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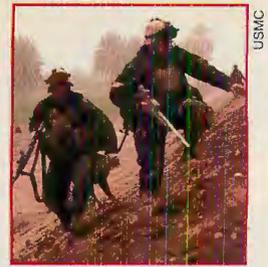
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# SOF

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE

Support the Troops!

AUGUST 2004 ✂ VOL. 29 NO. 8



USMC

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Marine sniper team from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment climbs to covering position during security halt along route to Baghdad; See page 36 for story of outstanding work by Marine scout snipers.

## AMERICA AT WAR

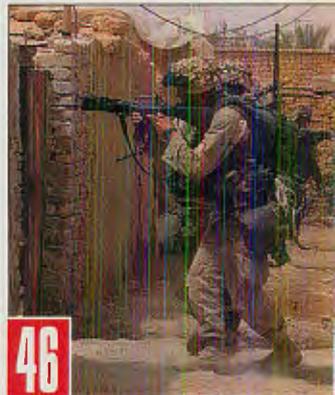
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USMC/Sgt. Stephen L. Standiford

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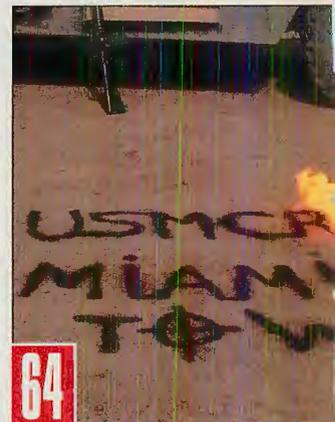
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USMC

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# Running Recon

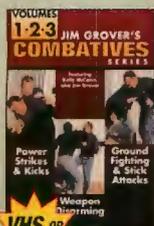
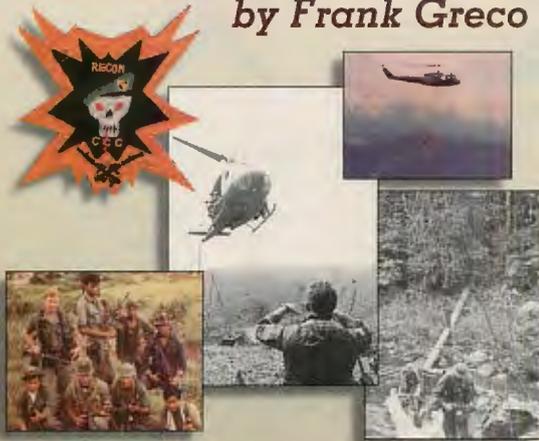
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Foreword by John Plaster



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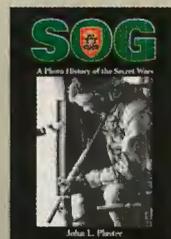
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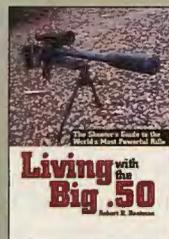
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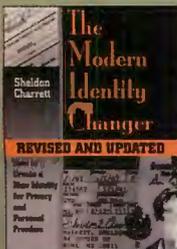
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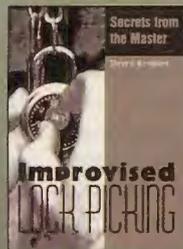
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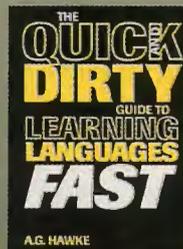
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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

BY JAMES H. WARNER, ESQ.

## A VIET-VET POW SPEAKS OUT:

### "Information Obtained Under Duress Cannot Be Trusted ... I Have Lied To Interrogators"

The photographs we have seen showing the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison indicate that the Army has serious problems. The photographs, and the subsequent investigations, indicate (1) the Army has a discipline problem that may be widespread, and (2) some top brass have made some very serious errors in judgment. Although the photos have brought about a drastic change in policy toward prisoners, the investigation fell short. The discipline problem that led to the photos, and the mistreatment of prisoners, has not been addressed.

I don't make these judgments as an armchair observer, nor are they based upon abstract theory. I was a Marine officer flying F-4's in Vietnam. I was the squadron's avionics officer and ground defense platoon leader, with 110 enlisted men under my command. I was also shot down over North Vietnam, captured, and held as a prisoner of war for five and one-half years. What I have to say is based upon experience.

First, the fact that the photographs were taken is evidence of a lack of discipline. If cameras were not forbidden, then the chain of command was lax. If they were forbidden, then the troops disobeyed orders with impunity. When you see a lack a discipline, the prudent

officer will assume that this may be the tip of an iceberg. Sure enough, the report of Major General Antonio Taguba confirms this. Apparently, the whole of the 800th Military Police Brigade had severe discipline problems that were never corrected. Instead, the former commander of the Brigade, Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, told AP the "(w)e were stretched thin and (head-quarters) continued to assign us more missions far outside our capabilities." As I cadet I was taught that it is wrong, at all times and in all places, for an officer to make excuses. This is further evidence of lax discipline. In addition, for those general officers who did not learn this in Command and Staff College, in wartime you frequently do not have the resources you want; Instead, you must accomplish your mission with the resources you have. In any case, lack of resources does not excuse lax discipline.

War is brutal business. It excites strong passions. If the warrior is not restrained by discipline, he will unleash those passions inappropriately and harm those whom he should not harm. This is the reason we send young men to boot camp. The recruit is subjected to discipline because we want

*Continued on page 81*

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE  
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Robert K. Brown  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

SENIOR EDITOR Don McLean  
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#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Chief Contributing Foreign Correspondent  
Rob Krott  
Senior Contributing Foreign Correspondents  
Dale B. Cooper • Peter Douglas  
Dr. Tom Marks • Maj. Mike Williams  
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#### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Aviation Dana Drenkowski  
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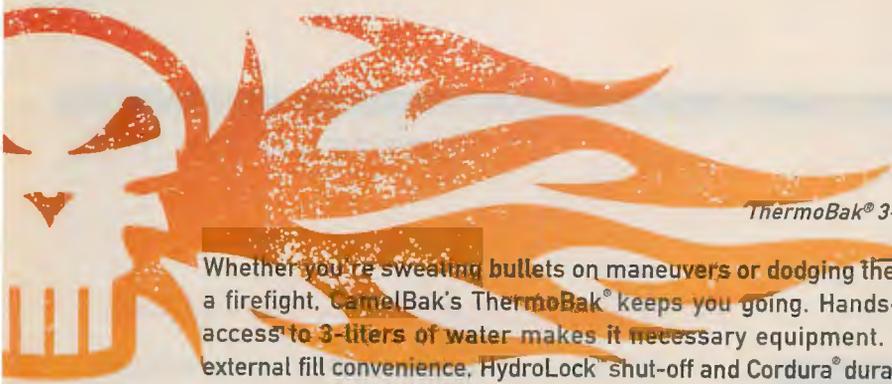
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### And, It Has a View, Too!!



I was reading the latest issue of your magazine when I noticed a picture of a couple of my buddies loading some PUCs onto a Chinook, which had partially landed on a building. In the caption the building was labeled an outhouse, but my squad secured it and lived there for two days. It was actually the best building we have slept in since we arrived in-country! Just thought I would clear that up.

SPC Justin Kerns  
2/22nd INF

*We referred to the building as an outhouse only to illustrate its size for the purpose of a helipad, where the Chinook dwarfed it in comparison, and what a crackerjack flier the chopper jock was to set his chopper's tail on it. In any case, we're glad you got to use it, even for a couple days, as a residence with a view. Most genuine "outhouses" our guys saw in Afghanistan over the years were simply a semi-private rock or bush. Stay safe, GI!*

### 25 Monster Masher

Just finished reading May 2004, great job, keep up the good work. On page 38, article "Chariots of Firepower" part 5, they mention a 25mm gun that takes out Russian T-72. Can you explain how this small 25mm cannon can take out a tank. I believe it — I just did not realize a 25mm could do it. Appreciate this very much. If you can, if you can't, that's OK too. Keep up the good work.

Carl Aven

*The ability of the Bradley's 25mm to punch through armor is predicated on it's DU round, which because of its very high density can concentrate a great deal of energy on the target in a one-inch circle — because of its mass, it's like hitting with a*

### Doing The Right Thing: Always Works!

I guess you never thought you'd get an Arab/Muslim American soldier writing in to you but just wanted to say I really enjoyed your piece on Civil Affairs in Iraq (*Hearts and Minds in Iraq* - June 2004). As a Civil Affairs Reservist just back from Baghdad I can really say I'm proud of how the vast majority of fellow soldiers treated innocent Iraqi's and "took care" of the scum. That incident with the flag in Sadr City cost us a lot of support (and one aviator lost his wings), but it goes to show how everyone of us from Civil Affairs to the 11 Bravo patrolling the streets need to always do the right thing, "The American thing," to not just win the war, but win the peace.

Thanks Guys...

Omar Masry  
Civil Affairs, U.S. Army Reserves  
[www.omarmasry.net](http://www.omarmasry.net)

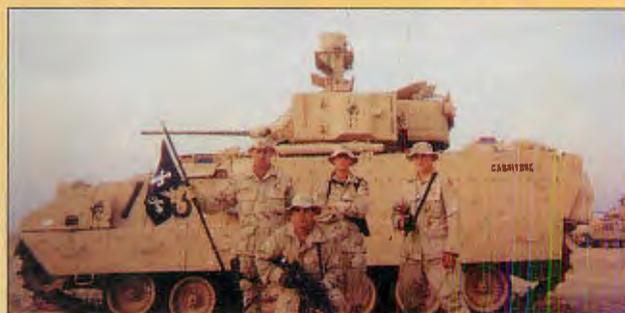
*Eloquently spoken and spot on! Thanks for writing.*

### Rhodes Scholar

Your Apr 04 issue, page 20 "QM2" fact-file says, "17 decks make her taller than the Statue of Liberty or the Colossus in Rome..." Uh, the Colossus — one of the 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World' was a large statue located at the Isle of Rhodes — great article otherwise, though.

Keith

*You're right, of course. That humongous statue of Apollo was the root for our English word "colossal."*



Staff Sgt. (P) Dillard J. Johnson

*steel penetrator several times the length. When the armor on a T-72 is breached, there typically is a catastrophic hull failure when its basic load goes up and the turret blows off. Once, on a demilitarization mission, Johnson's crew shot a T-72 in the front, and the round exited the rear.*



AP WORLDWIDE

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# Rally 'Round The Flag, Boys

Thank you for printing that well-written article regarding Kerry and what he helped do to us all when he came home from 'nam.

It appears permits have been issued to allow us to gather in DC 12 Sept 04, 1400-1600 hrs at the west side of the Capital Building. We will take this opportunity to refute Kerry's secondhand, unsubstantiated allegations he made part of the Congressional and public Records.

John Kerry did not start all those lies, but with the very real credibility of a Nam vet, well decorated, and an officer, carried to the American people, he finished the job on us all.

Another group of Nam vets is trying to organize marches nationwide for the summer. If you check on the net, you'll find the Nam vet websites angry at Kerry for his words and deeds are growing almost daily.

It's our turn to speak out and achieve a common goal, clearing our names as a group. We can do this if we speak for ourselves and ask that the truth be shared with America.

E.F.Watson  
REMF 69-70

See you there. For Viet Vet sites we know of, see "Bulletin Board" column.

## Cheap Guns, Cheap Shots

Is John Farnham [sic] a complete [sic] ignorant writer, or what? Let John know that my Makarov has over 20 cases, yes CASES, of ammo through it. The bore is still in great shape, and the little pistol does NOT fail. And he says the 7.62

Tokarov [sic] is underpowered?!?!? Does he realize that a CZ52 [sic] chambered in the Tok caliber will defeat his ballistic vest? He's just a moron, and he's lost my respect as an informed gun writer.

(Unsigned) [of course]

Several points: Farnam did not write the passage you mention - it was written by a firearms instructor in the Midwest, and quoted in Farnam's column. If you have a

Makarov that shoots every time, hang on to it: not all Makarov's are created equal, we've seen some that look like they were made in the dark, and functioned accordingly. The Russian pistol you refer to is the Tokarev, chambered for their version of the 7.63x25 M1896 round. Toks also vary widely in quality, depending on who made them and when, from acceptable to atrocious. Some, such as the 9x19 "Tokegypts" made in Hungary for export, were to an acceptable commercial standard. The Czech Vz 52 is well designed and very strong, which allowed the Czechs to compensate for the inherent weakness of the round by loading it very hot. It is the only production pistol that can safely shoot these hot loads: decrepit Toks and broomhandle Mausers can't handle it. The Czech loading of the 7.63x25 may penetrate some vests; so will the 5.45x18 Soviet, but neither do comparably much damage after they do. However, none of the three pis-

tols above common to the 7.63x25 round have suitable ergonomics for a defensive handgun.

Some points regards calling a gentleman an ignorant moron:

- first get the right man
- then spell his name right
- next, spell the names of the guns on which you disagree right
- then, get the correct model numbers for the guns on which you want to pontificate
- then, practice, practice, practice — in front of a mirror — saying "ignorant moron"

## What's It Worth?

I read with interest, as always, John Farnam's column. As I read, several things come to mind. First I have never owned a firearm from Hi-Point, but not everyone can afford a top-of-the-line handgun. Does this mean entry-level shooters should stay away from the range? I wonder if the instructor referred to would consider my Llama Max-I .45 junk. This weapon cost about half what a Ruger or SA costs. It serves me well when I can make it to the range.

The other comment I would like to make is on Wolf ammo. While it might not be the best choice for competition, I have found it to be very satisfactory for recreational shooting. I have gone through many rounds without a problem. Also I have shot it along side domestic ammo at twice the price and for my purpose see no difference. I don't consider myself an expert just a fair shot who likes to go out and rip off some rounds at targets, trying to get better.

Dick Hall

Our own Gary Paul Johnston has gotten good results from Wolf ammo, some others have not. Personally, we see an advantage to using second-rate ammo for training: You get to practice your immediate-action drills. As far as your Llama .45, we'd guess the instructor would like it fine if it is reliable. Would you buy a second-rate pacemaker because it was cheap? If you need a defensive firearm, it is no less important. Would you shop for an "entry-level" pacemaker? For plinking and informal shoots, anything that is fun and safe is suitable. But if you have need of a defensive weapon, well, what's your hide worth?

## Farnam on the Forum

Hi, just sending you links to discussion of Article: Combat Weaponcraft  
Titled: Cheap Guns, Good Guns, And Blades  
Author: John Farnam [sic]

Those are internet forum of Makarov owners. I have great respect for you magazine, but I pretty sure the articles like that one are actually do more harm than good to SOF magazine.

I myself own a Makarov and completely disagree with the author of this article.

[http://www.gunboards.com/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=40169](http://www.gunboards.com/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=40169)  
[http://www.gunboards.com/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=33423](http://www.gunboards.com/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=33423)

Thanks, Yuriy Fuksenko

Editor's reply continued on page 57



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# SIGARMS



# BULLETIN BOARD

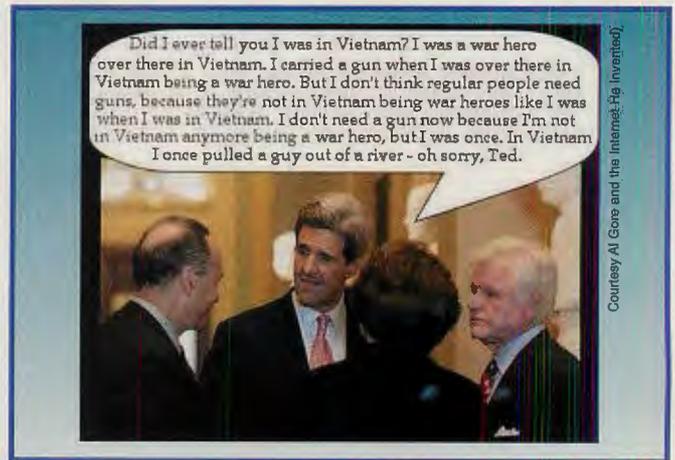
## *Kerry Posts Records. Sort Of.*

According to the *Boston Globe*, the Kerry campaign posted Vietnam combat records for the month of January 1969 on the Kerry campaign website as evidence of his combat duty aboard swift boat No. 94 – but the records describe action that occurred before Kerry was skipper, according to Edward Peck, who was the skipper of the 94 before Kerry assumed command. He said combat reports posted by the campaign for January 1969 involve action when he was the skipper, not Kerry.

Peck was seriously wounded in fighting that took place on 29 January 1969, yet on the Kerry website, the report of the combat on that day on the 94 boat is posted as occurring during Kerry's time as skipper. Peck said Kerry replaced him after the Jan. 29, 1969, event. "Those are definitely mine," Peck said, referring to the combat reports that the Kerry campaign posted as representing Kerry's action. "There is no doubt about it."



*Mike McNaughton stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan, Christmas 2002. While visiting wounded, President Bush told McNaughton that when he could run a mile, they would go on a run together. Good as his word, Bush called periodically to see how he was doing. You probably missed this on the evening news, but as the Cherry trees were blooming in Washington, McNaughton and W ran that mile. We think for the president to take time to say thanks to the wounded, and to maintain hope in an individual GI, speaks well of the man.*



## *Blackwater Memorial Fund*

"Coalition forces and civilian contractors and administrators work side by side every day with the Iraqi people to provide essential goods and services like food, water, electricity and vital security to Iraqi citizens and coalition members. Our tasks are dangerous and while we feel sadness for our fallen comrades, we also feel pride and satisfaction that we are making a difference for the people of Iraq ..." noted a release from Blackwater, announcing the establishment of a memorial fund to benefit surviving families of the food-convo security team slain in the Fallujah attack last March 31st.

Checks and money orders may be sent to: Memorial Fund, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 159, Moyock, NC 27958.

## *The Vote Is In...*

A straw poll taken by [www.wintersoldier.com](http://www.wintersoldier.com) asked: "should a man who falsely accused American troops of atrocities serve as Commander-in-Chief?" The results were:

Sure: 178 (2.17%)

No: 798 (9.72%)

Hell, No: 7,232 (88.11%)

Interesting as this is, the only vote that will count is coming in November. Are you registered yet? Are you campaigning for your candidate?

## *The Other Religion Of Peace*

The body of a police special forces officer who died when cornered Islamic terrorists blew themselves up in Madrid has been taken from its grave, mutilated and burned, according to the *Telegraph*.

The coffin and body of Special Agent Francisco Javier

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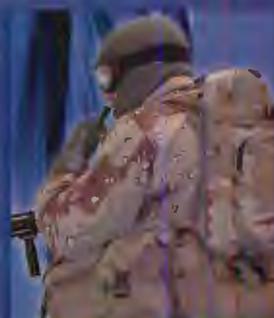


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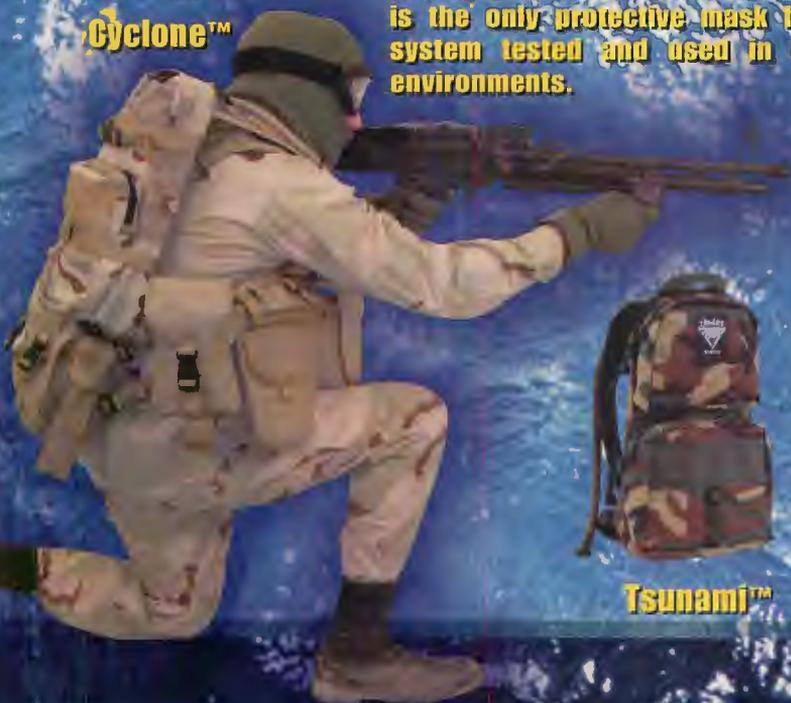
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## BULLETIN BOARD

Torrónteras were pulled from the tomb in Madrid Sur cemetery in Carabanchel and pushed 1,000 yards in a wheelbarrow before being doused with gasoline and set on fire.

The body was found with a pick driven into its head and a spade dug into its chest.

Although no motive was immediately apparent, police speculated that it could be the work of sympathizers of the Moroccan terrorist group that carried out the train bomb attacks in the Spanish capital on March 11, killing 192 people and injuring 1,900. The interior ministry said the act of desecration could have been part of "an Islamic rite of revenge."

Agent Torrónteras was killed leading a Special Operations Group team to dislodge terrorists suspected of the Madrid massacre. The seven terrorists blew themselves up in an apartment in the Madrid suburb of Leganes as cops moved in, injuring 11 other policemen. At least three had been accused of the railway bombings.

### Enlistments Up!

Halfway through the Army's fiscal year, 28,406 soldiers had re-upped, exceeding the goal of 28,377: The goal for the year is 56,100 soldiers by the end of September. The Marine Corps reports that they had already re-enlisted some 90% of their goal; the USAF and Navy as well are ahead of goals set for re-enlistment of airmen and sailors. The only Army unit that missed its goals, by roughly a hundred men, was the 82nd Airborne, which has spent a lot of time in Afghanistan and Iraq since 9-11.

### Old Soldiers Never Die



courtesy Franz Vella Bamber

A recent reenactment at Ft. Ricasoli, Malta, featured this restored British howitzer on a reproduction carriage. It still works fine. Its mate is now installed in the capital city as a noon gun. Uniforms are of a Maltese artillery regiment when under British rule in the late 1800s.

### A Bundeswehr Of Two?

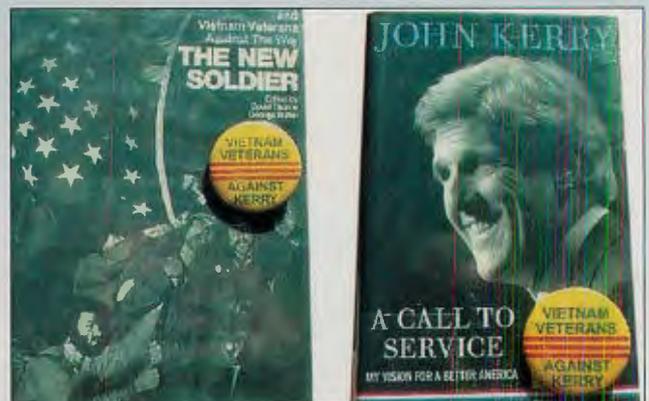
The German Army has decided to lift its traditional ban on sexual activity in the barracks. As written, current regs outlawed all sex on German military bases, which precluded married couples living on base. The new regs would allow troops to have "partnership relationships within military facilities" and couples to live on base. In 2000, the Bundeswehr lifted a long-standing ban on homosexuality.

