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SOF

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE

Support the Troops!

NOVEMBER 2004 ✂ VOL. 29 NO. 11



U.S. Army by Sgt. Jeremiah Johnson

On the Cover

A soldier from 1st Platoon, Comanche Company 1-23 Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) scopes for non-compliant forces in Mosul, Iraq on 13 May 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

AMERICA AT WAR

FAVORITE THINGS More troop response on gear that works in OIF! _____	12
GIVE US YOUR THUGS, MURDERERS, RAPISTS by Dr. Martin Brass That's not what it says on Lady Liberty's pedestal, but that's what we're getting. _____	20
U.S. BOUNTY HUNTER ON TRIAL IN AFGHANISTAN by Dr. Martin Brass After a lifetime of skating on the edge, has Keith "Jack" Idema finally slid over? _____	26
AL-QAEDA AND THE ZIMBABWE NEXUS (Courtesy Focus 34, Helen Suzman Foundation) R.W. Johnson ponders the existence of a political triad linking Osama bin Laden and Muammar Qaddafi via Robert Mugabe. _____	32
TERRORISM SITREP by Dr. Martin Brass Nukes in New York? Al Qaeda claims they have 'em. _____	36
NO BETTER FRIEND, NO WORSE ENEMY by David Gerald 22nd MEU/BLT gives tit for tat after Afghan ambush. _____	38
MIAMI'S MAD MAX MARINES IV: PANTHERS BRING HELL by Donald Schutt Vanguard, rearguard, who cares? This is all war all the time! _____	42
SILVER LINING IN IRAQ CLOUDS by F. Andy Messing Jr. There is good news, but it's no news to the mainstream media. _____	58
WICKED WEDNESDAY by Oliver North Things get hot in Ramadi, and GIs and Marines kick butt. _____	82

FEATURES

GEAR FOR DEER ... AND ELK by Col. Mike Peck, USA (Ret.) The old and the bad, test the new and the good. _____	48
ARMALITE'S NEW .300 REMINGTON SHORT MAGNUM AR-10 by Gary Paul Johnston The AR-10 is ready for long range! _____	60
OSPREY: BIRD OF PREY OR KILLER ALBATROSS? by John "Tilt" Meyer Examining if the V-22 suffers from growing pains, or a terminal illness. _____	66
SOF'S ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM PHOTO CONTEST Sharp prizes, for sharp photos – seven through ten. _____	70

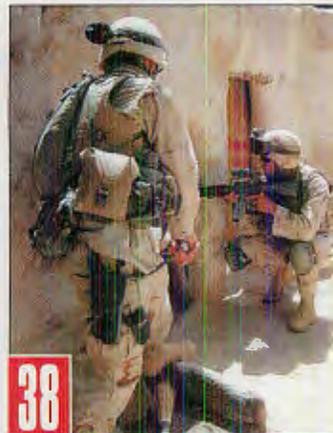
COLUMNS

COMMAND GUIDANCE What's so funny about destroying your Second Amendment rights? _____	6
FLAK Tribute to a Fallen Brother in Arms. _____	8
BULLETIN BOARD Moore is Less; and look out, Joe, dey's makin' some new rations. _____	14



26

EPA/Jim Hollander



38

David Gerald



66

U.S. Navy

ADVERTISEMENTS

Supply Depot	52
Classifieds	54
Advertisers' Index	56

Running Recon

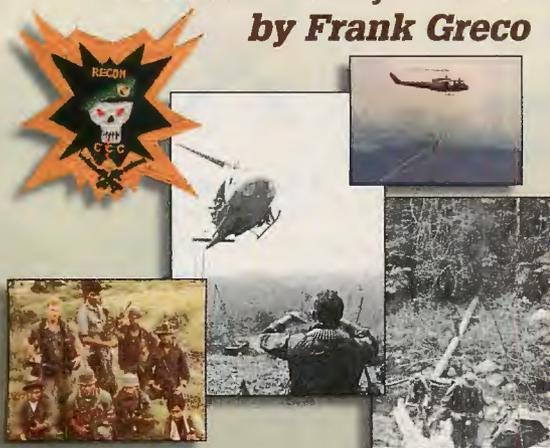
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by Frank Greco

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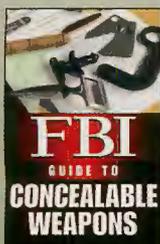


Foreword by John Plaster

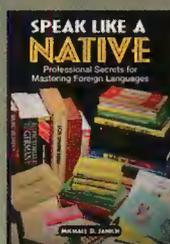


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After 9/11, the FBI produced a catalog of photos, descriptions and X-ray images of dozens of small, easily concealed knives and other potentially lethal objects. Originally distributed to airport screeners and law enforcement agencies, this information is now available to every citizen who wants to be prepared to face future terrorist attacks. In this reprint of the FBI guide you will see knives hidden in pens, keys, belt buckles, jewelry and more. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 88 pp. #FBI.G \$15.00



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by Michael D. Janich

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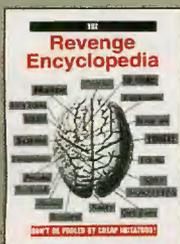
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edited by Loren W. Christensen

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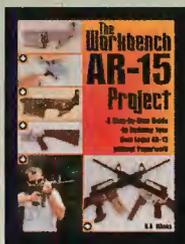
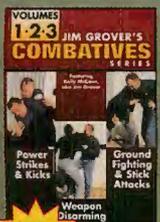
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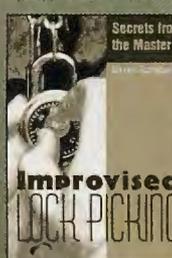
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What's So Funny About Destroying Your 2nd Amendment Rights?

AP Photo/Dennis Cook



Senators Schumer, Feinstein, Kerry and Kennedy gloating after casting anti-gun votes in the Senate on 2 March 2004.

So what did they do?

- Voted to eliminate gun shows.
- Voted to ban deer hunting rifle ammo.
- Voted to ban numerous semi-auto rifles.
- Voted to ban semi-auto shotguns.

So, who do you want to entrust your gun rights to? The above bunch, or George W.? Well, gentle readers, don't be bamboozled by the fact that Kerry pops a few sporting clays. The Democrats, after having lost the last Presidential election partially because of their strident anti-gun platform, have finally wised up and are soft peddling the gun issue in hopes of misleading large numbers of hunters and

gun owners. I'm not excited by George W., but I vote the 2nd Admendment and I'm voting against Kerry.

Furthermore, if Kerry is elected, court watchers predict that he will appoint four new justices to the Supreme Court. And you can bet the south forty that they will be liberal anti-2nd Amendment mindset. It then will be only a matter of time before the anti's bring a case to the Supreme Court which then rules that the right to keep and bear arms only applies to the National Guard, not individual citizens.

SAVE YOUR GUNS! REGISTER AND VOTE!

Special thanks to the National Shooting Sports Foundation for providing the concept of the above informational.



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To the editors of SOF,

My name is Corporal Brian Teague, and I am currently serving with Golf 2/4. I am 1st team leader 1st Sqd, 1st Plt. I have included a picture of my squad and would like to tell you about some of the good work we are doing here in Ar Ramadi Iraq. Our company gets very little credit for what we do here.

I wanted to tell you the story of a very brave Marine who gave his life not for anything as noble as his country or as corrupt as oil, but who died for his fellow Marines and the children of Iraq.

Early June 2004, our Platoon was given a mission to conduct a mounted patrol to all the schools in our AO. We stopped at three schools, handing out soccer balls and school supplies. The last school we stopped at was in the southern part of our AO. The HMMWVs were all parked on the road next to the school. From the corner in front of us, an insurgent popped around the corner with an RPG-7v and fired.

He missed the convoy and hit a group of school kids. Instead of chasing the enemy, we gave aid to the kids. We stood our ground, taking small arms fire from unknown directions. Two of the kids died almost instantly but there

were more still hurt — while our corpsmen (doc Smith and Camacho) were working on the kids another rocket was fired, this time hitting the best friend I had in my platoon, Todd Bolding. We loaded him up in the HMMWV and took him to Junction City to 1st ID's C Med.

