatchet Force U.S. personnel, with commander Capt. Chuck Pfeifer, kneeling, second from right.*



*RT Virginia gained an edge on the enemy by wearing NVA uniforms and carrying Chinese weapons. Shown in NVA uniforms are One-Zero Ron Knight, back row, second from left, and One-One Larry Kramer, front row.*



*RT Pick team leader, One-Zero Bob Graham, left, holds his bow and arrow. Graham was an outstanding member of CCS, pictured here with, from left, Sgt. Mike Cummings, 1st Lt. Mike Ash and S. Sgt. Frank Oppel.*



Puts functional strength into every fiber of your being...

# "The #1 Total Body Fitness Program on the Planet - Turns You Into An Unstoppable Butt-Kicking Machine... Damn Near Instantly"

Follow the Legendary Routine That Simultaneously Catapults Your Strength, Endurance and Flexibility to record levels. Feel the results that tens of thousands are raving about worldwide...

by Frank Sherrill

I was the total skeptic. Not only had I lifted weights for years, but after 21 years in the martial arts and several more in the military, I thought I'd seen it all. So I just didn't believe **Matt Furey** when he said you can get kick-butt fit with bodyweight calisthenics, that I figured I went through in bootcamp. Besides, I could bench 400 and squat 625. So there's no way I was going to fall for a routine that I figured I already knew. Been there, done that!

But I couldn't shake this feeling that Furey might be right. I had read about the **Great Gama** of India, a wrestler who followed this program and was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. In terms of size and strength, he was amazing. He was 5'7" and 260 pounds of streaming steel. And that was in the early 1900's - long before steroids.

I had heard that **Bruce Lee** did the exercises Furey teaches, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible ripped, lean, muscular look. Not to mention how lightning fast and fluid he was.

I had heard that **Herschel Walker**, a Heisman Trophy winner and All-Pro Running back did 500 pushups and situps each day. So that made me think even more.

And then the final straw was when I started to read all the testimonials that Furey had collected from fellow military (I have included several of them in this article).

And then, of course, there is Furey, the author of **Combat Conditioning** and the man GRAPPLING magazine dubbed "The King of Catch Wrestling." Furey has been featured in major martial arts magazines around the world, has been on the cover of several - and is certainly no slouch when it comes to having and using functional strength. He was a world champion in Shuai-chiao kung fu and a national collegiate champion wrestler. Something told me he had to be telling the truth.

I figured the only way I would ever know for sure would be to get the program and use it. I told myself that if what I was reading was nothing but marketing hype - I would not only be angry - but I would let everyone in the world know about it.

So I bought Furey's **Combat Conditioning** book and read it. In the book he challenges the readers with a test. 100 Hindu squats, followed by 50 Hindu pushups, then a one-minute back bridge.

Figuring this would be easy, I got started. At 40 Hindu squats my thighs were blitzed. It took about 90 seconds; not long compared to my squat routine at the gym.

Next, I tried the Hindu pushups. Funny thing is my legs were still shaking. I dipped down and pushed back. At 15 my arms were throbbing. This couldn't be. No way. **I could bench like there's no tomorrow and this exercise was nuking me.** I gave up at 27 reps. This took about 1.5 minutes, so my workout had only been 2.5 minutes long.

Then the bridge. After three unsuccessful attempts of ten seconds, I gave up. The next day my legs, chest and arms were sore, but in a good way. I thought my legs got 10 times more work with weights, but I was wrong.

Over the course of three months my body changed big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most amazing benefits that I and thousands of others all over the world have gotten from the **Combat Conditioning** program. I'm betting these are important to you, too:

1. I blow-torched off my excess body fat so quickly that I could eat more than I normally did and still look better than ever.
2. I packed and chiseled functional muscle onto my legs, chest and back that I've never had before, even from weights.
3. I simultaneously doubled my strength and flexibility - and did so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. I quadrupled my endurance inside of 30 days. Just think how much this helped my sparring. No matter what, I NEVER get tired.
5. The chronic back and shoulder pain I had from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing went away within a couple weeks. And much of that pain had been with me for nearly 10 years. It's GONE now.

6. I sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as I hit the rack I'm out like a light.
7. My self-confidence knows no bounds. Especially when I got compliments from people who hardly paid attention to me before. I honestly believe there is nothing I cannot do. I'm on top of the world.
8. I can train anywhere. I don't need more than a few square feet of carpet or pavement and I'm all set. I have absolutely no excuses and my body is loving me for it. I don't need any equipment. Just my own bodyweight.
9. I get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less. Sure, I could do more - but I've gotten incredible results with this amount - so why ruin a good thing?
10. I've turned back the clock. My friends tell me I look 5 - 10 years younger. Awesome!!
11. I have an explosive type of strength that weights couldn't give me. My movements are super fast even when I'm just screwing around.
12. My muscles are like a pliable and powerful tiger - ready to pounce on prey in a heartbeat.

So there you have it. The 12 reasons why **Combat Conditioning** is the best fitness program on the planet. But forget about me.

Take a look at what some others in the military have to say about this program:

*Matt, I am a US Marine stationed overseas. I am also a wrestler/judoka and the Marine who developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. I use your courses regularly. I like your no-nonsense approach. Particularly as I get older, bodyweight exercises are quick, flexible, all-encompassing and convenient. Keep up the good work!*

**Lt Colonel George Bristol - USMC**

*Mr. Furey,*

*We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12-1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir.*

**Bonner Cummings**

**Yosemite, CA**

*Dear Matt,*

*When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I and the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot.*

**TREAT'EM ROUGH!**

**CPT Judd D. Mahfouz - Infantry**

*Dear Mr. Furey,*

*Let me say I have benefited a lot from both your **Combat Conditioning** and **Combat Abs** book. I am a Marine stationed on Okinawa, Japan and I do a lot of kickboxing and NHB fighting on the side. Your exercises have given me a tremendous advantage and combined with my other routines (shadowboxing, sparring, bagwork, wind sprints, and grappling drills) have gotten me into the best shape of my life.*

**LCpl Sandor Devenyi - United States Marine Corps**



Matt Furey, author of the best-selling **Combat Conditioning**.

*Dear Matt,*

*Being a U.S. Marine in a field unit, I spend much of my time in Physical Training, and I'll admit, I thought that I was in peak physical condition. 2 months ago I began your **Combat Conditioning** program and quickly realized that I had been missing something. While platoon PT consists of mostly running and incorporates some bodyweight exercises (i.e. pushups, pull-ups, crunches) I had been spending the bulk of my personal training time in the weight room, lifting heavy. It embarrassed me the first time I tried to do a reverse pushup and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last 2 months. My 3 mile run time has dropped to below 18 minutes. I've lost a good 10 lbs and my body fat has dropped 4%. You can see the difference and God knows, I can feel the difference. I've introduced the rest of my squad to your program. Thanks for helping us kick ass and take names in a bellish and unforgiving manner.*

**D "Bubba" Byng - LCPL, USMC "Golf" Co, MCS Battalion**

Matt Furey's **Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness & Combat Sports** has 48 super effective bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Be one of the first 25 people to order and you'll receive 3 free **Special Reports** on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

Your total investment in this no nonsense book is only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H U.S. (foreign orders add \$12). Order online at [www.mattfurey.com](http://www.mattfurey.com). Or pick up the phone right now and call 1 813 994 8267 to order.

You can also send a money order to Matt Furey Enterprises, Inc., 10339 Birdwatch Drive, Tampa, FL, 33647.

**Yes, Please Send Me **Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises & Combat Sports** book for only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H (\$12 foreign S&H), and if I'm one of the first 25 to order, I will also receive 3 **Special Reports** on eliminating knee, back and shoulder pain.**

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RT Hawaii at the Dak To launch site with One-Zero Lt. Gregory Glasbaker – glasses, no hat in center back row. Note World War II-type leggings team is wearing.



RT Wyoming in the fall of 1970 with, from left, Sam Holland, One-Zero Ralph Roddy, Al Lamp and Joe Paris. Note the contrast in weapons and attire, with the indigenous team members wearing NVA pith helmets, carrying AK-47s and an RPG, while Holland and Paris have CAR-15s.



RT Wyoming in early 1967 with One-Zero Joe Messer, back row, second from left. Note the number of untraceable Swedish Ks carried by the 'Yard team members. CAR-15s were not available at that time. The team in standing in front of a Vietnamese-piloted CH-34, from the 219th South Vietnamese Air Force's Special Operations Squadron. (See SOF March 2004 issue.) The H-34s were code-named Kingbees.



This photograph captures the pensive mood of SOG Capt. Dennis Neal, as he sits next to the door in a Kingbee, enroute to a SOG target in Laos. He, Sp4 Mike Burns and the entire team, disappeared near Highway 921 in Laos and remain MIA. Neal is armed with the CAR-15, is wearing contact gloves and the cravat bandage for headgear.





*RT Vermont in 1969 with American. From left, radio-operator One-Two Chuck Hein, assistant team leader One-One Glenn Uemura and One-Zero Franklin "Doug Miller" who later received the Medal of Honor in SOG. Hein was KIA May 8, 1970.*



*RT Washington in 1971 with One-Zero Robert McNeir, back center and One-One Howard Sugar, back right. Note his CAR-15 is equipped with a XM203 grenade launcher that fired the 40 mm round, the identical ordnance used in the M-79 grenade launcher.*

*Lt. Ken Bowra was the One-Zero of RT Cobra at CCN in 1971. He was also the One-Zero of RT Idaho and assisted in converting RT Idaho into the first all-indigenous SOG team that successfully ran a mission in SOG. Bowra recently retired after rising to the rank of major general, where he commanded the JFK Special Warfare Center at Ft. Bragg, N.C.*



*CGS Lt. Mike Ash rides a STABO rig 3,000 above Cambodia. This was one method of extracting recon teams from the jungle where helicopters could not land.*





*RT Montana in late 1970 with One-Zero Mike Sheppard center in back row.*



*Sgt. Fred Zabilosky, of Trenton, N.J., receives the Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon, Feb. 20, 1969, for bravery under heavy enemy fire in a SOG target in Laos in Feb. 19, 1968. Zabilosky was running a mission from FOB 2, in Kontum.*



*Sp.4 John Meyer, left, One-Zero ST Idaho in Nov. 1968, with Lynne M. Black, the One-One of ST Idaho at FOB 1, in Phu Bai. Note, Meyer is wearing a BAR ammunition harness, which carried several 20-round Car-15 magazines.*



*RT Arizona in 1969 with from left, Sgt. Kyle Dean, One-Zero Lt. Jim Young and Sgt. Mike Wilson, kneeling, center.*



*Larry Thorne began his military career as Lauri Tornii, a Finnish commando whose exploits behind Russian lines resulted in the award of the Mannerheim Cross, Finland's Highest honor. He distinguished himself in Europe and joined the Special Forces in its early years of operations in Europe. He was the first SOG SF KIA in 1965. His remains were recently recovered from Laos. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery June 26, 2003, along with the Kingbee pilot who died in the helicopter crash with him.*



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BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

## AMERICA AT WAR

**AL-QAEDA'S** TRAINING PUBLICATION Camp al-Battar Magazine, written by Abdul Aziz al-Moqrin, leader of al-Qaeda operations in the Gulf and mastermind behind the al-Muhaya Compound bombing in Riyadh in November 2003, gives instructions for legitimate [sic] targets. "THE TARGETS INSIDE THE CITIES" a nine-page article calls for destruction of: 1. religious places only if Missionaries in Islamic countries are trying to convert Moslems to Christians; 2. Any Moslem religious scholar who cooperates with the enemy; 3. Reverends, priests, rabbis and any religious personality that attacks Islam or Moslems; 4. Any (Jewish or Christian) personality that provides financial, military, or moral support against Moslems. PURPOSE FOR HUMAN TARGETS (Christians and Jews) is to stress the struggle of the faiths.

**1. PHILIPPINES** STATE OF DENIAL by government. U.S. intelligence terrorist-warnings are ignored. NEW TERRORIST GROUP, the Rajah Solaiman Movement recruits Christians then forces them to Islamic militancy. GOVERNMENT claims it has driven al Qaeda operatives to Indonesia and Malaysia; 400 U.S. SpecOps deployed to join military ops; 1500 U.S. Marines on standby.

**2. MEXICO** SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER TERRORIST-CELL activities accelerate. Corrupt customs and police officials and Mexican drug cartels compromise President Vicente Fox's intelligence. GUADALAJARA and TIJUANA harbor operatives making threats on NASA's Johnson Space Center, George Bush International Airport and other targets.

**3. VENEZUELA** OFFICIAL REFUGEE STATUS granted to Colombian "displaced persons" fleeing from ongoing FARC and ELN insurgency. The refugee situation is "most serious humanitarian crises outside of Africa" said UN officials.

**4. NEW ZEALAND** SAS OPERATIVES return to Afghanistan for major operation to find bin Laden, al Qaeda and Taliban chiefs.



**5. UNITED KINGDOM** BRUTAL MURDER of 22-year-old soldier Lee Martin, Iraqi war hero who had just come back from Iraq is part of a hidden and growing wave of increasingly murderous anti-white racist attacks country-wide. Savage murders are retaliation by Muslims against war in Iraq. Fear is that Iraqi war will be played out in the UK streets. SAS FORCE is expanding by 20%, from 480 to more than 570; 400 SAS commandos and four 80-man "Sabre Squadrons" prepare small elite squadrons for global missions.

**6. GERMANY** EUROPE-WIDE ALERT. Official issues warning that more than 30 "important people" from Afghani Taliban and Al Qaeda smuggled into Europe are regrouping in the UK. EUROPOL WARNS that terrorists are being smuggled from Asia through Europe to Iraq and operators are raising funds by drug and human smuggling on the continent.

**7. KOSOVO** JORDANIAN ASSASSIN opens fire on U.N. officials guarding prison, killing two Americans, an Austrian and wounding 10 others.

**10. IRAN** GOVERNMENT AIDS IRAQI SHIITE GUERRILLAS. Former President Ayatollah Rafsanji praises militias and claims Iran is stronger because of U.S. military vulnerability in Iraq.

**11. AFGHANISTAN** SF OPERATORS, troops, intelligence experts, special aviation personnel and operators from U.K., Australia, New Zealand and Canada hunt Osama bin Laden.

**12. WEST BANK & GAZA STRIP** ASSASSINATION OF SHEIKH AHMAD YASSIN and Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi, Hamas leaders, by Israelis, strengthens Hamas' support. The Palestinian group classified as terrorist group by U.S.

**8. UZBEKISTAN** UNKNOWN ISLAMIC GROUP, the Jihad Islamic Group, believed to be trained by al-Qaeda, claims responsibility for retaliatory attacks because Muslims are "tortured and imprisoned as a way to terrorize and degrade them." (AP) THIRTY THREE TERRORISTS and 10 police die in bombings and suicide attacks.