### Candidate 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.viet-myths.net](http://www.viet-myths.net)  
[www.kerrylled.com](http://www.kerrylled.com)  
[www.vikingphoenix.com/e2004/vietnamvets-againstkerry.htm](http://www.vikingphoenix.com/e2004/vietnamvets-againstkerry.htm)  
[www.swiftvets.com](http://www.swiftvets.com)  
[www.wintersoldier.com](http://www.wintersoldier.com)  
[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.powmiafamiliesagainsstjohnkerry.com](http://www.powmiafamiliesagainsstjohnkerry.com)  
[www.johnfnkerry.com](http://www.johnfnkerry.com)  
[www.dirtykerry.com](http://www.dirtykerry.com)  
[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.lmnotfondakerry.com](http://www.lmnotfondakerry.com)  
[www.geocities.com/michaelkansas2003/jkiw/](http://www.geocities.com/michaelkansas2003/jkiw/)  
[www.johnfkerrysucks.com](http://www.johnfkerrysucks.com)  
[www.iraqi-freedom.com/kerrysucks.html](http://www.iraqi-freedom.com/kerrysucks.html)  
[www.nokerry.net](http://www.nokerry.net)  
[www.socialistkerry.com](http://www.socialistkerry.com)



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## AMERICA AT WAR

### 1. USA "POSSIBLE SURVEILLANCE TESTING TACTICS"

Police bulletin reports K-9 cops on high alert over "suspicious packages pattern." Five empty suitcases left at Penn Station, FBI headquarters and other hot spots: 3,000 police with bomb-sniffing dogs will sweep 3,000 subways and trains entering Penn Station after warnings terrorists may be preparing Madrid-type attack on railways. (*NY Post*) PATTERNS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM said terrorist attacks in 2003 down from 198 in 2002 to 190, but up from 77 to 88 against U.S. interests. Figures exclude Iraq.

**2. INDONESIA** U.S. OFFER of help in protecting Straits of Malacca from piracy involving explosive cargo refused. TRAVEL ADVISORY to U.S. citizens to avoid unessential travel, leave Aceh, and avoid crowds.

**3. COLOMBIA** RAMPANT CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT Cali's Attorney General Luis Camilo Osorio orders arrests of eight members of his office for suspected links to drug rings, paramilitaries and leftist rebels. Prosecutors allegedly in bed with cocaine traffickers.

**4. VENEZUELA** EIGHTY-EIGHT RIGHT-WING PARAMILITARIES rounded up by security forces, suspected of plotting attack on a military barracks. Group said to be part of 130 mercenaries contracted by Chavez opponents, linked to Miami-based Cuban dissidents. Opponents call capture pretext preparing way for clamp down on Chavez opponents, and smokescreen for Castro and FARC support given by Chavez.

**5. UNITED KINGDOM** FOOTBALL STADIUM bombing plan foiled.

**6. NORTHERN IRELAND** PROTESTANT UDA/UFF (Ulster Defense Association/Ulster Freedom Fighters) fighting Catholic IRA transformed into highly sophisticated organized mob according to Intel.

**7. SPAIN** NEW GOVERNMENT, elected three days after Madrid bombing, rejects involvement in Iraqi war. GOVERNMENT considering censoring radical Islamic preaching by militant imams.

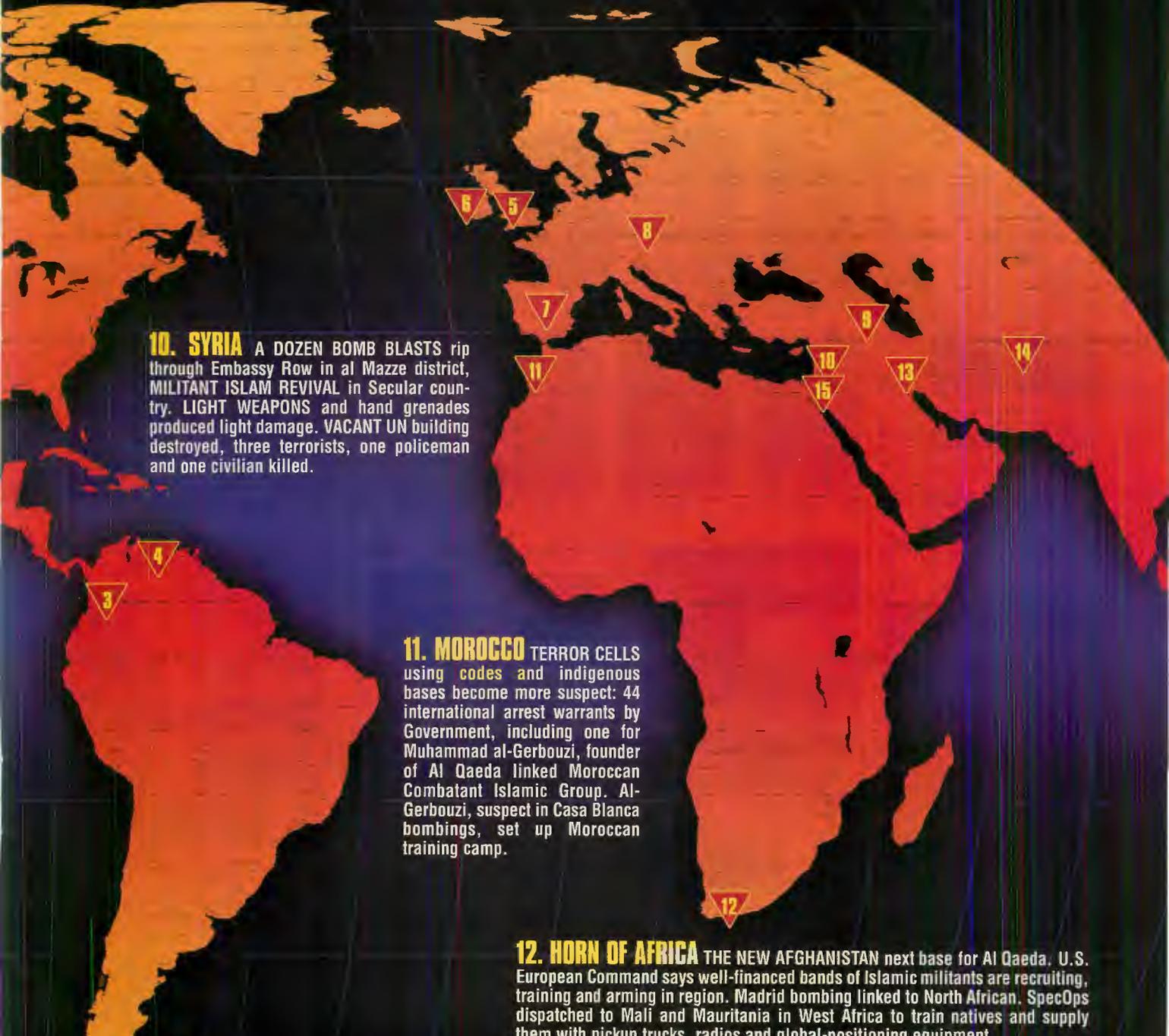
**8. EASTERN EUROPE** HI-TECH WEAPONS market for terrorists thrives.

**9. CHECHNYA** PRESIDENT AKHMED KADYROV assassinated in blast that killed five others and wounded 60. Son Ramzan Kadyrov, accused of torture, nominated as head of security service; also nominated for first deputy head of pro-Moscow administration.

**13. IRAQ** KURDS and SHIAs pleased with photos of POWs, largely Sunnis, being tortured. BEHEADING of private contractor Nicholas Berg likely by most wanted terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. EXECUTIONERS MESSAGE: "The worst is coming and, God willing, the tough days are still to come. You and your soldiers will regret the day that you touched the ground of Iraq."

**14. AFGHANISTAN** TALIBAN RAIDS and drug lords attempt to shut down reconstruction and voting reforms.

**15. JORDAN** "WAR AGAINST THE CRUSADERS AND INFIDELS," Al Qaeda plot to blow up Jordanian headquarters intelligence and U.S. embassy may have been more deadly than 9-11, thwarted. "MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS" with sulfuric acid, nerve gas, blistering agents and cocktails made of 71 chemicals avoided, according to U.S. intelligence: 20 tons of chemicals and explosives were seized. Four suspects died.



**10. SYRIA** A DOZEN BOMB BLASTS rip through Embassy Row in al Mazze district, MILITANT ISLAM REVIVAL in Secular country. LIGHT WEAPONS and hand grenades produced light damage. VACANT UN building destroyed, three terrorists, one policeman and one civilian killed.

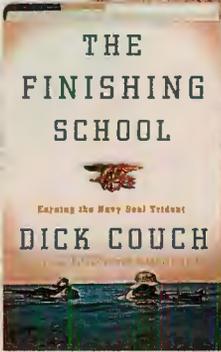
**11. MOROCCO** TERROR CELLS using codes and indigenous bases become more suspect: 44 international arrest warrants by Government, including one for Muhammad al-Gerbouzi, founder of Al Qaeda linked Moroccan Combatant Islamic Group. Al-Gerbouzi, suspect in Casa Blanca bombings, set up Moroccan training camp.

**12. HORN OF AFRICA** THE NEW AFGHANISTAN next base for Al Qaeda. U.S. European Command says well-financed bands of Islamic militants are recruiting, training and arming in region. Madrid bombing linked to North African. SpecOps dispatched to Mali and Mauritania in West Africa to train natives and supply them with pickup trucks, radios and global-positioning equipment.

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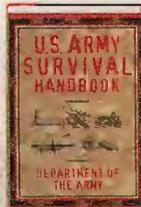
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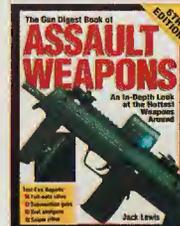
2353 \$19.99x 25¢



7807 \$19.99x 25¢



2394+ \$14.99x 25¢



2782+ \$24.99 25¢



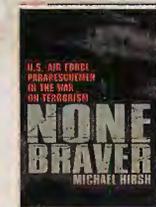
1073 \$24.99 25¢



1396 \$25.95 25¢



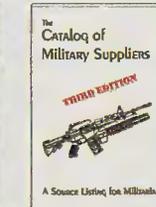
0281 \$22.95 25¢



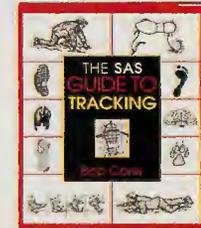
1719 \$24.95 25¢



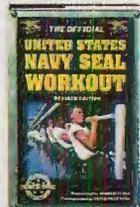
8169 \$27.95 25¢



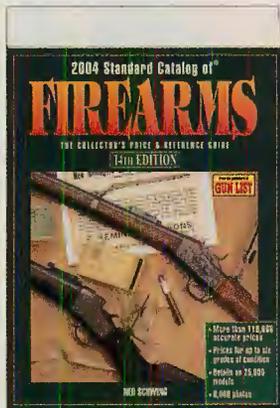
1792 \$18.99x 25¢



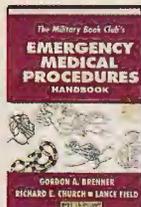
0315+ \$19.95 25¢



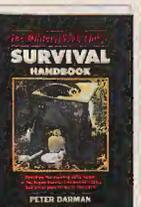
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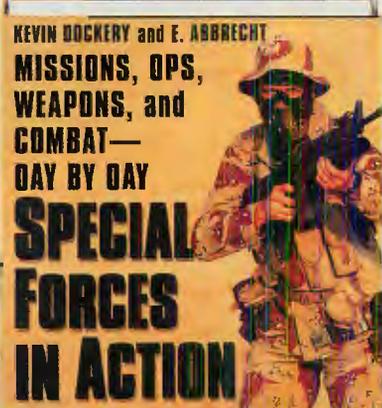
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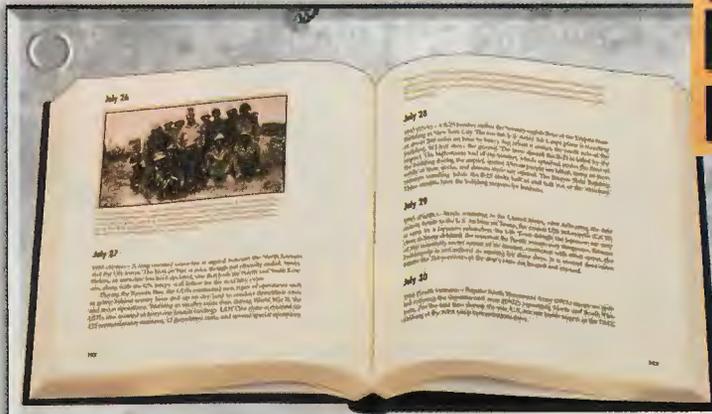
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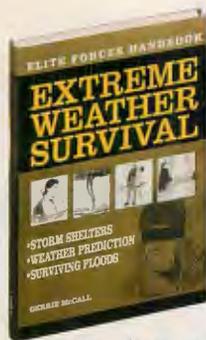


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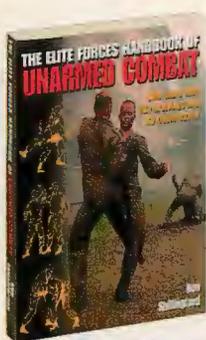


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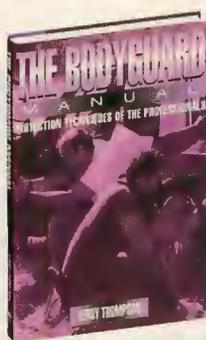




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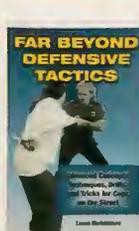


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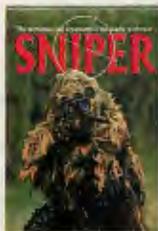


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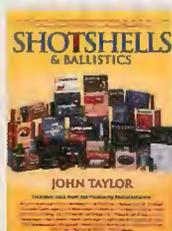
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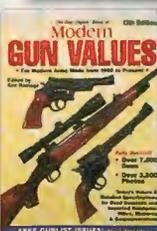
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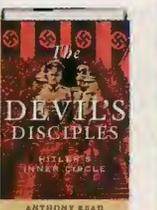
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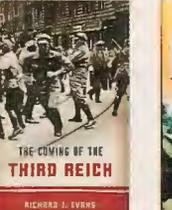
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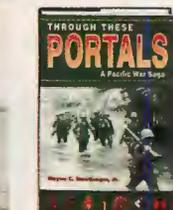
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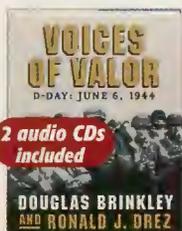
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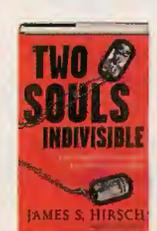
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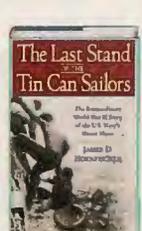
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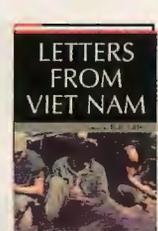
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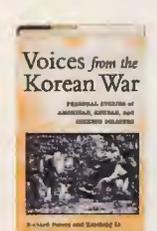
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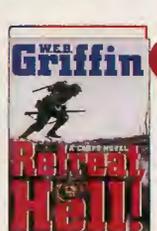
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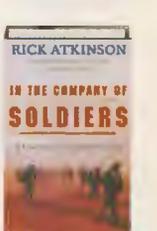
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# COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY ♦ BY JOHN FARNAM

## One-Shot Stops... Not!

### Police Shooting:

"The incident began with a report of a disabled vehicle on the bypass early in the morning last week. Complainants said they stopped to help the driver, but he refused to roll down his window and told them to 'get lost.' They did, and called police.

When our first two officers arrived, they attempted to make contact with the driver. They were unsuccessful, and eventually broke out the passenger side window. The driver sprayed the nearest officer with OC. The officer was immediately incapacitated.

"The suspect then got out of his car with the can of OC in one hand and a knife in the other and aggressively confronted the second officer, who had just been joined by his sergeant. The suspect then fled across the highway. A chain-link fence prevented his escape. Here the standoff began.

"A hostage negotiator arrived, along with a deputy armed with a 'bean bag' shotgun. After two hours of pointless negotiation, we decided we had to do something else. We threw a flash-bang at the suspect's feet. It had no effect. We then shot him in the thigh four times with bean-bags. His response was to charge our officers, knife still in his hand.

"Two of our guys began firing (S&W Sigmas, .40S&W). Our guys all know the '21-foot' rule. The suspect received a total of four bullet wounds, one to his right thigh, one center abdomen, one to his right pinkie finger, and one on the chin. The thigh shot went through and through. No bone or artery hit. The abdominal hit did not pass through any major organs, just intestines. No exit.

"The chin shot was the final one: It put the suspect down. The bullet entered on the point of the chin and traveled around the contour of the lower mandible, exiting on the side of his face. The suspect lay motionless for several minutes. Just after fire department folks examined him and pronounced him 'dead,' he sat up! He had merely been knocked out. He was then arrested without further incident. He is now in 'serious but stable condition' at our local hospital. Our guys are all okay"

*Lesson: Pistols are not reliable fight stoppers. Even what we describe as "solid hits" are often ineffective. We must be fully prepared to shoot with surgical accuracy more times than we think could possibly be necessary, if we expect to live through a fight. And, most importantly, we must never relax too soon!*

### Dog Attack:

"A colleague suffered a serious dog attack last week. Marv was a member of a bond-enforcement team (bounty hunters) attempting to arrest a local bail jumper. He and two metro police officers went to the back of the house where the bail

jumper was living, to cut off escape routes, while the rest of the team went to the front door. As he moved around the house to the rear, the suspect opened the back door and released a large pit bull. The dog immediately charged across the back porch and, without hesitation, leapt directly at Marv's throat!

"The dog struck Marv's raised left arm, fell to the ground, bounced back up, and, once more, lunged at Marv's throat. Marv punched the dog in the head, knocking it back to the ground. Marv punched him down several more times, as he moved backward. Finally, the dog settled for a less advantageous line of attack and firmly attached his jaws to Marv's right shin. Marv finally drew his SIG220 (230gr Speer Gold Dot), and shot the dog in the neck and shoulders four times in rapid succession. The dog let go, backed off, and then came at Marv again! Marv, using his sights, immediately fired two more shots, this time into the head of the charging animal. The dog, struck in the head and face by both rounds, staggered and fell, DRT.

"All six of Marv's rounds found their mark. Five bullets stopped, fully expanded, in the dog. One, fully expanded, went through and through. The one that went through and through, exited (mostly spent) and then struck Marv's right leg just above the in the ankle. Marv's wound was not serious but did require surgery.

"Metro officers who witnessed the event were amazed at the speed of Marv's reaction. The first four rounds were fired so fast, witnesses all thought there were only two!"

*Lesson: Most dog attacks end only when there is a fatality, yours or the dog's! It is no time for half measures. When tangled up with a dog, it is not hard to imagine getting a body part on line with a potential bullet exit point. No matter what happens, you have to keep fighting. As my friend and fellow instructor, Keith Jones, is fond of saying, "Pistol fights resemble fist fights much more than they do tactical, nuclear attacks!" When shooting a pistol in an emergency we must:*

- 1) Distract our enemy's focus
- 2) Disrupt his plan
- 3) Disable his body
- 4) Destroy his will to fight

*In the case of a pit bull, point four is accomplished only with the death of the animal. This isn't Disneyland!*

*Author of The Farnam Method of Defensive Handgunning and one of the country's preeminent firearms instructors, John Farnam may be reached at JSFarman@aol.com ☒*

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# THE BATTLE FOR



## DEH CHOPAN,

*“Al- Qaeda Ambush Ahead!” “What? Nonsense! Drive On.”*

Last month we left McInerney's National Guard Special Forces A-team in a furious firefight with a combined al-Qaeda/Taliban force. The team's collective posterior was saved by some killer hand-held mortar work by their weapons guys.

**WE** were regrouping and resting when all of a sudden we came under fire from fifteen prepared positions 600m to our right flank. The al-Qaeda/Taliban forces were established on another bit of high ground to our flank. The high ground provided clear fields of fire and was going to be a bitch to try to take away with a frontal or flank assault.

BY WO 1 MICHAEL MCINERNEY



# AFGHANISTAN PART 2

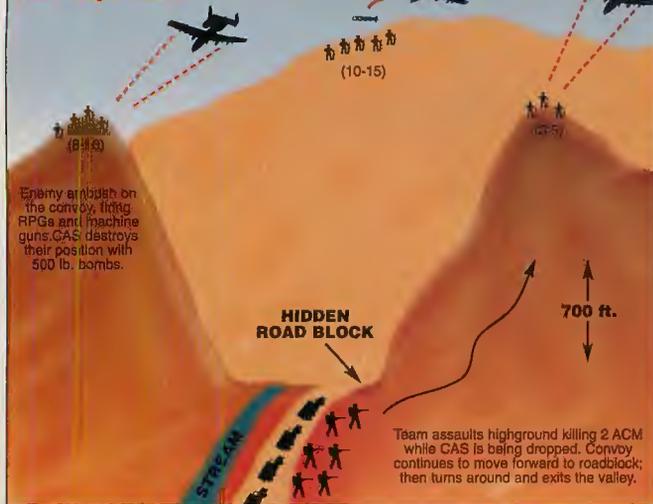
At this time we had been climbing, fighting, and firing for over six hours and needed to get an assault under way before we lost daylight. Our TACP, the Air Force Support Controller, called in a pair of AH-64s to strafe the enemy on the ridgeline with rockets and guns. The pilots circled over the hilltop and advised that they couldn't positively identify any bad guys with weapons!

I came up on their radio freq and told them to open fire or get the hell out of there. Who did they think was firing at us, and had us pinned down? My TACP advised that he had two A-10s inbound and what did I want to do with them. I told the AH-64s to clear out of my area while the Air

Force A-10s made a bomb run.

The A-10s dropped 500lb bombs all along the ridgeline and came back for a couple of gun runs. It was an awesome sight! God Bless the US Air Force! We radioed back for more Afghan reinforcements, so we could take the ridgeline while they were still trying to sort themselves out. One of my guys radioed that a sniper had just shot one of our newest guys while he was sitting in my vehicle monitoring the SATCOM.

Since we only had one 18D (SF Medic), who just so happened to be up on the hill with me, I decided it would be best to pull off of the hill and get our medic

**DAY FOUR: 28 Aug 2003**  
**The Valley Of Death**


back to our wounded man.

All was quiet as we descended to the valley floor. We made good time until we started walking across the open ground of the valley floor. Then all hell opened up, and every asshole on the ridgeline opened fire; it was an unbelievable volume of fire. Rounds impacted all around us, some within one meter or less. Thank God that they were over 600m away because it wasn't very accurate, but there was a hell of a lot of it!

We were so tired that we just continued to trudge through

it. You didn't react until a round impacted within a meter of you, and then you changed your course or just sped up. We safely got everyone to our wounded man and our medic took care of him. The bullet had passed through the window and into his shoulder, just above his body armor, and then into the seat backing. The bullet hadn't struck any bones so he was in pretty good shape. We called in for a Medevac and another windshield.

The Medevac was on station within forty minutes and the only thing Noah wanted to take with him was his Copenhagen! During this entire ordeal our air support continued to bomb the baddies on the high ground.

As the Medevac left, the sun was setting. Our Afghans had run low on ammo and wanted to get out of the valley. I was in agreement with their assessment, and wanted to get out of there before the other guys closed off our way out of the valley, and started attacking from other directions.

I radioed higher and was told to hold our ground and that two more SF teams were being heloed in with ammo, food and water. So we stayed in place and set up a Landing Zone for our inbound brothers-in-arms. They arrived around 0200 with more goodies. I conferred with the other two team leaders, and came up with a plan of action for the next day's activities. After my guys put the other SF guys into positions on the perimeter we pulled back and tried to get some rest. The time is 0430 ... and another day comes to an end.

*From left, Chuck, Chief, Bill, Mike, and Scott. Out patrolling an area where a SEAL had been killed two weeks previously.*



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*Some of the AMF (Afghan Militia Force) after our first day of battle ... notice the lack of shoes and gear (battle rattle).*



*The author, Bill, and Mike meeting with the AMF General to organize our plans to take the fight to the Taliban.*

Totals for the day: Enemy - 15-20 KIA, WIA 15, Friendly - 1 WIA.

*Mareh, Deh Chopan District, Afghanistan – 27 Aug 2003*

We got up at 0530, first light, and began moving in three columns to flank yesterday's battle ground and take the high ground. It took three hours to climb to the peak and patrol forward around and over positions the baddies held the day before. We found numerous body parts, shoes, and destroyed weapons on the ridgeline, but no bodies. The ACM are good at removing bodies.