He was very strong and didn't die until a few days later in Germany.

In this picture of my squad, Todd is the second from the reader's left, with his arm on my shoulder. The 1st Platoon, G Co, 2/4 has many more stories of true heroes. But none like that of my friend LCpl Todd Bolding. To Todd's family, I am so sorry for your loss. I truly wish it would have been me and not him.

Cpl. Brian Teague
0311/USMC

Corporal, every American who loves Liberty, and every Free Iraqi, shares your loss. Recognize that the life of the next Iraqi kid you save, is a living memorial to the sacrifices of fallen heroes like your friend Todd, and all who serve Liberty. And bear in mind that the kids comprise the only future this planet has. LCpl Todd Bolding did not die in vain.

Beyond Expectations

Dr. Martin Bass completed an SOF outstanding summation re: Our U.S. Borders. The research was beyond expectations, clear and concise. The article appears on Team America PAC, Congressman Tancredo's website. The August 2004 issue of the *American Legion* also carries a long section regarding immigration, with three retired USBP Agents, 'Nam-era Vets

that were in the USMC, USN and USA. Each of us has over 30 years service to this country and fear for her. Incoming rounds from drug smugglers are nothing new as you remember when you toured our borders many years ago. Nowadays border shootouts, assaults, to felony arrests are as bad as I've seen since 1972. Many thanks to SOF for presenting the facts. Tucson Sector Agents have arrested over 500,000 illegals since October 2003. Over 8,000 were wanted felons, from



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murderers to child predators. Many others were OTMS, illegal aliens from other nations — including Red List countries. Only one in five that cross our borders are arrested. I estimate that there are 20 to 30 million illegals in the States. Have you ever noticed that the official government figure of 9 to 12 million estimated has been the same for five years?

John Slagle (Retired) Special Agent
Anti-Smuggling Unit USBP
Three Points, AZ

Illegals

I've read with interest your series of articles on our porous borders. Don't waste your time. Our elected officials couldn't care less. I've written to all of my elected officials and all I have to show for my efforts are form e-mails and form letters thanking me for my support. (What Support?) Drop the articles and put a crossword puzzle on that page or pictures of animals. Mark my words; after the next 9/11 there will be hordes of politicians screaming about how whatever politician is in the White House didn't do his job. Then we will set up another commission to find out why it happened. Why didn't our forefathers think to allow us to vote for "Non-Of-The-Above?" An even better cure would be a two-term limit on all elected offices.

Robert Griisser

Some of our elected representatives care very much. See Above...

Catch and Release

First things first, great job on all fronts! Now I would like to know what that wanna-be Kerry would do to stop the flow of terrorists into our southwest states? My guess would be nothing, but that is one question that the liberal press would not ask. I live in N.H., so the only info we receive on this issue are the reports that the only reliable reporters give from SOF.

We recently had a group of illegals stopped in New Ipswich, NH. When the police contacted INS, they were told to release them! Can you imagine the frustrated, disbelief of most of the people in the state? The illegals said they were from South America, but how do we track where, and who they are? The police had to watch, as this group of nine walked away. Maybe more projects like ranch rescue could take up the slack! I served in the 82nd, and have many friends who would love to go stem the tide, however small the effort would seem!

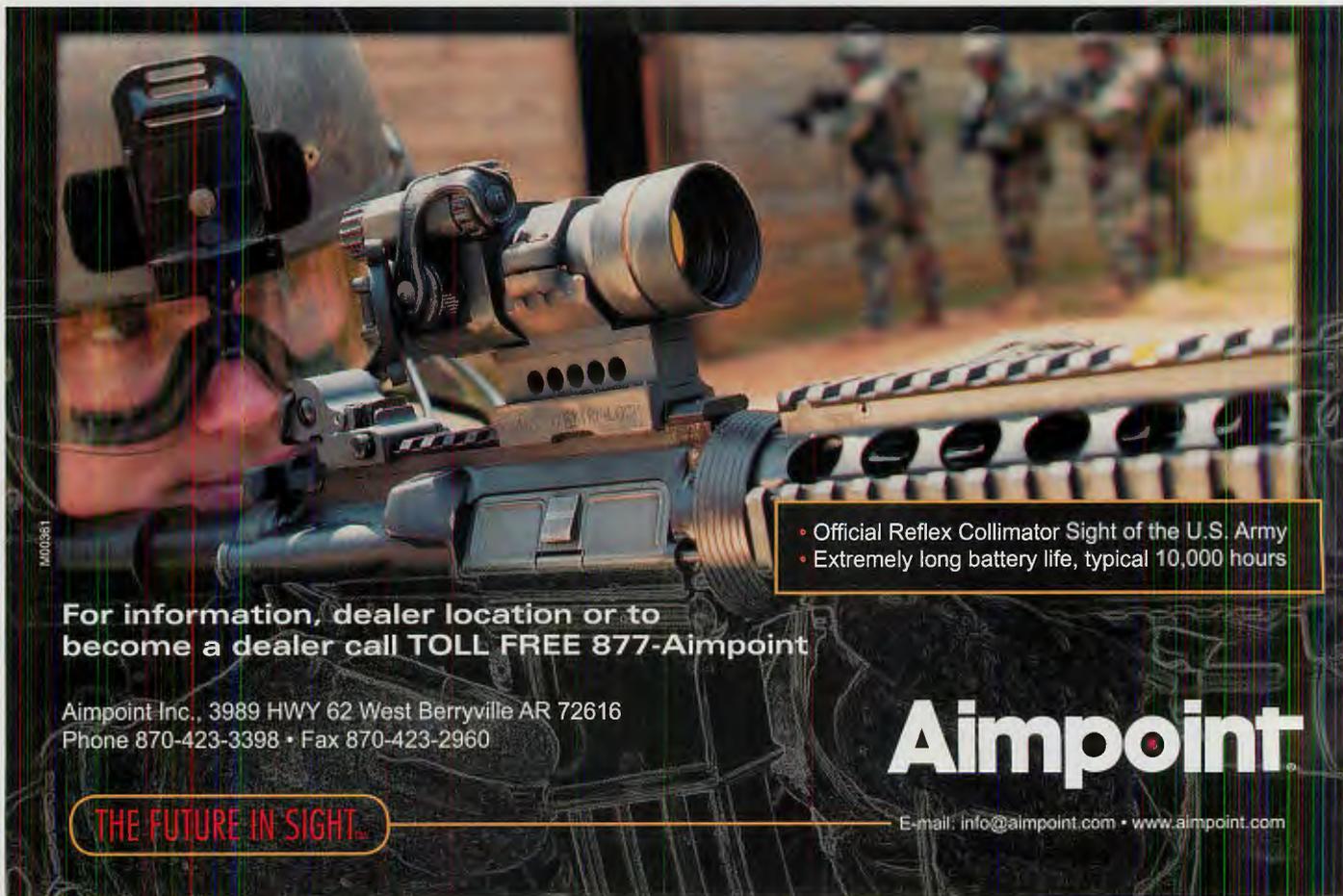
Steve Dillon

Public Service? SOF?

Just a quick thanks for providing space as a public service for KerryLied.com. I happen to be moving to the Washington, D.C. area about a week before the event, and am planning to attend. My older brother was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, and he made it back.

SOF is one of very, very few magazines I subscribe to. Part

Continued on page 81



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FAVORITE THINGS

More Troop Response on Gear That Works in OEF!

The article in the September issue by Iraq veteran SFC Dillard J. Johnson, outlining the gear his prior experience taught him that his men will need for the second time around in the sandbox, created a great deal of response from readers. Typical of the letters received are these reprinted here — including some more suggestions for solid “want of a nail” gear you might want to consider for your deployment, or consider as a gift for those you know who are deployed, or headed over.