**9. ZIMBABWE** SEVENTY MERCS plotting to take over Equatorial Guinea still in prison; apprehended when attempting to buy arms.





*(left) A 500-pound bomb destroys a Taliban mountain stronghold. National Guard teams were dissed by the regulars, until they proved themselves. This team proved itself in spades. (below) The team takes a quick break when a vehicle overheats after climbing a 14,000 foot peak.*

## National Guard A-Team Shows The Pros How It's Done

BY WO1 MICHAEL MCINERNEY

THE  
BATTLE  
FOR



DEH CHOPAN,



Gardez, Paktia Province, Afghanistan 14 Aug 2003:

**It's** 1800 hours and the sun is setting over the mountains of eastern Afghanistan as we pulled our battered and dusty Hilux trucks and Land Rovers up to the gate of our firebase just outside of Gardez. We were glad to be home, as we had just finished another seven-day patrol. While downloading our vehicles and preparing for a few days off of rest and recovery, I was alerted that the Advanced Operations Base (Battalion) Commander wanted to see me as soon as possible. Walking through the "Beau Geste"-like mud fort, I arrived at the Tactical Operations Center, I noticed that the other two ODAs (the basic 12-man Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha) were back already, preparing to return to Bagram, and then onto K2, our staging base in Uzbekistan. I was hoping that the AOB Commander was going to tell me what a great job my team had just done, and that we were to pack up and head back after spending six months in beautiful war-torn Afghanistan.

Boy, was I surprised when he told me that he had selected my team to go on one last operation, to Deh Chopan, a small

district about 150 km north of Kandahar. I glanced at the map. It was approximately 600 km from Gardez to Deh Chopan, or about a three-day drive, if our vehicles didn't break down. I asked what our mission was. We were to conduct armed reconnaissance, to positively identify and interdict any Anti-Coalition Movement (ACM) activity in the Deh Chopan area.

Our mission packet was sketchy at best. It suggested the possibility of 250-300 Taliban/Al-Qaeda in the area, establishing a training camp and support base. No maps were provided. The latest intel was more than two months old. We were to be re-supplied by bundle drops.

"Thank You, Sir. May I Have Another?"

"Oh great! A mission deep into Indian country and the nearest friendly unit is over 150 km away. We've got no maps, and we are going to rely on someone dropping a bundle at night from a plane traveling 250 mph at 250 feet above us for resupply." What else can any good SF soldier ask for? The AOB commander dropped the other bit of good news. He advised that higher headquarters wanted the team in the Area of Operations (AO) no later than 18 August. Well, with a very merry "Thank you sir, may I have another?" I left to



# AFGHANISTAN

PART 1





give my team the good news.

I slowly walked back to the team area thinking, "How am I going to break this to my guys?" All I could think of was to tell them was that for the first time a National Guard team was being given a good combat mission, that it was an opportunity for us to finally get into action and prove ourselves.

That's right ... we're National Guardsmen and we are out on the tip of the spear, fighting this War on Terror. We belong to one of the two National Guard Special Forces Groups. Specifically my ODA is part of the Maryland National Guard.

My ODA is pretty much like most of the other USARNG ODAs. We are composed of Postal Employees, Law Enforcement, Federal Agents, Federal Workers, Businessmen, Entrepreneurs, and Active Duty Guardsmen. The one major difference between our teams and the Active Duty teams is that the National Guard guys are generally older, and bring a diverse professional background to the job. By this I mean that we are really older. The oldest guy on the team was 55, and he could still keep up! Our greatest strength in the National Guard Special Forces is that not only are we skilled in our SF MOS but we also bring a great deal of expertise from our civilian jobs.

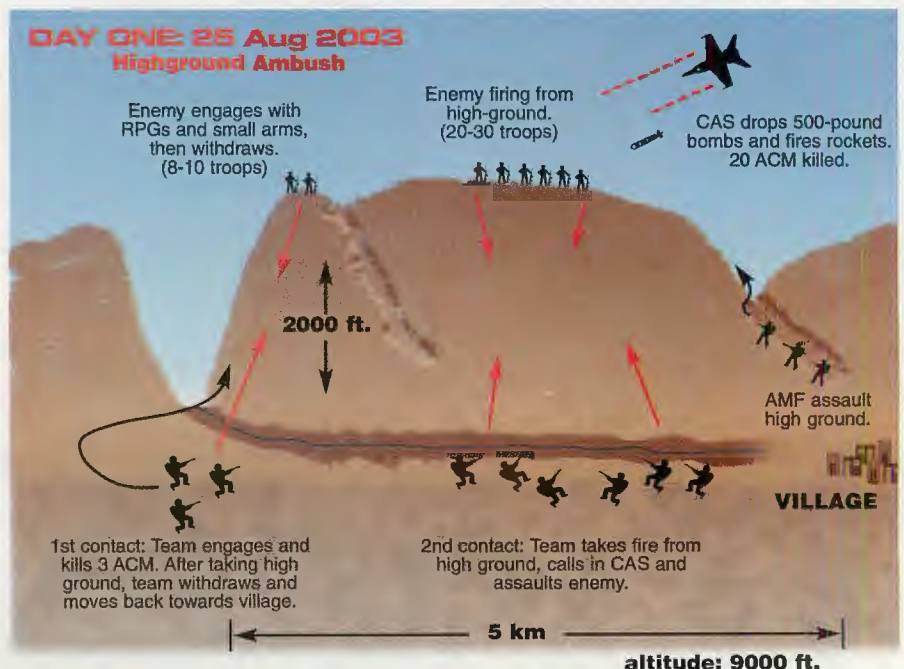
Well, the team took it in stride, like professionals, though "amateurs" they be, and came up with a list of "To Do's" over the next few days. Half of the team went up to Bagram, to the G-2 shop at the Joint Operations Center and gathered as many maps of the area as they could, while the other half of the team requisitioned as much ammo as we could scrounge. We spent the next two days getting prepared. We headed out to the range and confirmed

our weapon's zeros, and rehearsed our Immediate Action Drills again and again.

For some reason this mission felt different. As the days got closer to our departure everyone had a sense that we were about to run into some pretty serious stuff, and that the only person you could count on to get you home was the guy next to you. It was a pretty somber mood around the team house on our last night before departure, everyone just wanted to be alone with their thoughts and just about everyone called home to talk with their loved ones.

*Somewhere in the Deh Chopan district, Afghanistan, 18 - 24 Aug 2003:*

As the sun rose over the 14,000 feet mountains just outside our Firebase we loaded our vehicles. We decided that for this mission we would take two Land Rovers, one Hilux,







and one Humvee. (A very important point to remember later on is that none of these vehicles were armor plated or had any protection ... which is why we dismounted immediately upon contact.)

The Hilux and the Land Rovers were nothing more than modified diesel pickup trucks. They looked like a beefed up pickup with a pedestal-mounted machine gun in the back. We liked the Hiluxes because of their durability and ease of repair. We beat the living hell out of those Hiluxes, breaking leaf springs, puncturing gas tanks, snapping axels, and just about any other problem ... and the local mechanics were more than happy to fix them for us, for less than \$100.

We had just received the Land Rovers, and were happily surprised by their performance. They could carry a heavy load, had great gas mileage, and excellent powerful engines. Our Humvee was the only standard military vehicle of the

*(left) Tired, bearded and dirty after fighting for twelve hours, SFC Scott walks it off. (center) Post-combat Team photo. Left to right, SSG CJ (USAF TACP), SSG Pete, SSG Bill, SFC Mike, SFC Pete, SFC Dave, SSG Lou, SFC Chuck, SFC Scott. Kneeling, SFC Rick, WO1 Mac. (above) This fully loaded Land Rover was hand painted by the team for desert ops. The team takes a break in the evening before resuming convoy in the morning.*

bunch. It was equipped with a hard top with ring mount for a .50 cal, which made it our only heavy weapon system.

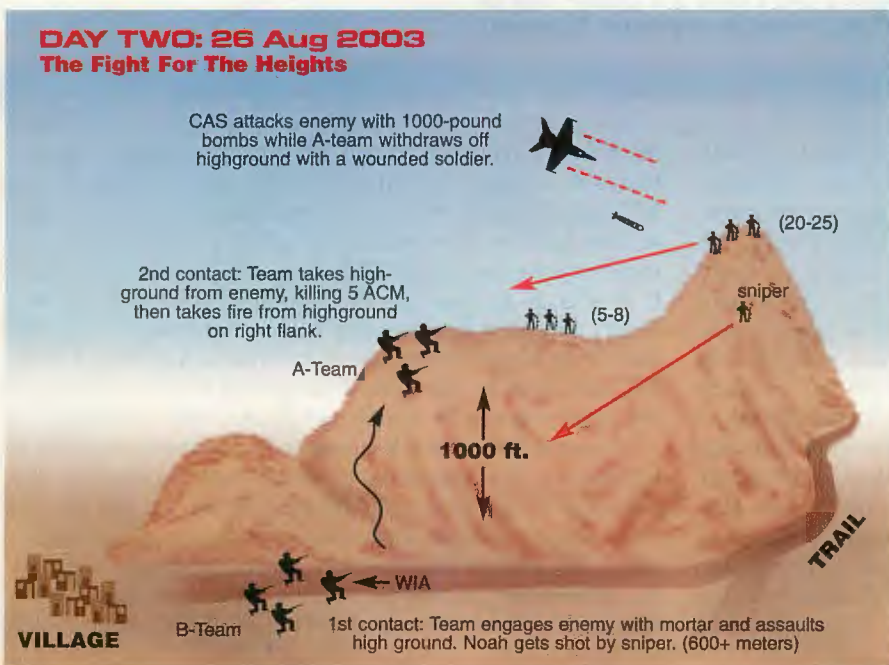
We loaded all of our vehicles with enough water, food, and fuel to provide us with provisions for approximately a week, and enough ammo to take over a small country. Our last action just prior to departure was to take our last team picture ... its team SOP just in case someone didn't return.

### 0600, Ninety Degrees Fahrenheit

We loaded our vehicles, waved a dusty farewell, and left at 0600. The sun was already beating down, 90 degrees and rising. Our adventure had begun ... We drove all day, passing through Zormat, Ghazni, Moqur, and the rest of beautiful, dry, dusty, windy Afghanistan in the summer. We arrived in our AO as the sun set, and established our Mission Support Site (MSS) in one of the many hidden valleys in this mountainous area.

As we drove into our Area of Operations we noticed a number of factors that indicated this was indeed bad guy country. The area was isolated. The only means of travel was along a major north-south riverbed, impassable during the winter months. The terrain was rugged, with peaks rising from 9,000 ft to 20,000 ft, and there were no visible

*Continued on page 71*





# BARRETT'S NEW



*Made to Mil-Spec as outlined by the U.S. Special Forces, the Barrett M468-A1 comes standard with a Mid-Length gas system and an A.R.M.S. S.I.R. System. It will also accept the new Barrett Suppressor.*

**S**eldom does a new cartridge come along that's as exciting as the 6.8mm Remington Special Purpose Cartridge (SPC). Fathered by a grass-roots initiative originating in the U.S. Special Forces, 5th Group - Airborne, and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), the 6.8mm Rem. SPC was conceived to bring a new level of battlefield performance to our sons and daughters now fighting the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) at home with Homeland Defense, and abroad.

The offspring of the original .30 Remington cartridge case (the round used in the Remington Model 8 in the car ambush to take out Bonnie and Clyde), the 6.8mm SPC bears little resemblance to that obsolete round designed to hunt game. Designed to hunt a different kind of animal, the 6.8mm SPC out shoots anything in its class such as the 5.45x39mm, 5.6x45mm, the ubiquitous 7.62x39mm, and

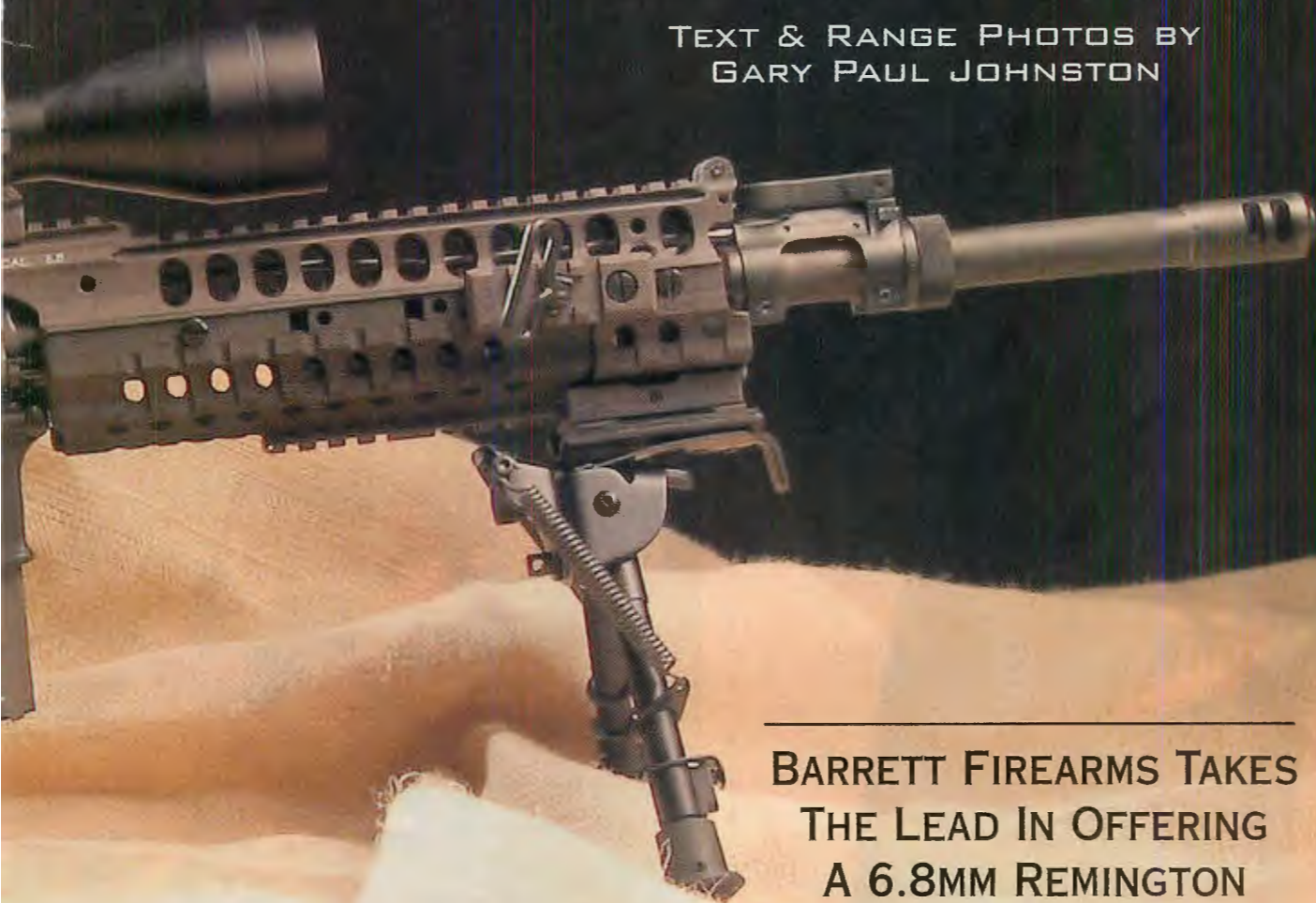
the 6.5mm Grendel cartridges. Producing increased incapacitation at all ranges out to 600+ yards, this cartridge fires a 115-grain Hornady Match or Sierra Match .270 caliber bullet at 2600 fps from a 16-inch barrel M16 type rifle, and has the same trajectory as the M118 7.62mm NATO Match cartridge. It is also as accurate as the 5.56mm NATO and 7.62mm NATO now used U.S. Military Forces, but I won't dwell further on the history of the 6.8mm Remington SPC here. For the full story and its complete development by Remington, see my 2-part story in the March and April, 2004 issues of *SOF*.