We spent the day sweeping through nearby villages, abandoned by the locals. There were blood trails and donkey hoof prints leading to one town. The locals in the town told us that Al-Qaeda and Taliban had come through the night before and took all of the donkeys and young men to remove the bodies from the battlefield.

They also advised that they saw fifteen or twenty wounded loaded on donkeys. When asked about the dead, they told us they didn't see any. We spent the rest of the day looking for where the bad guys hid the bodies, with no luck.

We returned with our Afghans to Deh Chopan, to rest and relax and plan our next mission. That night another team from our company arrived. We received an order from our higher that we are to move mounted to our north, to relieve another team in the vicinity of Cinaran.

I discussed this with the AMF General who told me his local scouts said the road was blocked, and that the ACM had set up an ambush on both sides of the valley the road ran through. We passed this information on to higher and requested helos to pick us up, and that we air assault the location.

Higher headquarters advised us that airborne Predators reported no such ambush, and to continue on with our mission, to drive our vehicles up the river valley. The other team leader looked at me and said, "So how do you think this will go down?"

"Well, my team will take the lead. We'll drive into the valley about a kilometer, the bad guys will open up with everything they've got. We'll return fire and knock them off the ridgelines, then continue on with the mission." He looked at

me and said, "That sounds pretty matter of fact, and you don't seem too disturbed by it."

"No big deal, we've been fighting these guys for two days and my guys can handle it." We worked out our plan for the next day and I hit the sack under another starry Afghan night.

*River Valley, North of Deh Chopan, Afghanistan – 28 Aug 2003:*

Just as the sun rose we drove into the valley with half of our Afghans in the lead followed by our team, then the other half of the AMF, followed by the other team. We slowly patrolled forward about a kilometer into the valley when the Afghans in front of my vehicle stopped and dismounted.

Since we were stopped I figured I might as well get out and use the facilities. When you get a case of the "Ghan Grunge" you just gotta go when ya gotta go! So I set off for the nearest bit of cover, a grove of trees across an open area to our flank. Just as I got my fatigue pants down around my ankles and into position to empty whatever was trying to get out, all hell broke loose, and the baddies opened up with

a barrage of RPGs and small arms fire.

I am now in bad situation ... pants around my ankles, rounds passing by my head, and I have 25 meters of open ground to cover to get to my vehicle. So I decide to finish my business, I don't want to get shot, and then be taken to the hospital after literally crapping my pants ... it wouldn't look good for an SF soldier.

With a shaking hand I quickly use my baby wipes, while branches and leaves continue to rain down on my head from the incoming rounds. And all I can think of is "Please God, don't let me be shot in the ass with my pants down!" I finish in record time and grab my pants and pull them up without securing them and run like Forest Gump across the open ground to my vehicle.

During my entire run across the open ground all I heard over the gun fire was the laughter of my team, as they watched me high step it with both hands holding my pants! I would have shot them, just to keep them quiet when we

*Continued on page 72*

**RPGs and AK rounds are flying over and around our vehicles, one AK round smacks into the SATCOM antennae right next to Bill's head, giving him the shock of his life.**

# "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 CEOs 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

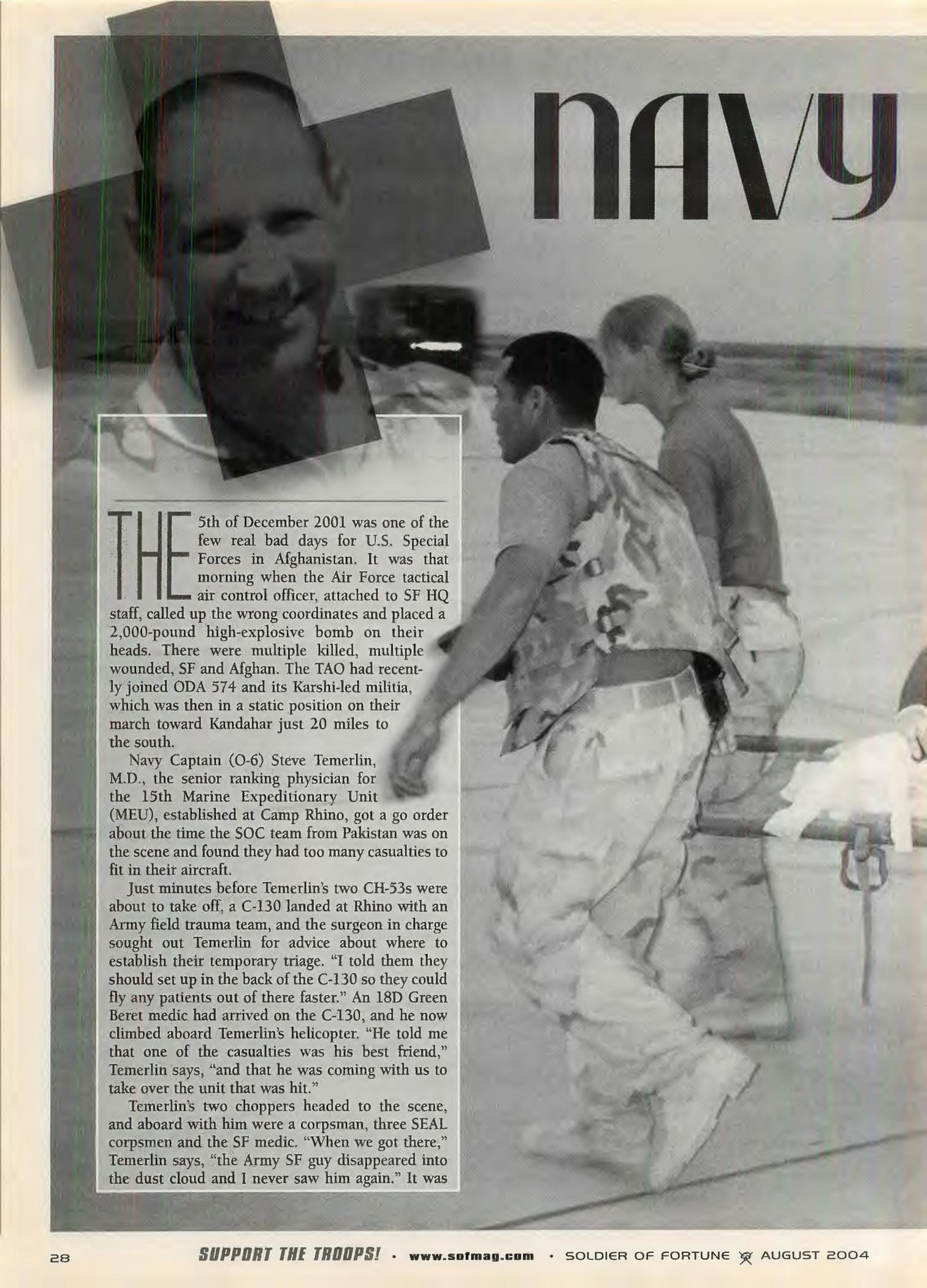
**Let's cut to the chase:** this program is extremely controversial and NOT for everyone. If you'd never consider killing someone threatening your life or if you're hoping to see lots of useless predetermined techniques or cool setup moves — you can stop reading here. This is only for those who want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

# NAVY



**THE** 5th of December 2001 was one of the few real bad days for U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan. It was that morning when the Air Force tactical air control officer, attached to SF HQ staff, called up the wrong coordinates and placed a 2,000-pound high-explosive bomb on their heads. There were multiple killed, multiple wounded, SF and Afghan. The TAO had recently joined ODA 574 and its Karshi-led militia, which was then in a static position on their march toward Kandahar just 20 miles to the south.

Navy Captain (O-6) Steve Temerlin, M.D., the senior ranking physician for the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), established at Camp Rhino, got a go order about the time the SOC team from Pakistan was on the scene and found they had too many casualties to fit in their aircraft.

Just minutes before Temerlin's two CH-53s were about to take off, a C-130 landed at Rhino with an Army field trauma team, and the surgeon in charge sought out Temerlin for advice about where to establish their temporary triage. "I told them they should set up in the back of the C-130 so they could fly any patients out of there faster." An 18D Green Beret medic had arrived on the C-130, and he now climbed aboard Temerlin's helicopter. "He told me that one of the casualties was his best friend," Temerlin says, "and that he was coming with us to take over the unit that was hit."

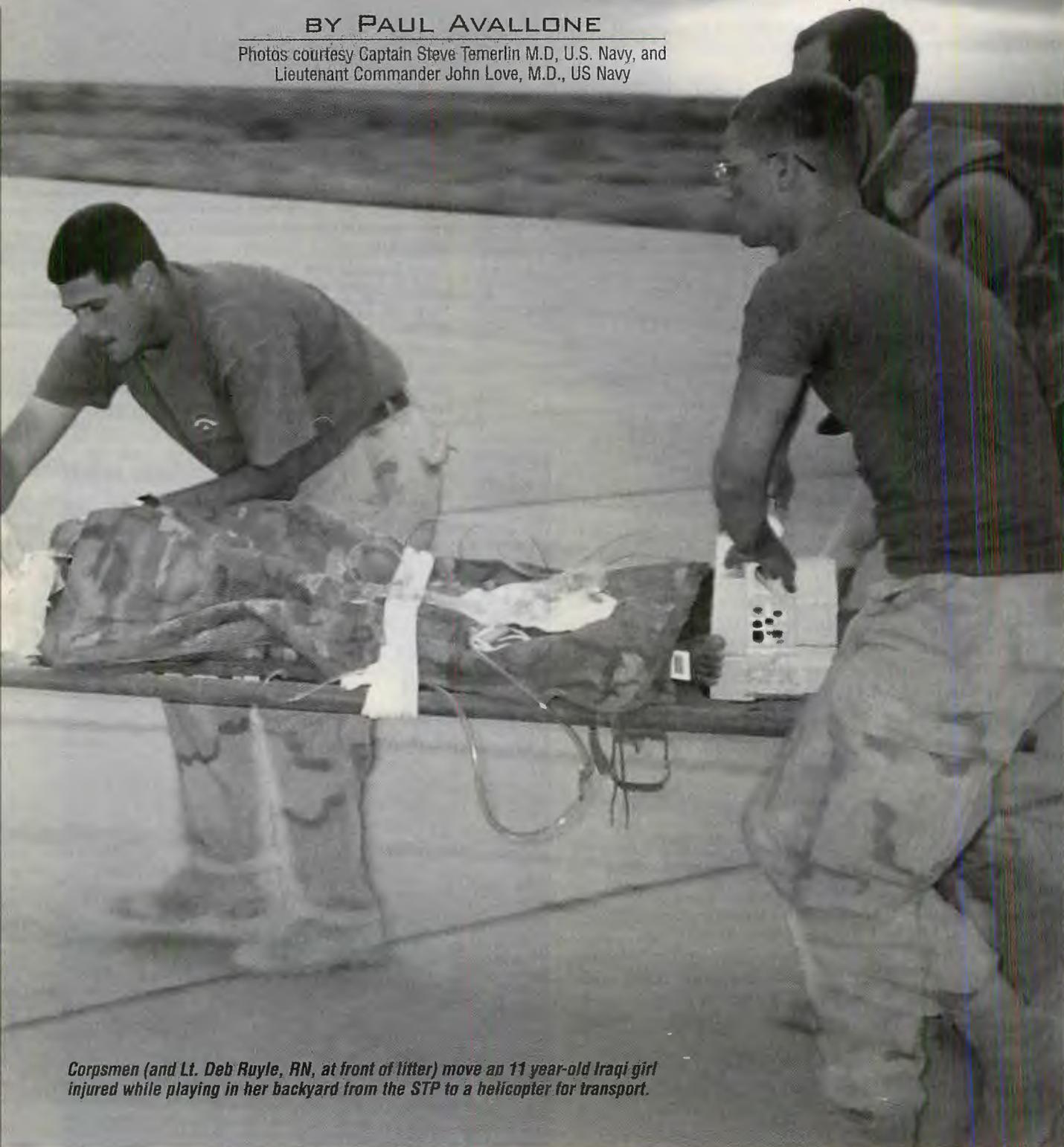
Temerlin's two choppers headed to the scene, and aboard with him were a corpsman, three SEAL corpsmen and the SF medic. "When we got there," Temerlin says, "the Army SF guy disappeared into the dust cloud and I never saw him again." It was

# DOCTOR AT WORK:

CAPTAIN STEVE TEMERLIN, M.D.

BY PAUL AVALLONE

Photos courtesy Captain Steve Temerlin M.D, U.S. Navy, and  
Lieutenant Commander John Love, M.D., US Navy



*Corpsmen (and Lt. Deb Ruyle, RN, at front of litter) move an 11 year-old Iraqi girl injured while playing in her backyard from the STP to a helicopter for transport.*

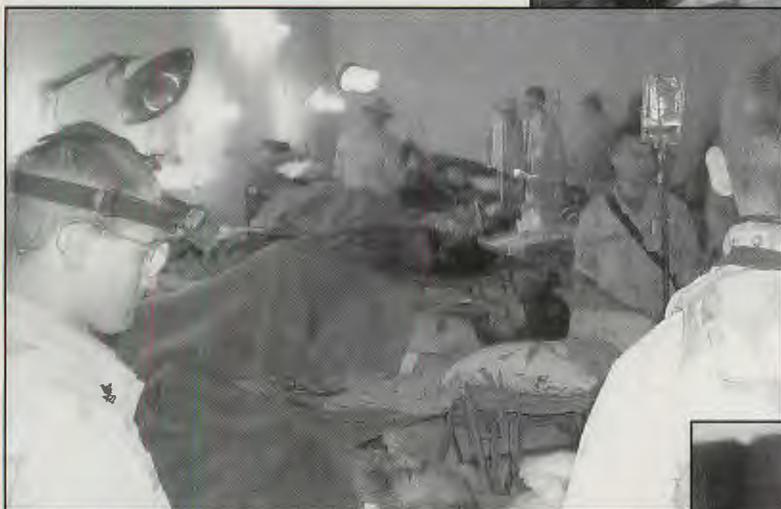
about an hour after the SOC birds had come, and they had left with all the U.S. casualties and the 13 most severely wounded Afghans. "There were seven Afghan patients left," according to Temerlin, "all with orthopedic injuries, except for one elderly man with a piece of shrapnel through his skull."

One of Temerlin's CH-53s was set up with litters and supplies, the other was a backup, and as Temerlin tells it, "In the confusion when we landed, the Afghans loaded the patients on the wrong bird. There wasn't time to sort out the problem, and I just had to run back and get my medical bag in the first helo then run back, and I almost got left behind as the helicopter took off while I was climbing onto the ramp."

Temerlin's team brought the wounded



*(above) Afghan victims of the errant 2,000-lb bomb are transported by Marine Corps CH-53 helicopter from the site of the accident to Camp Rhino, Afghanistan, on 5 December 2001. Navy Captain Steve Temerlin was the physician of the two-CH-53 casevac teams that performed the mission. (left) Triage at Camp Rhino, Afghanistan, just south of Kandahar, after the Afghans were casevaced from the accidental U.S. bomb strike on the SF-Afghan position on 5 December 2001. (below) HM-3 Saucedo tends to wounded Iraqi soldiers, transporting them via CH-46 casevac helicopter in Iraq in April 2003.*



Afghans back to Camp Rhino, where the SOC birds had already arrived and had transferred the U.S. wounded to the waiting C-130, on which they were flown to an Air Force field hospital in Oman. Because Oman had a policy against allowing any Afghans on its soil, all the Afghan patients were stabilized at Rhino, then flown by CH-53 to the USS *Baatan* and USS *Peleliu*. Total time from injury to ship was about 14 hours. Temerlin's 15th MEU was from the *Peleliu*, so "I know what happened there," he says. "The two surgeons worked non-stop for the next 36 hours on the Afghan patients."

### **The Golden Hour**

According to Temerlin, from what he saw firsthand and heard from those present, the SF medics on the scene had provided and directed top-notch immediate, life-saving care and "the severely wounded died more or less immediately. That is the same thing we saw in Iraq," says Temerlin, "that this 'golden hour of trauma,' when there are supposed to be many patients who will survive if seen soon enough, didn't seem to hold true. The survivors we picked up needed little in-flight care, and the dead hadn't lasted anything close to an hour. I don't completely understand why," he admits, "but it surely contradicts what I have been taught about civilian trauma all my life."

Temerlin has been practicing medicine for more than 20 years. As a civilian emergency-room doctor in Oregon in the 1980s, by coincidence he joined the Naval Reserves just prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and was on his way to



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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 body-weight 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 throbbing. 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 hellish 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 body-weight 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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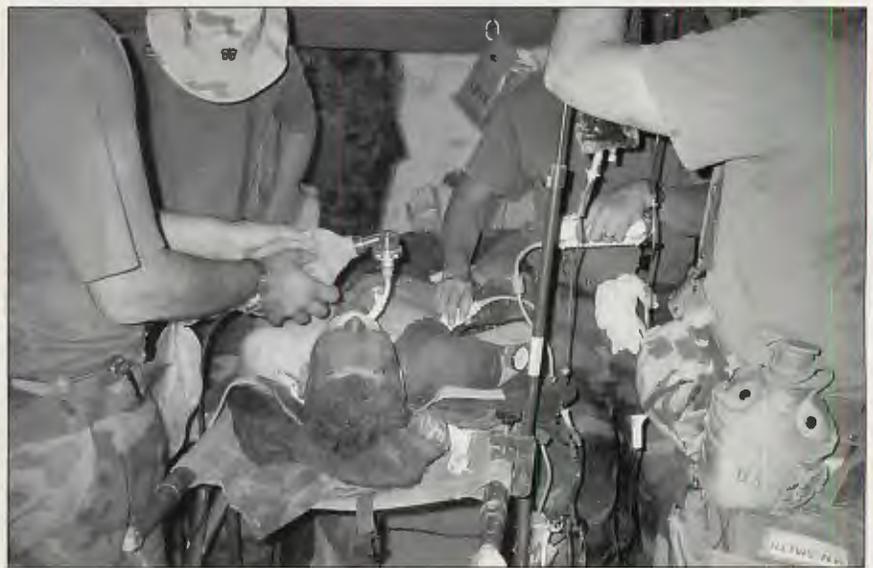
**Capt. Steve Temerlin, flanked by Marine infantrymen flying to the scene of Army Special Operations MH-60 crash site just over the Pakistan border, to retrieve the helicopter during Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, January 2002.**

Saudi Arabia at the start of the war that ended so quickly he never made it there. Shortly afterwards he realized, he remembers, "the thought of doing the same thing [civilian emergency medicine] for 30 more years was not interesting," so he went active duty. He attended Flight Surgeon training and joined Carrier Air Wing 5 in Japan. Married, with three daughters, it was all a great departure from his previous stay-at-home civilian career, but he's never looked back. In the Navy, Temerlin has plussed-up his military experience with Marine Corps Dive School and a stint with the Marine Chemical/Biological Incident Response Force based in Maryland.

The 9/11 terrorist attack on the U.S. found Temerlin deployed with the 15th MEU on the *Peleliu* in the midst of a medical humanitarian mission in East Timor. The Marine task force moved to the Arabian Sea, where Temerlin reasoned that, with the plan to deploy and set up inland 500 miles away in Afghanistan, the old USMC way of doing things would have to be changed. Realizing the need for on-the-ground surgical capacity, Temerlin tried to get delivered a newly developed FRSS (Forward Resuscitative Surgical System), but the one unit in operation had

just been field tested in the Bright Star Exercise in Egypt and was still on pallets somewhere in the States. "It would have been perfect," Temerlin says of the FRSS, "but politics smashed that idea, and instead of a well designed, small footprint unit, we got the Korean War-era surgical company supplies, most of which were worthless and unusable." Temerlin and his staff made do with the assets they had, but Temerlin's eyes were now open to the crucial faults in the Naval medical supply system.

Among Temerlin's experiences in Afghanistan were as attending physician for American Taliban fighter Johnny Walker (see sidebar) and as a combat physician on a TRAP mission. TRAP is Marine doctrine: Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel. An Army Special Forces MH-60 had crashed on the border just inside Pakistan. SF recovered the



**Marine was injured by mortar fire and initially transported for medevac in an armored vehicle. The vehicle was then hit by a mortar and caught fire. The Marine sustained an airway burn. He survived.**



**An 11 year-old Iraqi girl injured while playing in her backyard by an AK-47 gravity round to the head. She was taken to a local hospital, which had no supplies or surgical capability, then transported to Shock Trauma Platoon 9 and placed on life support. X-ray showed the AK round in the center of her skull. She was medevaced to Fleet hospital, then the hospital ship. She survived neurologically intact.**



bodies and sensitive equipment, but had no heavy-lift helicopters to recover the aircraft. The Marines, with their CH-53s, were tasked, and the first two were turned away by small arms fire. Temerlin went along on a second lift as the on-site surgeon, but the recovery turned out uneventful.

Temerlin came away from his Afghanistan experiences with a determination to use his rank and position to improve things for the next possible war. Along with the new FRSS units were the newly instituted Shock Trauma Platoons (STPs). Both the FRSSs and the STPs would place Navy medical personnel serving with the Marines very near the front lines in combat. With that, Temerlin realized that medical personnel would benefit from some basic combat training. He took leave, and on his own dime he attended Arizona's famed shooting academy, Gunsite, for its Tactical Medicine course, learning firearms and tactics integrated into field medical scenarios under live-fire conditions. He worked with the Gunsite staff to modify the

course to better suit potential Marine Corps scenarios then arranged for two groups of 15 doctors and nurses to attend just months before they were deployed to Kuwait in anticipation of the upcoming war in Iraq.

### Time For High-Speed, Low-Drag Medicine

In the time between Afghanistan and Iraq, Temerlin worked hard to get the Navy's medical supply system modernized and up to speed. To produce and field more FRSS units, he says, "Everyone got in high gear after Afghanistan. We were able to field six FRSSes for the war in Iraq, which is truly miraculous."

For the war in Iraq the Marine Corps system for medical care (always provided by the Navy) was set up on five levels. First were the Battalion Aid Stations (BAS) — each manned by a young, post-intern physician and corpsmen. Next, the Shock Trauma Platoons, of 25 people each — two ER doc-

## ✚ TREATING JOHNNY WALKER ✚

It was December 2001, in Afghanistan, and Capt. Steve Temerlin had been informed that coming to Camp Rhino in the next few days would be a wounded American who had been captured fighting for the Taliban. By that time, the Marines had a full surgical team established at Rhino, including Temerlin and two other physicians, two medical officers and more than 30 corpsmen. Task Force 58 commander, Marine General Mattis, told Temerlin he expected the prisoner to be provided the best care possible.

Johnny Walker arrived without fanfare or media notice at Rhino close to midnight, and Temerlin was immediately summoned to evaluate him. "I was telling myself to feel nothing as I knelt next to the litter and pulled the blanket down," Temerlin says. "I exposed a very slender, disheveled young man with long black hair and a beard. A cloth hood covered his eyes. The expression on his lower face was fearful." Still today Temerlin feels that confidentiality prevents him of describing Walker's wounds, except to say that they were "nothing dramatic." He came to Walker with strong emotions, knowing Walker had taken up arms for the Taliban against Americans, and his own reaction struck him. "In spite of what he had tried to do, in that moment he became my patient. I felt the same compulsion to care for him and protect him that I had for anyone. I was angry with myself for being unable to think of him as something different."

Walker was kept at Rhino for 10 days, segregated and guarded in a green connex container. Temerlin saw him every morning and evening, changing his wound dressings and giving him pain medication and antibiotics. "I only talked to him about his wounds and his comfort," Temerlin says. "I never discussed anything else. I listened to the tone of his voice and his choice of words. He spoke English with an Arabic accent. He spoke carefully and well, and I believed his accent was an affectation. I had the impression he was a typical young narcissist to whom we weren't completely real, just actors in his own little saga."

Walker was provided with a bunch of blankets against the winter cold. "He was a lot warmer than us," according to Temerlin. "I remember one morning waking up shivering, wet and in a pool of water under an artillery shell hole in the roof of the hooch and thinking that I'd be a lot more

sheltered and comfortable in Walker's box."