Good Timing

Your article the “No Bull List” couldn’t have been better timed. A friend of mine in the NG had been notified he could be deployed a few months back, and now he is going, after a workup period. With a decade plus in the service, he kind of expected it, and I’m giving him my copy of this month’s *SOF* as he’ll need it more than I will.

As usual, perfect timing on your part. Keep up the good work, and keep up the articles like that!

B. Fulton
San Antonio, Tex.

Army’s Listening

Gentlemen:

Just thought I would share with you a surprising fact to both others and this old soldier deploying for Iraq. The Army has actually listened to feedback from OIF 1 troops and nearly all the items on the list in your September edition are now being issued to the troops:

- Body armor (Interceptor with SAPI plates)
- Helmet (new second generation Kevlar with the 4-point chin strap)

- Eyewear (two pair goggles, two pair sunglasses)



- Four (!!) pair boots including two labeled “enhanced hot weather” (like a tan Nylon Matterhorn/ Danner)

- Aviator gloves — free from a supplier — the mechanics gloves commercial type

- Pack (an assault pack similar though not as slick as the SpecOps)

- One Camelback for training and one for deployment

- All troops issued a Gerber multi-tool

- Modular combat sleep system

The only deficiencies so far are in: weapons cleaning gear; no issue knives (although we do

have bayonets); tactical slings (everyone jury rigging with para cord or getting a good deal on the Mamba at the PX); drop leg holsters.

So far, I am impressed with the degree the Army has gone to equip us. At least one aspect of Army life is changing for the better.

Cpt D, 256 BCT
HHC 1/69 IN
Fort Hood TX 76544

No Bull List

I’d like to compliment you on your September article “The No Bull List.” As an OIF veteran, I can personally attest to the usefulness of many of the items outlined in the article. However, I’d like to add some items I have used myself or would have loved to use, for any soldiers who are deploying to the sandbox.

- Headgear: Ultra Comfort PASGT Sweatband (Brigade Quartermaster, www.actiongear.com). This replaces the standard GI leather sweatband. It is cushioned, absorbs sweat, and is very comfortable. I can’t tell you how much I hated wearing that damned leather sweatband, after only a couple weeks, all the accumulated dirt and sweat turns the whole thing into this crusty, smelly thing that I hate to have on my forehead. Also, I tend to sweat a lot, and I kid you not when I say that my sweat literally poured down my face when wearing the Kevlar; I ended up having to wear a do-rag underneath, even though the REMFs said it was against “Uniform Regulations.” And considering the fact that I wear my Kevlar more than any other piece of headgear, I really would have loved to have had this piece of kit with me.

- Eye Protection: Wiley X Extra Clear and Smoke Green Lens (www.wileyx.com) (NSN SG-1 Clear 4240-01-504-5326, Smoke Green 4240-01-504-5312): If any of you guys are going to buy Wiley X SG-1s or similar modular goggles, I strongly advise you to buy extra sets of lenses. Wiley X Lens scratch like



crazy, I am not kidding when I say this. I went to war with just one pair of smoke greens, and within a couple weeks they were so scratched up that I could barely see through them. However, the SG-1s were one of the most critical pieces of kit that I had over there, the sun is so punishing to the eyes that I could literally not step outside without having my Wiley's on.

- **Footwear:** SOLE Custom Footbeds (www.yoursole.com) These custom insoles are ridiculously comfortable. What you do with them is stick them in an oven at 200 degrees Fahrenheit, wait two minutes, then stick them in your boots and stand there for another two minutes.

When all is said and done, you've got a pair of insoles that conform exactly to your feet. Did I mention that



these things are the most comfortable insoles I've ever used? Any grunt knows the importance of a good pair of boots, but I personally can't stand the issue insoles that come with the deserts (or the standard black boots for that matter).

- **Socks:** Thorlos Hiking Socks (www.thorlo.com) Thorlos socks are great in that they offer different levels of protection and different socks depending on the weather and what you're going to use them for. For those troops deploying to the sandbox, the "Light Hiker" Protection Level 2 Lightweight socks are great for hot weather climates.

- **Gloves:** Hatch Patrolman Gloves (www.hatch-corp.com) — Hatch makes great gloves at affordable prices, I had a pair of duty gloves that lasted me for several months, and these were gloves that I used *all* the time. The great thing with the KPG200 Patrolman gloves are that they are very dexterous, they'll give you the protection you'll need when frisking and subduing suspects while at the same time you won't have to take them off to write stuff down, operate SINGCARS, PLGRS, etc. Plus, they are very breathable and comfortable to wear in extreme heat. Hatch Shorty



Operator Gloves: These gloves are another great pair, it's a good idea to bring at least two pairs of duty gloves and one pair of work gloves (standard issue leather shells for handling C-wire, shit-burning, etc.). A note to soldiers: Concertina wire really messes up gloves, don't use your duty gloves if you plan on laying a lot of C-wire.

- **Packs:** Kelty MAP3500 (www.amronintd.com) This is great 3-day assault pack with a lot of space, 3500 cubic inches. I've shopped around for assault packs, and for the most part, they're all in the 2000 cubic inch range, this one is basically



the same price at \$129.99 but with more space, a great suspension system, and a lot of little convenient features such as admin pockets, a soft pocket for sunglasses, attachment points for a sleeping bag, etc. However, it is *not* MOLLE compatible.

- **Knee Protection:** Clip-On Knee Pads (www.actiongear.com) — I can't believe nobody actually thought of these things until now. The biggest problem with wearing knee pads is that they really constrict on your legs after wearing them for long periods of time, plus, they cut off the airflow, which is very noticeable in extreme heat. Plus, after a while, they tend to fall down on your legs (ever notice all those pictures of soldiers with knee pads at their ankles)? These clip-on knee pads solve both problems. They are offered in black and tan and if you're one of those troops who duck, dive, and jump from high places as part of your every-day patrol, then I would highly recommend these.

Well, that's all that I can think of right now. Most of my suggestions are very easy to add to your current gear and they really don't take up much space. While you might think that some of these things are pricey, well, all I can say is that it's your life we're talking about, you don't want to be fumbling with your crap on a patrol trying to adjust your knee-pads or playing with your Kevlar while Mr. Haji is 10 feet away with a clear sight picture. God bless you all, watch your back, watch your buddy's back, and come home safe and in one piece!

SGT Alonso
USAR, MP ✕

BULLETIN BOARD

Waste Not, Want Not (Or, Want Not Waste)

In a program that seems to us to be treading dangerously close to the point of a diminishing returns, the Combat Feeding Directorate, of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., has come up with a plan to ensure troops need never go hungry — with dried food that can be re-hydrated using dirty water or urine. The concept must work fine, as we're not hungry any more, just thinking about it. The meal — chicken and rice in case you actually care — comes in a pouch that filters out 99.9% of bacteria and “most toxic chemicals.”

“Most”?

We need to talk.

This development comes hot on the heels of their success in developing, the “indestructible sandwich,” which can stay fresh for three years.

The idea is to reduce the amount of water soldiers need to carry. The chow comes in a bag with a built-in filter developed by Hydration Technology, Inc. of Albany, Ore., who advise that because the filter — which stops 0.5 nanometer particles or solutes — will not filter out urea (which could be hard on the kidneys), urine should only be used as a last resort. Now, there's some unnecessary advice.

The dehydrated pouches are supposed to reduce the current weight of 3.5kg for a day's food supply of three meals, to 0.4kg. Plus, you don't have to carry any extra salt.

What's next, colostomy bags by CamelBak and HydraStorm?

An Army of One (Two, Three)

ETS-ing sailors and airmen are being actively courted by Army recruiters — a logical move since scheduled cutbacks in the Navy and Air Force will be freeing a pool of talent the Army could well use due to ongoing commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Airmen and sailors, as a rule with fewer than eight years of service who are due for honorable discharges, would be allowed to switch services and remain at the same rank, after taking a modified four-week Army basic course. Additional training depends on how similar the new MOS is to their former Navy or Air Force specialty. It would be a standard three-year Army hitch.