Where is the 6.8mm Remington SPC at this is written? In big demand throughout the industry, as well as law enforcement and the military, not to mention Homeland Defense and Reserve and National Guard. Remington can't make the cartridge fast enough and Hornady and Federal will soon have the 6.8mm SPC in full production. Other cartridge companies such as Winchester and Wolf Performance Ammunition



# 6.8mm M468

TEXT & RANGE PHOTOS BY  
GARY PAUL JOHNSTON



## BARRETT FIREARMS TAKES THE LEAD IN OFFERING A 6.8MM REMINGTON SPC "RECCE" RIFLE.

are also looking seriously at loading it, and other ammunition companies are as well.

All things considered, the 6.8mm Remington SPC was the hottest topic at the 2004 SHOT Show where Remington had it SAAMI specified and distributed the cartridge dimensions throughout the industry. All chamber reamer manufacturers now have 6.8mm SPC chamber reamers and, as you read this, all major barrel makers will have 6.8mm 1-in-10 inch twist 6.8mm (.270) match grade barrels available. I predict that most makers of single-shot and repeating rifles, and virtually every maker of AR-15 style semi-automatic rifles, will offer 6.8mm SPC versions well before the next SHOT Show, but one company is way ahead of the game, and that's Barrett Firearms Manufacturing Company, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Makers of the renowned Barrett 82A1 (now the Army's M107) .50-BMG caliber rifle, Barrett now offers its brand new M468-A1 rifle in 6.8mm Remington SPC. The designa-

tion comes from combining M4 and 6.8mm, e.g., M468. A virtual clone of the Mk-12 Variant "Recce" (a Navy SEAL designation) rifle showcased in above issues of *SOF*, the M468-A1 is an M4-style rifle made in both selective-fire and semi-automatic-only versions. Like the "Recce" rifle, this one uses the mid-length gas system developed by Mr. Mark Westrom, of ArmaLite, and comes equipped with the A.R.M.S. Mid-Length Selective Integrated Rail (S.I.R.) System and #40-A Low Profile Front Sight. The M468-A1 also uses the SOPMOD Folding Front Sight from Precision Reflex, Inc. along with PRI's new 6.8mm magazine, but that's not all.

**... "This Is The Smallest Gun We've Ever Made."**

Formally introduced at the 2004 SHOT Show, the Barrett M468-A1 boasted a new muzzle brake and suppressor-mounting system along with the new Barrett





Ronnie Barrett proudly introduces the M468-A1 at the North Las Vegas Police Range. "This is the smallest gun we've ever made," he said, jokingly. (below) Gil Angelotti fires the suppressed Barrett M468-A1. The report was much like a .22 Short. This M468-A1 is equipped with a Trijicon ACOG Sight.



6.8mm Suppressor. Located on the muzzle brake, the suppressor screws onto a threaded bushing on the barrel, positioned against the front sight. All who saw the M468-A1 yearned to fire it, and a few of us would get the chance on Thursday at the North Las Vegas Police Range.

With a few lucky writers mixed in with a number of SpecOps and law-enforcement personnel, Ronnie Barrett proudly introduced his new M468-A1 saying jokingly, "This is the smallest gun we've ever made." He was, of course, referring to his line of .50 BMG-caliber sniper rifles. After a short dissertation, Ronnie turned the introduction over to his son, Chris Barrett, who headed up the M468-A1 Program, and Chris then introduced Bob Gates, who outlined the operation of the gun and suppressor. We were then turned loose with six sample guns and a few thousand rounds of Remington 6.8mm SPC ammunition.

In addition to iron sights, the M468-A1's were equipped with Aimpoint Comp M2, Eotech, and Trijicon ACOG optics, and one rifle had a Leupold Sniper Scope. Unlike the selective-fire Recce-type rifles, this latter M468 had a fixed stock and was a semi-automatic only version.

Since I had already fired several PRI versions of the 6.8mm







*Dick Swan, of A.R.M.S., fires the new Barrett 6.8mm. No stranger to the system, Swan was once a design engineer at Colt and worked under Rob Roy, and Dick produces the S.I.R. System that comes on the M468-A1. This rifle is equipped with the Eotech Military/Police Reflex Sight. (above) This Las Vegas SWAT officer fires the Leupold scoped sharpshooter version of the M468-A1. Everyone was very impressed.*

"Recce" and SPR type rifles for SOF, the M468-A1 brought no major surprises. The Muzzle brake seemed as effective as the SOPMOD brake from OPS, Inc., which had come on the PRI guns. Make no mistake, firing a 115 gr. bullet at 2600 fps, the "Recce" rifle has more recoil than a .223 caliber carbine, but the muzzle brake allows easy operator controllability and fast recovery. I found I could make fast target acquisition and hits with it on both semi- and full automatic from 25 yards on multiple silhouette targets, as could most others there including SureFire's Barry Dueck, who made transitioning from right to left handed look easy with the M468-A1.

Although I did not fire the scoped semi-automatic only M468-A1, I did fire four others of the six on hand. The remaining rifle suffered several failures to extract and was pulled from the line. Early on, Barrett discovered some problems due to tight chambers, and changed the specifications of the reamers. This gun might have had one such barrel. Whatever the case, all the other rifles performed well beyond expectation with the volume of ammunition shot that day.

Since our firing was limited to 25 yards, we didn't have the opportunity to shoot the M468-A1's for accuracy, but my PRI test 6.8mm rifles produced 1 MOA accuracy or better. Since Barrett uses only the best Match Grade 6.8mm barrels, I have no reason to doubt that they'll shoot just as good. The rifles were so impressive that one law enforcement agency

## Barrett M468-A1

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 6.8mm Remington SPC.

**Muzzle Velocity:** 2600 fps.

**Operation:** Direct gas, operating long-stroke piston and gas cylinder.

**Type of Fire:** Selective: Full-automatic and semi-automatic.

**Barrel Length:** 16 inches.

**Rate of Twist:** 6 groove, one-in-10 inch RHT.

**Overall Length:** (stock extended) 35.5 inches.  
(stock retracted) 32 inches.

**Weight:** (gun alone) 7.5 lbs.

**Feed Device:** 26-round box magazine (AR-15 magazines can work).

**Safety:** Safety selector blocks trigger.

**Sights:** (front) Protected post adjustable for elevation.

(rear) Protected flip aperture adjustable for windage.

**Stock Furniture:** Matte black synthetic.

**Finish:** MilSpec matte black.

SWAT unit present reportedly began making arrangements to trade in their current tactical rifles for M468-A1's.

Soldiers at the demonstration, just back from Iraq, were amazed at the ease of conversion and were dumbfounded that their military supply mechanisms have been lukewarm in helping get the 6.8mm out into the field. After firing the M468, one Federal agent present commented that the 6.8mm system gives you a feeling of confidence that it will get the job done instead of the feeling of anxiety one gets when facing a threat vehicle with only a 5.56mm carbine.

*Continued on page 70*



# SOF Visits Combat Veteran Carbine Course

TEXT & PHOTOS BY PAUL AVALLONE

**I**t was Friday afternoon, the last day of the five-day course, and the final shoot-out was between the Prescott cop and the ex-Special Forces major. Their weapons, the personal carbines they'd shot with all week. The targets, steel silhouettes, two for each lane — one at 100 yards, the second at 200. The starting positions were standing unsupported, at the low ready, and on "Go" to engage the close target until "Hit," then go to the knees or prone, shooter's choice, and engage the far target. The winner would be the first to put a shot each on the two targets, the best of five iterations. The judges were instructors with binos to discern the telltale puff of dirt indicating a miss and the absence



(left) Instructor Slawson, with M4, is former USMC sergeant major, presently a deputy sheriff in Colorado, owns EP company. (right) After a good sprint students stop, fire quickly in movement drill. Instructor in far background is Chris Matthews. L-R, four closest to camera: Lt. Cdr. Steve Johnson (Navy pilot), MA-1 "Sonic" Dominguez (Navy Raven); Lt. Col. Joe Knapp (Marines), Lt. Cdr. John Love (Navy M.D.)

of a puff along with the ping of a bullet hitting steel, for a hit.

The former SF major's rifle was an HK-91 (.308), with a Hensoldt 4x24 scope, with a laser sight built into the forearm. The Prescott cop's, a Colt AR-15 (.223) borrowed for the week from a firearms trainer buddy. Stripped down, with nothing but iron sights, the Colt had, as the cop admits, "a lotta wear on it." A short time earlier, each had won a similar shoot-out with the dozen others of their respective training group. There were the finals now: The best one from each group, with the other guys backing their own winner with joking encouragement.

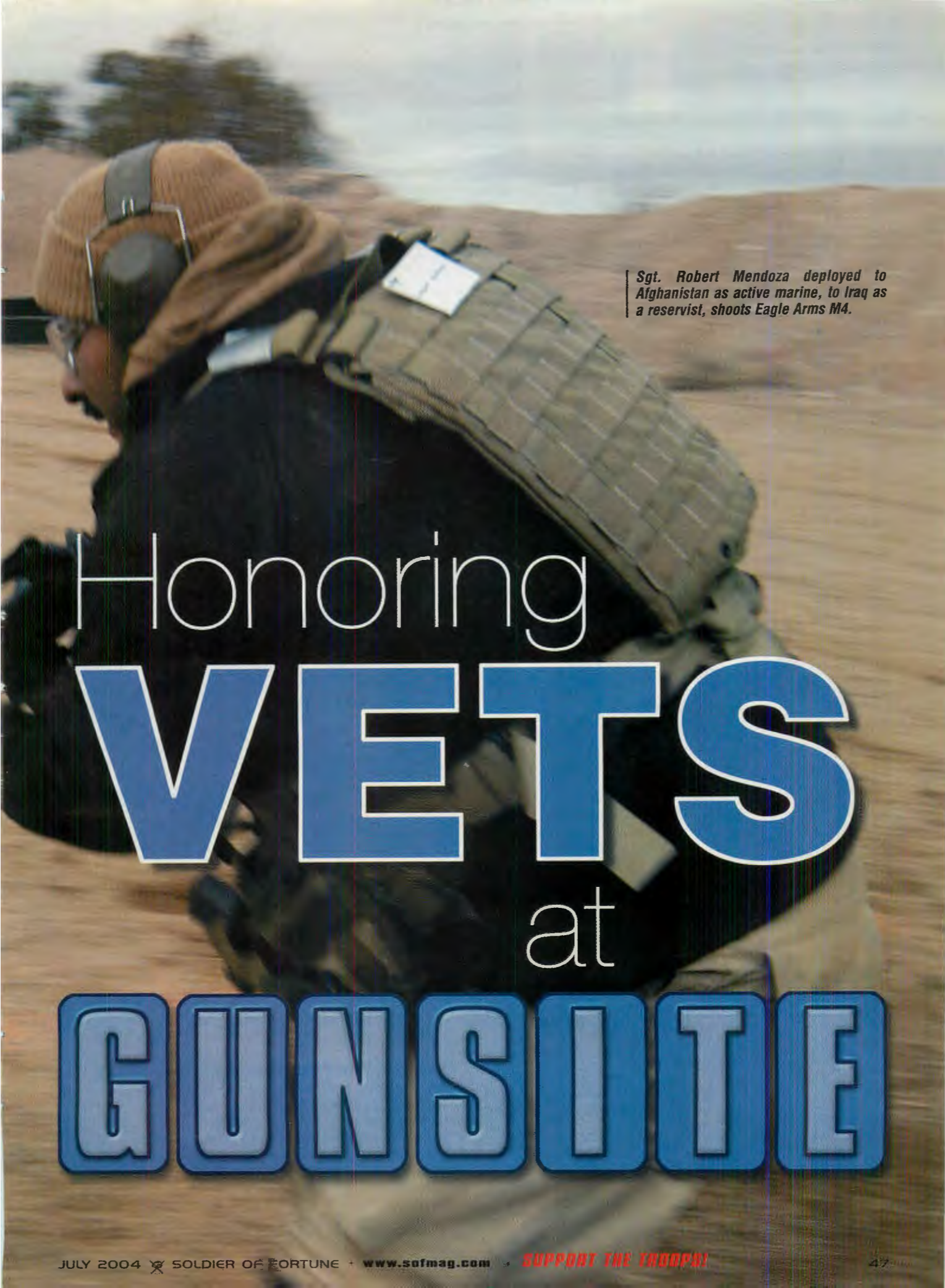
The groups had been formed first thing Monday morning at the beginning of the course, more or less arbitrarily, half in each, 12 to 15 being a manageable number for class instruction, where 95% of the instruction would be on the ranges. Hands-on shooting. Shooting and moving.

The time was early January of this year, the location was just north of Prescott, Arizona, at the famous Gunsite Academy, which has been called "The Harvard of the shooting schools." The course: .223/5.56 carbine firing and tactics. What made this particular course worthy of a visit from SOF? Gunsite was offering the instruction free to American military guys who had served in Operations Enduring Freedom



Marine LTC Joe Knapp fires Bushmaster with Aimpoint 3000 sight adapted from pistol ("it adapted real well..."), from behind barricade in utilizing-cover drill.