Walker's clothes had been filthy, tattered rags, so Temerlin gave him a set of surgical scrubs, which peeved his fellows because the scrubs were few and far between, with none as replacements and no way to clean what they had. Temerlin drew the line at Walker's comfort though when Walker asked for more than the two MREs he was getting each day. "I told him that was all the rest of us had and he wasn't going to get more than us."

Later, about a month after Walker was moved from Rhino, Temerlin caught an interview of Walker's mother on CNN. Outraged, he composed the letter below with the intent to send it to CNN to be forwarded to Walker's mother. His commander advised against it, so Temerlin held off, keeping the letter to himself.

25 January 2002  
Dear Ms. Walker,

Today I saw on the news that your son John reported he had not been given medical care while he was in custody at Camp Rhino, Afghanistan. I am the physician who provided care for him during the 10 days of his stay there. I'm sure I bear some responsibility for his memory lapse, as I have failed to bill him for my services. Perhaps the following will help his memory.

- Initial Complete Physical Examination: \$200
- Daily exam and dressing change (\$40/visit, 2/daily x 10 days): \$800
- Total charge: \$1000

Please note that the above fees are for my professional services only. The bandages, antibiotics, pain medication and food he was given were paid for by the same United States citizens he betrayed and murdered ...

Respectfully,  
Steve Temerlin  
Commander, Medical Corps, United States Navy;  
Diplomate, American Board of Emergency Medicine,  
American Board of Internal Medicine

tors, a nurse, a physician's assistant, corpsmen and drivers — were designed to travel with support units behind the leading-edge fighting units. At the next level were the FRSS units, which, in a nutshell, are mobile operating rooms and consist of 44-member teams. The level above, established in the staging bases in Kuwait and later Iraq, were the surgical companies, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta — 260-man mobile hospital units designed to provide complete care. Finally, in the Persian Gulf were the hospital ships *Comfort* and *Mercy*.

Casevac was to be provided by Marine helicopter squadrons. In particular, CH-46's in teams of two. Each with a crew of six: two pilots, two crew chiefs (to man the .50 calcs), a Navy surgeon and Navy corpsman. That was Temerlin's assignment in Iraq — surgeon on a casevac CH-46. The problem was, Temerlin's fellow doctors, nurses and corpsmen had never been trained on CH-46 casevac operations. With his Afghanistan experience and Gunsite training, Temerlin was tasked with training the others. The CH-46's were fully equipped for casevac, with mounted litters, etc., unlike the CH-53's in Afghanistan, which had been chosen for use there because of their longer range (twice that of the 46), mid-air refueling capability and greater lift capacity (for the higher altitudes). In Iraq altitude wasn't an issue, and the 46s had Forward Air Refueling Points (FARPS) set up throughout the countryside.

By the time Temerlin returned to the States from Iraq in May 2003, his team had flown 82 patients. "Thirty-six were Marines, 23 Iraqi civilians and 23 Iraqi EPW's. We never lost a patient," he reports with quiet pride, "and all of us eventually came home."

One day during the battle in and around Baghdad, Temerlin's two-helicopter team was called to pick up a wounded Iraqi boy and girl. Temerlin was in the lead helicopter. "We were having trouble finding the grid coordinates," he says of the initial pickup. "We flew deeper over the city, including one of the palaces. We flew for more than half an hour before we finally saw colored smoke signaling us to land. We took small arms fire spiraling in, but nothing hit the aircraft." They landed in a rough dirt field between some destroyed buildings and a treeline in which Marines were squatted in position. From the treeline sprinted two Marines — each carrying one of the kids — with the kids' father and uncle right behind. The boy, five years old, and the girl, four. "The boy had a gunshot or shrapnel wound to his lower left chest. His sister, with a gunshot wound to her right arm."

At touch down, the two casevac crews had received word of another pickup — this one deep in the city, for which the two choppers now headed. As Temerlin tells it, "We flew over suburbs and then the inner city. We saw signs of bombing, but no Marines in the city yet." Their coordinates were "a large open area of pavement in between several large buildings and an arena. It was surrounded by power lines and high telephone lines, so we had to sharply bank and spiral in." Marines appeared, with two litter patients: two of their fellow Marines with multiple shrapnel wounds to the head, face, arms and



*Navy Capt. Steve Temerlin M.D. and Chief Hospital Corpsman (E7) Tom Spradain flank Ollie North during North's visit to the 1st MEF casevac team in Kuwait on 18 March 2003, days prior to the war's kickoff.*

upper torso. "We were the first to lift off and had to pull up quickly and bank to the left to avoid the power lines, and a second later there was a loud bang, and we jerked again to the right." The crew from the second chopper reported that the explosion was an airburst RPG near Temerlin's helicopter's rear rotor. Escaping damage, they flew their patients to a FRSS.

The next morning, Temerlin's crew got the call to transport the two Iraqi children to the surgical company located at Viper for the

more extensive treatment the kids needed. Picking up the children, Temerlin was told by the surgeons that the boy had wounds to his spleen, liver and bowel, and the prognosis was bad. They took on the children and their father and uncle and headed south. It was a long flight, and about an hour out still, and the little girl woke from sedation. "She seemed in pain, but didn't complain," according to Temerlin. "Her father stood next to her litter and comforted her, rubbing her long black hair." At Viper, as the two children were loaded into an ambulance, a security team took into custody the father and uncle at gunpoint, flexi-cuffing them, and the girl "started screaming and crying. In that moment," remembers Temerlin, "I looked at her face and saw my own daughters that I had abandoned in order to come to Iraq. I think that moment I realized how numb I had become, putting my family out of my mind and expecting never to come home. I saw that child and she was everything that I had been ready to lose." Temerlin climbed into the ambulance to try and comfort the girl. To no avail. And he could only reboard his chopper for the final leg to the base.

### Pluggger Problems

Temerlin tells of a time days before the troops reached Baghdad. It was 0200 hrs, and his team got a call: two Marines run over in a "skirmish hole," scratched into the earth just deep enough to lie out of the line of horizontal bullets and shell fragments. The two Marines were critical. One chopper was down for repairs. The other, Temerlin's, was low on fuel. That was an acceptable risk. The pilots flew with NVGs, low and fast, just above the electric lines. A spinning IR chem light brought them in to the ground, where the two Marines had been run over on their heads. The sergeant was dead; the lieutenant barely alive and would need a neurosurgeon. The closest facility with one would be the surgical company far to the rear at Viper. "We're flying and flying, and it's taking too long," Temerlin relates. "Then I hear the pilots on the intercom saying, like, 'do you think that instrument is accurate?'" It wasn't. They were lost. "Fuel was down to vapors. We landed. We had to. In the middle of nowhere. It was just before dawn." With the crew chiefs manning their .50 calcs, Temerlin and his corpsman, HM3 Saucedo, took up their M16s. The pilots asked, "Doc, did you bring your GPS?"

Perhaps it was just the lessons learned in Afghanistan — the incorrect use of the military PLGR ("pluggger") GPS that brought the two-thousand pound bomb down upon the SF

*Continued on page 80*

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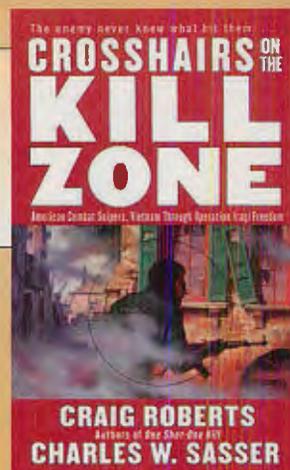
Marine Scout

# SNIPER

*The Story of Sergeant Joshua Hamblin, Scout Sniper,  
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Iraq, 2003*

BY CRAIG ROBERTS  
Photos courtesy Joshua Hamblin

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**O**ur job was to provide reconnaissance and surveillance, and when necessary, precision fire in support of the operations. We knew our job, but we never realized just how effective we could be, and how much carnage a pair of snipers could create until the day we crawled onto a rooftop at the Al Rashid Military Complex near Baghdad.

We, the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, had entered Iraq from Kuwait, traveling north in Humvees as fast as the terrain allowed. In my vehicle I carried an M16 for suppressive fire, and my M40A3 sniper rifle for precision fire. I kept my sniper rifle right next to me in case it was needed. Whenever we came up to a roadblock, I was able to engage the Iraqis manning the roadblock with, as they say, "precision fire." That means lining them up and knocking them down.

As we moved through Iraq, we were attached, or "punched out" to various companies in the battalion for stalking out and doing observation and reconnaissance missions along the way. Sometimes the companies would have to stop for a few days, and while doing so, the scout sniper's mission was to move out ahead and watch the population for suspicious activity. In one area we saw no Iraqi soldiers, but plenty of young males of military age with short haircuts. It was obvious that these guys had discarded their uniforms and were trying to blend into the population, but there wasn't much we could do about it right then. The "rules" called for us to ignore those who weren't armed or did not attack us. But if we saw an Iraqi who was armed, we were to take him down. So, any Iraqi with an AK was a target, and we never missed.

Eventually, after fighting our way north through villages, towns, roadblocks and ambushes, we began drawing missions to support special-operations raids that were looking for Baath party members and former members of Saddam's regime. We did this by covering the raiding party with our sniper teams, to protect them as they did building entries.

All of this time we were fighting the elements. And it was miserable. Dressed head-to-foot in heavy chemical suits, we could barely breathe while carrying our gear, wearing Kevlar vests and helmets, plus weapons and ammo. We had to adapt as we went because no one had fought for an extended period like this, with all this gear, for this long.

But worst of all was the lack of rest and the filthy conditions. There was no water for bathing, so whenever we

found water or a broken pipe, we took time to wash down. As for sleep, we usually were lucky to get two hours sleep before we were punched out to work another mission. It was not unusual to go two days or more without sleep. In these cases we ran on pure physical discipline and willpower.

We basically worked two types of operations, one in the bush and one on buildings. In the bush operations we set up hides, using camouflage and concealment, and observed the population for targets or threats. In the built-up areas, we hopped up on rooftops to provide covering fire or area denial missions, where we deny the area to the enemy by covering it with direct fire.

#### al-Qaeda's College

We finally made our way into the facility of Salmon Pak where we had expected to meet a lot of Iraqi resistance.



*Sgt. Winterle using the M82A3 SASSR .50 cal with Unertl 10X scope, south of Baghdad shortly before he was wounded.*

This is the location of the al-Qaeda terrorist training camp, with the fuselage of an airliner for training hijackers. But instead of fierce resistance, we found destroyed buildings and burned-out hulks where the air cover had done its job. There were scores of empty vehicles, empty fighting holes — and more young men with short haircuts, but no fighting.

We continued north, and unlike some of the areas that were open desert, this

was the Tigris river valley, which was lush with vegetation. This provided us with much more suitable camouflage and a much better environment for operations. But now it was really starting to get hot. We found ourselves taking more breaks just to air ourselves out. You would take off your chemical suit and just be drenched underneath. It was miserable as having your own personal sauna bath that you wore — and couldn't get rid of.

A week after leaving Salmon Pak, while striking toward Baghdad, and living on only two hours sleep a day, the word came down that we could get out of our chemical suits! This was the most welcome news we had in a long time. Finally we could work in our desert utilities and fight like normal Marines. It felt like the weather had cooled by several degrees, and was a major turning point in the war for us.

As we neared Baghdad we began running into more mine

# Marine Scout Sniper

fields, and we could hear a lot of shooting going on, plus a lot of artillery. Then as we approached the Al Rashid Military Complex, we could see breaches in the wire, and more mines scattered around, but still did not run into any significant resistance. It was as if no one was there, but might come back if we hung around for a while.

Taking over the complex, we set up positions to defend the place against a counterattack. Then, my partner, Sergeant Owen Mulder, and I were assigned an area of responsibility to set up a scout-sniper position on a one-story house on the northeast side of the complex. This was what is known as an overwatch position that allowed us to observe the approaches to that area from that direction. The farthest engagement range appeared to be about 750 meters.

Though there were two companies at the complex, one on each flank about 150 meters away, the



*Sgt. Hamblin (near) using the M40A3 with AN/PVS 10 day and night scope; Sgt. Mulder (far) using M40A1 with 10X Unertl at Al Rashid Air Base, southern Baghdad.*

area we covered was totally up to just myself and my partner. Between us, Mulder held his M40A1 sniper rifle with the standard issue Unertl 10X scope, and I had an M40A3 sniper rifle with the ANPVS-10 day-and-night sight. The ANPVS-10 is a third-generation night image intensifier with daylight capabilities. We could work the position night and day, which is exactly what we would find ourselves doing.

We got up on the roof at night and I turned on my night scope. Mulder had night vision goggles, so we both could see the streets to our front in a clear, ghostly green panorama. For American forces, our night vision capability was second to none, and gave us a giant advantage over troops not similarly equipped.

## Target Rich Environment

After two hours, we spotted a pickup truck approaching, stopping about 400 meters short of coming into the military complex. As we watched,



*Sgt. Mulder's view of a crowd protesting the capture of Baath party members in An Nasariah.*

we could see that the truck had a bunch of people in the back. Then, watching closely, we saw them begin jumping out of the truck, each carrying an AK. My pulse began to race.

"I got targets," I said to Mulder. "See 'em?"

"Yeah, let's go for it."

Immediately I decided to take a shot, and as I did I could see the driver jump out and go around the back of the vehicle. I lined him up in my sight and squeezed the trigger. He went down like a sack of potatoes. Mulder sighted in and fired too, and another Iraqi went down.

We just began lining up targets as fast as we could and taking the shots. As we did, other soldiers tried to drag the bodies off, but when they did we took them out, too. It was like a shooting gallery. The more shots we took, the more targets seemed to appear. The adrenaline rush was indescribable. But training and discipline kept us pacing ourselves throughout the shots, taking over where run-away excitement wanted to rule. Spot a target, sight in, squeeze, watch the shot, work the bolt, pick another target. Over and over.

Then the next thing I saw was the Iraqis dragging bodies into the pickup truck, then driving around the corner out of sight. All was quiet again in the kill zone.

I looked at my watch. About an hour before sunrise.

Nothing happened until after the sun came up. The Iraqis knew by then that trying to move at night would do them no good. In fact, to even up the odds a bit, they would have to move in daylight so they could see as well as we could. This would be another major mistake on their part. They simply did not understand the capability of a well-trained and equipped sniper team.

We observed the street for about an hour. Then I spotted two individuals enter our field of view, trying to cross the street. One was carrying an AK. Good enough.

"You got these guys?" I asked.

"Got 'em. You taking out the guy with the AK?"

"Affirmative."

I estimated the range at 450 yards. I led him slightly and fired. He went down, but he wasn't killed immediately. His partner took off and didn't come back. The first guy stopped moving about 30 seconds later.

### **Bought And Paid For...**

Our rules of engagement called for us not to shoot anyone who was not armed or who didn't pose a threat. But if they carried weapons they were bought and paid for. Also, if we had a suspicious vehicle that came and went several times, we could engage it as well.

About 10 minutes after that, a truck pulled out of one of the side streets. Then 15 minutes later the same truck came back with the same guy driving, followed by a second truck. Each was carrying seven or eight guys in the back.

"Watch these guys. They're probably armed."

Then, as we watched through the scopes, both trucks stopped and the riders all started jumping out. Each had an AK.

My partner and I didn't even have to say anything to each other. I took the closest truck and he took the far truck. We started shooting people. As fast as we could work the bolts and acquire targets, we squeezed the triggers and an Iraqi soldier went down.



*Marine scout sniper Sgt. Joshua Hamblin (left) and author and former Marine Vietnam sniper Craig Roberts (right) at U.S. Marine Corps Scout Sniper Association annual banquet in Las Vegas, 2004.*

One was dropping right after another, just dropping like flies. We ended up shooting every one of them — all 13 of them right there, except one guy who managed to get into one of the trucks by shoving the dead driver out of the way and trying to back out of there. But we fired at the truck and I couldn't believe what happened next. For some reason we hit something critical because the gas tank exploded in a ball of flame, just like in the movies! I thought that cars and trucks blowing up when you shot at them was just Hollywood, but this one did exactly that.

The truck was still moving, so we both shot through the driver's side of the cab. Two 175-grain boat-tail hollow points blasted through the thin sheet metal of the cab and killed the driver as it coasted around the corner. He would cook in silence, just out of sight, for many minutes.

So now we have 16 bodies littering the street, plus a burning wreck and an abandoned truck, all due to two snipers. It looked like a major battle had been fought there, but it was just me and Mulder — and we hadn't even fired a full box of ammo yet.

What was amazing is that the scene of a vehicle blowing up happened three times over the course of the day.

Later in the morning, as I watched the street through my scope, I saw an Iraqi soldier turn the corner and begin walking toward us. He was wearing a full uniform, a helmet, a vest and carrying a sidearm. It was as if he was just showing up for work that day and didn't know we were there. He began walking toward us along a row of light posts. As he passed each post I set the scope on him and began following and watching as he lessened the range.

About this time an old man came out from one of the houses alongside the road and began gesturing at him, trying to tell him to get out of there. But the soldier didn't seem to understand what he was trying to say and kept coming.

### **What? Me Worry?**

Mulder and I kept shifting our attention from the soldier to the old man, and back again. It was like watching a comical movie, like "hey, get out of here. They'll kill you!" and the soldier saying "who? Who'll kill me? What are you talking about, old man."

Finally, as I watched the soldier shrug his shoulders one last time, I squeezed the trigger and could see the vapor trail of the bullet. It flew straight and impacted him in the center of the chest, like watching a movie in slow motion. I could see the dust fly off his shirt, then saw the expression on his face of pure shock. He was completely surprised. He looked down, then slumped over and fell to the ground. It was my best shot and I could see everything. The bullet path, the impact, the expression on his face. It was perfect.

He tried to crawl out of the kill zone, but it was too late for him. He only moved for a few feet, then became very still.

The local civilians were very interested in what was happening, and watching all the action became an amusement to them. After each episode of firing and dropping soldiers, the civilians would come out, look around and laugh and smile, then look over toward the base and wave at us. It seemed almost like they were spectators at a sporting event.

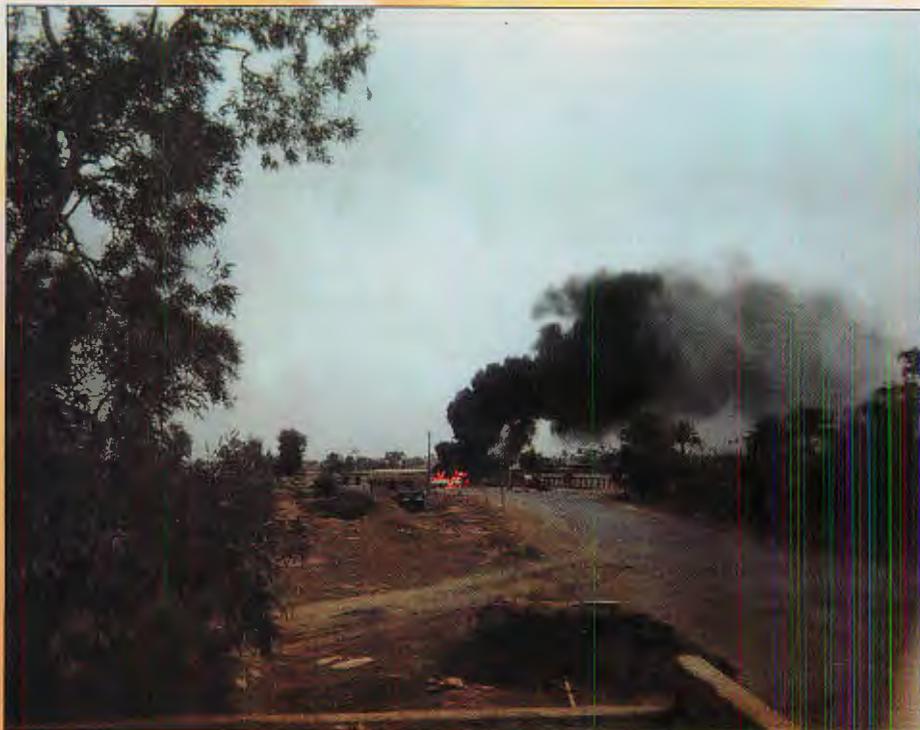
By this time there're 17 bodies laying out there, with two shot-up pickup trucks, with one still smoking and smoldering. It was like a scene out of a Rambo movie, but it was real. And here were all these people just lined up on the side of the street looking at the carnage like it was a day at the market.

Just then a white pickup truck pulled out of a side street, and in the back was a typical terrorist with a black ski mask and black clothes, holding an AK. It turned and began speeding toward us. He was obviously a Fedayeen and was hell bent on "suicide by Marine."

As the driver careened down the road, with this guy holding on for dear life, I raised my head to look at him at the same time he looked up at me. I went back down on the scope and worked to keep on target on the careening pickup truck bounced along the road. I found a lead angle, aimed high and took the shot. It was a dead slam hit and he went down in the back of the truck. We didn't get a chance at a second shot at the driver because he turned away and raced around a corner out of sight. But the guy in the black pajamas was down and finished.

Eighteen.

We continued to watch vehicles come in and out of the area, always trying to memorize them to see if they were repetitious. It seemed there were certain color vehicles that were used by the military and we started learning what to watch for. Most were Toyota light-colored pickup trucks. And what we began to notice is that the trucks were making runs into a nearby neighborhood carrying stuff in the back of the trucks going in, then coming out empty. It became apparent that they were doing a supply run, stocking a strongpoint with weapons and ammo. It was time to put a top to this.



*A bus filled with armed Iraqi soldiers that broke through 3/7's lines and was set on fire by small arms fire. Most of the Iraqi soldiers were killed in the firefight.*

The rules of engagement were that you could shoot a man with a weapon, or a vehicle carrying weapons by shooting the tires out or otherwise disabling the vehicle. One red Toyota car had made one too many trips and was now on the hit list.

### **Primary Mission, Secondary Explosions**

On the fourth time we saw the car, Mulder and I opened up. Mulder hit the driver and I hit the back of the trunk. Then the whole damned thing exploded! The whole trunk blew up in a ball of flame, then the car coasted around the corner. A few minutes later all hell broke loose as a trunkload of RPG rockets cooked off. We looked at each other as we listened to the distinctive "whoosh...bang...whoosh...bang" sound of the rockets igniting, the taking off in odd directions, then exploding as they made contact with buildings, streets and anything hard.

It seemed like two 175-grain bullets started a small war out there.

By this time it dawned on us that we had not received any return fire during the engagements. We were in total control of the position, and there was nothing the Iraqis could do about it. If they tried to show themselves to engage us, we killed them. They had no chance to set up, locate us, then put fire on us in the time it took for us to see and shoot them. Plus we had cover and a much better long-range capability. We were trained Marine snipers and they were overzealous fanatics with little marksmanship training. There was no comparison. It was like the old joke of "don't attack that hill, it's a trick. There's two Marines up there."

Any time we saw an individual with a weapon to our front, he was history. But we did receive incoming fire from the flanks and couldn't do anything about it except hope we didn't get hit as "collateral damage." The line companies couldn't

*Continued on page 75*

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# THE .45 GAP

## *Glock Does It Again*

BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

**F**ollowing its success with a long list of pistols for more than 20 years, Glock has added a new one, the Glock 37. Not only is the pistol new, but so is the cartridge it fires, the .45 GAP — which stands for Glock Automatic Pistol, just as the conventional .45 ACP designates Automatic Colt Pistol.

In order to take advantage of the potential .45-caliber pis-

tol market and retain a high-capacity pistol that was more friendly to average-size hands, Glock designed a revolutionary .45-auto cartridge that fits into the 9mm/.40-caliber magazine envelope. Being a well kept secret during its development, the resulting cartridge was first advertised as the .45 Glock, but was replaced by “.45 GAP.” The reason for this was that the .45 Glock round used a large pistol primer that reportedly caused over-ignition and excessive pressure. The



*The .45 GAP caliber Glock 37 (top) is seen here with the .40 S&W-caliber Glock 22 along with .40 S&W, .45 GAP and .45ACP cartridges.*

.45 GAP uses a small pistol primer and while it also generates higher pressures, it is well within specification.