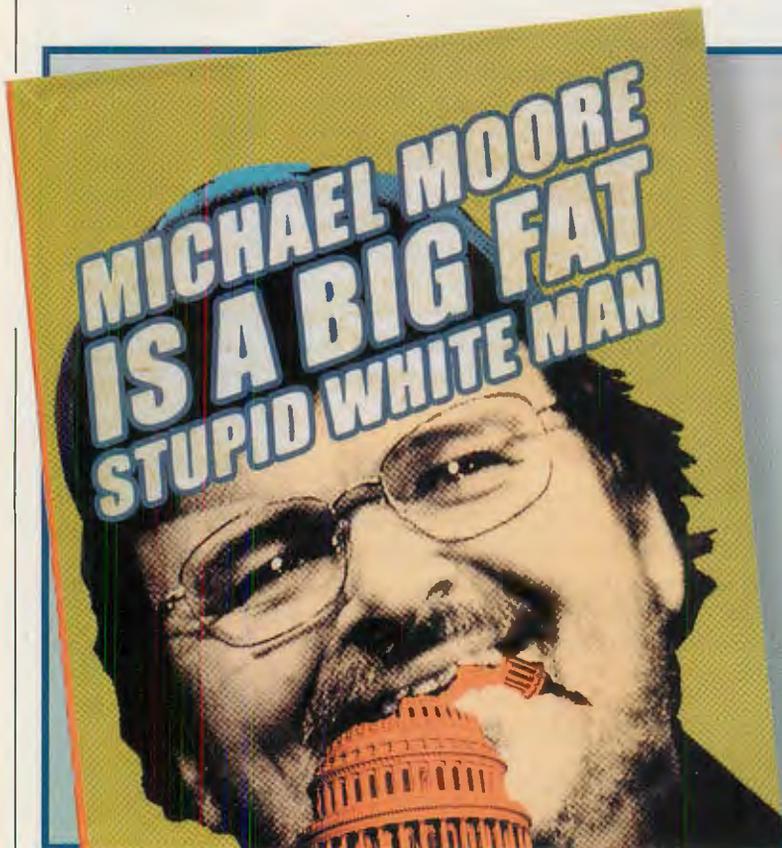
The Navy and Air Force are cooperating with the program, the USAF issuing personnel notices to advertise the new program. A Navy spokesman noted, “The Navy believes this offers a unique opportunity for a departing sailor or officer to continue to serve for his country.” More than three thousand sailors who have left in the past year or are leaving in this year would probably be eligible for the program

Adopt A Troop!

One of the best private programs to benefit troops overseas has been Operation Air Conditioner, spearheaded by Ms. Frankie Mayo. They have been doing a whale of a job sending supplies and comfort items to troops in the Great

On Examination, Moore is Less

There is a reason that Michael Moore is a Big Fat Stupid White Man by David T. Hardy and Jason Clarke has been the top title on Amazon.com for weeks running: 'Mericans just love to see a stuffed shirt deflated, and in exposing this era's most successful loser, the authors have done a truly masterful, yet concise, job. When 19th Century muckrakers emphasized the scandalous to sensationalize their product, it led to the term "yellow journalism." If many more like Moore come down the pike who bend, shade, shave or ignore the truth to fit a pre-determined thesis, the lexicon may soon be blessed by the term "brown journalism," but the authors here have gone a long way toward heading off such a trend, with a point-by-point and totally unsympathetic examination of Moore's bogus proletarian background and his various masterworks — distorted fact by skewed observation, unreal hypothesis by blind-sided conclusion. Don't miss this one! Available at Amazon.com, and bookstores everywhere.





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BULLETIN BOARD

Note: Maintenance at The Wall

Lighting upgrades at the Wall are requiring closures, and the West Wall Panels will be closed to the public from approximately 21 August - 10 November 2004. If it is too late to change travel plans, they offer you two options for acquiring rubbings: The first is to download a virtual rubbing from the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund's website, www.VVME.org. The second option is to fill out a rubbing request form — available at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Kiosk — and the rubbing will be made and sent to you free of charge within 2-3 months after the panels become accessible. If you keep the website on file you can stay apprised of current programs and events that take place at The Wall throughout the year, and other news of interest to the Veteran community. (Courtesy Betty Henry, Volunteer, NPS)

Discounting Safety?

On the heels of the expressed discomfort many Sky Marshals have over dress code policies that make them stand out in a crowd of dressed-down passengers, comes a flap over having to identify themselves to get the appropriate lodging discounts when they lay over.

Under new policies, Sky Marshals are supposed to stay at

Continued on page 80

pulled from the Internet



Sandbox. But, they are presently short on Americans to sponsor a GI during their deployment. Why don't you adopt a GI? We guarantee you'll be glad you did.

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LETHAL STRIKES Revealed!

How To KILL Instantly With Your Bare Hands!

Combat Vet Speaks Out and Exposes the Uncensored, No Holds Barred Truth about the "Lethal Strikes" video, and the Combat Masters Group!

By Jason Marks

Dear Friend,

Picture this: you are attacked by three thugs in a parking lot....

Some Prison Hardcases Decided You're Going To Be Their Wife For The Hour (these are the kind of hardcore career criminals that gang-rape grown men)

At that point, you won't have time to "think about it," or do fancy spinning high kicks that look great in tournaments and movies.

So what can you do:

- 1) Use watered-down, soccer-mom dojo Self-Defense techniques?
- 2) Flail, kick, scream and piss your pants as you get brutally destroyed (if you don't die of panic first)?, or
- 3) Unleash a Rapid-Fire Barrage of Larynx-Crushing, Heart-Stopping Lethal Strikes?

Do you know what happens to 99.8% of the people faced with a situation like this?...

They Completely Freeze!

Like a Deer Caught in the Headlights! And they end up getting carried off on a Stretcher...or worse, in a Body Bag!

Criminals, perverts and terrorists use brutal injury and damage as a "psychological jerk-off" - they get an emotional high by invoking fear and harming innocent people.

It's disgusting, but that's how the real world is. Anyone who says otherwise is in "denial." It's statistically proven that **YOU WILL BE ATTACKED.**

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

In fact, when those street thugs attack innocent people by invoking terror and extreme violence, I consider it a basic privilege and a right to play

"Judge, Jury and - EXECUTIONER!"

It's Shocking to even think about having to kill a man with your bare hands, right? But LET'S GET REAL: When "Self-Defense" becomes "Do or Die" you need to know **How To Kill INSTANTLY** - without breaking a sweat. Would you like to have those skills, so ingrained, that they switch on automatically when you need them most? If so,

This is going to be the Most Important Thing You Ever Read:

"You guys run ads in all the magazines promising all sorts of amazing benefits you get from Andrew Scott's "Lethal Strikes" video, including "Five One-Shot Maneuvers to Destroy His Lungs," "Three Lethal Ways to End a Ground Fight - Instantly," and my personal favorite "The Suicide Gun Reversal - He Pulled the Trigger and Now He's Dead!" and on and on. Every time I read that ad I thought "who could be dumb enough fall for that hype?"

After seeing the outrageous advertisement a couple of times, I decided to see what all the hype was about. I figured there's a money-back guarantee - so it's a no-lose deal.

Well, what is on the video Scared me and Excited me all at the same time.

I have watched Andrew's Lethal Strikes Video, read the manuals and listened to his audio cassette in the latest package for the 3rd time and I can't NOT learn some life-saving tactics and TRUE Death-Blow tips each time I go through it.

This is a must for anyone who is serious about saving their life in those hairy situations we all get into at some point in our lives. I can honestly

say that this isn't a bunch of fluff or fancy moves to impress your opponent in hopes of scaring them off.

NO! This is a no-frills, get in your face, just watch, listen and learn, heap-high content system!

I'm totally jazzed that there is something like this available to the common guy. **This is usually 'BEHIND CLOSED DOORS' Kill-Shot maneuvers that you would have to pay dearly for, or be a member of some covert government agency to learn.**

You have made this available at such an affordable price that even the most budget-conscious person would feel like a moron for not jumping at the chance to get this life-saving package that will be a mainstay in their library for years to come!