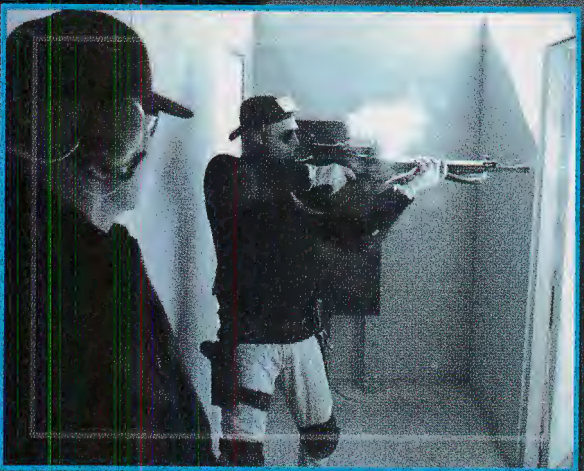




*Sgt. Robert Mendoza deployed to Afghanistan as active marine, to Iraq as a reservist, shoots Eagle Arms M4.*

# Honoring **VETS** at **GUNSITE**





*(left, from top) Retired Green Beret Major, Sam Pikula, firing in the shoot house. Marine Lt. Col. Joe Knapp (L) and Navy doctor Cdr. John Love (R) practicing rapid fire on the 25-yard range. Army sergeant Aaron Garcia engages a target in a room of the shoothouse. Navy SEAL George remains anonymous as he shoots unsupported from the tower at black silhouette targets 300 yards down range.*



(Afghanistan or elsewhere) and/or Iraqi Freedom. As SOF publisher R.K. Brown told me when he called, "There might be some interesting stories there. Or, at least, unusual."

Months earlier, Gunsite had placed announcements in SOF, the Army, Navy and Air Force Times, the Marine Corps Gazette and S.W.A.T., offering four free courses in 2004, for veterans of the two operations — two in carbine and two in pistol, 30 slots in each, maximum. Through Gunsite's phones and Internet site, the slots were filled within a few days and waiting lists were started for each of the courses.

### Mission Statement: Trigger Time

Colonel Robert Young (USMC, retired), Gunsite's operation chief (or, as he calls himself, "the XO"), reported to SOF publisher RKB that the majority of the responses by far had come from the announcement in this magazine. Hmmmmmm, even more intriguing to RKB. Typical of all magazine publishers, Brown noted, "try and keep your expenses down." And he added, rare for any publisher, "Make sure you get some trigger time yourself." Great, except I'd be traveling light — no carbine; just my trusty little Kel-Tec P11 9mm, which I try never to leave home without. Into my kit bag it went, to go cargo-hold on the flight. Sure, I'd prefer to have it with me as carry-on with my cameras and laptop, but those days are as long gone as Constellations, Pan Am and Elvis.

Since 9/11, on active duty most of the time, I'd flown nothing but military, so I was surprised to find huge X-ray machines behind the Southwest Airlines check-in counter. When'd they start checking hold baggage, I wondered? The gun's unloaded, the kit bag's locked — no problem, I thought. Yeh, right, if only it

*Navy Raven Frank Medrano spins from one firing position to another during a turn at the Scrambler, a 7-8 station outdoor range with semi-wooded targets to be engaged from a variety of positions of concealment.*

were that simple.

Forty-five minutes, a half-dozen TSA officials and airport cops, multiple forms to fill out and the purchase of a hard-body lockable case (\$43 from adjacent U.S. Airways for a \$7 case) later, and my little P11 was safe to be allowed aboard my flight in the baggage hold. Lucky for me I'm certified for concealed carry in my state, otherwise, for my "failure to report the presence of a firearm" in my luggage at the time of check-in, I would have forfeited the gun and been stuck who-knows-how-much-longer answering questions, filling out even more forms and trying to talk my way out of possible arrest. When did all that become law?

Shy of squeezing a live person into one's suitcase (or kit bag) and aboard a plane, what harm can a packed-away firearm do in-flight in baggage hold and why the hell does the state have to know it's there? You'd think the last people you'd want aware you have guns packed away would be the baggage handlers. Tell me otherwise. The point being, I had the uncomfortable feeling that this ever-increasing firearm regulation was a precursor to a not-



*Turn and shoot drills require good gun-handling techniques.*

that-distant future in which any airline travel with a gun, no matter how secure in baggage hold, will be outlawed. Come that day, if you live on the East Coast, for instance, and plan on attending a Gunsite course, you'll have to forget a five-hour flight and instead load up your car for a three-day road trip... if carbines and handguns aren't outright banned by then. Along with facilities like Gunsite.

In retrospect, the irritation has subsided, but it was on my mind heading west to Gunsite, and it wasn't a good start to the trip. But, did my outlook change when I made it to the academy and found a world completely different from the monster X-ray machine, hordes of TSA security guards and the ineffectual "remove your boots, please, sir" fraidy-cat airport regulatory ritual. At Gunsite, guns are everywhere and not feared. From staff to students, guns



*The Scrambler is a seven-eight station range. Timed, one moves from concealment to concealment, engaging the half-hidden steel silhouette targets downrange. Dave Williams is a deputy sheriff with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Department. Because of the elevation of the terrorist alert to orange through the Christmas and New Year's holiday, nearly a third of the combat-veteran active-duty servicemen who had signed up for the course could not get away to attend. Thus, at the last minute, the Gunsite staff asked the local police and sheriff departments for volunteers to fill the slots, as the instructors and classes had already been scheduled.*





(above) Running the Scrambler, former Green Beret major Sam Pikula fires at one of the downrange targets from one of the covered positions. (below) Lt. Col. Joe Knapp secures the shoot

house entrance prior to going in to engage the variety of targets within. Instructor Chris Matthews follows for safety and to offer constructive assessment and criticism.







*With instructor Ed Head keyed downrange, listening for the telltale ping of a bullet striking the steel silhouette in the brush, Marine Lt. Col. Joe Knapp runs the scrambler, engaging here from the prone.*



*Marine sergeant Greg Topp puts two quick shots into each target during movement-fire drill, approaching the targets from an angle at a steady, assured pace.*

are carried naturally, matter-of-factly, with confidence and respect. There is nothing frightening about the weaponry there. The academy's own safety rules, posted throughout the complex, even in the restrooms, say it all:

1. All guns are always loaded.
2. Never let the muzzle cover anything which you are not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger OFF the trigger until your sights are on the target.
4. Always be sure of your target.

Imagine airports and airplanes with those rules posted. You might have one guy — one, once — try to hijack a plane, but the rest of the world's scumbag terrorists and psychopaths will get a pretty clear message when what remains of his bullet-riddled body is pulled from the plane. Ever since the days of the hue and cry, instant citizens' justice is quite a deterrent.

### **Guns and Good Works**

One can dream. At Gunsite, though, it's not a dream. "We are a fighting school," Col. Bob Young (the XO) proudly claims. "No matter the political climate, we will remain a fighting school." Although Gunsite's facilities are 21st-Century modern, from mechanical range targets to live-fire shoot houses, to computer-projection classrooms, to a high-tech gunsmith shop, that "fighting school" spirit seems anachronistic in an age when a half-dozen airport security agents fret over a little Kel-Tec P11 stuffed into a kit bag in the cargo hold. And it's a welcome anachronism. Bob Young is simply echoing owner Owen "Buz" Mills' philosophy for his school: To teach the art of fighting. One who generally wears his patriotism quietly, without self-promotion, Buz Mills has publicly stated that his school is "doing God's work — keeping people alive. Training people to save lives."

Those aren't just nice-sounding words to Mills, either. A self-made entrepreneur, retired at least twice, Mills doesn't need Gunsite for monetary gain or to keep busy. He does it

for love and obligation: His love of shooting, one, and more importantly, what he sees as his civic obligation, given his successes, to provide to law enforcement and military personnel (as well as the general public) the basic and advanced tools that just might save their lives in their jobs or just everyday peaceful living on today's mean streets. Born in the rough-and-tumble of pre-World War II Texas, the son of a Navy war veteran, Mills did a stint in the Marine Corps until the early 1960s, when he went into heavy construction as an

ironworker. Through brains and brawn, hard work and an entrepreneur's willingness to gamble, Mills was very successful building, leasing and selling communications towers. An avid sport pistol shooter since the mid-1970s, Mills learned of Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute (later renamed Gunsite) and studied Cooper's shooting techniques even before meeting him in competition in 1980. Mills bought Gunsite in 1999, and since then has put some \$4 million into capital improvements. There are now 25 ranges on the academy's 1600 acres, with

expansion plans to soon add another 400 acres.

It was a roundabout way that Mills and the Gunsite staff came up with the idea to offer courses free to the combat veterans from the battlefields of America's war on terror. As XO Young explained, "We had given a tactical medical course to a group of Navy doctors and nurses who were going to deploy with forward Marines in Iraq, and we wound up hearing back from them, and I quote, 'The skills you taught us saved our lives.'" That struck Young. He and Mills were concerned that many of our soldiers were going into the combat zones without the proper gunfighting skills — in particular, for the close-quarters fighting so common today. At the same time, Mills and Young wanted to give something back to the men and women in uniform (all of whom are volunteers, remember, since there is no draft) who are sacrificing in Afghanistan, Iraq and wherever the



*Taliban flag secured in Afghanistan was presented to Colonel Bob Young and the staff of Gunsite by one of the OEF veterans attending the course, SFC "Doc" Garrett (whose picture and overseas experiences were not used for security reasons).*

*Continued on page 74*



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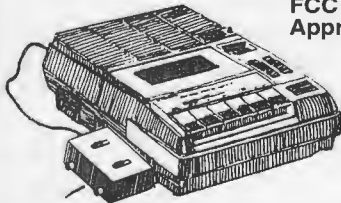
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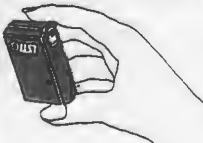
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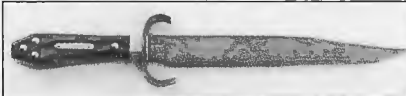
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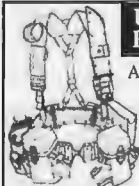
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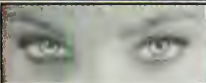
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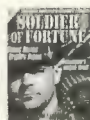
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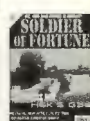
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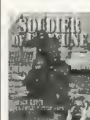
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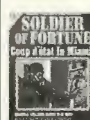
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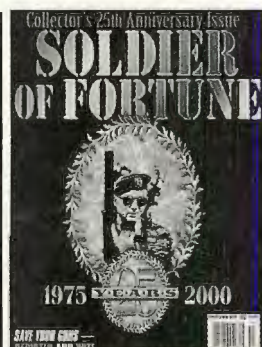
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# KERRY'S WAR-HERO GUISE

## *Viet-Vets Say, "He's Not One of Us"*

BY JOHN STRYKER MEYER

While John Kerry's political star rose nationally during the Democratic primaries, a large majority of Vietnam-era veterans across the country surfaced to oppose his candidacy.

In recent weeks, veterans across the country have signed on to various web sites and in public forums and most are unhappy about Kerry's portrayal of himself as a war hero during the Vietnam War in an effort to gain popular support at the polls, and point out his liberal, anti-military voting record in the U.S. Senate.

One angry critic of Kerry is former SEAL Team One member Curtis Williams, who was seriously wounded in 1968 while on a SEAL mission in Southeast Asia. "The Purple Heart I received was the real item, it wasn't one of those John Kerry Purple Hearts," he said.

Williams outlined how many Vietnam-era SEALs remain bitter with Kerry's anti-war activities.

"As a SEAL, I know that if you get a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts, with only two days of lost duty, as Kerry did, I can tell you it is highly irregular," Williams said. "From somebody who was there, I can say he didn't earn or deserve those medals. ... It's an insult to every honored soldier and sailor from every war in our history that Kerry received those medals then pretended later to throw them over the White House fence in protest."

In a recent interview, Williams said he didn't mind any Vietnam veteran protesting the war, "but, I dislike Kerry because he went to Congress and said that he knew officers who knew, on a daily basis of soldiers — that's what really upsets me — who raped, committed war atrocities and killed babies.

"This is when the Vietnam vets were labeled as war criminals. This is when a huge portion of the American popula-

tion got it into its mind that all Vietnam veterans were war criminals ... He's a traitor to every man who fought in the war."

Lastly, Williams said "many active duty SEALs and SEALs from my era, have complained about Kerry's voting record in Congress which has been anti-military, including voting against a bill to give U.S. troops improved body armor. So, here's a man who wants to be president and has a voting record that every enemy of the United States would admire and praise." He added, that there are several SEAL web sites that are dominated by anti-Kerry sentiments.

### **Also A War Criminal?**

Oceanside, Calif., resident and Vietnam combat-wounded Marine Bill Donnelly told us recently, "I think Kerry should be treated as a war criminal for his conduct where he was awarded a medal of valor. As I read it, he summarily executed a wounded man who appeared, by all accounts to be unarmed. He said Viet vets committed war crimes. He must have been talking about himself."

Twice-wounded USMC Vietnam veteran Tom Hartley, said, "I hope Kerry isn't banking on real combat vets voting for him in November. I'd never vote for him, even if he were the only candidate on the ballot. All of the combat vets I know are squarely against him."

Adrian Silva is the vice president of Special Forces Association Chapter 75 in San Diego County. Silva said he couldn't speak for the local SFA chapter or the national association, but, "speaking solely as an individual, I can say honestly that among Vietnam veterans I haven't heard any positive comments on John Kerry's run for the presidency... not one person in our chapter is voting for him. It's not about what he did in Vietnam that matters to me, it's what he did after he came home from Vietnam. He voted against almost



every major military vote, or anything that would help veterans. That's it in a nut shell."

Williams, Silva, Donnelly and Hartley said the majority of members in their respective veterans groups, including the Military Order of the Purple Heart, oppose Kerry.

### Groundswell Of GI Resentment

Additionally, Robert Noe, who runs an e-mail publication called *The SOG Publication*, recently established a Kerry web site that reflects the growing tide of anti-Kerry sentiment among Vietnam-era special operations personnel from the Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Marine Force Recon and Air Force pararescuemen.

Noe is a member of the Special Operations Association. He was a Green Beret who fought in the secret war during the Vietnam War where small Special Forces reconnaissance teams infiltrated deep behind enemy lines in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam under the aegis of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam — Studies and Observation Group, or SOG. Noe's brother Frank was a Special Forces soldier killed in action Vietnam. As the webmaster of the *SOG Publication*, Noe has a limited distribution mostly to members of the Special Operations Association. The Special Operations Association Board of Directors takes no official stand on Kerry. However, Noe's web site had more than 53,000 hits over a month and a half. More than 1,300 special operators responded that they were against Kerry's candidacy.

Noe said in a March 25 interview, "I've only had five or six guys, all liberals, all Democrats, from our organization or other SpecOp communities who said they support Kerry, while more than 1,300 oppose him. I've been overwhelmed with the response."