The case length of the .45 G.A.P. is 0.76" as opposed to 0.89" for the .45 ACP. In metrics, this translates to 19mm vs. 22mm. By contrast, the .40 auto case measures 0.85", or 21.5mm in length. With its 200-grain JHP bullet, the overall length (OAL) of the .45 G.A.P. cartridge is 1.08", slightly shorter than either the 9mm or the .40 auto in most of its loadings.

Being 3-mm shorter than the case of the .45 ACP, that of the .45 GAP is otherwise identical on the outside except for two things: It uses a small pistol primer instead of a large one, and it is a rebated rimless case. The rim of the .45 GAP is 0.470" in diameter (samples measure .467") as compared with 0.475" for the .45 ACP. This was done to prevent shortening the .45 ACP case and reloading it to shoot in a .45 GAP pistol. Glock strongly recommends against shooting any reloaded ammunition in its pistols, especially with lead bullets. In addition, the internal dimensions and composition of the .45 GAP case are slightly different from the .45 ACP.

Although its case is shorter than that of the .45 ACP, the .45 GAP is now factory loaded with bullet weights of up to 230 grains, and bullet for bullet, performance is equal to .45 ACP ammunition, but at the cost of about 15% higher pressure. The 200-grain .45 GAP loads produce a muzzle velocity of about 950 fps from the Glock 37, or about the same performance as a 200-grain .45 ACP cartridge from a 4-inch barrel Colt Commander type pistol. However, to get this performance, the operating chamber pressure is 23,000 pounds per inch (PSI) instead of 21,000 PSI for the .45 ACP. Still, there is no discernable bulge in the unsupported area of the case.

Although it was first reported that the Glock 37 would be the same size as the Glock 22, such is not quite the case. While the polymer frames of the two pistols are the same size, there are internal differences between them and they are not interchangeable. The Glock 37's steel locking-block is longer than that of the Glock 22, and the Glock 37's ejector is angled instead of being straight.

The slides of the two pistols are also different, with that of the Glock 37 being wider, higher, and heavier than its Glock 22 counterpart. The Glock 22's slide measures 1.01" wide by 0.85" high, and that of the Glock 37 is 1.13" wide by 0.88" high. The Glock 37's .45 G.A.P. barrel is also larger than that of the Glock 22, and is similar in size to that of the Glock 21. The weights of the slide groups are 18 oz. for the Glock 22 and 21 oz. For the Glock 37, the extra mass being necessary to handle the higher energy of the .45 G.A.P. car-



*The extra width of the Glock 37's slide (top) over the Glock 22 is apparent here. This requires a different holster. The .45 GAP (on the left) uses a rebated, rimless case, preventing the .45 ACP from being interchanged with it.*

tridge. The Glock 37's larger slide prevents it from being used with most holsters designed for the Glock 22.

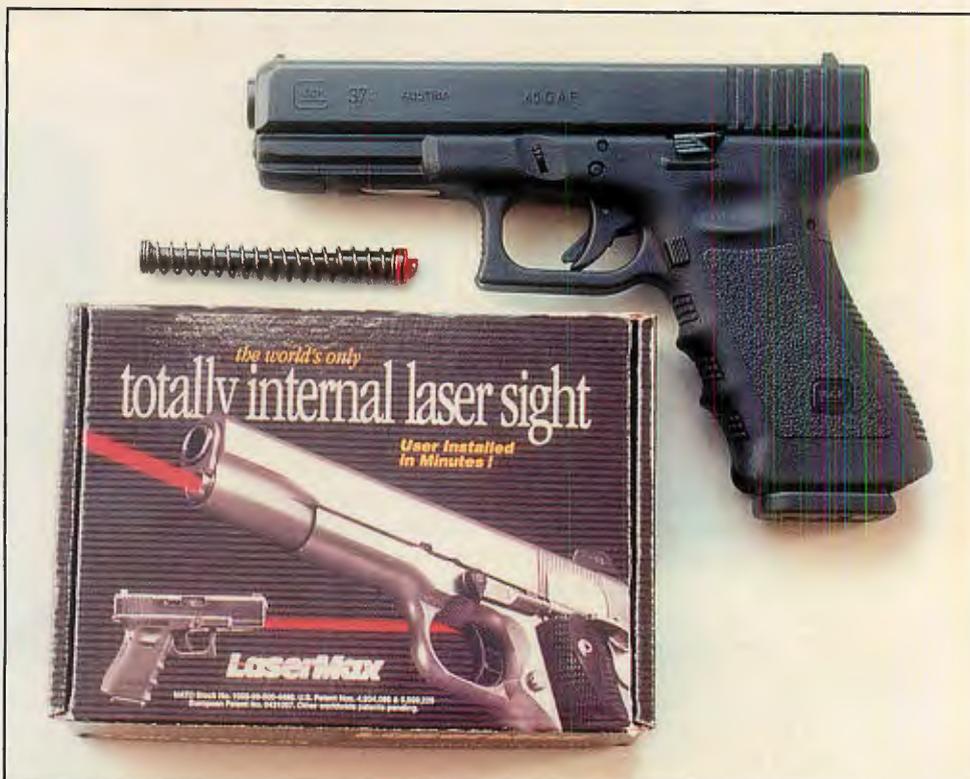
In addition to the internal dimensional differences in the Glock 37's extractor, there is an external difference, and this is a protrusion, or step, at the front outer edge. When a cartridge is chambered, this step extends slightly outward from the slide, where it is easily felt with the index finger to verify that the Glock 37 has a round in the chamber.

The magazines of the two pistols are interchangeable, and care must be taken not to mix them up, especially where both types of pistols are fired together during training. No high-capacity magazines for the Glock 37 are available for law enforcement, as 10 is the maximum number of rounds this magazine can hold. Except for the above differences, all aspects of the two pistols are identical including the Safe-Action system that all Glock pistols have, the sights, and the accessory frame-rail. This rail will accept the M3 Tactical Illuminator from Insight Technologies, as well as the new X200 Tactical Light from SureFire.

### Lasers

Wasting no time in developing a laser sight for the Glock 37, LaserMax now offers a factory-like captive recoil spring guide laser sight for the pistol. Lying directly beneath the bore, this sight works just like previous LaserMax sights with a bright red pulsating dot, and all LaserMax Glock sights will now have a captive recoil spring.

Crimson Trace, makers of Lasergrip, also offer a laser sight for the Glock, but it is a permanent installation that



*LaserMax offers a brand new drop-in self-contained laser sight for the Glock 37 and is also designing one for the Springfield XD pistol.*



*The Glock 37 (top) is compared with the Springfield XD pistol. Springfield now offers its XD in .45 GAP and other makers are sure to follow.*



*To fieldstrip the XD pistol (bottom) the slide must first be locked to the rear to rotate the disassembly lever, and this automatically ejects a round from the chamber, a great safety feature.*



Empty brass flies as World Champion Rob Latham, fires a Springfield XD pistol. (right) Johnston borrowed Rob Latham's prototype XD Competition pistol seen here with a standard XD. Two Competition XD models are now available in .45 GAP caliber.



becomes part of the trigger guard and frame with a remote pressure switch on the grip. The placement of the laser diode housing precludes use with some holsters, but the unit is otherwise compact and handy.

Although the Glock 37 magazine holds 10 rounds of .45 GAP, it is very difficult to get 10 rounds into my sample and is also difficult to seat the loaded magazine, as well as retracting the slide to load the first round. The magazine is much happier with nine rounds plus one in the chamber. With a new holster required, the question becomes, why would a police officer trade a .40-cal. Glock 22 with a 15-round magazine plus one in the chamber for the Glock 37 that is essentially a 10-shot pistol?

The Glock 37 was designed to provide a .45-caliber pistol with a grip no larger than that of a duty 9mm or .40-caliber gun, and this is exactly what it does. There will be law-enforcement officers with medium-size hands who want to carry a .45-caliber pistol who will opt for the Glock 37 even, if it means a new holster and fewer rounds of ammunition in the gun. Then there are private citizens who are limited to 10-round magazines in the first place. In short, the Glock 37 will establish its own following, but what about the .45-GAP caliber?

In addition to CCI/Speer, Winchester and Federal are now loading the .45-GAP cartridge and other manufacturers will follow, offering the round in other bullet weights, such as 185-grain and 165-grain types. One is COR-BON's 165 grain Pow'R Ball, a jacketed soft point (JSP) that is legal in states where JHP bullets are banned. Thus, with bullet weights of 165 grains, 185 grains, 200 grains and 230 grains available, make no mistake, the .45 GAP is here to stay.

### The .45 GAP Springfield XD Pistol

All this reinforces a prediction I made about the .45 GAP a year ago, that other companies would make pistols to fire it. That prediction has become a reality, for after extensive testing by Rob Latham, Springfield Armory introduced its excellent XD (Extreme Duty) pistol in .45 GAP at the 2004 SHOT

Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, among three Competition versions of the pistol. I was able to borrow Rob Latham's original prototype of the Competition XD shown here.

Having grown quickly in popularity, the XD is proving to be one of the best pistols on today's market. Not only does it have an excellent, smooth trigger pull, but it also points naturally. The XD uses the same lock-up as the Glock and has a similar finish that is almost indestructible. What's more, it has real steel frame rails and a robust polymer frame rail that has been ingeniously designed to handle any tactical weapon light.

In addition to being reliable, ergonomic and accurate, the Springfield XD is also a relatively safe pistol. In addition to its trigger safety, firing-pin safety, and grip safety, the XD's slide must be locked to the rear before the gun is disassembled in order to rotate its takedown lever upwards. This ejects any cartridge present in the chamber before the slide is removed or replaced.

Other companies that now make 9mm and .40 S&W caliber high-capacity auto pistols are also looking at the .45 GAP. In addition to the Springfield XD, other candidates include the S&W P99, H&K USP, SIG P226, Taurus 24-7 and more.

### Shots Fired

As expected, the Glock 37 performed flawlessly with no malfunctions experienced with the three loads tested. Felt recoil was comparable to that of the .45 ACP-caliber Glock 21. Rob Latham's prototype Springfield Competition XD pistol also proved to be a reliable tack-driver and reliability in all XD's I own and I've tested has been flawless. From my experience, you can count on accuracy of 3 inches or less at 25 yards from either pistol.

If you're one of the many who have been waiting for a .45-caliber auto pistol with a better grip, the wait is over. Look for the .45 G.A.P in Glock 37 and several brand new Springfield Competition XD pistols in this caliber at your dealers. ❧

## CONTACT SHEET

**Glock, Inc.**, Dept. SOF  
6000 Highlands Pkwy  
Smyrna, GA 30082  
770-432-1202  
[www.glock.com](http://www.glock.com)

**Springfield Armory**, Dept. SOF  
420 W. Main St.  
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USMC by Sgt. Kevin Reed

*Charlie Company grunts hammer their way through Baghdad.*

We knew we'd go back. No doubt in our minds.

— *1LT Karl G. Blanke, Weapons Company, 1/5*

One year to the day after 1st Battalion, 5th Marines — the most decorated battalion in the United States Marine Corps — invaded Iraqi soil on 20 March 2003, the “Fighting Fifth” was back in Iraq.

As Blanke said before he left Camp Pendleton, California, where 1/5 is based, “We’re going to be jumping out of the fry-

Security Platoon, wrote his mother in Northern California a quick note .... “Dear Mom. How are you? I’m hanging in there. We patrol every day in Fallujah. We get shot at every day and when we drive to the towns, bombs go off on the sides of the road; 11 times the other day. At night, they shoot mortars at us. A mortar hit our hospital last night, killing two and wounding seven. I hate this country. Love you, Ritchie.”

During the fight for Fallujah, an Iraqi mortar round fell at the feet of Gunter’s buddy, Lance Corporal Wayne Smith. ¶

# FALLUJAH!

## 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Return To Iraq — And The Thick Of Battle

ing pan into the fire when we arrive in Fallujah.” His words were prophetic.

As part of the First Marine Expeditionary Force, 1/5 and sister battalions such as 2/1 and 3/11 took over Iraq’s troubled Al Anbar Province in the so-called “Sunni Triangle,” bordered by Baghdad on the east, Fallujah on the west and Tikrit on the north.

Al Anbar covers about one-third of Iraq and includes borders with Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia. It is home to large numbers of former Iraqi military, radical anti-American religious zealots and foreign fighters from neighboring Syria and Iran who have slipped across Iraq’s porous borders.

On March 23, Lance Corporal Ritchie Gunter, H&S

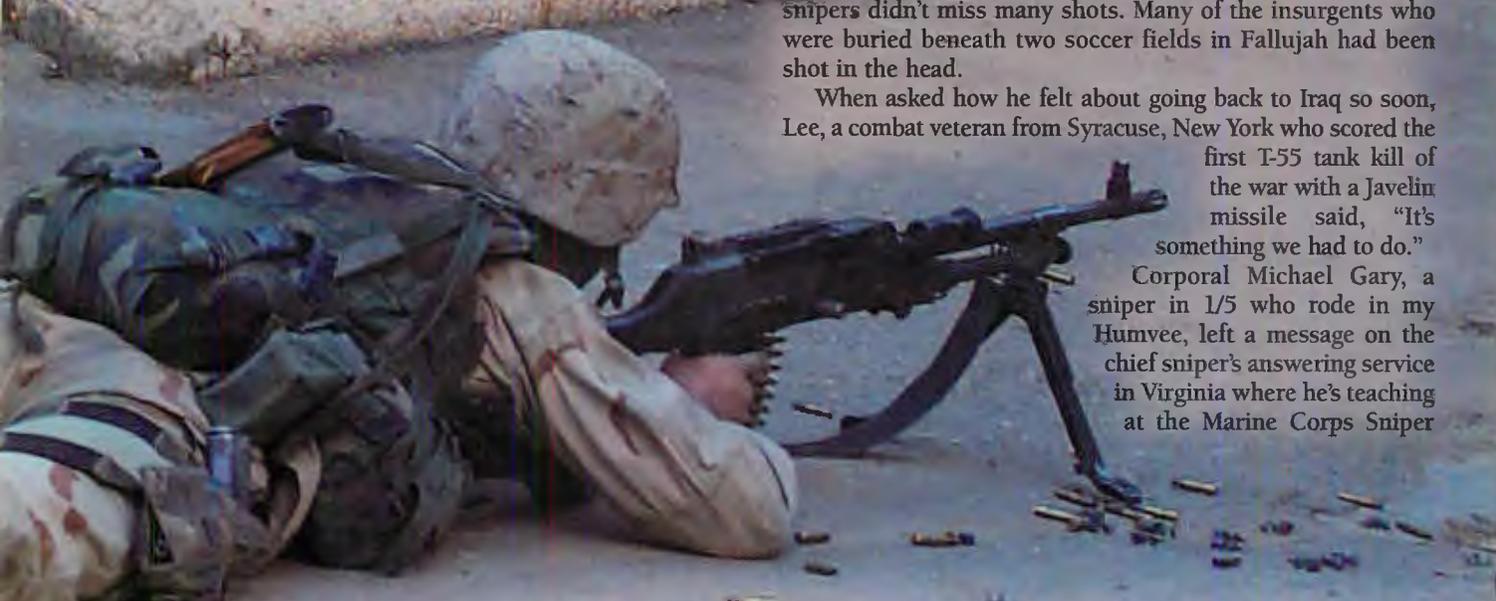
had his name on it, but apparently the sender forgot to include Smith’s FPO number, because the round didn’t explode.

During the height of the battle on April 9, the first anniversary of the fall of Baghdad, I spoke via satellite phone with Corporal Jason Lee, a Marine in the anti-armor platoon I was embedded with during the war. Lee said the fighting was fierce: Street by street, house by house, with insurgents popping up out of holes just long enough to launch rocket propelled grenades and then scurry away like rats, in the cloud of dust from the back blast. In the middle of our conversation, shots rang out.

“That’s just a sniper,” laughed Lee, who didn’t even flinch. “Bob,” the name Marines in 1/5 gave the local sniper that harassed them daily, apparently missed again. But Marine snipers didn’t miss many shots. Many of the insurgents who were buried beneath two soccer fields in Fallujah had been shot in the head.

When asked how he felt about going back to Iraq so soon, Lee, a combat veteran from Syracuse, New York who scored the first T-55 tank kill of the war with a Javelin missile said, “It’s something we had to do.”

Corporal Michael Gary, a sniper in 1/5 who rode in my Humvee, left a message on the chief sniper’s answering service in Virginia where he’s teaching at the Marine Corps Sniper





Rifle squad from Charlie Company fans out in village, searching for insurgents. (inset, left) 3rd Platoon, Charlie Co., 1/5 boils out of AAV in an Iraqi village. (inset, right) Rifle squad from Charlie

Company, 1/5 Marines searches for Iraqi insurgents in Saddam City outside Baghdad a year ago. Same Marines are facing same situation in Fallujah, west of Baghdad — going house to house.

School. Gary simply said, "We're taking care of business."

### Bad Blood

Ever since a giant statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down in Paradise Square in Baghdad, by a Marine tank-retriever crew on 9 April 2003, his followers in Fallujah and other cities in the Sunni Triangle have had it in for U.S. forces.

The Army's 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division lost more than 70 troopers and six helicopters before being relieved on 20 March 2004 by members of 1MEF, the First Marine Expeditionary Force.

While Army Major General Charles Swannack, commander of the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division and Lieutenant General James Conway, the Marine commander, were shaking hands, and wishing each other well, Marines

were mixing it up with insurgents in Fallujah.

One Marine from 2/1 and five civilians were killed in a ferocious street battle while the change of command was taking place. The civilians were employees of the North Carolina security firm Blackwater, detailed to provide security for shipments of food to Fallujah.

Eyewitnesses say Iraqi insurgents hurled grenades into the vehicles as the Americans sat in heavy traffic on the main drag through town, and then sprayed the vehicles with small-arms fire. After the vehicles exploded into flames, Iraqis poked at

(below) From atop a presidential palace in Baghdad, First Lieutenant Karl Blanke with Weapons Company directs sniper fire against Iraqi insurgents. Now as XO of Weapons Company, 1/5 he is doing the same thing in Fallujah.



the burning bodies with pieces of pipe. One blackened corpse was pulled out of a burning vehicle and dragged by rope behind a car through the streets of Fallujah in a scene reminiscent of what happened to a U.S. soldier who was similarly desecrated by an angry crowd in Somalia. Two other blackened corpses were also hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River with a written warning that Fallujah will become a "graveyard for the Americans."

Unlike what happened in Mogadishu more than a decade ago when the United States cut and ran after 17 Army Rangers were killed by Somali street games, President Bush assured the Iraqi people that the U.S. won't be intimidated by a bunch of thugs and mercenaries.

Two battalions, 1/5 and 2/1 surrounded Fallujah during the first week of April. The fighting was fierce, house-to-house, no quarter asked, and none given. More than 30 Marines were killed in combat. More than 500 insurgents were killed.

When 40 insurgents who had hastily dug bunkers in front of the Abdul Samarai mosque in Fallujah fired a rocket propelled grenade at a Marine Humvee a block away, wounding four Marines, the commanding officer of 1/5 ordered air strikes on the enemy positions. A Marine Cobra helicopter put a Hellfire missile into the base of the mosque's minaret while an Air Force F-16 Falcon put a 500-pound laser-guided bomb into a wall where the bunkers were located. When the smoke cleared, the Iraqis claimed 40 "worshippers" were killed. But Lieutenant Colonel Brennan Byrne says his men could find only one body. Attacking mosques in the middle east is a cultural "no-no," but the Marine Corps maintains the mosque ceased to be off-limits when insurgents began using it as a fortress.

"They profaned the mosque by their actions," said Major General James M. Mattis, commanding officer of the First Marine Division, who along with Marine Corps Commandant General Michael W. Hagee, visited a frontline command post in an abandoned factory on the east side of Fallujah.

Mattis' Marines went into town with the motto, "no better friend, no worse enemy," a phrase the man who drove the Taliban out of Kandihar used when he briefed this reporter and 50 others assigned to cover 1MarDiv's drive to Baghdad last year.

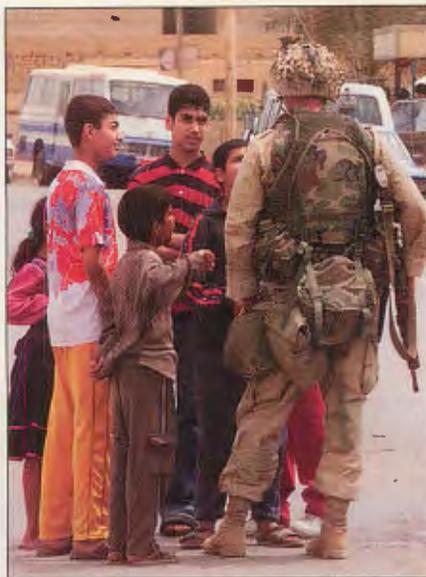
### What a Difference a Year Makes

More than 60% of the men I rode into battle with, as an embedded correspondent more than a year ago, are back in Iraq. They were home only five months.

Before Christmas, the men of 1/5 kissed their wives, children and girlfriends goodbye at Camp Pendleton, California and flew to Okinawa where they received some specialized training and picked up their weapons.

Jenifer Conrad hated to see her husband, Staff Sergeant Matthew Conrad, leave her and their daughters, a 5 year old, 3 year old and 4 month old baby girl, in San Clemente before Christmas. "It was rough leaving his family, especially saying goodbye to his new baby, but it was something he had to do," said Mrs. Conrad.

Jenifer says she and Matt talked about the situation in Iraq



USMC By Sgt. Kevin Reed

Marine from Charlie, 1/5 works on hearts and minds.

before he left. Conrad told her he was ready to finish the job the Marines started. It wasn't done as far as he was concerned. "Nope. It wasn't. There have been too many lives lost, and it all started happening once the Marines left last May," said Mrs. Conrad who is a little bit frightened about the future. "But I have faith in my husband and I know he'll be okay."

Page Blanke, who also has three young children, feels the same way, but she was still shocked when her husband Karl told her he was going back to Iraq. She thought he'd spend his last deployment on a "big old rock" in the Pacific.

When the men of 1/5 learned that Okinawa was only going to be a speed bump on the road back to Iraq, most members of the battalion like Karl Blanke jumped for joy. "Morale skyrocketed," said the 30-year-old Marine

who learned he had been accepted at Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D.C. just before his deployment.

"Every Marine in the battalion wants to do something that makes a difference, and while it's important to have other missions like the 31st MEU [Marine Expeditionary Unit off Okinawa], at a personal level we feel like we're going to have a bigger impact for the United States if we're in Iraq," Blanke said after returning from a run to his friend's house in southern California on New Year's Day. Blanke stayed behind to supervise some specialized training for selected members of the battalion before heading to Okinawa.

Steve Bell, a computer engineer in southern California, and Blanke grew up as boys in Newberry Park. They have been buddies since grade school, and if anyone has to go back to Iraq, Bell says he's glad Karl is going back, because he says his friend thinks before he acts or reacts. "He's restrained," said Bell. If he were in his friend's boots, Bell admits he'd say, "Screw 'em, shoot first and ask questions later, but we can't have somebody blowing people away over there," said Bell. "The situation is too delicate now," Bell said.

The conflict in Iraq involves a small number of Saddam



Sgt. Lance Galewood

Sgt. Matthew Conrad on Gun-5 in Counter-Mech Platoon, Weapons Company, 1/5 Marines, outside Baghdad with his crew: L to R are LCpl Daniel Pagard, LCpl Alexander Zimmerman, Corpsman HMC Edgar Cross and LCpl Neal Coulson.

loyalists who are pissed-off that their "Sugar Daddy" is no longer greasing their palms with Iraqi dinars. Since his downfall, they've been unemployed. The vast majority of the Iraqi people are not involved in the suicide bombings or attacks on coalition soldiers.

"It's not full-scale combat any longer," said Blanke, "it's a peacekeeping mission and the restraint you have to exercise under those circumstances is a lot more demanding on individual Marines. We now have to determine who the bad guys are before we fire, otherwise we're going to kill the good guys," Blanke said.

### Be Aggressive, But Be Compassionate

Some of the Marines in 1/5 received a six-week crash course in Arabic at Camp Pendleton so they could communicate with the good guys who are willing to lead them to the bad guys in the Marines' area of responsibility. They even grew mustaches, a sign of maturity among Arabs, but the battalion ordered the men to shave them off when insurgents opened fire on them. Instead of building things, the "Fighting Fifth" is breaking things.