Thanks also for adding that spark of home spun humor throughout the series as this made it a pleasure to learn what I needed to know to be totally confident in any situation I find myself in especially when my life is at stake. Stay Terrific,

Wayne Pickering N.D, Sc.M. 5 Medals Awarded Combat Vet - S. Vietnam, Cambodia, Santo Domingo Crisis. Author, Speaker, Award-Winning Tri-Athlete, Double Nominee for the Healthy American Fitness Award

PS I mean every word I said about your tactics. I am so glad I studied your video. I only wish I had something like this sooner in my life. I coined a phrase at one time and I feel it's apropos right about now, 'Things just don't happen, they happen justly!' This is a good time for me to know these life-saving skills."

After you absorb this NEW Video, I'm sure you'll agree with Wayne - **It'll be the most valuable video you ever own! Period.**

And, I can prove it to you! Just look at *some of what you'll learn:*

- How to Fire a Rapid Barrage of Death Blows, Before He Knows What Hit Him!
 - How to Quickly Diminish the Enemy, Cause Massive Debilitating Pain, then Deliver the Kill Shot!
 - Lull Him Into A False Sense Of Security With the "Deception Stride" Then Crush His Larynx In One Shot!
 - 3 Opponent-Diminishing Gap Closers
 - Silent Stalking - How To Take Out A Terrorist, Guard Or Sentry Before He Can Make A Peep
 - How To Turn Your Pain Into A Weapon
 - Three Lethal Ways To End A Ground Fight - Instantly (Not For The Squeamish)
 - Get Out From The Mount - 4 Ways That End in Death
 - How To Empty-Handedly Terrorize Multiple Attackers
 - Take His Knife - Then Slice Him To Ribbons!
 - 5 one-shot maneuvers to Destroy His Lungs!
- Listen! **The difference is that this video shows you How!** And,

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"As a Veteran Military Police Officer, I've been in just about every kind of violent encounter you can imagine...I know this stuff would work!"

Mark Underwood, Dallas, TX

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Bonus #2: The "MENTAL WARFARE SECRETS" Book (\$120)

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"GIVE US YOUR THINGS,

That's Not What It Says On Lady Liberty's Pedestal, But That's What We're Getting

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

The preceding three parts of this series described the mess that is our immigration policy. Terrorists cross our borders. Illegal immigrants die during their hazardous journeys. Human smuggling has become a billion dollar business. Organized crime, corrupt officials and profiteers fatten on human misery.

What impact has this out of control illegal immigration invasion had in the United States?

OUR borders have become a porous membrane for criminal activity.

Last October, at mid-day, "Traffic ground to a halt on Interstate 10, the highway that runs south from Phoenix. Rival gangs of 'coyotes,' the criminals who smuggle illegal immigrants over the Mexican border, had started shooting at one another through the open windows of their trucks. The trucks were packed with people. Five died, three were wounded and twenty-seven others were detained," Anne Applebaum reports in the *Dodge Globe*.

This chaos and crime goes inland from the border.

"Hundreds of thousands of people are being moved globally by highly organized criminal enterprises, operating on all continents," says Robert Perito, director of the State Department's Office of International Criminal Justice.

"Their primary target is the United States." The *Star-Ledger* reports: "Global criminal organizations are assaulting the United States, pumping tens of thousand of aliens a year across American borders and sustaining them in drug trafficking, prostitution, fraud and other lucrative crimes. Their activities are draining billions of dollars from the U.S. economy, spreading crime, corruption, addiction, and disease through American communities, and provoking a divisive backlash against legitimate immigrants."

The United States is indeed being assaulted.

Remember the notorious case of the murderous sniper Lee Malvo, the Jamaican who terrorized Virginia? He was ordered deported before his killing spree, but officials set him loose,



via Newsphoto.com/Alan Woodridge

MURDERERS, RAPISTS...



because of a sloppy immigration policy. Fourteen innocent victims lost their lives and their families devastated.

Another Murderous Thug

Another murderous thug, Adrian Camacho, with four previous felony convictions was deported. He crept back into the United States. When Oceanside CA police officer, and former Navy seaman, Tony Zeppetella stopped him for a traffic violation the illegal alien gunned the officer down, killing him. Saul Morales-Garcia, alias Javier Duarte Chavez, previously deported, reentered the United States illegally and ruthlessly shot Las Vegas police officer and former Marine Enrique Hernandez six times.

Each of the two murdered police officers left a wife and infant child. How many policemen will die because of our government's failure to stop illegal entry into the United States, Phyllis Schlafly asks?

Many more, unfortunately. An illegal alien murdered L.A. police officer David Marsh in 2003, then ran back to Mexico. For all anyone knows, he could be back here.

“Global criminal organizations are assaulting the United States, pumping tens of thousand of aliens a year across American borders and sustaining them in drug trafficking, prostitution, fraud and other lucrative crimes.”

Kris Eggle, National Parks Ranger, only 28 years old, was assassinated by Mexican drug dealers in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. He had responded after four had been killed in a shooting spree.

The illegal who is being held for the murder of deputy Saul Gallegos in Chelan WA, had been “voluntarily removed” from the United States three times, but he came back. Eight illegal aliens raped eight women in Boulder Colorado and fled to Mexico. A Central Park female jogger was raped and killed by illegals. *Washington Dispatch*

Enrique Sosa Alvarez, alias David Montiel Cruz, was arrested in San Jose and charged with dragging a nine-year-old girl from her home and raping her repeatedly for three days before releasing her. Illegal alien Walter Alexander Sorto was repeatedly picked up for motor vehicle violations, but Houston police were barred from reporting his illegal status to federal authorities. He and a companion abducted, raped and killed three Houston women.

Maximiliano Esparza, was under deportation orders after serving time in a California prison. Rather than deporting him, officials had him sign an I-210, a “catch-and-release” document, a promise by the illegal to leave the United States. The document is a joke. He killed a Bellevue WA nun.

The brutal gang rape of a Queens NY woman by four gangsters was widely publicized and temporarily created a lot of outrage.

Three of her rapists, illegal aliens, had long rap sheets from previous arrests for assault, attempted robbery, possession of firearms, and drug offenses.

Crimes committed by illegal aliens continue in a vicious cycle.

Four illegal Mexican aliens using fraudulent I.D. cards and suspected of felony crimes walked free from White County Sheriff's offices in Arkansas.

Our Hands Are Tied

"I had to hand this guy his car keys and allow him to walk out the door," Detective Randy Rudisill said. "He is not even supposed to be in this country, and he admitted he was here illegally, but we can't do a thing about it. Our hands are tied."

The Daily Citizen

Immigration officials explained that U.S. government officials cannot just automatically expel illegals. The four were arrested by Sheriff's detectives on misdemeanor offenses, and later found to be in possession of suspected fraudulent identification documents. They walked.

"We can't even talk about it," a frustrated LAPD captain told Heather MacDonald, writing for the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). "People are afraid of a backlash from Hispanics"

"I would get a firestorm of criticism if I talked about enforcing the immigration law against illegals." The captain asked not to be quoted by name.

Police officers don't report many such arrests to the INS. Police in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and seventeen other cities are hampered by "sanctuary policies,"

Jack Dunphy, L.A. police officer, writes about his frustration.

"Locally enacted sanctuary laws prohibit police officers from inquiring into a person's immigration status except in extraordinary circumstances. In Los Angeles, this prohibition goes to the extreme of protecting even those who have already been deported after being convicted of a felony and serving time in a California prison.

"Thus, as I have experienced, if a police officer is driving down the street and spots a man whom he has arrested in the past, and who he knows has been sent to prison and then deported, he is constrained from making an arrest or even a detention, this despite the fact that re-entry into the United States under such circumstances is a federal felony.

"On those occasions when I have arrested previously deported aliens for misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies (drug dealing, for instance), immigration officials have told me they would not pursue federal charges unless the underlying local charge was more serious."