His inspiration for the Kerry web site arose in early February. Noe said that he became angry during the Democratic primary while watching the media coverage of Kerry beginning to heavily play what Noe described as his "I'm a war hero ... vote for me" mantra. When Noe was returning to fight in the secret war in Vietnam in 1971, he remembered Kerry's defamatory comments about veterans before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and "it really pissed me off at the time ... I realized this is just crap, there's no way the Vietnam Vets are behind Kerry today. Once again Kerry is trying to use small numbers to represent the majority to the American public. In 1971, as I recall, there was this small bunch of disgruntled veterans and fake veterans supporting Kerry which the popular media portrayed as a the typical Vietnam vet ...

### Does Not Represent Vets — Then Or Now

"The antiwar Vietnam veterans' movement did not represent the 3.2 million who served in Vietnam or the 8 million-plus who served during the Vietnam era. Because of that there was something I was determined to do, something to offset that view. No combat veteran I knew during the last 33 years ever had anything nice to say about Kerry. They held him in utter contempt. Over these years, we the real veterans who served in combat, a full tour of a year, not just having our ticket punched for political expediency and those

who served shorter tours because they were actually injured/wounded with serious injuries — not some damn injury resulting from scratches — were deeply scarred by this bastard who cast us in the world's eye as war criminals... Enough is enough.

"I took on the task to oppose Kerry by developing a Special Forces/Special Operations Against Kerry web site to expose him and to provide readers the basic facts so they might be able to analyze his conduct/behavior before voting."

The web site is complete with anti-Kerry buttons, slogans and hundreds of historical documents ranging from Kerry's senate testimony to newspaper articles from the '70s through last week.



On it is the quote from former Democratic-turned Republican senator and former POW Jeremiah Denton's: "To put it bluntly, John Kerry exemplified the very reason that I switched to the Republican Party."

Noe also noted how Vietnam-era Navy pilot Paul Galanti learned about Kerry's anti-war statements from his North Vietnamese Army captors while he was a Prisoner of War for seven years. Galanti remains deeply bitter against Kerry.

There's also a March 11 *Boston Globe* story written by Michael Kranish. He interviewed Steven Michael Gardner, a Navy veteran who served with John Kerry in Vietnam and was wounded while Kerry was

*Vietnam Veterans Against Kerry buttons provide great opportunity to spread the word. Order from:*  
[www.vnsfvetakerry.com/kerry\\_button.htm](http://www.vnsfvetakerry.com/kerry_button.htm)

in command of the swift boat Patrol Craft Fast No. 44. Gardner was manning twin .50-caliber machine guns during the night when crewmembers killed a boy during a brief exchange of gunfire with one enemy combatant.

However, Gardner hasn't campaigned for Kerry. Contrary to a few Vietnam-era veterans who have told the media of Kerry's purported heroic conduct, Gardner told the *Globe* that Kerry "... absolutely did not want to engage the enemy when I was with him. He wouldn't go in there and search. That is why I have a negative viewpoint of John Kerry."

Kranish wrote: "Gardner's view is dramatically at odds with that of many their crewmates whom the *Globe* interviewed, who praise Kerry's leadership and say he was one of the most aggressive skippers in the Navy at the time. Gardner said he intends to support President Bush for reelection."

### The New Veteran's Protest

In a brief interview, Army Vietnam veteran B.G. "Jug" Burkett, co-author of *Stolen Valor: How the Vietnam Generation was Robbed of its Heroes and its History*, told said that "in recent weeks I've talked to several Navy veterans who served on swift boats with Kerry, not many are supporting him, other than the ones who have done so publicly to date."

In addition, the anti-Kerry web site stated that there is an effort to have a Vietnam veterans protest in Boston during the Democratic Convention in July. One of the key veterans

*Continued on page 78*



6.8mm Remington SPC brass flies as SureFire's Barry Dueck fires the new Barrett 6.8mm Rem. SPC Model 468 (M4-6.8mm) Carbine equipped with a Mid-Length S.I.R. System, Aimpoint Comp M2 and a SureFire M900 Tactical Weapon Light. Barrett will offer several versions of its new 6.8mm carbine in semi-auto and selective fire. Look for in-dept test on the 468 soon. In the meantime, contact Barrett Firearms Mfg., Inc., Dept SOF, P.O. Box 1077, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1077; phone: 615-896-2938 [www.barrettrifles.com](http://www.barrettrifles.com) .

# SHOT SHOW

TEXT & PHOTOS BY  
GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

*The 2004 SHOT Show was bigger than ever with more guns and gear than you could shake a stick at — a stick magazine, that is. The Law Enforcement section was especially interesting, so without further ado, let's have a picture show!*



Just when you thought you'd seen everything in FALs, ACE, Ltd., has developed a "bullpup" version. Scott Ackert holds his new proof-of-concept FAL Bullpup, a fairly straightforward conversion using a vertical foregrip with a connector to the hidden trigger work. A number of improvements are on the drawing board. For information on all its parts and accessories, contact ACE, Ltd. USA, Dept. SOF, 20809 Clydesdale Rd., Chicago Park, CA 95712; phone: 530-346-2582 [www.riflestocks.com](http://www.riflestocks.com) .



Geoffrey Herring, of ARES Defense Systems, holds the SHRIKE 5.56™, a belt-fed conversion for the AR-15/M16 family of weapons. Consisting of a drop-on upper receiver component needing only a minor modification of the bolt release, the SHRIKE instantly converts the M16 rifle into a light machinegun with a quick-change barrel. What's more, the SHRIKE can use a standard box magazine or belt without modification. For information on all its products, contact ARES Defense Systems, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 10667, Balcksburg, VA 24062; phone: 540-639-8633 [www.aresdefense.com](http://www.aresdefense.com) .



Mark Westrom, President of ArmaLite, holds a new post-ban .223 Carbine with a vertical foregrip and OD green stock furniture. A pioneer in this field, ArmaLite manufactures a host of bolt-action and semi-automatic rifles in .223, .308, .300 Magnum, and .50 BMG calibers for law enforcement and others. For information on all its fine rifles, contact ArmaLite, Inc., Dept. SOF, 745 South Hanford St., Geneseo, IL 61254; phone: 309-944-6939.





Retired U.S. Navy SEAL Gary Jackson (center) and crew, of Blackwater Training Center, stand behind their target systems, and I mean they stand behind them! In addition to providing some of the best tactical training in the world, Blackwater also designs and builds its own rifle-grade steel targets and remote control moving-target systems, and security products. For complete information, contact Blackwater Lodge & Training Center, Dept. SOF, 850 Puddin Ridge Rd., Moyock, NC 27958; phone: 252-435-2488 [www.blackwaterlodge.com](http://www.blackwaterlodge.com).

Johnston fires the new HK M4HD. Designed by Larry Vickers, this M4 variant is piston driven and has a number of other improvements over the standard M4. The upper component is interchangeable, to convert a standard M4, but the weapon is also available in complete form in several variations. Look for our test soon. In the meantime, for information on all of its products, contact Heckler & Koch, Dept. SOF, 21840 Pacific Blvd., Sterling, VA 20166; phone: 703-450-1900 [www.hk-usa.com](http://www.hk-usa.com).



Scott Day, of CQB Solutions, explains the advantages of CQB's molle vests. The company also has a new tactical sling, seen on the Ring's Blue Guns at right. For information on all its tactical gear, contact CQB Solutions, Dept. SOF, 1107 E. Douglas Ave., Visalia, CA 93292; phone: 559-635-1172 [www.cqbsolutions.com](http://www.cqbsolutions.com).

Lewis Machine & Tool's "Monolithic Rail Platform" doesn't do this innovative product justice, for in addition to a full-length integral free-float rail system, the heart of the MRP is a quick-change barrel system for the AR-15/M16 that is truly astounding. Simple, but ingenious, the MRP provides return to zero with the same barrel and about 0.5" change in point of impact by changing to a different barrel. Look for SOF's in-depth T&E soon. In the meantime, for information, contact Lewis Machine & Tool, Dept. SOF, 1305 W. Eleventh St., Milan, IL 61264; phone: 309-787-7151.





Gil Angelotti and Col. Robert K. Brown discuss a prototype combination, multi-mode tactical light/laser sight on a Remington Model 870 shotgun by LaserMax. The shotgun laser was suggested by Johnston, and may become a production item. For information on all its weapon laser sights, contact LaserMax, Inc., Dept. SOF, 3495 Winton Pl., Rochester, NY 14623; phone: 800-LASER-03 [www.lasermax-inc.com](http://www.lasermax-inc.com).



Gunsite instructor Il Ling New holds Remington's new .223 pump-action Model 7615P (760/AR-15 Police) patrol carbine, while Robert Childers holds the equally new Remington 700 LTR in 6.8mm Rem. SPC caliber. The new pump rifle accepts all AR-15/M16 magazines, and is "aimed" at the law enforcement market as a patrol carbine, but will be equally well received by small game hunters and competitors. The 6.8mm Rem SPC LTR is already in big demand by the law enforcement community. For information on these two exciting new rifles, contact Remington Arms Co., Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 700, Madison, NC 27025-0700; phone: 800-243-9700 [www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com).



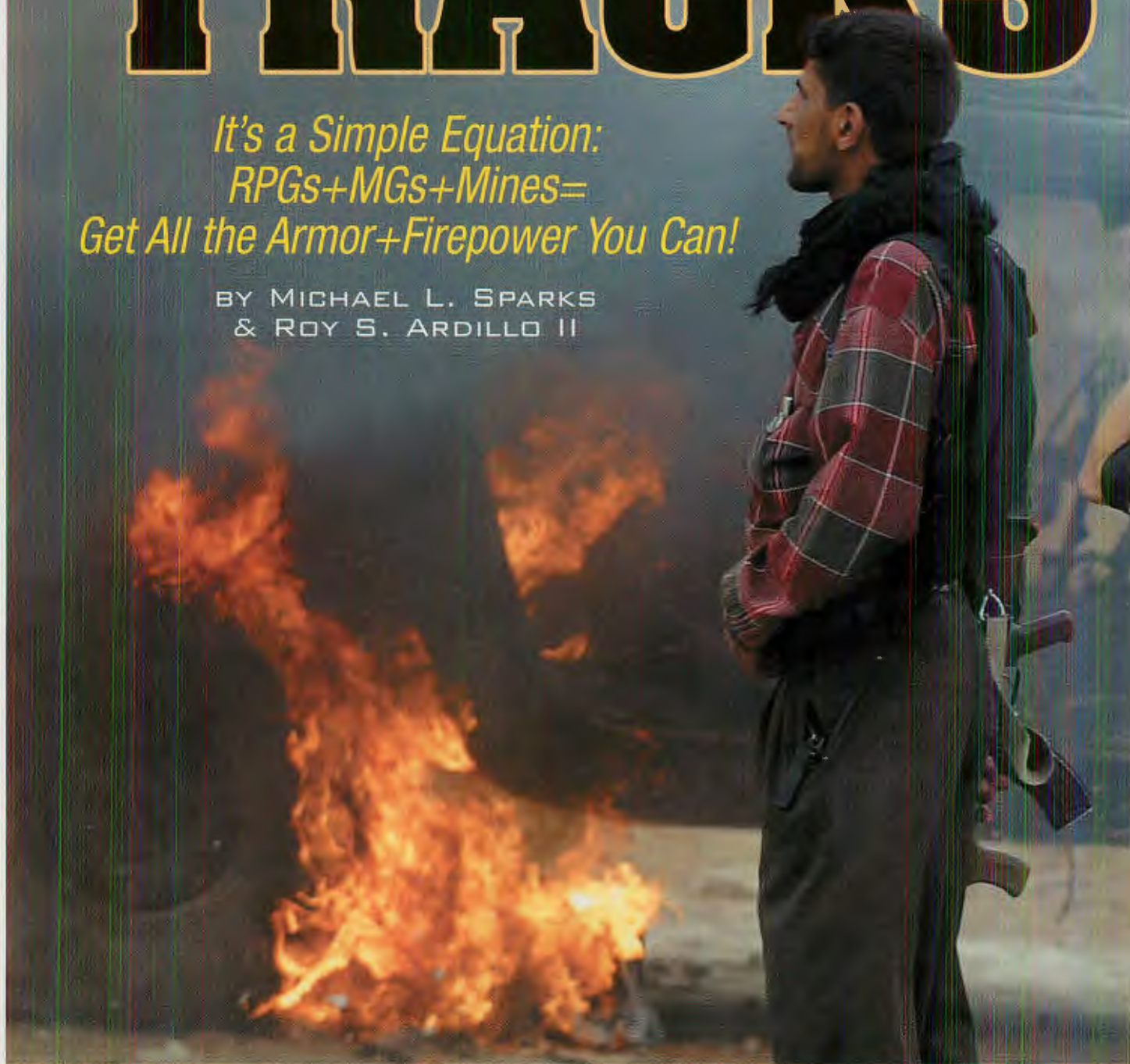
A major supplier of web equipment to the U.S. military, Eagle Arms not only produces superb weapons cases and MOLLE gear, but also has a new M16 magazine dump pouch that is second to none. For information on its entire line, contact Eagle Industries Unlimited, Inc., Dept. SOF, 400 Biltmore Dr., Ste. 530, Fenton, MO 63026; phone: 888-343-7547 [www.eagleindustries.com](http://www.eagleindustries.com).



# TRACKS

*It's a Simple Equation:  
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BY MICHAEL L. SPARKS  
& ROY S. ARDILLO II



# THE

majority of our 100,000 troops in Iraq now ride in 10,000 vulnerable unarmored and quasi-armored 3-6 ton HMMWV "Humvee" rubber-tired trucks, that fail to protect them from roadside bombs (IEDs), RPGs, or mob violence. This is the same

error we made in Somalia, emasculating our forces by putting them into wheeled trucks. The Iraqis have recently discovered they can throw bombs through the shoulder-high doors and windows of HMMWVs, then crowd around to set them on fire with containers of fuel.

There's been a lot of half-informed media criticism of the Army for not supplying enough "up-armored" HMMWVs. That caused the Army to increase production. Department of



# IN IRAQ



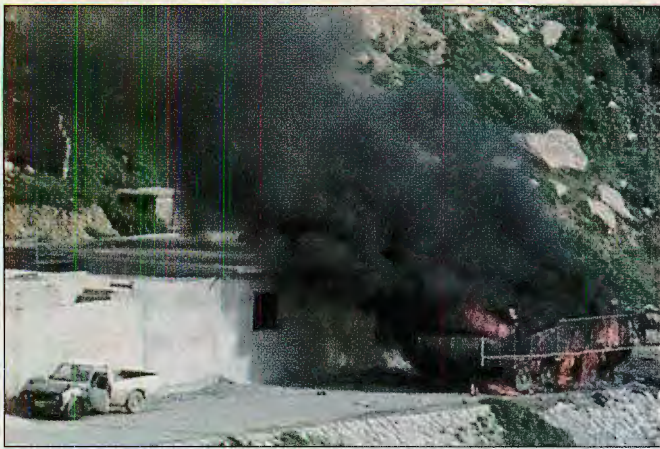
Army spokesmen insist that these Sport Utility Vehicles are the answer to our troop protection problems. Tragically, many American Soldiers have been killed in so-called "up-armored HMMWV" trucks, only slightly better protected than the gasoline-powered SUVs the four civilian Blackwater Security contractors (former Special Forces and SEALs) were killed in, burned and then dragged through the streets.