Lance Corporal Clay Anderson, a SAW gunner in Charlie Company, was chosen by his commanding officer to attend the crash course in Arabic. Anderson, now a Corporal and a

# UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!

When the U.S.-led coalition of the willing overthrew Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in the spring of last year, the Iraqi army, some 400,000 strong, ceased to exist as a fighting force. Tens of thousands of soldiers threw down their weapons, stripped off their uniforms and melted into the general population. Their officers also went home in disgrace. Just as well, because the coalition disbanded the Iraqi army. A year later, the climate changed.

In early May, some high-ranking Iraqi army officers offered to defuse the explosive situation in Fallujah where the bloodiest fighting since the war had taken place, by leading an all-Iraqi force into Fallujah. Their goal is to disarm insurgents, seize their heavy weapons and restore stability to a town of 300,000 people that has been a thorn in the coalition's side since major combat ended last May.

The commander of U.S. Marines in Iraq was quick to point out that it was "their idea," but given the heavy toll the fighting was taking on both sides, it was a no-brainer. The Bush administration desperately needed to get Fallujah off the front page, and what better way to do that than turn over security in Fallujah to Iraqi soldiers, even if some of them had fought against the Marines a few weeks earlier.

Colonel John Coleman, chief of staff for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, is not worried. "If some of those individuals have decided there is an alternative way ... then all the better," said Coleman.

Major General Mohammed Abdul-Latif, a former intelligence officer who was imprisoned by Saddam, was tapped to lead the 1,100 man Iraqi brigade that took over from U.S. Marines who besieged Fallujah for more than three bloody weeks last April, however, Latif was not the coalition's first choice. Another major general who had strong family ties with the dominant tribe in the besieged city was initially chosen to lead the "Fallujah Brigade," but his links to the previous regime apparently cost him the top job. There was also another fly in the pie. Major

General Jassim Mohammed Saleh last served as a division commander in the al-Quds [Jerusalem] army, which was initially formed to capture Jerusalem, but grew into a vast paramilitary force. Putting Saleh in control would not have been politically correct given the attempt by insurgents in Iraq to link their plight to that of the ongoing battle between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

### Marching Under a Familiar Banner

Iraq has designed a new flag as it seeks to unify various factions in the country. It has two blue stripes signifying the two ancient rivers that flow through the country, the Euphrates and Tigris. It also has yellow stripe representing the Kurds who were brutalized under Saddam's regime. But when red-bereted members of the Fallujah Brigade marched past Marines pulling out of Fallujah, the guidon for the first 200-man contingent to enter the city carried a Saddam-era flag with the Arabic inscription, "Allahu Alkbar," or "God is Great." That's like the Alabama National Guard deciding to fight under the Confederate battle flag.

Although Saddam is no longer in power, some people in Iraq appear unwilling to cut

their ties with the former dictator. From time to time, they tell Western media they were better off under Saddam's regime than the U.S.-led coalition.

### Fallujah Under New Management

For 25 days, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, the unit I rode into Iraq with last year, laid siege to Fallujah with two sister battalions. Gradually, the 7,000 Marines tightened a noose around that city's neck, waiting for word from IMEF, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, to take the town. But that order never came.

Needless to say, there were a lot of unhappy grunts in 1/5, as they lost almost a dozen comrades in the siege and saw more than 100 wounded, some seriously.

"We're shock troops," groused one grimy grunt on the



Corporal Travis Brozowski after destroying an Iraqi armored personnel carrier on the first morning of the war, the first TOW missile kill of the war, in the Rumalya oil fields in southern Iraq.

squad leader in 1st Platoon, received a Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds suffered in the Battle of Baghdad. His armored assault vehicle [AAV] took a wrong turn on the way to Saddam's palace and got ambushed. Anderson and his fellow Marines had to evacuate their track when it was hit by an RPG. On the way out, a Marine on his right got shot in the leg, while the one on his left got grazed in the head. Anderson managed to drag both of them to safety, but was wounded in the process. Anderson wanted to attend Embassy Guard School, but this deployment put his plans on hold. His father, a former Marine, says he spends a lot of time on his knees praying for him and the safety of the men he's leading. So far,

his prayers have been answered. As of 15 April, Charlie Company had lost four KIA and more than a dozen wounded, but no one in Anderson's squad had been dinged yet.

On the day the four civilian contractors were burned and butchered in Fallujah, Anderson called his father in Texas to tell him he and his platoon are quartered in a well-guarded compound just east of Fallujah. With the exception of an occasional rocket or mortar round, the compound has been relatively quiet. But out on the street, Anderson told his dad, it's a different story.

*Continued on page 77*

frontlines, "We don't like sitting in fixed positions," said the unidentified Marine. Others who manned sandbagged positions nearby said they felt like "sitting ducks."

The stress of combat has taken its toll. Lance Corporal Jones, an assistant gunner assigned to care for Sally, the pigeon that was supposed to warn Weapons Company, 1/5, of any biological or chemical attack during the war, had to be medevaced from Fallujah for combat stress. Staples reminded me of Shrek. He was a giant of a young man who talked about how good his grandmother back in Alabama could cook, and how much he could eat. In addition to seeing that the pigeon was well fed and watered, Jones also ate more than his share of the company's rations he carried in the "Chuck Wagon," the high-back Humvee he drove. But he apparently took all he could take, and cracked under the pressure.

Lance Corporal Brown "freaked out" when an Iraqi mortar fell at his feet, but didn't explode. Brown is still under the care of a Navy shrink who can't seem to snap his patient back to the real world.

Watching what has happened to their "buds" is worse than being there, for some Marines who left Weapons Company when they returned to Camp Pendleton after the war.

Staff Sergeant Bryan Jackway, first section leader in Counter Mech Platoon, the unit I was assigned to, is on a guilt trip. He wrote the other day, "If I had known what was going to happen, I would never have requested a transfer to regiment."

### **Once A Marine, Always A Marine**

That old adage is alive and well in the United States Marine Corps.

At the height of the fighting in Fallujah, some members of the platoon whose commitments expired before the battalion



*Sergeant Chad Van Buskirk behind 240G, in his Humvee on the outskirts of Baghdad.*

deployed to Iraq received telephone calls from a Marine officer. Former Sergeant Chad Van Buskirk says two of his buddies, Sergeant Lance Gatewood and Corporal Travis Brozowski, were asked if they would come back for one year. "A Marine captain told them the Corps needed them in Iraq," said Van Buskirk.

Asked if all of the former TOW gunners, including himself, would return to Iraq, Van Buskirk told SOF, "In a heartbeat if higher-ups would let us rejoin our unit. That's the only way we will leave our families and fight again. We don't want to fight with strangers," said Van Buskirk, whose has two small children.

When they left the Corps, Van Buskirk, Gatewood, Brozowski and 500 other members of 1/5 were told not to give away or destroy their uniforms and personal equipment, and to keep physically fit for at least two years, the amount of time most enlisted men spend in the inactive reserves. They were also told to keep the Marine Corps advised of any change in address and telephone number.

The officer who called Gatewood and Brozowski said the request for the pleasure of their company was "voluntary" at the moment, but that could change, and they would have only 15 days to report to the nearest Marine base.

It is no secret that the Marine Corps and their army brethren are having trouble scraping up enough troops to fill the ranks that have been depleted by deaths and injuries.

All or parts of nine of 10 army divisions are now committed to Iraq and Afghanistan — that other war.

Reserves are going to get even thinner now that the Pentagon has notified about 5,000 Marines and 5,000 soldiers from the National Guard and Reserves that they will be sent to Iraq this summer as replacements for units that will have served a year or longer.

—D.B.C.



*Lance Corporal Jones feeding and watering "Sally," the NBC pigeon he cared for during the war.*

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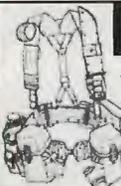
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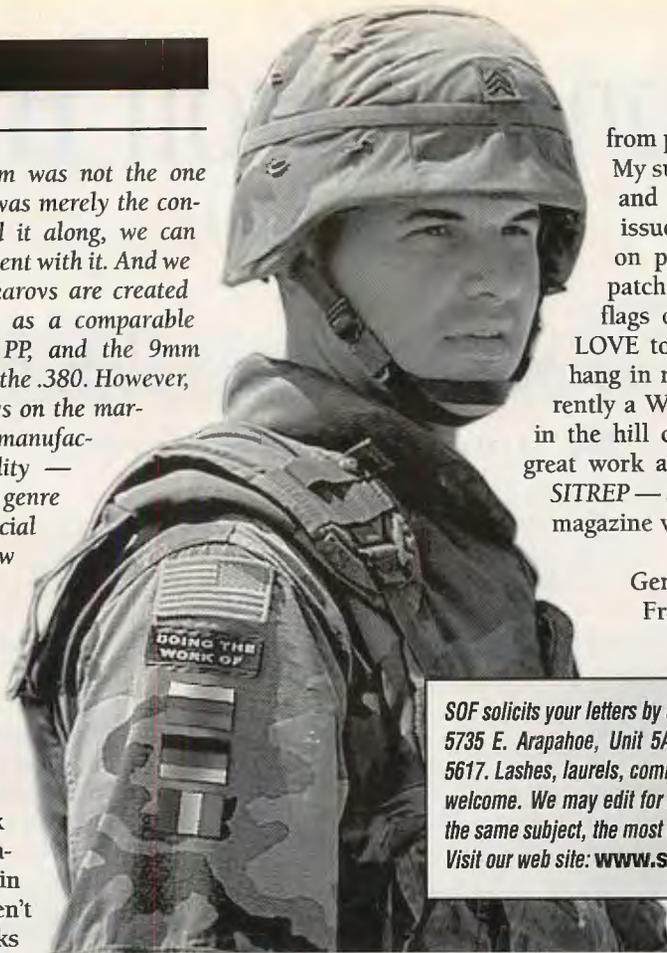
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Continued from page 10

As we noted above, Farnam was not the one expressing the opinions — he was merely the conduit, although since he passed it along, we can assume he was not in disagreement with it. And we will reiterate that not all Makarovs are created equal. The design is as good as a comparable handgun such as a Walther PP, and the 9mm Makarov is a better round than the .380. However, there have been some Makarovs on the market that evidenced very poor manufacturing standards, and reliability — and they have given the whole genre a bad name. And for serious social purposes, the round is at the low end of the scale, except as a backup.



from people when they see me with it. My subscription is a gift from my wife and daughter. I just got my June 04 issue yesterday and loved the photo on page 12 of the soldier with the patch "doing the work of" with the flags of three other nations. I would LOVE to have a poster of this photo to hang in my place of business. (I am currently a Wine master at our family winery in the hill country of Texas.) Keep up the great work and thanks for the **TERRORISM SITREP** — an expansion this section of your magazine would be great.

Gene Switzer,  
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# Colonel Aaron Bank

(USA, Ret.)

## *Father of Special Forces Dies At 101*

BY JOHN STRYKER MEYER

**THE**

Father of Special Forces, Colonel Aaron Bank quietly passed away at his home in Dana Point, Calif., 1 April 2004. He was 101. His wife of 56 years, Catherine, was by his side.

He was placed to rest 5 April in the Riverside National Cemetery, following a touching, yet succinct memorial service where eulogist and Medal of Honor recipient Col. Roger H.C. Donlon, (USA, Ret.) said that Col. Bank will "... forever remain our venerable Father of Special Forces ... [he] was a giant of a man ... our trailblazer ... legendary in today's military. His achievements in war and peace are the standard against which there is no comparison ... and so, I would like to close this eulogy with Aaron's own eloquent words ... and I quote ...

*I felt honored by having been instrumental in delivering the symbolic, flaming torch, lighted by General Bill Donovan in 1941 into the capable ... powerful hands of Special Forces ... whose generations of Green Berets proudly will carry it forward to immortality.*

Little did Bank then know that U.S. Army Special Forces would launch America's first strike against the al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan in October 2001, following the terrorists' attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The Green Berets used tactics of unconventional warfare pioneered by Bank.

The first Green-Beret A Teams were clandestinely infiltrated into the rugged, rocky Central Asian country where they met indigenous forces, spoke their language, trained them, supplied them and fought alongside them. The 12-man A Teams accomplished startling results against numerically superior forces.

The tactics, the method of operation and the Special Forces training has an extensive history that traces its roots to World War II, when unconventional American forces from the Office of Strategic Services — the predecessor to the CIA — parachuted behind enemy lines into Nazi-occupied France and other countries.



*Colonel Aaron Bank*

One of the original 93 OSS men who parachuted into France, Belgium and Holland during that covert phase of WW II was then-Captain Aaron Bank. The OSS fighters trained rigorously before jumping into enemy territory, linking up with local indigenous forces, training them, supplying them, and fighting by their side against Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

Col. Bank and the OSS men pioneered the force-multiplier concept when his three-man OSS team jumped into the Massif Central in northern France in 1944. Those "Jedburgh Teams" were named after a 12th-century Scottish group that conducted guerrilla warfare against British invaders in the Jedburgh area of Scotland.

Within weeks, Bank's OSS team and its operatives were hitting German targets, disrupting power and train service — "always blow up rail lines on a

curve," Bank said in a 1999 interview with *Soldier of Fortune* — stealing German weapons and ammo and using it against the Nazis.

Bank's OSS team was so effective that at the end of 1944, it was given a major mission: Capture Adolf Hitler. Dubbed Operation Iron Cross, it did not come about, as conventional military forces swept across Germany before Bank's team could attempt the mission, after weather delayed tactical jumps into the target.

When WW II in Europe ended, Bank volunteered for OSS assignments in Asia. He parachuted into Southeast Asia in the summer of 1945. He met and chatted extensively with Ho Chi Minh, conversing in French. Ho said he wanted the United States to help him keep Vietnam free of French rule when WW II ended. Bank's pro-Ho reports were ignored. "Think how different the course of history might have been had the OSS been listened to," Bank said in a 2001 interview with SOF.

Undaunted, Bank continued his quest for an unconventional unit. In 1952, he founded the first Special Forces Group, the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne, at Ft. Bragg, N.C., becoming the "Father of Special Forces."

Clyde Sincere, one of the original members of the 10th

Special Forces Group, served under Bank's command. "He was religious when it came time to checking on training." He showed up at all training, day or night. He surrounded himself with former OSS officers — Herbie Brucker, Jack Hemingway (son of Ernest Hemingway), Leif Bangsboll, etc. He relied on these officers, who he had known in the OSS, to impart to us their experiences.

"He was a great believer in the conduct of unconventional warfare and all of its ramifications," he said. "Our lives were fully consumed in language training, area studies, physical training, ski training and mountain training, culminating with many, many field exercises, all very realistic, via the isolation area, and then parachuting into an operational area for an extended period."

"The man is a legend," Sincere said of Bank. "He was a key player in getting Special Forces started, setting the rigorous standards of training and mission preparation which can lead to success, as evidenced by the outstanding performance of Special Forces men in Afghanistan."

Because of his unique status within the history of Special Forces, former Green Berets from the San Diego chapter of the Special Forces Association, C-75, the Roger Donlon Chapter



Marv Wolf

Col. Aaron Bank was keynote speaker at the SOF Convention banquet in Scottsdale, Ariz., in September, 1981. Banks regaled conventioners with his experiences in the WWII OSS.

(named after the first Special Forces Medal of Honor recipient in the Vietnam War) paid periodic visits to the Banks in recent years.

The key liaison between the chapter and the Banks was chapter Vice President Adrian Silva, the unit's special projects manager who scheduled several events and special visits with the Banks. One of those events was a 100th birthday celebration on 23 November 2002, which I attended, along with Silva and several chapter members and their wives. On that sunny, Southern California Saturday, we stood in a loose formation in front of the Banks' assisted-care facility.

Silva said, "Believe it or not, we listened while Col. Bank imparted his words of wisdom concerning attaining long life ... it's hard to imagine how someone his age could still be so lucid. Needless to say, all of us in attendance were in awe. I'm sure he felt how much he

was revered, respected, and loved by every Special Forces trooper standing in front of him." ❧

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](http://Realwarstories.com).

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**Terror attacks were down last year, but attacks on U.S. citizens increased dramatically. Is the U.S. mainland prepared? Hardly!**

**JUST** ahead of me, in line for a security check, the stern middle-aged woman security guard required a short-haired, blonde teenager, dressed in scanty clothes so skin-tight it would have been impossible to conceal a stick of gum, to take off her floppy, paper-thin thong sandals and step through an additional security check. If those sandals had been made of C-4, they wouldn't have blown her nose.

Pathetic! Are these supposed to be real security measures, or are passengers being inconvenienced by a silly show, which provides no real security, but gives the false impression of a mighty effort to protect us from terrorists?

I was reminded of the last time *SOF* publisher Robert Brown and I had dinner with the late General Joe Foss, the legendary WWII combat pilot who went on to become Governor of South Dakota and President of the NRA. General Foss was a burly white-haired giant who overpowered anyone in his presence. He was the personification of that glorious era of great heroes who had gusto for anything American.

#### **Throwing Star**

At our dinner meeting, after 9-11, he was as agitated as I had ever seen him, bellowing outrage in his customary boisterous manner and deep, thunderous voice: "I was one of those who helped make this country safe for those nitwit pipsqueaks at the airport, and they practically made me strip and miss my flight."

He recalled his "boys," of whom he often spoke, and whose faces were forever imprinted on his mind. They had given their lives in battle for our freedoms. One of the security "geniuses" had given him lots of grief because he was convinced the Medal of Honor the aged General had in his



# **THE TERRORIST**

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

via Newscom.com/Jane Woolridge



pocket was a martial arts "throwing star."

"While the law-abiding citizen is being hassled," The General said, "the enemy plows into our most visible targets." Rote security checks by unskilled agents ordered to harass all alike, regardless of age, criminal background, infirmity, race, or otherwise, he said, were un-American. Law-abiding citizen's freedoms were violated while the terrorists could outsmart "stupid" procedures.

Illegal immigration is out of hand, because of this emphasis on political correctness and nondiscrimination, combined with insufficient screening and intelligence.

Further, even with legal immigration there is little or no follow-up surveillance to weed out the terrorists who slip through our highly porous net. Immigration is on an upsurge since the end of the Cold War, when open doors allowed floods of migrants and human traffickers.

### **Traffickers and Terrorists**

In 2002, an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) official told Congress, "Information available to the INS indicates terrorist organizations often use human smuggling operations to move around the globe." (freerepublic.com) An unnamed former Mexican official said, "Spanish and Islamic terrorist groups are using Mexico as a refuge."

Documented illegal immigration more than doubled in the last decade, growing, by conservative counts, from 3.5 million in 1990 to 8 million in 2000. Steven A. Camarota, director of research for the Center for Immigration Studies, estimates that at least 13 million will immigrate to the United States in this decade.

A 2002 census showed that at least 115,000 illegal aliens from the Middle East are in the United States, 24,000 of whom are from Israel. Forty thousand illegal aliens come from Pakistan. Those figures don't include Algeria and Egypt and other North African countries, for unexplained reasons.

### **6000 Fugitives**

Six thousand Middle Easterners, fugitives from deportation orders, roam the country. Among them was international crime ringleader Iraqi George Tajirian, who charged up to \$15,000 a head for trafficking a thousand illegal immigrants, some known to have ties with terrorist organizations, reports Michelle Malkin in *Insight*.

Two Egyptians were arrested for smuggling illegals on flights to Brazil, then Guatemala, through Mexico, to the United States. Mohammed Hussein Assadi was convicted of

# **HIGHWAY**

*When Is a Border Not a Border?  
When Terrorists Cross Anytime  
They Want To!*

smuggling Iraqis through Cali, Colombia, Ecuador and other South American cities. Assadi supplied stolen and altered European passports and airfare for \$8,000 per person.

"Market of Passports" vendors in Northern Iraq sell forged documents for travel through Turkey, to Ecuador, to Colombia, to the United States. The illegals are instructed to destroy the fake documents before entry into the U.S., and surrender to U.S. immigration officials without disclosing their nationalities. The U.S. "catch and release" policy then allows them to flee pending deportation proceedings.

Camarota says "It is difficult to overstate the implications of this new report for the security of our nation. While the vast majority of illegals from the Middle East are not terrorists, the fact that tens of thousands of people from that region—and millions more from the rest of the world—can settle in the U.S. illegally means that terrorists who wish to do so face few obstacles. We cannot protect ourselves from terrorism without dealing with illegal immigration."

The Clinton Administration did not give this problem the attention it obviously needed.

While Janet Reno and intelligence agencies were focusing on organized U.S. militia groups they had demonized, incinerating an eccentric Texas cult—killing women and chil-

Tijuana, the alien smuggler would charge \$1,500 to \$5,000, including travel documents, because fraudulent documents were so readily available. Sometimes a document package would be sold for as little as \$25.

Not only do terrorist operatives take advantage of illegal immigration, many have learned how to maneuver through the system after having immigrated legally, and are allowed to roam free without proper intelligence surveillance.

The Center for Immigration Studies concluded that lax immigration enforcement was partially responsible for attacks within the United States:

"By not adequately policing the borders; by not enforcing time limits on visas and the ban on hiring illegals; by allowing illegals to attend college, open bank accounts, and obtain driver's licenses with little difficulty and by not even ensuring that those who are ordered deported actually go home, it is inevitable that millions of illegal aliens will settle in the U.S., including tens of thousands from the primary terrorist-sending countries" (*Worldnetdaily*)

Most of the 9-11 terrorists had Florida and Virginia or other driver's licenses or ID cards. Some of these were obtained without citizenship or proper residence in the place that issued the documents. Kingpin Mohammad Atta, while

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"We must immediately gain control of our borders.

This can be done with the use of technology ranging from unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic sensors to cameras and radar. This must be backed up with human resources, including military support." *Thomas G. Tancredo (Colo. R-6th)*

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dren—and on pounding the hell out of Serbia, simultaneously empowering the Taliban-trained terrorist KLA factions in the Balkans, terrorist operatives were planning their attacks and picking their targets in the U.S..

### United Sodom of America

Meanwhile, the sensationalist American media's obsession with broadcasting the Monica Lewinsky scandal all over the world gave the Islamic extremist terrorists' sick minds the ammunition they needed as they conspired to shock the world by attacking the "immoral, depraved," "United Sodom of America."

Terrorists sneaked in and out of Western, technologically advanced and immigration lax U.S. and Western Europe. The terrorist operators learned to navigate undetected in and out of U.S. borders, taunting U.S. intelligence. They boldly targeted U.S. targets.

In 1993, one of the World Trade Center bombers was illegal alien Mohammed Salameh. In 1997, Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, illegal alien, conspired to bomb the New York subway system. [C.I.S.]

Three thousand, seven hundred U.S. consular officers throughout the world issue visas without many guidelines. Eighty percent of 8 million visa applications are approved every year. The State Department manual used by consular officials states that "mere membership" in a recognized terrorist group, or even "advocacy of terrorism," does not automatically disqualify a person from entering the U.S., according to the *Phyllis Schlafly Report*.

Associate Chief, Veteran Border Patrol official J. William Carter (Ret.) says, "The 1986 amnesty law perpetuated document fraud. Counterfeiters went wild. If an undocumented worker wanted to travel to Los Angeles or Chicago from

exploiting the system, cunningly changed his short term tourist visa to a longer term student one, enabling him to remain legally in the United States long enough to attend flight school, and to travel in and out of the United States to meet with al-Qaeda co-conspirators [C.I.S.].

### Green Cards

Eleven of 48 terrorists acting in the United States since 1993 had green cards, signifying permanent residency. Another, Mahmud Abouhalima had become a legal resident after lying about being an agricultural worker, allowing him to get a green card after the 1986 illegal-alien amnesty. His green card allowed him to travel to Afghanistan for training, then reenter the U.S., according to the C.I.S.

Sometimes an alert and determined citizen can force the system to work. Zacharias Moussaoui, was left out of the 9-11 action because observant instructors reported suspicious behavior at the Pan Am International Flight Academy in Minnesota. Moussaoui did not want to learn how to take off or land, but wanted to know how to steer a 747 jumbo jet in flight.