When police agencies do contact immigration authorities about illegal aliens, they rarely get a response. "Our thinking is: these guys should be removed ASAP," says a probation supervisor. "Should the taxpayer be paying to monitor, investigate, and provide services for individuals who are not citizens, and should not be here at all? You send the paperwork over to the INS, and you never hear back," a federal probation officer told MacDonald.

Sanctuary Cities

"These policies, although declared illegal, promise foreign nationals who have broken our laws that the municipality in which they live will help them in their lawbreaking by resisting efforts to report them to the proper authorities," Jerry Seper of the *Washington Times*, who has researched illegal immigration extensively, cites the Friends of Immigration Law Enforcement (FILE). FILE is initiating lawsuits against municipalities with sanctuary ordinances.

Thirty-five thousand criminal aliens were released in 2000, according to official figures, cited in the *Schlafly Report*. In 2001, 87 percent of deportable aliens with "run letters" disappeared.

Official government sources show that in 2002, 375,000 known illegal aliens were ordered deported, but have disappeared pending immigration hearings.

Eighty thousand of these "absconders" are convicted felons, including murderers, rapists, drug dealers and child molesters who served prison time and were released.

"Even when the ICE successfully nabs and deports criminal aliens, the reality is that 'They

all come back. They can't make it

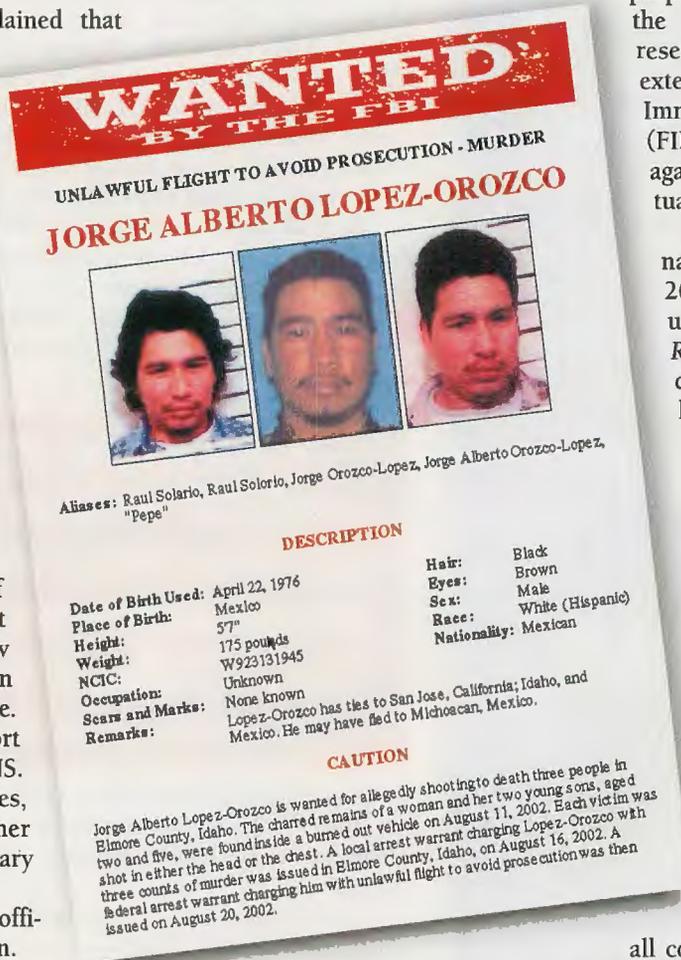
in Mexico." A federal gang prosecutor told MacDonald.

"In Los Angeles, 95 percent of all outstanding warrants for homicide (12-15,000) target illegal aliens. Up to two-thirds of all fugitive felony warrants (17,000) are for illegal aliens."

Matricula Consular I.D.s, cards issued by Mexican Consulates in the United States to give Mexican aliens a show of legitimacy, allow illegals to easily change identities.

Arizona State Rep. Russell Pearce (R-D18, Mesa) said, "Eighty percent of the violent crimes in Mesa are done by illegal aliens. If we have learned nothing since 9/11, it's that we are at risk. We are in serious trouble, and it's time we recognized that. There is only one reason to issue Matricula Consular cards, and it's to break the law. It violates Arizona law, and it's unconstitutional."

A California Department of Justice study reported in 1995 that sixty percent of the bloody 18th Street Gang in California is illegal (estimates from 20,000-30,000 members



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in fourteen states are grossly understated)...the gang collaborates with the Mexican Mafia, the dominant force in California prisons, on complicated drug distribution schemes, extortion, and drive-by assassinations.

Another murderous racketeering drug band, the Columbian Li'L Cyros gang, was about sixty percent illegal in 2002, according to the CIS report. Frank "Pancho Villa" Martinez, illegal alien Mexican Mafioso, controlled the gang from prison.

He is one of nearly thirty percent of federal prisoners who is foreign born.

A Jamaican organization consisting of roughly twenty gangs of illegal aliens operates in at least fifteen cities. The gang members traffic in humans, firearms and drugs, between Florida and Jamaica. The gangs were the fastest growing, and most violent, of the criminal groups operating in the United States. Between four and five hundred homicides in the United States in the past two years are attributed to these "posses." The Jamaican Posse developed marketing techniques for crack, controlling about forty percent of it in the U.S. They kidnap, murder, rob, and steal vehicles. There are forty known posses operating throughout the U.S., with a total of 22,000 hardcore members. faculty.ncwc.edu

Illegal Economy

Powerful Asian crime gangs control the international multi-billion dollar economies from heroin trafficking, gambling, extortion, money laundering and alien smuggling between Asia and the West. (usinfo.state.gov) A hundred thousand Chinese aliens are smuggled into the United States each year, according to official government figures.

Chinese gangs most active in the United States are the Sun Yee On, operating in New York City, Miami, San Francisco and L.A., the 14K, in most prominent cities, the United Bamboo Gang, and the Fuk Ching Gang, based in New York City's Chinatown.

Three convicted Mexican child molesters, who had been deported, were caught in Tucson, Ariz., trying to sneak back into the United States. Of 9,559 arrests by Border Patrol agents, 143 were sex offenders.

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted "Operation Predator," in a hunt for child molesters. One half of 3,200 suspected child molesters arrested in the last year were illegal aliens.

Patrick Buchanan, outraged by these figures, warns of sexual predators invading the U.S., "When the open-borders lobby celebrates the societal benefits of unrestricted immi-

gration, it should be made to look at the other side of the ledger, the horrors perpetrated by criminal aliens and the heartaches visited upon the families of their victims."

Federation for American Immigration Reforms Immigration (FAIR) reports that illegal immigration has ushered a new "slave trade" into the United States. Organized crime and free lancers lure immigrants under false pretenses, then force them into various kinds of slavery by violence and intimidation. Immigrant slavery thrives in urban environments like New York, Washington, and Los Angeles, and in more suburban or rural areas, such as Michigan, Maryland, and Arkansas. According to the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University, there are an estimated one million illegal aliens trapped in the U.S. in slave-like conditions.

Vicious Cycle

The vicious cycle begins in Mexico. Drugs, prostitutes and money are used to entice truck drivers into hauling human cargo in their 18-wheelers. *Eagle Forum*

Areas with lots of new immigrants become havens for forced prostitution. Slave traders and pimps transport victimized women throughout the United States, mainly to large cities. CIA official figures state that up to 50,000 women and children have been trafficked as prostitutes into the United States from Asia, Europe, Latin America, India, and Africa.

There's no telling what unofficial figures are.

Approximately fifty percent of the victims lured into prostitution and pornography, according to the *Panama News*, are children.

Illegal immigration has become the principle vehicle for drug smuggling. Immigrants bring the majority of methamphetamines smuggled into the United States from Mexico.

Take 1999, for example.

Thirty-nine percent of deportations made were for criminal or narcotic violations. INS seized 1.1 billion dollars worth of marijuana, 22 million in heroin, 1.3 billion in cocaine, and 37 million dollars worth of other dangerous drugs.

Figures for 2003 were much higher.