This is a sober reminder that being in superb physical

*Members of radical Shiite leader Moqtada al-Sadr's Army of Mehdi militia celebrate in front of a burning US Humvee 19 April 2004 in Kufa*

condition cannot protect you from RPGs and bombs going off. Tracked armored vehicles that can be more than 28% more armored than wheeled vehicles are needed. CBS anchorman Dan Rather weeks before, showed one of the so-





*Nothing quite puts the lack of armor on a HUMMWW in perspective like the sight of one burning briskly. Five minutes ago this one was "protection" for U.S. troops. In this case they got out okay.*



*It's a bit late in the day to extinguish this fire. Nor is it likely that anything worth saving survived the assault. This trooper would be better off facing out with a rifle than in with a fire extinguisher.*

called "armored HMMWVs" with its windshield blown out by a roadside bomb that killed another two Soldiers.

The tragedy is that army leaders now admit privately that up-armorizing HMMWVs is a mistake; General Larry R. Ellis, FORSCOM CG has distributed a memo recognizing the mistake, but calls for more wheeled trucks, this time Strykers, made in slow handfuls in Canada at \$3.3 million each. Our troops need better protected M113 Gavin tracks, available now to be shipped/flown into Iraq to reverse the crumbling situation there.

### **Tracks: Ready to Go**

Another Soldier died in an armored HMMWV after a bomb was easily thrown through one of its four windows. Waiting for inadequate armored HMMWV SUVs to be built is not the answer, and only serves to give the enemy easy propaganda footage of burning trucks. The Army plan to eventually supply our troops heavier HMMWV trucks ignores the fact that thousands of thicker armored, M113 Gavin light tracked vehicles — without windows/doors and rubber tires that burn — are sitting in depots around the country, ready to replace the thousands of vulnerable HMMWVs in use in Iraq.

Civilian contractors are on their own to supply themselves

armored vehicles.

Researching this issue since 1994, we've discovered that 50% of an Army heavy division already moves by 10.5 ton M113 Gavin light tracks and in fact, 1,300 are in Iraq now, though the Army has not supplied the extra armor they should have fitted to their undersides, belly and gunshields on top. Yet the Army now wants the majority of its troops in Iraq to ride in vulnerable HMMWV wheeled trucks when they all should be riding in adequately protected M113 Gavin tracks, except for heavy cargo-carrying trucks. This bad decision in favor of HMMWV trucks is killing our men.

The many, de-centralized Iraqi opposition groups increasingly sense that Americans cannot defend themselves, much less keep order. The relatively few tracked armored fighting vehicles we have now in Iraq are not sufficient to be everywhere they're needed, especially if there is a general uprising, or "intifada." Most troops will have to fight from HMMWV trucks until they are overwhelmed, and then try to move on foot, through the crowds that overwhelmed the vehicle.

Every Iraqi household is allowed an AK-47-type automatic weapon (AKM). Stripped of vehicular mobility, our troops on foot could be easily pinned down by automatic rifle fire from many directions. Their only defense would be to return fire — and there is a finite limit to how much ammo you can



*(left) This alert column of M113 Gavin tracked vehicles has little to fear from terrorist attack. The armor will stop most terrorist weapons, and the troops have multiple means of egress from which to attack. (above) This boy walks away from the track with some gifts from the Americans. Good fences make good neighbors, and good armor does the same.*







carry on your body. If the Iraqis sense they have the Americans pinned down, they can “pile on” with women and children shooting AKMs in the general direction of huddled American troops, as happened in Somalia.

To save our troops, maintain control in Iraq and win future non-linear battles against terrorists, as well as enemy nation-state armies, we must emphasize ground maneuver, using go-anywhere, adequately protected tracked armored vehicles, not wheeled trucks. Whether American forces can survive an imminent offensive throughout Iraq hinges on our troops being properly equipped with M113 Gavin light tracked AFVs, currently sitting back here in the U.S. Our troops cannot wait two years for an inadequate HMMWV armor cover-up; they need light tracks now to meet an imminent Iraqi meltdown.

Iraq may well collapse into civil war in June, when we turn over control to the new, but very likely impotent, Iraqi government. A general uprising could send thousands of angry unarmed Iraqi mobs swarming around our HMMWV

trucks, forcing American troops to either fire on civilians, including women and children—a propaganda disaster in the Arab world — or flee their flimsy mounts lest they be incinerated in them when the mobs toss fire bombs inside and/or turn them over.

American troops could be forced to flee for their lives, back to their barricaded city areas, and a dozen fortified camps, then surrounded and trapped. How long will their ammunition, food and water last? They wouldn't be able to move in their wheeled trucks for resupply?

### Peel 'n' Stick

Extra peel 'n' stick armor that the troops themselves can apply, made by Armor Systems International of Vancouver, WA called Aztik, proven by Army Aberdeen Proving Ground tests to stop .50 caliber, half-inch projectiles moving at 3,000 feet per second, needs to be supplied to all

*Continued on page 76*

## Light Tracked Vehicles Are Suitable For Non-Linear Combat Area; Wheeled Trucks Are Not

Slapping two tons of armor onto what was originally a three-ton wheeled vehicle loads too much pressure onto too narrow wheels, suspensions and drive trains. In civilian life, an armored car has to be rebuilt several times because their armored boxes over-tax their drivetrains. The commanding general of Army Materiel Command, General Paul Kern has said the service takes an estimated eight hours to reset a HMMWV; some experts say that figure can skyrocket to 62 hours when the engine is pulled, whereas swapping the engine on an M1A1 Abrams tank requires only about 30 minutes.

When even thin armor is added to HMMWVs for minimal protection against roadside bombs, the weight places an additional strain on engines. During the 2004 Winter Symposium sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army, Kern said. “I've got 800 of them right now, sitting around...trying to get back to the United States with a retrograde problem...the challenge I see is making decisions quickly enough and getting on with a new development, because the vehicles are wearing out pretty fast.”

Army spokesmen told us that the M113 Gavin's light ground pressure tracks are somehow “too hard” on pavement and cannot go the daily distances required, when more than 1,300 M113s have been driving all over Iraqi roads and countryside for over a year without ill effects. Why not expand on this success and have all our troops ride in better-protected M113 Gavins? The M113 is seven times lighter than a 70-ton M1 Abrams heavy tank, three times lighter than a M2 Bradley fighting vehicle, and half the weight of a 22-ton Stryker armored car, while being better protected than the latter. The M113 weighs the same as an Army 5-ton cargo capacity truck but spreads its weight

over long and wide tracks instead of narrow tires. The answer is to stop throwing armor on expensive, fragile HMMWV trucks and solve the troop protection problem by immediately shipping to Iraq some of the thousands of better protected, thick-skinned 11-ton M113 Gavin light tracked armored fighting vehicles the Army has ready today in storage, and the 235+ Gavins the National Guard's 30th and 81st Brigades left behind when they went to Iraq.

As General Kern alludes, tracked AFVs are mechanically simpler than wheeled trucks, spreading their weight over a larger area, to go easier on their running gear; a single light tracked AFV like the M113A3 Gavin with 275 hp engine can carry an entire 9-man rifle squad with underbelly armor, gunshields, extra RPG-resistant armor at a 3.5 mpg fuel cost with far better armor protection than vulnerable HMMWVs

with two windshields, eight windows, eight doors rolling on eight air-filled rubber tires that easily burn.

The M113 Gavins roll on metal roadwheels with steel tracks with rubber pads or band tracks—so they are easy on Iraqi pavement—you can have 50+ mph road speeds and vibrationless stealth for raids. The latest T150 track lasts for 10,000 miles—a lot longer than rubber tires that bust daily. M113 Gavins are the most successful vehicles in Iraq, for those units lucky enough to have them. It's time every Army unit uses them, as the U.N. does when they go to a dangerous area.

The Israelis use up-armored M113s to convoy their troops from bases to foot-patrol areas and back—they don't lose a man a day in combat as we do in Iraq. While their troops talk to locals on foot, other Soldiers in M113s follow in the background ready to help or talk to locals from behind gunshields.









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Continued from page 45

**"The Enemies Of The Project Are Coming Out Like Insects From The Woodwork."**

What's the future of the Barrett M468-A1? From where I sit, it's a go in a big way. Available to the U.S. military as a Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) item, the M468-A1 is also available to law enforcement agencies in selective fire, and to private citizens in semi-automatic only in most states. What's the future of the 6.8mm Remington SPC in the U.S. military? It depends with whom you talk. Most Special Forces units want it, along with elements of light infantry, Marines and rear-area support soldiers, but our sons and daughters in uniform may never see the 6.8mm SPC.

The enemies of the project are coming out like insects from the woodwork. Most of these people have never been in combat and are resistant to the pleas of soldiers who must depend on their rifles for improved stopping power, especially against barricaded targets and moving vehicles.

Regardless of what the Military program managers and lab technicians think of the 6.8mm (because it came from the user), the 6.8mm SPC round is here to stay, not only as a tactical cartridge, but also just as importantly as a sporting round for hunting, competition, and Homeland Defense. I was fortunate to be the first one on the planet to kill a mule deer buck with the 6.8mm Rem. SPC, and I found it totally effective on the 250-pound animal. It's also an ideal round for those of smaller stature (or who are recoil shy) to hunt with. Incidentally, some AR-15 magazines will feed 6.8mm SPC satisfactorily for practice, and there may soon be a program to modify AR-15 magazines to reliably feed both .223 and 6.8mm Rem. SPC cartridges.

Ronnie Barrett is known and respected throughout the industry, by his peers, his competitors, and by his main customers, our soldiers, sailors, and marines. Ronnie believes the 6.8mm Remington SPC is long overdue to our fighting men and women, and he is making every effort to make it available to them just as he did with his M82 .50 BMG caliber rifle. When all the labs said there was no user need for a .50 caliber rifle in the military, Ronnie Barrett took the risk and, because of it, we now have the M107 in service in the GWOT.

Barrett believes in doing what needs



Shown from left are the 7.62x39mm, 5.56x45mm, 6.8x43mm Rem. SPC, and the 6.5mm Grendel. The 6.8mm out shoots them all.

to be done to protect our future through giving our Service Members the tools they need, and in bringing them home safely. Kudos to Ronnie for not giving in to the not-invented-here "mafia" on developing his M468. For him, taking the chance of doing something for our kids in harm's way far outweighed the risk of doing nothing.

Look for the 6.8mm Remington SPC soon in a variety of rifles and single-shot pistols. In the meantime, for more information on the M468-A1, contact Barrett Firearms Mfg. Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1077, Murfreesboro, TN 37133; phone: 615-896-2938 (www.barrettrifles.com).

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## The Battle For Deh Chopan

Continued from page 41

government forces in the vicinity.

The bad guys had certainly chosen a good area in which to develop a base of support, one that the government forces weren't likely to enter.

Over the next few days we conducted mounted and dismounted recons, gradually getting a feel for the terrain and the situation. Every few days we would drive down to the Arghandab River, more like a small stream at this time of the year, and wash the stink off our bodies and clothes. We always drew a crowd as we set up a perimeter around the river, and began stripping down.

### Botulism/E Coli Bath

I think the locals thought we were nuts to be washing ourselves in the river. If we had only known what they know we probably wouldn't have done it. Just upstream a couple of miles they were dumping all of their sewage. Oh! What a joy to be taking a botulism/E Coli bath!

From an Observation Post along a road one night, we noticed a number of motorcycles with two riders and a truck, filled with armed men, moving north, deeper into our Area of Operations. This was a good sign, we knew that we were getting closer, that we hadn't yet spooked the enemy, and that the bad guys were consolidating their forces.

Deh Chopan, Afghanistan - 24 Aug 2003:

We received a message from higher headquarters that some Afghan Militia Force (AMF) would be moving into our area in order to locate and engage the baddies. So as the sun rose on another beautiful Afghan day I decided that it would be a good idea to establish contact with the Afghans. We continued a mounted recon towards the village of Deh Chopan and linked up with the good guys on the outskirts of the village.

I took my Interpreter, Fareed, and two of my guys, Bill and Mike, as escorts and sat down with the commander of the AMF in a small glade of trees on a rocky hillside. (A quick note about Fareed — Fareed was a young 18-20 year old, who spoke three languages fluently, Dari, Pashto, and English. Fareed was more than just our interpreter; he was a member of our team; he ate, slept, and fought along side us. He provided our team with insight into the local customs, provided us with accurate intel,

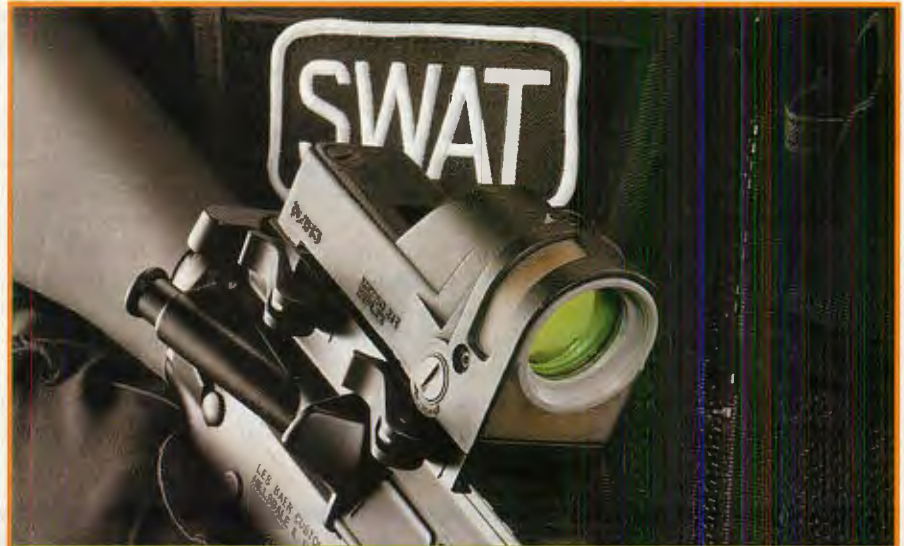
and kept us informed on what the locals were saying and doing. Fareed is a good man who wants to come to the US and join the Army to become a citizen ... the team has taken this mission and is working to get him a visa.)