The FBI was slow to act, by many accounts. Moussaoui was detained by the INS for violating his visa just one month before the fatal attacks in New York and Washington.

Another potential 9-11 hijacker, Al-Qahtani, was turned away by a U.S. immigration agent at Orlando International Airport in late August 2001, two senior law enforcement agents told AP.

But 19 hijackers slipped through the cracks after years of conspiring.

### Then Came 9-11

The 9-11 hijackings were the result of "a problem of the U.S. government allowing illegal aliens to roam freely in

our country and of promiscuously issuing visas without proper certifications. It is also a problem of our government failing to enforce current immigration and visa laws, and failing to deport illegal aliens including those who overstay their visas.

Three of the hijackers were here illegally, and the other 16 were here legally, through sloppy visa checks and nonexistent follow-up procedures. At least 16 of the 19 hijackers fit in one or more of these categories," claims the *Schlaflly Report*.

For two weeks before 9-11 the FBI was searching for one of the 9-11 terrorists who had met with a suspected USS *Cole* bomber. The hijacker's visa application read "Marriott, New York City," although he had never gone to any of the 10 Marriotts there.

### "It's a Constitutional Crisis"

The immigration flood has reached constitutional crisis proportions, according to Thomas G. Tancredo (R-6th), with whom we met in Denver at the beginning of the research for this article. Tancredo was fired up about the threat that illegal immigration poses, and has been a high profile activist. He believes that Mexico is the base for terror cells and that terrorists flow over our unrestricted southern borders.

In Arizona, on a road north of the city of Douglas called the "Arab Road," Arabs or Middle Easterners, are charged \$30,000 to be smuggled into the U.S., Tancredo claims [ParaPundit.com].

Immigration, Tancredo wrote "is balkanizing America to where upwards of 8 million people living here are so undecided about their loyalties that they claim dual citizenships. The problem is so urgent, that, "We must immediately gain control of our borders. This can be done with the use of technology ranging from unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic sensors to cameras and radar. This must be backed up with human resources — including military support.

"The defense of the nation begins with the defense of the borders. We must identify and deport felons and potential terrorists among the millions of illegal immigrants. Civil libertarians have thrown up obstacles, forgetting that the citizens' right to protection of life and property is the FIRST civil liberty of a free people.

"Becoming an American citizen is not something you gain by crossing a border. It is something you acquire through education and adoption of a new loyalty to American institutions," he wrote.

The FBI has identified 1,000 Osama bin Laden sympathizers living in 30 cities in the United States, according to Justice Department sources. This number, ParaPundit.com points out, is a fraction of identified al-Qaeda sympathizers in country, and the statistics only "scratch the surface." Terrorists can escape wiretapping detection by using encrypted e-mail messages on the internet, and FBI foreign language capabilities are inadequate.

### The Tijuana Ring

Last year a ringleader of a smuggling ring, Salim Boughader Mucharrافية, a Mexican of Arab descent, was sentenced in the United States to one year for people smuggling. He returned to business as usual in Mexico where he was once more arrested. An accomplice, Imelda Ortiz Abdala, Arabic-Mexican, a 25 year Mexican foreign service veteran, was fired after 150 Mexican passports were stolen and two others issued improperly [Freerepublic.com].

Ortiz was in Beirut, Lebanon from May 1998 to October

2001, heading the Mexican consular section. She allegedly issued a Mexican visa to Alafani Sghir, a Shiite extremist. She was arrested in Mexico for aiding a smuggling ring trafficking Arab migrants through Mexico to the United States after Youseff Balaghi, one of the 80 to 100 migrants smuggled into the United States with stolen or forged passports, was admitted to a San Diego hospital, vomiting blood. He died a short time later.

Al-Qaeda held a meeting in Mexico in 2001 to make contacts with Venezuelan, Bolivian, Peruvian and Ecuadorian terrorists. Al-Qaeda operates in Latin America, and has ties to the Columbian FARC. Mexico's national security adviser Adolfo Aguilar admitted the presence of Islamic radicals in Mexico, who were identified by the media as being members of Hezbollah. (www.apfn.net.)

### Border Badlands

I spoke with a New Mexico entrepreneur who voiced the concern of many of his Latino colleagues, "The Latinos, Arabs, Pakistanis, and Afghans, who have many common facial features, some of whom are al-Qaeda or other terrorist group operatives, can easily mix in together unnoticed.

"The problem is that many of the Latinos and other groups have no desire to assimilate. They create their own reality and culture, including rival drug trafficking gangs, without loyalty to America. Terrorists can easily be smuggled in or even allowed to operate within their enclaves"

Although Mexican officials do cooperate with their U.S. counterparts, the Mexican government is largely helpless in combating the violence of the Mexican drug cartels, and corrupt customs and police officials.

One task force source told WND that a spectacular Mexico-based attack is "not anymore a question of if, but rather of when and where." Guadalajara and Tijuana are harboring anti-American terror cells. Al-Qaeda and other allied organizations are expanding operations in Latin America, establishing both legitimate and criminal enterprises to fund future operations.

### Jihadists and Drug Dealers

Ruthless youth gangs including the Mara-18 and Salvatrucha from Honduras and Guatemala are operating in Chiapas state and as far north as Tijuana. Those with ties to radical Islamic Jihadists and drug dealers filter in from Central America, preying on illegal immigrants. Terrorists are making serious preparations to infiltrate the U.S.-Mexico borders. There are threats on NASA's Johnson Space Center, the George Bush International Airport, and industrial oil and energy targets, according to WND.

Our borders have become outlaw country. Human traffickers charge desperate or suspect immigrants enormous fees. Drug gangs have married up with human traffickers to exploit this multi-million dollar trade. Mexican, U.S., Canadian and other consulate, customs and enforcement officials have cashed in on the profits.

Homeless scorch in the heat and drown in the rivers as they try to reach the Promised Land. Sex slave trade traffickers are making bundles of cash. And many border guards are dying.

*Next: Interviews with Border Patrol Agents and how streams of illegal immigrants cross the U.S.-Mexico border.*

*An international lawyer, Dr. Martin Brass is a frequent contributor to SOF. ☒*

MIAMI'S MAD MAX

# Marines

PART I

## Marine Reserves Charge to Baghdad, Fighting All the Way

BY DONALD SCHUTT

USMC PHOTOS

*Editor's Note: SOF has never run a story in eight parts before, but we've never run a story like this before either. These guys were cops and students, accountants and truckers. But when the Iraq War started they made an adrenalin-charged assault from Kuwait to Baghdad that makes Mad Max look like The Little Engine That Could.*

**H**ow are modern wars won? The media tells us over and over again about how our high-technology aircraft can devastate targets at will with extreme accuracy. We have Satellites that can read the side of a pack of cigarettes. We are forever told high-tech air-power will be triumphant. Then there are the com-

*2nd Tank Battalion's TOW vehicles assembling prior to entering Iraq. The TOW missile can destroy any tank in the world at a range of over two miles.*



puter geeks who claim they will bring the enemy to their knees with e-mails and a computer virus or two. We also have brave and dedicated Special Forces troops who conduct shadowy operations that we are told are the key to victory.

The truth is that the high-technology aircraft mostly can't find their targets, satellites have limited coverage, computer warfare is laughable in terms of real effects, and although Special Forces troops can be very useful out of relation to the size of the forces involved their effect is always on the periphery as a force-multiplier than as a direct-action achiever.

Even in Afghanistan the Special Forces could not have gotten far without the heavy ground forces of the Northern Alliance to take the ground. You can bomb targets, destroy computer networks, conduct raids, and implement psychological operations for years and victory will always be elusive. In truth, wars are still won by the heavy ground forces that roll over the enemy smashing his main forces and seizing his terrain.

This is the story of a group of Marines who were part of the spearhead for the ground forces who liberated Iraq. They took the enemy on in head to head battle and won the war.

**T**OW and Scout Platoons, 8th Tank Battalion is a Marine Corps Reserve unit based in Miami. Like most reservists they drill one weekend a month and are activated for training for two weeks once a year. It was on one of those normal weekend drills that a Naval Message was received activating the unit for war. It was not unexpected. Everyone knew that war was coming. It had become a guessing game as to when it was going to happen

and who would be selected to go. When the order came down it answered the question. The time was soon and TOW and Scout Platoons were going to the party.

Although some of the Marines were not keen on leaving their comfortable homes to venture into the unknown dangers that awaited them, it would be fair to say that the vast majority of them were eager go. Many had joined after 9-11, and they were looking for some payback. Others had been drilling together for years but had never been to war; they wanted to get the chance to use the skills they had learned in a real-world endeavor.

### Payback

There were a few Desert Storm veterans who knew a little more about what awaited them. They had mixed feelings. They, too, wanted some payback, but they also knew what a filthy miserable place the deserts of the Middle East were. There was no telling whether they would be there for six months, a year, or ... ?

The Marines were mobilized to active duty in mid-January 2003 and by the end of the month they were in Kuwait awaiting the start of the war.

### Kuwait: A Time To Prepare

Upon arrival in Kuwait on 29 and 30 January, the Marines of TOW and Scout Platoons didn't waste any time in beginning preparations for the hard fight they all knew was coming. Even before they were matched up with their vehicles and equipment they walked through formations



and tactical maneuvers on foot.

Finally, a few weeks after their arrival in Kuwait, their vehicles arrived. The Marines practiced vehicle land- navigation, vehicle-recovery procedures, formations, driving with gas masks on, night driving with night-vision goggles (NVGs), and the use of the thermal sight mounted on the TOW. With the threat of biological or chemical agents being used much of the preparation was focused on NBC (Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical)-training and procedures.

Many of the Marines in retrospect felt that the way the war actually went down was very different than the open desert warfare they expected and practiced for.

The Marines were disappointed with the very limited opportunity to fire their weapons prior to combat. Essentially they were only given enough rounds to test fire the weapons for functionality rather than for accuracy or practice. Many of the weapons were drawn from pre-positioned stocks and hence test firing the weapons was critical. Ammunition was just not available. This would have an effect for the war as well.

Military Logistics experts had developed a supply system that mimicked the scheme used in modern manufacturing. It's called "just in time." Japanese car manufacturers had developed it with help from American management experts. Records are kept of what is used and are then put into a computerized supply management system.

Having a computerized record of what is used allows new supplies to be brought up as needed, thus eliminating warehouses and storage depots. In theory it is efficient. In practice, at a car plant, with a perfectly thought-out plant and perfect transportation links, it saves millions of dollars. The battlefield, however, has no relationship whatsoever with an environment that would support a "just in time"-method.

#### REMF Pogue

That some REMF pogue thought that this system had any use on a battlefield is really indicative of disconnect between the people who buy the supplies and equipment and the peo-

ple who use the supplies and equipment against the enemy. The "just in time"-system proved worthless and the logisticians had to work overtime trying to make up the shortfalls.

The people who were really affected were the end-user of the supplies. The individual Marines, who risked their lives and did the fighting. In a campaign that everyone knew would be fast and furious it is critical that each Marine and each vehicle be loaded up as well as possible. In a short campaign it is purely possible to support the entire war out of what you had in the vehicle when you left. This did not happen. Not enough food or ammo was available. The Marines would have to make do with what they got.

Obviously, each TOW Marine gunner would like to have a full combat load of TOW missiles per vehicle. However, with the thousands of U.S. forces streaming into Kuwait, logistics were hard-pressed. A TOW HUMMV can carry six missiles plus one ready to fire for a total of seven missiles

per vehicle. Most of the Marine TOW gunners crossed into Iraq with only *three* missiles per vehicle.

The main weapon the Marines would use was 5.56-rifle. It would remain short until most of the fighting was over. Marines went into Iraq with a basic load of seven magazines. They had plenty of unused cargo capacity in their vehicles. If the logisticians had been able to bring the ammo forward for issue prior to the war tons of precious cargo space would have been available later for carrying other supplies.

Initially, the Scout Platoon had fourteen vehicles organized into two sections, each of six vehicles, plus the platoon commander's vehicle, and finally a "high-back" variant of the HUMMV used for carrying extra ammo, rations, water, and fuel.

The first section was called Tiger Section and was mostly manned by regular Marines from the 2nd Tank Battalion. The Second section consisted of Miami Reservists and was called Panther Section. Each six-vehicle section contained two M2 .50-caliber machineguns, two Mk-19 automatic 40mm grenade launchers, and two TOW anti-tank missile launchers.



Unit designation burned into the sand.



## A Superior Weapon

Later in Iraq, the Scout Platoon's weapons mix was further adjusted based on what worked best. Gunnery Sergeant Gregoire, who in civilian life is a veteran police officer with the Miami PD explains: "The .50-caliber machine gun is a superior weapon to the Mk-19. I wouldn't say that the fire-power was increased with the .50 cal., while the Mk-19 is good in itself; however, with its cyclic rate of fire and only 32 rounds in it, we would run out real quick and we'd have to reload, whereas the .50 cal. We'd have 200 rounds a box (Some .50-caliber machine guns had their mounts modified to use a Mk-19 ammo can which allowed up to 300 rounds of the smaller .50-caliber ammo to be linked together and ready for use), we can suppress longer, harder and without having to constantly reload."

The Gunny who, is also a veteran of Desert Storm, as well as the mean streets of Miami, further explains: "We changed configuration more than one time, Originally we went in with, I believe, two .50 cal's, two MK-19s, and two TOWs, due to the type of, you know, MET (Mission, Enemy, Terrain) we were basically more urban and CQB (close-quarters-battle) than we originally thought". Hence, later one of the Mk-19s in each section was replaced with a .50-caliber machine gun. Lastly, after most of the fighting was done, one M240G 7.62mm machine gun was added to a TOW vehicle in each section.

## Crossing The Border At Night

The decision to cross the border in order to begin the ground war came as a complete surprise to the Marines of TOW and Scout Platoons. Most were asleep when the word came down to get ready. At about 2330 hours the word was passed, and the Marines worked to get ready to step-off.

Corporal Jose Mendoza remembers being awakened that night. "I was supposed to have fire-watch that morning at 2400, I looked at my watch; it was only 2330 and everyone was getting up. I thought it was reveille already. So I got up and I'm thinking okay, I'm going to get dressed, and I'm look-

ing around, and everyone is saying we got to go."

The Marines cleared out their hootches and loaded the vehicles.

The Battalion moved to the border with the tanks and engineer breaching teams in the lead. On the border there were some fences and ditches that had to be breached. The engineers cleared three lanes and the Tank Battalion started to spill through into Iraq. It was dark and somewhat confusing. Luckily the resistance consisted mainly of very intermittent and inaccurate artillery fire.



The Marines from Miami were in trail of the tanks and it was dark. They saw the flashes of artillery impacts and the tanks firing their main-guns at invisible targets in the dark.

## First Firefight

Sergeant Andrew Michael, whose civilian job is as a deputy sheriff for Broward County, Florida, recalls sitting in the Scout platoon commanders vehicle on top of a highway overpass as the other Marines cleared some Iraqi bunkers alongside the highway. All day long pick-up trucks mounting white flags had been surrendering to the U.S. forces. Another white pick-up truck approached Sergeant Michael's position on the highway; it was not flying a white flag. This got the attention of the group of Marines sitting in the two HUMMV's atop the overpass.

In the commander's vehicle were four Marines, First

*2nd Tank Bn halted in herringbone formation along Route 6, somewhere between An Nu'maniyah and Baghdad. (above) Marines check out equipment prior to going into Iraq.*





**TOW platoon, 2nd Tank Bn display the American flag for the folks back home.**

Lieutenant Zummo the Scout Platoon commander, HM3 Blake the unit Corpsman, Lance Corporal Rowland, the driver, and Sergeant Michael, the forward observer. The Iraqi driver was obviously surprised that the Marines were there. He came to a dead stop 500 to 600 meters away as the Marines watched.

Sergeant Michael explains what happened: "A truck started coming toward us, and all day trucks had been surrendering and they all had white flags on them. We were watching the truck and it didn't have a white flag on it. So we were kind of watching it drive toward us.

Then at some point he sort of stopped and spun around. He pulled a tarp off the back and he had a machine gun on the back. He started firing at us, and we fired back. We both

surprised each other pretty much".

The heavy machine gun rounds from the Iraqi technical skidded across the ground right next to the Scout Commander's vehicle. First Lieutenant Zummo fired back with his .50-caliber machinegun. It promptly jammed.

Fortunately, in the other HUMMV Lance Corporal McCarthy's weapon functioned perfectly and American fire was brought on the Iraqi vehicle.

For the Miami Scouts this was the first direct fire engagement of the war. "That was the first actual man-to-man engagement. Before that we had seen tracer rounds come near us and mortar fire, but that was the first direct-fire combat where we were aiming at the enemy trying to kill them and they were trying to kill us." Explained Sergeant Michael.

The Iraqi technical sped off to escape the American heavy machine-gun fire.

### **Iraqis Fled**

Corporal Derric Keller, manning a TOW vehicle, tracked the Iraqis through the high-power optics on his missile system sight. He watched as the Iraqi irregulars fled the scene. He held his fire. The route the Iraqi pickup was taking was right on the border between 5th Marine Regiment's and 7th Marine Regiment's areas of responsibility.

Corporal Keller was concerned that if he should fire, the missile might misguide, and hit friendly forces nearby. There were also some power lines along its flight-path. The TOW is wire-guided and the power lines increased the likelihood of a misguided missile, should the guidance wire cross them. He held his fire.

He watched fascinated as the same Iraqis stopped and changed into another pickup truck they had probably cached

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**SSgt Cristian Moreno manning a 50. cal MG in Iraq. SSgt Moreno, who is an accountant in civilian life, was a cool and aggressive warrior in combat. The man beside the Hummer is unknown.**

earlier. This pick-up truck was armed with a mortar tube.

The Iraqis then sallied forth to stop the American Tank Battalion with their pickup truck-mounted mortar. Saddam's sacrificial lambs tried to engage the battalion with their new weapon. They were able to fire five rounds of ammo at the Americans. None of the explosive rounds came close to hitting anything.

Their bold attack did not last long. F14 Jets flying in support of the Marines were talked on to the technical. They dropped a 2,000-pound bomb directly on the position. There

were no further problems with the pickup truck, or evidence of its continued existence on this planet.

### Rapid Movement

After the initial movement into Iraq the 2nd Tank Battalion got an order to make a major movement. At first, 2nd Tanks moved out tactically in battle-formation across the broken terrain adjacent to the highway. It soon became apparent that with little resistance the Marines were wasting precious time and putting wear-and-tear on the vehicles for nothing.

The Battalion Commander decided to just have everyone get up on the main road they were following and drive. This decision was made based on the situation that they faced. It would have been nothing but a waste of time to move cautiously forward at this point. The bold decision to use the road would be conventionally thought of as an "untactical" way to move through hostile territory crawling with the enemy.

In reality though, using the highway to conduct rapid movement became the foundation of 2nd Tanks' successes on the road to Baghdad. Traveling on the major highways allowed the Battalion to cover ground at a rapid pace. This in turn resulted in the Marines showing up in front of the enemy before the Iraqis were ready to meet them.

Tiger Scouts were punched-out in the lead as a quartering party far out in front of the unit. Panther Scouts was given the mission to conduct a route reconnaissance directly ahead of the unit as it moved toward its objective. The Scout Marines of Panther Section leaped far ahead of the Battalion and attempted to perform their mission. They checked bridges and overpasses along the route to ensure that no explosive charges had been set.

They also checked for the general trafficability of the

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route. The problem was that once the main body of 2nd tanks started using the hardball road they moved so fast as to leave little time for Panther Scouts to perform their checks with any degree of certainty. They ended up driving down the road ahead and checking everything on the fly.

Sergeant Cristian Moreno of Miami, Florida, was with the Bronze Section of the TOW Platoon. As they were traveling down the highway he would see occasional pockets of Iraqi Soldiers. "I felt pretty safe the way they were conducting the movement. There wasn't much cover for us anyway out in the middle of the Iraqi desert. Plus, our vehicles were about twice the size of the Iraqi vehicles. They could spot us whether we were camouflaged or not.

"It worked out good for us that we used the highways. Obviously they were never expecting us to get on the highway. We could see that we were bypassing Iraqi units. They would look at us but I guess they were overwhelmed by the size of our unit and the speed at which we were moving. I recall one incident — I saw a T-55 rolling slowly next to the road about 300 meters away. He stopped and he never even aimed a gun at us. The crew jumped out of the tank and started running away.

"About 1,500 meters behind that tank there was a T-72 right by an oil field. I could see them clearly without binos or anything. They surrendered to the British who were up securing that area. We made a stop about one kilometer farther down the road. I saw the soldiers from the T-55 make it to the British where they, too, surrendered."

The Marines kept up the road march to their destination. When they arrived at their new assembly area everyone was dead tired. An accident occurred when an inadvertent discharge of the .50-caliber machine gun on one of the tanks killed a Marine with Delta Company. Lance Corporal Eric Orlowski, 26, of Buffalo, New York, was killed. He was the first and, unfortunately, not the last to die with 2nd Tanks along the road to Baghdad.

*Donald Schutts, Lt. Col. USMCR, is a pilot for a major airline. During Desert Storm he commanded a mobile fire support team operating forward of the Marines' lead tanks. From 1995 to 1999 he was OIC Tow/Scout Miami.*

*Next month the Miami Marines face their first real battle. ☒*

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## Battle For Deh Chopan

Continued from page 26

got back, if I could have gotten away with it!

After my little adventure we dismounted and organized the AMF to return fire. You could hear the supersonic crack of bullets as they passed within arms reach, and watch the rounds impact all around you. Our vehicles were taking the brunt of the RPG shrapnel; luckily none of our tires were popped.

### Baddies on Both Flanks

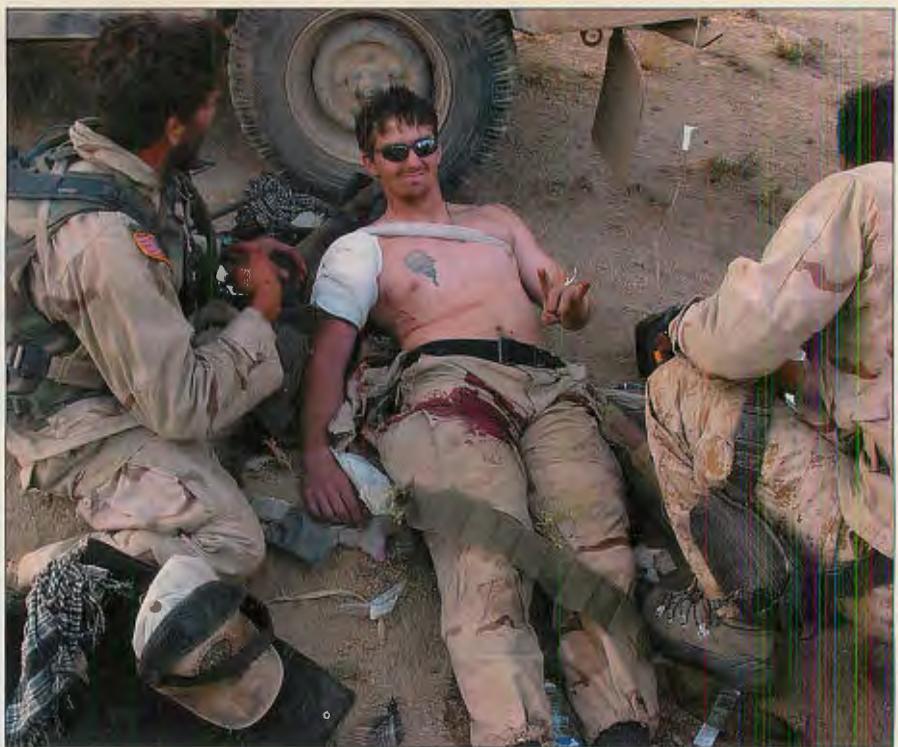
The baddies were on both flanks, and to the front in a classical "L" shaped ambush. Our TACP, CJ did an outstanding job and quickly called in a couple of A-10s that dropped 500lb bombs on the ridgelines within 100m of our position. Due to the proximity of our team I had to give my initials to the pilot to approve the drop.