More than 2.2 million pounds of illicit drugs worth 11 billion dollars were seized last in 2003 by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, who also confiscated 52 million dollars in cash at the nation's seaports and land borders, CBP Commissioner Robert C. Bonner told Seper.

Continued on page 74

WANTED
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UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - MURDER,
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THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME

MAHBOOB M. PASHA




Aliases: Mahboob Pasha, Pasha Mahboob

DESCRIPTION			
Dates of Birth Used:	May 21, 1966; May 12, 1966	Hair:	Black
Place of Birth:	Pakistan	Eyes:	Brown
Height:	5'8"	Sex:	Male
Weight:	122 pounds	Race:	White (Central Asian)
NCIC:	W085321015	Nationality:	Pakistani
Occupation:	Convenience Store Clerk		
Scars and Marks:	None known		
Remarks:	Pasha has ties to Brooklyn, New York and Pakistan. He may be in need of medical treatment.		

CAUTION

Mahboob M. Pasha is wanted for his alleged involvement in the shooting death of a man in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1994. While Pasha was working in a convenience store, he allegedly attempted to lock a shoplifter in the store until the police arrived. However, when the shoplifter became verbally belligerent, Pasha allegedly shot him with a handgun and he died a few days later. Shortly thereafter, while being interviewed by the Atlanta Police, Pasha was told that he was being charged with murder. Upon hearing this news, Pasha excused himself to use the restroom and was not seen again.

In late 2000, Pasha was arrested in Brooklyn, New York, and was returned to the state of Georgia. He was then diagnosed with medical problems and the charges against him were dismissed. In October of 2003, information was received that Pasha's medical condition had been misdiagnosed, and the District Attorney's Office decided to reindict him for murder, aggravated assault, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. On January 14, 2004, a federal arrest warrant was issued in the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, charging Pasha with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

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U.S. Bounty Hunter On Trial In Afghanistan

*After A Lifetime of Skating On The Edge,
Has Keith "Jack" Idema Finally Slid Over?*

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

The bad lands of Afghanistan have become a magnet for adventure-seeking "soldiers of fortune", private contractors, self-proclaimed counter-terrorism experts, and/or security guards.

Bounty hunters and fortune seekers, fed up with low-paying, boring grunt work, arm themselves, preparing for a wild chase with high financial rewards. Some hope to capture the ultimate prize — Osama bin Laden — for the \$25 million bounty, placed on his head by the United States.

This new breed of non-uniformed warrior has replaced men in uniform, in roles traditionally reserved for the military.

"You'd see them speeding around in SUVs with tinted windows, sipping tea with Afghan warlords and commanders, barrel-chested men in their thirties and forties with short-cropped hair and accents from the South and Midwest. Ask them who they were, or what they were up to, and you'd get

a broad, insolent grin.

"Just visiting," one such goon replied. 'Didn't you hear? Afghanistan's open for tourism!' He carried enough guns and ammo to take out a large Colorado high school," Ted Rall, noted syndicated columnist and cartoonist, reported while covering the Afghan war in 2001.

"Burly men with guns ran the war — roughly a hundred six-man Special Forces commando units, authorized to wear local garb, with "relaxed grooming standards", and otherwise apply "unconventional warfare" worked alongside a new CIA "Special Activities Division" composed of about 150 retired

American Jonathan Idema, 48, (left) who called himself "Jack" in this file photograph from 5 March 2002 when he provided armed protection for journalists traveling from Kabul to the town on Gardez.



EPAJIM HOLLANDER

fighters, pilots and specialists. These operatives "spearheaded the U.S. war against the Taliban, coordinating air strikes, bribing Northern Alliance warlords," Rall said.

"They favor desert boots, camouflage pants, wraparound sunglasses and short haircuts. They drive Toyota Land Cruisers and do their evening drinking at the seedy Mustafa Hotel. If you're blond or a Westerner and you're wearing black sunglasses, carrying a pistol in a leg holster and driving a car without a license plate, nobody would ever question who you are," Qais Asimy, Kabul businessman, told *Knight Ridder*. "People just assume you're CIA or Special Forces or someone dangerous. People stay away from you."

Afghanistan, largely put on the back burner by the press and U.S. public since the Iraqi invasion, has seen a recent resurgence and intensification of violence. More than twenty-five U.S. troops have died this year already, compared to twelve in 2003. Attacks against aid workers and other foreigners have also escalated. At least sixteen aid workers and independent contractors have been killed this year. U.S. troops have nearly doubled to 18,000, and NATO forces are to be increased from 6,500 to 10,000. The Taliban, having had time to regroup, has intensified its attacks, terrorizing rural regions as well as urban areas.

As the action gets even wilder, more security guards and private operatives are needed to provide protection.

Rogue's Dream

The war offers to fulfill many a rogue's dream — a starring role in a real life drama, fraught with danger and possible riches — that requires no audition. What captures the imagination is the chance to fight terrorism with your bare hands, or even better, with lots of weapons you don't have to register.

Private security guards, most with military experience,

"can be seen in dark glasses and camouflage gear, sub-machine guns slung over their shoulders as they ride through the city," Duncan Campbell and Kitty Logan of the *Guardian* report from Kabul.

Among the many adventurers drawn to Afghanistan was former Green Beret Jonathan Keith Idema.

We first met Idema in Fayetteville NC, after he had come back from Afghanistan in 2001. He fit the part perfectly — handsome, rugged, flamboyant, and driven. He showed us dozens of photos while he relayed his riveting tale of combat with the Northern Alliance, against the Taliban. He explained that he had found some revealing tapes of Al-Queda terrorist training techniques, portions of which were later aired on CBS's 60 Minutes II, and continues to be run every time a news broadcast needs shots of Al-Queda in training.

Idema's wife, Viktoria Running Wolf, states that he has donated all monies from broadcast of these tapes to Afghan relief projects.

The video showed al-Qaeda terrorists training to storm a school, shoot children and take hostages. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks was the instructor.

"Idema had 'JOINED the Northern Alliance! He bonded with their fighters and marched with them following the American invasion, from their once-beleaguered base in the north, down though the capital, Kabul, and clear on down to Kandahar," says Barry Farber, an Idema supporter and radio talk show host in *Newsmax*. Before his return to Afghanistan, Idema appeared as a frequent guest.

Idema allegedly threatened to punch out the flashy, publicity-starved, often-obnoxious Geraldo Rivera, Fox News roving reporter. Idema claimed he had "messed up the operations of the Northern Alliance by irresponsible reporting,"

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DEALERS WANTED



AFP PHOTO/ SHAH Marai

U.S. citizens Jonathan Idema (second from right), Edward Taradallo (left) and Derent Dennett (right) stand in the dock of a courthouse in Kabul, 21 July 2004, as they face trial for running an unlicensed jail in Afghanistan as part of a private "war on terror". Former U.S. Green Beret Idema, was a bounty hunter who had formerly fought with Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan and may have been hunting senior Al-Qaeda leaders in hopes of claiming the substantial rewards on offer.

according to the *Guardian*."

Robin Moore, author of *The Green Berets*, intrigued by Idema's tales, wrote the saga of the *Task Force Dagger: The Hunt for bin Laden*. This best-selling non-fiction featured Idema as the star in the hunt.

Idema, restless to return to the action, recently showed up again in Afghanistan. He has "been in touch and working with U.S. officials. He corresponds with them and has served as an adviser to Afghan forces through "ongoing contacts with the (Afghan President Hamid) Karzai government," his defense attorney, John Tiffany of Bloomfield, N.J., said

Rescue Afghanistan

"He's been working with their full knowledge and cooperation" Tiffany said.

Idema wanted to "rescue Afghanistan," Ted Kavanau, former CNN news executive, who was preparing for a journalistic mission to Afghanistan.

On 5 July, after three months back on the ground, Idema's high-profile anti-terrorism adventure came to a grinding halt.

Afghan security forces, and agents of the new National Security Directorate Intelligence Agency, raided the building that Idema rented in the suburb of Kart-I-Parwen, on the outskirts of Kabul, arresting him and two other Americans, Edward Caraballo and Brett Bennett.