General Saifullah, who had approximately 250-300 men with him in the area, commanded the AMF force. We discussed our missions and decided we could be more effective if we combined forces and worked together. We could provide Close Air Support and coordination, and the AMF could provide the maneuver forces.

The General advised that his forces had been ambushed the day prior and lost four men. The baddies responsible for this ambush were located in the town of Da'Udza'I approximately 10 km north of our location. We decided to surround the town and search it at first light the next day. That night we didn't get much sleep because the AMF had constant accidental discharges, and test fired their weapons at all hours.

Da'Udza'I, Deh Chopan District, Afghanistan, 25 Aug 2003:

We loaded as many of the Afghans as



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we could on vehicles, and moved towards the village of Da'Udza'I. You'll notice that I didn't use any military terms to describe our movement, because it was more of a huge goat rope than anything resembling a military operation. The one lane road, a.k.a improved goat path, into Da'Udza'I was crowded with our vehicles as we approached the village. The AMF vehicles in the lead continued into the center of the town and dismounted their troops.

As our team vehicles drove into the village we observed six armed men running from the village, into a streambed. I called out to Bill, my M240 gunner, on the back of my vehicle, and told him to grab his M-4. We would secure the backside of the village to prevent any further runners.

As we approached the edge of the village we observed ten AMF giving chase to the baddies. I radioed Scott, the team commo guy, for more of the team to come forward, and link up with the AMF giving chase, so the team would have some control over what was happening.

Bill, Mike, Pete, Noah and I went running after the AMF. We chased the baddies for approximately five kilometers, down the streambed to another small village. Just after clearing the village Bill and Mike came under heavy RPG and machinegun fire from the near ridgeline. They organized their AMF and began assaulting the ACM, successfully forcing them to retreat from the hilltop.

Once on top of the hill Bill and Mike came under intense small arms fire, and got pinned down. Meanwhile Scott, Chuck, Noah and I took the remainder of the AMF and began maneuvering to our flank. Our coordinated efforts forced the ACM to withdraw to a farther ridgeline.

Once we had taken the high ground and pinned down the ACM, we called in close air support. Our friends from the Air

Force and Marines dropped a few 500-lb. bombs on their positions, destroying at least fifteen ACM.

After conducting Bomb Damage Assessment the team regrouped and reorganized and began moving back up the streambed. Just as the team was within two km of the village we became pinned down by more than forty ACM firing from the flank ridgeline. We began firing and maneuvering to get out of the kill zone while close air support continued to drop 500 and 1000-lb. bombs on the ACM.

Once the air support broke the ACM ambush the other half of the team took the good guys that had remained in the village and attacked their flank. Our team members found over 60 bedrolls and evidence of casualties in a shallow cave that the ACM had occupied. We chased off the remaining ACM and decided to call it a day. As the sun was setting we recalled all forces and reorganized in order to head back to Deh Chopan.

As we were leaving the village the AMF suddenly stopped, got out of their vehicles and began praying. We were still in a contested area! In order to build rapport and trust, the team dismounted and pulled security for the AMF while they prayed.

We arrived safely back and Deh Chopan, conducted an After Action Review, and requested more beans and bullets from higher headquarters. The AMF General advised me that his forces needed more ammo, as they had fired just about all of theirs that day.


Later that night we had a resupply helicopter arrive with more ammo than we could count. We were like little kids in a candy shop! Our Battalion was happy as hell and wanted us to continue to find and destroy all remaining ACM in the area.

I sat down with the AMF General and we decided that we should head south and try to get ahead of the escaping ACM,

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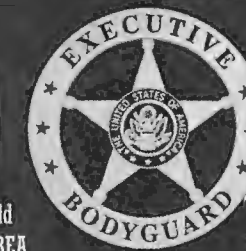
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and cut off their retreat. With our plan set for the next day I lay down and enjoyed another night of sleeping under the vast starry Afghan night. And another good Special Forces day came to a close.

Totals for the day: Enemy — 40-60 KIA, 20 WIA, Friendly — 0

*Mareh, Deh Chopan District, Afghanistan, 26 Aug 2003*

Just as the sun was rising we set off south for the village of Mareh, which was approximately 15km to our southwest. Upon arriving in the village the Afghans began sweeping the village for ACM while our team moved into a blocking position south of the town to prevent any "squirters".

Just as the AMF began their sweeping and clearing operation, a group of armed men was observed running north out of the town into a large ravine. The AMF gave chase while we continued to hold our position.

Sitting there, we decided to take the high ground overlooking the village, just in case ... we had learned our lesson the day before, that it is better to have the high ground than to fight up it to take it. So half of the team climbed the overlooking high ground, about 1,000 ft up! The other half established a mortar-firing site and manned the heavy weapons.

From the high ground we noticed five to eight men moving towards us. They were still about two km to our south, on another bit of high ground, on the other side of a large valley. My guys were anxious to engage, but I told them not to until we had positive confirmation that they were armed and hostile.

The unknown armed men continued to move towards us and stopped about 1500m away from us in a small cave. As one of the men was resting I observed him take off an RPG and lean it against a rock. This, and their trying to get onto the high ground and flank of our forces, was enough for me to engage. So I gave a map coordinate, approximate distance, and reference points to my mortar crew, Dave, Rick, and Pete a.k.a. Blue. They freehanded, that is ... aimed the mortar without the use of a bipod (we didn't have one) and dropped that first round right on top of the cave roof from over two km away.

It was either an amazing feat of marksmanship or else damn good luck. I believe it was a combination of both, but, whatever, it was the finest use of a mortar I have ever seen! When the round impacted about 15 baddies ran

out of there like cockroaches scattering when you turn on the light!

We adjusted fire and dropped over ten rounds, scattering the ACM and disrupting whatever they had been up to. We decided that it would be a good idea to follow up and chase them off of the opposite high ground. Half of the team walked across the valley and started climbing the opposite ridge, while the other half manned the mortar and the .50 cal., providing us fire support.

Just as our point man reached the top of the ridge he came under intense AK-47 fire from 75m to his front. The team

broke into two-man buddy teams, and began maneuvering against the ACM at the top of the ridge. After a two-hour fire-fight at ranges of 25-150m the score was four ACM dead, with others in flight.

*In the next installment, MacInerney's team deliberately enters a Taliban/Al-Qaeda ambush.*

*The author resigned his commission as a Major after 10 years of active service, to join the Special Forces National Guard as a Warrant Officer so he could become an ODA commander* ✖


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## Vets At Gunsite

Continued from page 51

war on terror takes them.

### Tangible Support for the Troops

"We sat down and hashed it out," Young explained, "and came up with the idea of having four classes spread out during the year. Two pistol and two carbine. We had instructors who were more than willing to volunteer their time. That's important, because we couldn't do it without our instructors' willingness to give." It will be over \$175,000 worth of training offered for free, but Mills, a modest man who shies away from the limelight or praise, shrugged it off, reasoning that these new veterans "have sacrificed for us, and most are going back overseas or they'll end up in law enforcement." Meaning, as always for Mills, it comes down to his philosophy that Gunsite's underlying mission, beyond just training people, is to save lives.

And it isn't just Mills and the entire staff of Gunsite who are showing our vets their appreciation. The NRA is donating a year's membership to all who attend. PMC Ammunition Company donated 10,000 rounds of 5.56 for the first class, as did Arizona-based, worldwide supplier, J&G's Gun Sales. Locally owned motels offered discounts on lodging and food for the students. Even the local in-home caterer, "Moe" of The Party Planner, is providing lunches at the academy for half price.

The final shoot-out between a recent veteran, the SF major, and a Prescott police officer resulted from an unexpected turn of events. Just before Christmas, the national terrorist alert level was elevated to orange, which kept some of the active duty vets scheduled for the course locked into their posts, unable to attend. "We lost about a third at the last minute," Young told me. With the volunteer instructors for the two groups already laid on, Gunsite put the word out to the local sheriff and police departments, and the vacancies were rapidly filled with eager volunteers. Nearly all were former servicemen, but, as irony would have it, not the Prescott cop, Robert Peoples, shooting against the SF major for the ultimate bragging rights. Peoples is a detective and is on Prescott's Special Tactical Unit, the department's part-time S.W.A.T. team.

The major, Sam Pikula, had only recently retired from the army, his last

assignment having been with Special Operations Command Europe. With his future wide open, he's thinking of taking up instructor Steve Slawson's invitation to join his executive protection firm; in particular, running a security team for Middle East linguists on a contract Slawson's firm is in the process of finalizing with the U.S. government.

Instructor Slawson is a story unto himself. He was a Marine in Vietnam in 1968-69 and afterwards a drill instructor, then a specialist in close-quarters combat. He retired a sergeant major and became a cop and then deputy sheriff in his home state of Colorado. He owns an executive protection service and spends a few months a year at Gunsite practicing his second love: Teaching shooting techniques. His first: hunting. Last year he hunted in Zimbabwe, where he bagged an elephant and a buffalo, and then in New Zealand and Australia, where he bagged another buffalo. One can feel free to refer to him as "WCDU," he jokes: World Commander Defender of the Universe.

The other instructors volunteering for the vets' course might not be WCDUs, but their backgrounds, like Slawson's, are impressive. Chris Matthews, for one, is a Las Vegas, Nevada, policeman. A member of S.W.A.T., with seven years in the Marine Corps in the 1980s, he has been teaching at Gunsite part-time for 10 years. Another, Lamonte Kintsel, is a retired Ventura County, Calif., deputy sheriff and Army National Guard aviator (OH-58s) who recently relocated to the Prescott area, both for the beauty of the high desert as well as the proximity of Gunsite, to instruct.

### A Class of the Real Deal

It was an interesting company, this first veterans' course, from the instructors to the local deputies and cops to the military guys for whom the course had been laid on. Among the vets, all four services were represented: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. It was an eclectic group. Along with former Special Forces major, Sam Pikula, there were three other SpecOps guys — Green Berets Leo and Ken and Navy SEAL George — all of whom preferred "first names only" and thought it wisest for future operational purposes not to relate their respective experiences in Afghanistan or be photographed.

Army enlisted was well represented by Aaron Garcia, a sergeant who served with the 82nd Airborne in Afghanistan



and was eager to reenlist, provided he'd be stationed in Hawaii. In typical short-sighted fashion, the Army said no, that he was stop-lossed into his position in the 82nd. Rather than reenlist at the Army's whim, Garcia got out, and the Army's loss was the National Guard's gain, as he joined a Patriot unit and now serves on a full-time basis as part of the New Mexico Army National Guard's counter-drug task force, for which his week of Gunsite instruction might one day come in handy.

One doesn't normally think of the Air Force as being a repository for shooters (except for fast-movers at altitude), but that service was well represented at Gunsite by two enlisted men: Jon Copeland and Ron Saiz, a Master Sergeant in the New Mexico Air National Guard. Presently working in the Air Guard's counter-drug campaign that utilizes C-26 aircraft, Saiz will be moving over to his state's Air and Army Guard Combat Arms Training Company, where he will put to good use his Gunsite training as he takes over the combat-arms training of guardsmen scheduled to deploy to Iraq.

One of the four Marines who came for the training, Lieutenant Colonel Joe Knapp is assigned to Marine Air Logistics, and competitive shooting is more than just a pastime, as he's on the MAG-13 marksmanship team at his Yuma, Arizona base. He is proud of being part of the logistic program that fielded the Lightning Pod thermal sights for the Harrier, which proved so effective in combat in Afghanistan that the Air Force is now studying the feasibility of bringing it online for its own fighter aircraft. The other Marine officer, Major Andrew Roberto, commanded a recon company in Iraqi Freedom.

Two enlisted Marines attended the course. Sergeant Greg Topp had served and gotten out to pursue a career in law-enforcement, which, after a few years, he found not to be fully satisfying, so he reenlisted in his beloved Corps. And Robert Mendoza served in both Afghanistan and Iraq as a sergeant in both Active Duty and the Reserves.

Excluding SEAL George, the five attending from the Navy offer a contrast to most people's perception of a seagoing service in which combat shooting wouldn't seem to apply. Three are Navy Reservists based out of Point Mugu, California — Lieutenant Commander Steve Johnson, MA-1 "Sonic" Dominguez and MA-3 Frank Medrano. Johnson is an American Airlines pilot as a civilian and a C-130 pilot in the

Reserves. Dominguez and Medrano both have civilian law-enforcement careers in Southern California and are Ravens in the Naval Reserves.

And then there were the two Navy doctors: Captain Steve Temerlin (Army and Marine equivalent, full colonel) and Lieutenant Commander John Love (equivalent, major). Temerlin is a combat vet of both Afghanistan and Iraq, and Love, of Iraq. In fact, it was Temerlin who, after serving as a Marine doctor in the initial conflict in Afghanistan (he was captive Johnny Walker's doctor at Camp Rhino), realized the need for tactical weapons training and attended a Gunsite course on his own. Impressed with the instruction, he arranged for Navy medical personnel (including Love) slated to join the Marines for the upcoming Iraq war to attend Gunsite's Tactical Medicine course. Both Temerlin's and Love's experiences in the wars are unique and compelling and will be highlighted in next month's SOF in "Navy Doctors at War."

It was quite a diverse collection of recent combat veterans and Arizona high-desert cops brought together for the week, and it was just by chance that the final shoot-off would pit one against the other. So, who won? The ex-SF major with his HK-91 with Hensoldt scope, or the Prescott detective and S.W.A.T. cop with his stripped-down, borrowed AR-15? It was close; The best of five, it went all five iterations. And in this age when we're all looking for a better scope or aim point or laser sight, it was a nice twist that the guy with the iron sights, detective Peoples, came out on top.

It was a satisfying end to a good week. These were guys who know and respect weapons, and were learning to use them more efficiently and effectively, all in a professional environment where guns are tools — not to be feared, but rather to be carried and used (if only rarely) in a dangerous battle against those who declare themselves our enemy, whether the thug on the street or the fanatic terrorist. Which is what our servicemen and law enforcement personnel do, up front and in the line of fire, and it was in thanks to the combat vets for their daily sacrifice that Buz Mills and his Gunsite staff offered the week's training, and will offer three more in the coming months.

*Paul Avallone, since 1978, has served with the 7th, 12th and 20th Special Forces Group (s) Airborne.* ☒

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optional

Gavins. Gunshields for the track commander and troops on guard at the top troop hatch must be provided as soon as possible.

If Iraq falls apart in the coming months, we need an everyone-in-a-light-track AFV capability to rapidly put down the uprising and secure key governmental and religious centers, roads, power plants, shops and stores.

We propose force structures formed with M113 Gavin light tracked AFVs sent to cover the border and cut off supplies and al-Qaeda terrorists coming from the outside. Surplus M113 Gavins should be supplied at no charge to civilian contractors, as well as the opportunity to buy extra armor and gunshields.