After three hours of trading fire we were able to subdue the ACM on the left flank. We then split the team in half and began assaulting the right ridgeline. We fought our way to the top and pushed them off. We continued to engage the enemy as they withdrew into the mountains.

We moved the convoy forward, and cleared the ridgelines along their path. After driving another 700m down the road it became apparent that we could go no further. The road to Cinaran had been cratered and rockslides had been cascaded onto the road, making it impassable to vehicular traffic.

This was the intended ambush "kill zone"; the road was narrow and had a steep drop off into the river, and we would have been unable to turn around.

We established security and began backing our vehicles back down the road. Just as we got our convoy turned around the ACM hit us again with mortars and RPGs. They fired barrage after barrage right into the kill zone, missing us by 100m. Luckily we had recognized the kill zone for what



Noah's wound attended to by Lou and Chuck after taking a round in the shoulder from a sniper.

it was and reacted quickly.

Driving out of the valley, we came under intense small arms and RPG fire from our left flank, as our flank security fought a running battle. We linked up with flank security and exited the valley under a hail of fire.

We accounted for each of the vehicles as it left the mouth of the valley. As the last vehicle exited, our Afghan General advised that he still had fifteen soldiers missing. He believed they were still in the valley waiting for the General to come and get them.

I told the General that we would have to immediately go back in and get them. The General wanted to wait to see if they would come out on their own. After an hour I asked for one volunteer to go back into the valley with me to rescue the trapped soldiers. Bill volunteered and rode in the back with M240 Machine Gun. The Team Leader from the other team, Chris, also followed us in with his HMMWV.

We were about 200m short of the previous ambush site when we came under fire from a group of 30-40 bad guys in an orchard about twenty-five meters to our right flank. RPGs and AK rounds are flying over and around our vehicles, one AK round smacks into the SATCOM antennae right next to Bill's head, giving him the shock of his life.

### It Was a Slaughter

I dismounted and began engaging the ACM with my M-4 while Bill opened up with the M240 MG. It was a slaughter; we killed over 30 ACM in less than a minute of firing. We fired right into their midst as they returned fire and attempted to run away from us. All I could see was our bullets impacting and bodies falling. Bill was firing grazing fire two to three feet over the ground, using the M240 like a scythe. The rounds ripped through the trees, tearing off branches and splintering the trunks. It was good to finally be on this side of the ambush and give some payback!

The ACM had been regrouping and resting in the orchard

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after chasing us out of the valley, and did not expect us to come charging back. We caught them overconfident and it cost them heavily.

We turned around and drove out of the valley as fast as we could. Upon exiting the valley, the General informed me that his men showed up just minutes after we had driven back into the valley. After that last bit of good news we decided to wrap it up and head back to Deh Chopan.

As we drove away Bill said, "Damn Sir, I hate those near ambushes, but I gotta tell ya, they always get my heart racing." Ditto!

That night my TACP told me the AC-130, had a positive identification on 20-30 ACM establishing an ambush in the area we were headed to at first light. As the ground commander I gave them authorization to engage.

We listened to the AC-130 as it hammered the ACM with 40mm and 105mm cannon fire for the rest of the night. The deep rumble of the 105mm cannon was comforting, such sweet music it was, to drift into slumber.

The next morning we drove to where the gunship had engaged the ACM and found four bodies, numerous bloodstains and trails, and a number of destroyed DSK machine guns. We patrolled the area and spoke with the locals, who told us that after the bombing last night a group of Taliban had come in and dragged out fifteen bodies on donkeys and taken them to the north. We emplaced positions on all of the high ground and set up a blocking position that would prevent the ACM from escaping the valley.

Over the next few days the 10th Mountain Division flew into the area and began large sweeping and clearing operations.

We were recalled to Kandahar to debrief the battalion staff on our actions and get cleaned up before we headed back to Gardez. Our drive back to Gardez was uneventful and long; it was nice to be returning home.

A day after arriving we had a special guest, the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld was visiting all of the forces in our Firebase. We talked with some of the guys assigned to his protective detail, who were also SF National Guardsmen, doing contract work between deployments. We asked them if the Secretary could take a photo with our team.

Secretary Rumsfeld was more than happy to meet us and told us that he had heard about the battles down in Deh Chopan and was pleased to know

that it was our team who had fought them. He was amazed when I told him that we were National Guardsmen, and he asked us if we would like to stay for another six months, since we had done so well.

We emphatically replied with a "No thank you Sir, we're happy to be going home in one piece." Secretary Rumsfeld was extremely friendly, outgoing, and caring about the soldiers he met that day ... he is one of the good guys. The team was on a huge high ... successfully finishing a difficult combat mission with only one casualty and being able to meet the Secretary of Defense, and take a photo with him. We couldn't have been happier, especially since we were headed back to Bagram the next day!

### Final Parting

The Taliban took one last parting shot at us as we convoyed to Bagram the next morning. Just after passing over the highest pass between Gardez and Kabul we were ambushed on the long winding downhill road. Luckily, the ambush was about thirty seconds too late and missed the majority of our convoy. A few RPGs and small arms were fired and missed. I decided it wasn't worth one of my guys getting wounded to go after them, so we just sped up and continued onto Bagram.

We radioed the ambush site in, and a few fast movers flew overhead to escort us safely back to Bagram. Once there everyone debriefed us. It was a pleasure to finally meet the U.S. Marine Corps pilots who had flown air support for us. We took a team picture with the pilots (you guys know who you are and you can always count on us to watch your back or get you out of a bad situation). Here's to all of the USMC pilots ... "Semper Fi" Marine we got your six!

Intelligence gathered from a number of local sources advised that we had engaged and killed between 300-400 Taliban and Al-Qaeda, and killed two Taliban leaders — Mullahs Dadullah and Qahar.

*Our Team was awarded: 1 Silver Star, 3 Bronze Stars with "V" device, 1 Purple Heart, 2 ARCOM with "V" device, and 4 Bronze Stars, 10 CIBs, and 1 CMB for it's actions during the Battle for Deh Chopan.*

*Overall the entire company was awarded : 1 SS, 4 BSM w/V, 44 BSMs, 4 ARCOM w/V, 50 ARCOMs, 3 JSCOMs, 63 CIBs, and 10 CMBs. ☒*

## Marine Scout Sniper

Continued from page 40

control all the individuals they were having contact with and several fire-fights were erupting on both flanks as Marine units ran into pockets of well-armed Iraqis. Rounds flew everywhere from those actions, and many flew right over us. Though we had total control of the area to our front, we had no control of what dangers lay to each side.

While we were there, one of my snipers from the Scout Sniper Platoon, Sergeant Aaron Wintterle, who carried a Barrett .50 Special Applications Scoped Rifle, was manning a vehicle checkpoint with one of the line companies when an Iraqi suicide vehicle approached. As Wintterle trained his .50 SASR on the vehicle, it exploded. A piece of shrapnel hit him in the face, breaking his jaw and putting him out of action. Immediately his partner, L/Cpl Jacob Heal, who was a new guy under training, jumped on the weapon and spotted one of the Iraqis who was involved trying to run back down the road. The Marine took aim and lit him up, shooting him five times

before he could hit the ground, blowing out his chest.

Meanwhile back at the Al Rashid Military Complex, rounds came past us from the sides, along with RPG fire and explosions as close as 50 meters away. This became the routine throughout the day as sporadic fighting broke out on the flanks.

But our job was to keep our front secure. Every time we found an armed man we took him out. When we saw armed trucks, we took them under fire as well. It was really weird to spot a pickup with a .50 mounted in the back, and shoot the driver and gunner, then watch the truck just keep going like it's driven by a ghost.

When we saw weapons inside a car or truck we engaged both the passenger and the driver. Our method was simply "whoever spotted the weapon first called the shot."

### Sleep: Not An Item Of Issue...

"I got RPG rounds. I'll take the driver. You take the passenger."

The other guy then would take out the passenger at the same time. This was the great thing about having two sniper rifles there, since we could fire on two targets at the same time.

Our body count continued to climb throughout the day.

We were up six days before we got away from the roof and got four hours sleep. This was counting the three days movement through Salmon Pak, then the three days on the roof. Then it was back to the same position. Then we were up for another 72 hours constantly, moving or staying on the scope. Watching and shooting. We were running on pure adrenalin.

It got to the point where if an Iraqi entered our area, they took off their shirt, pulled off their white T-shirt and waved it like a truce flag until they got out of our area, then put their shirt back on. The word was out, and no one wanted to come into our kill zone to die for Saddam anymore.

Still, we continued to watch and wait. We took turns, an hour on the glass, an hour off the glass. Though it was fatiguing, we stayed alert. The adrenalin, and the anticipation that anything could happen any second, kept us on the keen edge of awareness. In fact, I was so pumped up on adrenalin that I could have stayed up for a week.

By the time we left this position, I had 17 kills and Mulder had 15: 32 total kills in one spot!



"Lord, grant me the strength..."

### "Lord, grant me the strength..."

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With the main part of the Iraqi resistance now crushed, we entered Baghdad proper and pushed in toward the city center. As we moved down the highways and streets, we could see vehicles on side streets that had been taken out the day before and were smoldering, and had rounds still cooking off. We ran into sporadic firing, both small arms and RPGs, but we aggressively moved through anything we came up against and pressed on. Our final destination was the Olympic Stadium.

The Republican Guards had told everyone that the Marines would kill everyone, and that we would eat them or some such nonsense, but when we moved through neighborhoods and people saw that we treated them well, and that we had finally run the Republican Guard off, they came out in the hundreds of thousands and began cheering us, dancing in the streets.

Still, even after we achieved positions at the Olympic Stadium and began to consolidate, we received sporadic incoming rounds. It was going to become obvious that it would take a long time to totally pacify Baghdad.

For two weeks we continued to do our surveillance and target-acquisition missions, then pulled out to set up a more permanent base camp.

And by this time most of the Iraqi army had thrown their weapons down, and basically said, "Okay, you win."

It was later, when Intel had time to question Iraqi POWs that they heard this: "We feared your snipers more than any other weapon. We could not see them, and we could not counter them." That statement sums up a sniper's mission: To engage the enemy at long range and kill him without being seen.

*Craig Roberts was a U.S. Marine sniper in Vietnam in 1966. He later served as a police officer, retiring after 26 years with the Tulsa Police Department. His military background also includes serving in the National Guard and Army Reserve as an infantry and intelligence officer. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1999. He has written several articles for Soldier of Fortune, and has authored more than a dozen books, including One Shot—One Kill: America's Combat Snipers from WWII to Beirut, and Kill Zone: A Sniper Looks at Dealey Plaza.*

*Charles W. Sasser is a former Special Forces medic, a former homicide detective with the Tulsa Police Department, and author of more than 40 books.*

## Fullujah!

Continued from page 51

### Fighting Fifth Leads the Way Again

The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was sent back to Baghdad along with two other active-duty West coast battalions, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California, and 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from Camp Pendleton. Approximately 25,000 Marines have been sent to Iraq for seven-month deployments as the Pentagon moved into the second phase of troop rotations in Iraq — the largest troop rotations since World War Two. In all, more than 250,000 troops are involved.

USMC by Sgt. Kevin Reed



**SSgt. Brian Jackway, Weapons Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st MarDiv was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device, promoted to gunnery sergeant and transferred. Jackway says, "I wish I were there. If I would of known, I would of refused to be transferred."**

A reserve battalion, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines headquartered in Bridgeton, Missouri, first got word in November last year that they would be heading to Okinawa for six months. But in mid-December, plans changed and the battalion's 800 to 900 Marines deployed to Iraq in the spring of 2004. Captain Jeff Pool, a Marine Forces Reserve spokesman in New Orleans, says 3/24 and others from the First Marine Division are expected to be in-country until sometime in September, or perhaps even later.

### Frying Pan to the Fire

"Yeah, that's how the battalion feels," said Lt. Blanke who received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" Device while commanding the Weapons Platoon in Charlie Company during the war. Because of his experience as a fire-support team leader in the weapons platoon, Blanke was moved from Charlie 1/5 to

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Weapons Company 1/5, where he currently serves as the company's XO.

After the war, the weapon of choice among insurgents went from rocket-propelled grenades to improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. And Blanke is well aware of the dangers he and his men face in Fallujah. "It's a tough town to operate in. The insurgents are good at camouflaging IEDs," said Blanke, "but we're not going to drive down the roads blindfolded. When we see something suspicious, we'll stop and take a look."

Weapons Company is also focusing on vehicle dispersion so that if insurgents trigger a remote-controlled bomb, no more than one vehicle will be affected. To further reduce the threat of driving into a kill zone, Weapons Company is constantly running patrols up and down heavily traveled roads at different times of the day and night. Blanke believes this will keep the insurgents off balance. But Blanke learned a lethal lesson a few weeks after arriving in Iraq: When an MH-53 Pave Low helicopter was shot down 12 miles east of Fallujah, the 81mm mortar platoon in Weapons Company was sent to secure the crash site. Minutes after Quick Reaction Force arrived on scene, they came under enemy mortar fire. One Marine was killed. Several wounded.

Rushing down the road to Fallujah, the platoon ran into a pre-arranged ambush and suffered more casualties. No IEDs, just lots of small arms fire and RPGs.

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Karen Wood, who supervised development of "Boomerang" in just two months at BBN Technologies Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, says gunmen in urban Iraq are often inexperienced, and tend to miss that first shot. They also tend to be armed with AK-47s rather than more accurate sniper rifles, giving U.S. forces time to return fire or get out of harm's way.

The Marine Corps has also armored

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its Humvees to protect Marines against deadly IEDs. One hundred ten [110] hard armor kits were installed on Humvees before they left Kuwait. The armor saved the lives of at least four Marines on the way to Fallujah. The armor, designed to be mounted on M998 Humvees, has been tested at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland against a variety of threats, including anti-tank mines. Other Marine vehicles, including seven-ton trucks, have also been outfitted with medium armor.

One out of every five Humvees produced stateside is being up-armored with 2,000 pounds of steel, including 200-pound door panels and bulletproof glass. But as the Army learned on the day the four civilians were killed in Fallujah, there is no protection from a land mine. Five U.S. soldiers were killed when their Humvee ran over a mine and exploded.

### Hearts and Minds

The men of 1/5 are also arming themselves culturally so that they understand what offends an Iraqi, so as not to cause loss of popular support for what the U.S. is trying to accomplish in Iraq. One of the first things the Marines did was rename the Army camp at Fallujah, giving it an Iraqi name. "Insurgents are living among the Iraqi people, and we need their help if we have any hope of defeating the insurgency," said Blanke. "If the Iraqi people start giving us information of their whereabouts, we can precisely remove the people who are creating a problem," Blanke said.

First Lieutenant Richard T. Wilkerson, 1/5's adjutant, is philosophical about returning to Iraq. "It takes time to rebuild a nation like Iraq. You can't change a nation in weeks or months. It's gonna take years," said Wilkerson, preparing himself for what could be a very difficult and dangerous deployment. "There are elements over there who don't like us and want to kill us." Wilkerson is also well aware of the political warfare at home over the reasons why the United States went to war against Iraq, but he's turned a deaf ear to it.

"They can tell us all day long why we went, but who really knows," said Wilkerson, "but getting rid of him [Saddam] was the right thing to do."

An embedded reporter with 1/5 Marines during Iraqi Freedom, Dale B. Cooper has been a frequent contributor to SOF for many years, including coverage of Desert Storm. ✕

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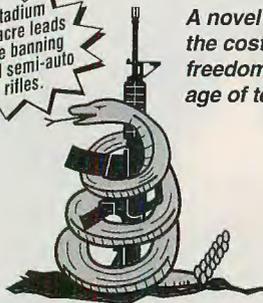
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## Navy Doctor At Work

Continued from page 34

team — or just the near impossibility of learning and using the plugger, but Temerlin had purchased and brought his own \$98 Garmin GPS to Iraq. The plugger is 1980's computer technology with an absurdly complicated menu system and the capacity for too many options. To become relatively proficient at it requires a two-week course and, because of its complexity, to remain proficient, weekly, if not daily, usage. The only advantage of the plugger over commercial GPSs is encryption. If the satellites are "turned off" (or, put into encryption mode), you might as well toss the commercial models out the window. And that's the argument that Temerlin used to hear from his peers in Iraq about his Garmin: "Yeah, and what are you gonna do if they turn the satellites off?" Now, out of gas, lost in the middle of the desert, the sun coming up and a caravan of people of camels within sight heading their way, the pilots used Temerlin's Garmin to get their grid and call in help. A Huey came first to take the living Marine to Viper, an Apache came as cover security, and the Huey made multiple trips ferrying ten-gallon jerry cans of gasoline for the Temerlin's CH-46.

Another day, Temerlin's team was called to evac seven wounded Iraqis in the Rumala oil fields. "It was surreal," he says, "flying over the burning trenches. Like Dante's Inferno. With bizarre shadows." Dash 1, the first helicopter, loaded up four patients, and Dash 2, Temerlin's, three: a gunshot boy, an elderly man shot in the chest and an Iraqi soldier with a five-round burst in the butt and back of the leg, from running away. Kuwait had a restriction against bringing any Iraqis—wounded or not—onto its soil, so the choppers made the long flight toward the hospital ship U.S.S. *Comfort* in the Gulf. Approaching the ship, the cockpit of Dash 1 filled with smoke from some ruptured hydraulic line, and the helicopter barely made it to the ship, crash landing. With the *Comfort's* deck now fouled, Dash 2 could not land and had to turn back. To their Kuwait staging base Temerlin's team flew and, against the Kuwaiti regulations, landed and cared for the three Afghans until they could eventually get them safely to the *Comfort*.

### And, The Reality Is, You Lose Some

Then there was an afternoon case-

vac during the initial stages of the battle of Baghdad. "We were flying 50 feet above the ground, faster than I had ever known a CH-46 could go," Temerlin says. "The XO was the smoothest, fastest stick I had ever flown with." The pickup was at a Light Armored Vehicle unit at the forward edge of the battle, and Temerlin's chopper landed in the middle. "A group of Marines led by a sergeant was carrying a litter towards us. The sergeant was despondent, and he told me his lieutenant had taken a round in the chest and had died just as we were landing." Temerlin checked the lieutenant, verifying his death, and the sergeant draped a U.S. flag over his lieutenant before they loaded him onto the helicopter. At the field hospital, as the corpsmen carried the litter from the chopper toward the morgue, "the rotor wash started to blow the flag off the lieutenant's face," Temerlin says. His corpsman, HM3 Saucedo, "tucked the flag in. I noticed a reporter snapping a picture of it, but didn't think anything about it." The photo wound up being a two-pager in *Newsweek*. Back home when he saw the photograph, Temerlin says, "I remember looking at it, thinking that I was trying to hide how sad I was, but not doing a very good job of it." In spite of the speed with which they had gone on that casevac, "We all wondered," Temerlin says in reflection, "if we could have gotten to the lieutenant faster and maybe saved him."

A year afterwards, and Temerlin still wonders. He has put his energies in better preparing present and future Marine casevac operations by fighting for more extensive training for deploying medical personnel and for a reorganization of the Navy's medical supply system to prevent the supply problems prevalent in Afghanistan and again in Iraq. He is working to have six FRSS units on each coast, ready for quick deployment worldwide.

It has been some 15 years since Temerlin switched from civilian emergency medicine for a career as a naval flight surgeon, and, whether it's fighting to save lives in Afghanistan and Iraq or fighting to improve and modernize the supply and training systems Stateside for future Afghans and Iraqs, for Temerlin, each day brings new challenges — never the same and never boring.

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

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## Command Guidance

Continued from page 6

him to apply force only toward those objects, and in such manner, as lawful authority has determined to be in the interest of the nation. Having instilled in the recruit the need for good order and discipline, it is the officer's responsibility to ensure that good order and discipline are maintained. When there is a breach of discipline, a good officer will take swift and effective corrective action. Clearly, no such action was taken within the 800th Military Police Brigade. To give the Army its due, a criminal investigation was opened and higher authority was alerted to the existence of problems. But the investigations are moving at a glacial pace. In war, when you have suffered a hit like this one, you must move swiftly to regain what has been lost.

Wars are not won by armies that have neither discipline nor leadership. Nor are they won by leaders who are willing to accept a short-term tactical advantage at the cost of compromising a long term strategic objective.

Second, the interrogation techniques reported to be employed in Iraq show very bad judgment, at the very least, by the top brass. They are illegal under Articles 13 and 17 of the Geneva Convention. They are also stupid. Information obtained under duress cannot be trusted. Again, this is not theory. I have lied to interrogators.

Coercion, especially coercion that involves humiliation, even if it is short of being torture, will earn the undying hatred of the victim. Again, trust me on this. Further, as in this case, the damage to our cause resulting from the publication of the photographs is severe and will take a long time to repair, if ever it can be repaired. Guerrilla war, as we learned in Vietnam, is primarily a war for the hearts and minds of those on whose behalf the guerrillas claim to fight. The use of illegal interrogation methods will not win hearts and minds, and will rarely yield reliable information. This policy was stupid. It was as stupid as taking pictures of naked prisoners.

Finally, the Army brass has shown poor judgment in allowing women to

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**A US soldier walks past Iraqi detainees standing behind razor wire at Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad 17 May 2004. Security concerns and outrage at the treatment of Iraqi prisoners at this facility west of Baghdad have piled the pressure on the U.S.-led occupiers.**

guard male prisoners, especially in the culture of the Muslim world. In the first place, Article 25 of the Geneva Convention requires separate dormitories for female prisoners, and Article 29 requires separate hygiene facilities for females. This implies that the parties to the Convention undertake to respect sexual modesty.

The question is, who is responsible? From the Chief of Staff of the Army, down to the platoon sergeant, everyone in the chain of command should be asked what policies were in place to train soldiers in the requirements of the Geneva Conventions, and what procedures were in place to assure implementation. Since implementation failed, why was this not discovered? The Abu Ghraib matter is a sign of a serious problem in the Army. The problem needs to be solved, and solved now. The officers who could not, or would not, do their duty, need to be cashiered or retired, and replaced with soldiers who want to win wars.

It is true that the culture of political correctness asks us to disregard what objective reality tells us about

the differences between the sexes. Soldiers who disregard objective reality in order to show that one adheres to an unrealistic belief system, do so at their own peril.

Three times, during the Hundred Years War, the nobility of France, when confronted by the English Army, with a heavy contingent of peasant archers, refused to accept the fact that a charge of cavalry against a hail of arrows was likely to be futile and suicidal. To accept this would have meant the acceptance of the value of the peasant as a soldier, so three times, at Crecy, 10 years later at Poitiers, and finally at Agincourt, they lost the battle in order to show that they adhered to the (false) ideal.

Our Army does the same thing. Several years ago, the Army brass pretended to believe that there would be no problem allowing male drill instructors to drill platoons of female recruits. Everyone who had ever served in any armed force in the world knew what was going to happen, but the brass protected their careers by pretending not to know it, and acting surprised when it happened. Now they are putting

female guards in with male prisoners. The brass is still operating in the pretend mode, and until the brass face objective reality, their efforts will meet the same fate as the efforts of the French nobility. They remained faithful to the ideal, but lost the battle in consequence. You cannot win hearts and minds if you allow female soldiers control over naked Muslim men.

Wars are not won by armies that have neither discipline nor leadership. Nor are they won by leaders who are willing to accept a short-term tactical advantage at the cost of compromising a long term strategic objective. And finally, they are not won by generals who willingly compromise their tactical situation in order to give the appearance of believing something that is manifestly not true. The Army has made a good start. But it must clean out, from top to bottom, the corruption that has led to this fiasco. We have a war to win.

*James H. Warner was a Marine officer in Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, in Vietnam. He was shot down over the North and held captive for five and one half years. He served as a domestic policy advisor to President Reagan. He currently does trademark and copyright law as corporate counsel in Virginia. ✉*

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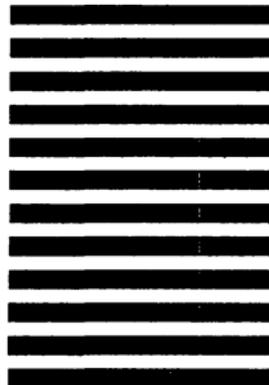
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