The non-linear battlefield requires that every ounce of vehicular protection be provided to our troops; we jeopardize our success by using wheeled trucks with windows, doors, windshields or \$3 million Strykers which are 28% less space/weight efficient than tracks, all of which run on easily destroyed, air-filled rubber tires. Recently, in Mosul, a \$3.3 million dollar Stryker armored truck was incinerated by thirty dollars worth of RPGs. At this exchange rate the terrorists will win by bankrupting us.

On the non-linear battlefield, the enemy can attack at any time in any direction. American Soldiers must have the ability to shrug off such attacks by being in a light tracked AFV with applique armor and gunshields that resist RPGs, roadside bombs, mobs, barricades and firebombs. The minimum non-linear battlefield transportation standard for the U.S. Army must be an upgraded to M113 Gavin light tracked AFV, not flimsy armored HMMWVs or Stryker trucks.

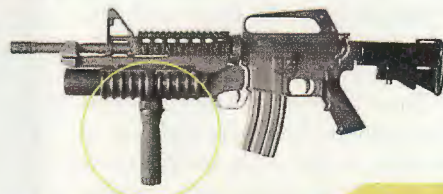
### Unsafe Step Backwards

The design of the M113 represents the wisdom of years of combat experience. Troops can fight from the top, with situational awareness, behind gunshields, yet can still talk to people outside from within the vehicle. They can dismount through the rear ramp, through the troop door inside the ramp, or jump out from on top. We lose all of this going to "armored" HMMWVs. This is an unsafe step backwards to what is essentially a civilian car with four doors, four windows, a windshield and air-filled rubber tires that offer lit-

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tle protection from grenades or Molotov cocktails.

Troops sitting in HMMWV bucket seats, if they are protected, have their doors and windows closed, and are not situationally aware, or able to fire back. Remove the doors and they are exposed to instant death if a bomb goes off. This is a lose-lose situation.

It takes two HMMWVs to move a nine-man rifle squad at five miles per gallon, and four men are taken out of the fight because they have to stay with their vehicles. The M113 Gavin with a 3.5 mpg fuel rate is easy to supply, maintain, operate and can go cross-country at will, to include swimming across lakes, rivers and even oceans (with waterjet kits), is gentle on pavement, and takes only a driver and Track Commander/Gunner away from the other seven dismounts, but can provide stubborn suppressive fires behind gunshields.

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Michael L. Sparks leads a non-profit think-tank, the 1st Tactical Studies Group (Airborne), originally based at Fort Bragg NC. A 23-year veteran, prior service marine NCO and officer, he is co-author of the book "Air-Mech-Strike: Asymmetric Maneuver Warfare for the 21st Century" [www.geocities.com/air\\_mech\\_strike](http://www.geocities.com/air_mech_strike)

Roy S. Ardillo II has a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern Louisiana University, and is a Health Care Services Division analyst. In the United States Army, he was a military intelligence analyst from 1971 to 1981, including combat service in Vietnam. ✕

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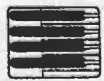


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## Kerry's War-Hero Guise

Continued from page 59

behind that effort is Vietnam veteran Steve Sherman, a Special Forces historian who is also a member of SOA and receives Noe's *SOG Publications*.

Sherman recently wrote a strong anti-Kerry piece in the *Wall Street Journal*. Since that article's publication, Sherman said, "The main thing that I heard is there are many Vietnam vets obsessed that Kerry's camp is portraying himself as having veteran support.

"Contrary to the few supporting him, I've found that there appears to be a lot a lot more Vietnam veterans against Kerry by a huge margin, and that there is movement by Vietnam veterans going to Boston to protest against John Kerry during the Democratic convention.

"Because of the convention, hotel rooms will be of a premium, but I've heard from a few veterans groups that they will march to Boston to protest Kerry. Personally, I hope the Vietnam veterans who appear at that protest from July 26 through the 29th, will have a self-imposed dress code, with no one appearing in jungle fatigues and tiger stripes (camouflage fatigues) because we don't want to appear as Kerry did in the early '70s and all of the phonies and wannabees who were with him and his ilk. ... from what I've heard, there's going to be a lot of people there."

Sherman also pointed out a major problem Vietnam veterans will have in this election: "Part of what we have to do is educate today's citizenry about why the majority of Vietnam vets are opposed to Kerry. We have to explain things in context. A recent report said that 80% of America doesn't remember Jane Fonda at all, with the remaining 20% thinking of her in terms of exercise and movies, not in terms of her conduct during the Vietnam War.

"For Vietnam vets, all you have to say is 'Hanoi Jane' and we remember her despicable, traitorous conduct during the war... but, the majority of people in America today have forgotten it because it didn't impact them directly. That's the challenge before us in this election year."

Sherman has established a web site that will begin to post historical information relating to the Kerry campaign at: [www.greenberet.net/books/vvak](http://www.greenberet.net/books/vvak).

*The author spent two years in Special Operations Group running recon ops across the Vietnamese border into Laos. ☒*



Continued from page 10

and women that have been killed in conflict in the Gulf, at least 50 (probably more) enemy have been killed. That doesn't balance the scale by any means! But it would let the public know that American troops aren't the only ones dying. Every day or so the local radio says, "ANOTHER soldier was killed..." as if the whole conflict only resulted in our troops dying. But let an Afghan or Iraqi civilian get killed and they report it as if it were the Mai Lai massacre.

When our troops first went to war, American car-flags were everywhere ... it made me proud to be an American. Now, when I leave the store in a shopping center I have no trouble finding my car, it's usually the only one with a flag on it. But whenever I see it, it still makes me proud to know that our American troops are still the best fighting force in the world, and I'm still proud to be an American.

Jacob B. Trammell  
St. Cloud, Minnesota.

(Formerly with the 25th Infantry Division)

*Keep that flag flying: Let the troops know we're proud of them! And pass your old copy of SOF around — if nothing else, leave it at the barber shop.*

**Re: Real**

I am sick of the American soldiers putting the French down. I served in the Brit army nine years, the Foreign Legion five years. I trained with your Marines and to be honest they could not match the legionnaires or Brit squids. Your marines spend most of the time pumping weights but when it came to marching across the desert a lot of marines fell out; climbing a 24-foot rope without the use of your feet, again a lot failed. One marine admitted they did not run far because they have a lot of helicopters. In the Falklands, the Brit marines marched carrying 120 pounds for days. In the jungle training camp in Central America the marines took eight to finish a part of the course as a squad where as the French did it in one hour. So because you have the best equipment does not mean when it comes to the hard job soldier vs. soldier, legionnaire vs. marine I would put my

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*I have never heard U.S. service personnel disparaging the French military, especially the Legion, but as the one in the office with the most French blood, I get to ask: Just how many Frenchmen did you actually serve with in the "French" Foreign Legion?*

## On The Border

Many years ago, circa 1976 when Tucson was a ten-man Station, you rode with us on Patrol. These are strange times in the United States, with Amnesty proposed for all illegal aliens. In my career spanning three decades, many of my friends and partners were killed on duty enforcing immigration laws and are listed on our honor rolls. Their deaths and devotion to duty is beyond politicians ability to understand it seems, and is without meaning. This past year, the patrol has arrested a million illegals with 12 to 14 million in country, home free. Mexican military incursions escorting narcotics is commonplace. Rival alien smuggling organizations thrive in Arizona and politicians pander and grovel to Mexico's demands in a time of war. Thanks for previous reporting that portrayed the Border in 2003.

Retired Border Patrol Agent, Tucson

## Equal Time

I would like reader's [sic] of S.O.F. to read about what John Kerry the hero did for his beloved country in Viet Nam. While patrolling the river John noticed a Viet Cong with an R.P.G. aimed at his boat. John fearlessly jumped over the side swam over to and drowned the V.C. saving his whole crew. John Kerry won the Silver Star for bravery, the Bronze Star and three Purple Heart's [sic] in Viet Nam. John Kerry you the man.

Jeffrey Morrissey

*Jeffery's vote counts as much as yours, folks. Are you registered to vote? Volunteered for any campaigns yet?*

*SOF solicits your letters by e-mail: editor@sofmag.com ; snail-mail: 5735 E. Arapahoe, Unit 5A, Boulder, CO 80303; or Fax: 303-444-5617. Lashes, laurels, comments, helpful information, questions are welcome. We may edit for space or clarity, and if two letters cover the same subject, the most concise one has the edge for publication. Visit our web site: www.sofmag.com . ✕*

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## Command Guidance

Continued from page 6

they were on the verge of a big break through, that just a few more interrogations would bring us to see the light. Eventually, they had to face the fact that it wasn't working. In reality, it was the very structure of marxist dogma that doomed the project before it was started.

Marxism is based upon economic beliefs that are, simply put, demonstrably wrong. Since it calls for behavior that is contrary to human nature, marxists understand that they cannot create the society they claim to believe in without changing human nature, or, as they put it, "creating the new, socialist, man." That is the job of the political officer, the socialist missionary. Unfortunately for the missionary, the new socialist man cannot be created if he is deceived by knowledge that is contrary to marxism. A person who lives under marxism will not hear opposing ideas debated. Thus, the political officer, appointed to teach in the Socialist version of Sunday School, has no capacity at all to defend the ideas he is selling. Since they did not know how to argue, we would try to confound them during these interrogations. I am certain that the record of our years of "attitude checks," in which we frustrated and taunted the political officer, had as much to do with our being chosen for the "punishment camp" as did our par-



April 1967. Receiving first air medal from Lt. Col. Gordon H. Keller, C.O. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323.

ticipation in the Church Riots.

It should be understood that the last torture that we knew of had taken place in September of 1969. However, all torture was always preceded, and usually accompanied, by an interrogation. Any interrogation created anxiety, even if you could be reasonably certain that it would not end in torture. Thus, we were relieved when it seemed that our anti-communist "bad attitudes" had earned us a reprieve from the cycle of interrogations.

The reprieve did not last. In late May, two months after our arrival in the punishment camp, I was called out for interrogation. I entered the interrogation room to find a junior officer, a communist's helper, whom we called "Boris." For some time, Boris rambled on about the anti-war movement and of my "crimes." Usually, we would try to entertain ourselves in an interrogation by leading the interrogator along until he commits himself to a point which, if examined, is contrary to the party line, then show this to him. This involved considerable risk while there was still the actual threat of torture, but in the long run we thought that our cause would best be served by letting them see that we were not changing, that we remained "reactionaries." The thinking was, that any slight inclination toward the marxist view would be seized upon by the political officer who would then put unrelenting pressure upon you to go further. Besides, we were still at war, and we could still contribute something by letting the enemy know that he might be wrong. In fact, just presenting him with such an idea could torment him when he knew that the idea appeared to be true, but was the opposite of what the party taught him.

We sparred for about an hour. Then Boris reached behind his back and pulled out some clippings from a left wing newspaper in the U.S. He showed me several articles about an event, which had been held in Detroit, called "The Winter Soldier Hearings." He left



March 17, 1973 Clark Air Force Base, Republic of Phillipines. Hand shake as I prepare to fly to GlenView Naval Air Station, Illinois, to go to Great Lakes Naval Hospital.



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me to read the articles while he left the room. The articles reported alleged "testimony" from people who claimed to be Viet-Nam veterans who allegedly claimed that they had done things which, if true, would have lead to courts martial for each of them. That is, they were typical communist propaganda.

Suddenly, I read an article about my mother testifying. Unlike the leftists, she did not condemn the U.S., she merely stated that she hoped the war would end soon and I would be released. The next article mentioned testimony from my father. His was like my mother's testimony, merely expressing hope that the war would end soon and that all who suffered from war would find relief. Nothing they said fit with the virulent anti-American sentiments that the leftists had expressed. But having their testimony included in with the "testimony" of those who claimed to be veterans, and the left wing activists present, seemed to give a dignity to the whole proceeding which it did not merit.

When Boris returned he asked me what I thought. I told him that I was from Detroit, but did not recognize any of the names so I assumed that they were communists brought in from around the country. "Not so," he cried. Look at this. He showed me a picture of an unforgettable face. "This man was an officer in your navy. He says that the war is illegal, immoral and unjust. Read what he says." I read the words of John Kerry.

What John Kerry said, according to the clippings, was that the U.S. should abandon South East Asia, unilaterally and immediately. This, of course, would not only leave the Prisoners of War in the hands of the communists, but far worse, there was not a sane person in the universe who did not know that the instant the countries of South East Asia were abandoned, the blood bath would begin. I told Boris "this man should be punished. He says that he did criminal things. America is a free country and a free people do not allow such crimes. We are not like communists." I told Boris that there would be a blood bath if we pulled out unilaterally. Boris got angry and began threatening me. He said that my own countrymen, Jane Fonda, Sen. Fulbright, and the subject of the article, John Kerry, insisted that the threatened "blood bath" was a myth invented by the reactionary government of the United States. He told me that Kerry had admitted that we were criminals, as

the communists never ceased to tell us, and that we should be punished. The interrogation continued for another hour. Finally, Boris, frustrated, put me back in my cell, while still muttering threats at me. It was the longest interrogation I had without torture.

When John Kerry said that Vietnam vets were criminals, did he not know that the communists would use his words against the POWs? He feels insulted when someone questions his patriotism. What other conclusion would you come to, if you were in my shoes? Kerry, from what I read, did not criticize the tactics or strategy we were using in Vietnam. If that was what he wanted to say, I am sure that most Vietnam vets, who saw first hand that McNamara's strategy was foolish, would have agreed with him. It appeared to me that it was not the methods we were using to defend the people of South East Asia from communism that he disagreed with, it was the fact that we were doing it at all. When he said that Viet-Nam vets were criminals, did he not know that the communists would use his words against the POWs?

Anti-communists predicted a blood bath if the communists took over Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The left, including Jane Fonda and John Kerry, told us that this was a myth. Which one proved to be true? When liberals in the United States Congress voted to withdraw all material support to the free people of South East Asia, did innocent people die? Up until the moment that John Kerry embraced the anti-war movement — which in my situation, what else could I believe other than that this meant embracing the cause of the communists — the evidence against communism was overwhelming. In the attempt to build the "new socialist man" millions of innocents were willfully slaughtered, and millions more lived squalid and hopeless lives, impoverished by economic policies which a freshman economics student could tell you would not work. If John Kerry did not embrace this, if he did not embrace what the liberals in Congress did in 1975, then what the hell was he embracing?

Given the evidence that John Kerry has presented to us, his own words, his own actions, I am forced to one of two conclusions. Either John Kerry's patriotism is questionable, or his judgment is questionable. Without deciding which is true, I can say that I personally believe that in neither case is he qualified to be President. ☒



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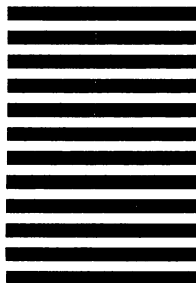
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