Caraballo, a free-lance investigative journalist, was collecting footage to complete a video documentary on Idema, according to Caraballo's brother, Richard. Ed Caraballo is a four-time Emmy award-winning journalist who planned to create a PBS-style documentary that would feature Idema, says Richard Caraballo. Caraballo had no military expertise.

Caraballo's family had been cut off from direct contact with him at the time I contacted his brother, a week after the trial.

"Those of us who rely on the courage of freelance journalists to be our eyes and ears in the world's trouble spots will do well to monitor — and speak out — to influence a just outcome," pled a very concerned Richard Caraballo.

Bennett was reported by the Fayetteville *Observer* to have been a soldier in the 82d Airborne Division, a friend of

Idema's who asked to come along.

Four Afghan suspected accomplices, two interpreters, a cleaner and a guard, were reportedly arrested with the three Americans.

A piece of paper was found on the wall, after the arrests with a "Missions to Complete" list. Item No. 2 was "Karzai". Item No. 4 was "pick up laundry."

The news hit the global presses immediately.

"A former Poughkeepsie man is being held by Afghan authorities for allegedly operating as a mercenary, "arresting" eight Afghans and imprisoning them in a Kabul home where he allegedly had them hanging by their feet. Jonathan Keith Idema, 48, is being held along with two other American men by Afghan security officials after they were arrested and detained Monday in the Kabul home where they allegedly kept their prisoners, said Brenda Greenberg, a State Department spokeswoman", the *Poughkeepsie Journal* reports."

The arrests came after international peacekeepers contacted the U.S. military about their own suspicion of Idema's group.

A mysterious article, written by an unidentified journalist, appeared in the Afghan press and set the stage for the events just previous to the raid:

"Driving beat up old SUVs, wearing low-slung holsters like Clint Eastwood, long hair, beards, and Afghan scarves, the Green Berets operated the way they did on the 2001-2002 war, with no rules, no oversight, and no plan... They seem to appear and disappear at will... A 'super-secret group' of 'renegade Green Berets' had decided to break up a major terrorist plot in Kabul without United States support and without government funds. The former commandos, frustrated by U.S. government inaction, had called themselves Task Force Saber and had arrested thirteen people suspected of terrorism since arriving in Afghanistan three months ago."

David Rohde of the *NYT* speculated that it could have been written by an American, and included an accurate description of the illegal arrests by Task Force Saber, Idema's group.

Counterr Group

"We were working for the U.S. counterterrorism group (Actually CounTerr Group is a corporation that Idema owns — SOF) and working with the Pentagon and some other federal agencies," Idema told reporters.

"The American authorities absolutely condone what we did. They absolutely supported what we did," Idema said. "We have extensive evidence of that. We were in contact directly by fax, and email and phone, with Donald Rumsfeld's office, with the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and with Kevin Anderson, four-star ranking officer level at the Pentagon ... We did not want to go under contract because that would have meant that we couldn't work with the access to Northern Alliance people we were working with," he said. *Agence France Presse*.

The U.S. Central Command issued an advisory, distancing the U.S. military,

"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!)

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

The list is always the same.

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

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

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

They're always the one **being choked**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not a one! They excel at just one thing: doin' it. No training, no practice, no techniques. And certainly no "rules". So why squander years fooling yourself with something that only works "if everyone plays by the rules"?

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

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

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

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

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



Tim Larkin, creator of *Target-Focus Training*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think about this: If these people can get this much from his material, **imagine how much more you can learn...** a dedicated reader of Soldier of Fortune magazine who is really into finding and applying a system that is **quickly learned and deadly effective.** If all these folks are **seeking him out,** shouldn't you be too?

Look, Larkin is swamped and realizes he can't begin to reach everyone. While he'd love to have you as a member of his organization and to take part in his live training, he realistically understands few will be able to do this. Bootcamps run \$1,500.00, international events start at \$9,500.00, and personal training for small 2- to 4-person sessions is \$10,000.00 and more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"After additional and careful review, records indicate that Coalition forces received one detainee from Jonathan K. Idema on 3 May, 2004 at the Baghram Collection Point. We accepted this detainee because Idema claimed the individual was associated with the Taliban. We determined this individual was not who Idema claimed and we released him the first week of July. This incident prompted us to investigate Idema and led to our media advisory on 4 July 2004, which still stands.

The advisory stated, "U.S. citizen Jonathan K. Idema has allegedly represented himself as an American government and/or military official. The public should be aware that Idema does not represent the American government and we do not employ him."

"That doesn't mean that at the time we knew Mr. Idema's full track record or other things he was doing out there," Major Jon Siepmann said.

Embarrassed NATO military commanders also admitted that they cooperated with his group on at least three missions, believing it was a legitimate Special Forces anti-terror unit.

NATO peacekeepers had sent explosives experts to help Idema during three raids in June, according to *Knight Ridder News*.

NATO troops said they were duped because the men wore US military uniforms, and had provided them with bomb disposal services. Since February, 2002, U.S. consular officials in Kabul had warned newly-arrived Americans to steer clear of Idema. Coalition authorities hung wanted posters describing him as "armed and dangerous" and "interfering with military ops," *Newsweek* reports.

A preliminary hearing was held Monday, July 19, in a formal drawing room, before three judges and three prosecutors, who sat on sofas. Judge Abdul Baset Bakhtiari handed out the charges and set the trial for that Wednesday. A NYT reporter, one of two pressmen allowed in the room, said that Idema spoke for two hours, stating that he wanted to call Afghan ministers, ambassadors, generals and corps commanders, with whom he was working, to his trial.

Continued on page 72

International Law And Afghan Law

Why are American citizens charged with international crimes being tried in a foreign court, without U.S. officials strongly insisting that due process protections must be implemented. Especially considering the recent U.S. military prison torture scandal.

Some of the most brilliant attorneys or judges I have met, worked with, or trained under, are from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and other parts of Asia. Many are trained in the Western Common Law or Civil Law traditions. At this stage the question of the Judge's competence does not raise a flag in my mind.

Afghanistan has a new constitution since January and new guidelines are being drafted by International organizations. The new criminal code has due process protections in its language, "but the implementation is the problem, according to Tiffany.

His concerns are valid. I remember being highly impressed with the flowery language of the U.S.S.R. Constitution when I was studying law in Moscow and St. Petersburg. But the application and interpretation of that constitution was frighteningly arbitrary. The state of Afghan's legal system, from what Tiffany said, is not very encouraging.

The United States has concurrent jurisdiction with Afghanistan in this case. Generally, under International Law, the United States allows its citizens, accused of violating laws in another country, to fry. That policy especially applies to common crimes — those crimes, such as robbery or murder, which are not codified by the international community in a treaty.

Torture and hostage-taking are international crimes, and the United States is party to the torture and hostage treaties, among other conventions. Visa violations fit in the category of common crimes.

If a crime has been codified under International Law, the United States can claim concurrent jurisdiction with the country where the incident occurred. Under the circumstances, Afghanistan would probably cooperate, although the argument would certainly be made that the evidence and witnesses are present in Afghanistan and that moving

the trial to the United States would be cost-prohibitive.

Another stumbling block is that the charges include common crimes, as well as International Criminal Law violations.

In addition, the United States jealously guards jurisdiction over activities of its military or citizens when it comes to national security. Charges of impersonating U.S. military personnel by American citizens would probably fit into that category.

I am not aware of any effort thus far to have Idema and his American co-defendants repatriated to the United States to face trial under U.S. constitutional protections.

Tiffany, planning an imminent trip to Afghanistan believes that the United States involved officials were instrumental in Idema's orchestrated arrest and rush to trial. His goal is to have Idema and his co-defendants deported to the United States to face trial under U.S. constitutional protections.

The important thing is that the United States makes sure the Afghan legal system respects basic tenets of justice: innocent until proven guilty, and other due process rights. Judging by the media frenzy, this will be a high profile case with a global audience.

The United States and international organizations must assure that guarantees under the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are respected. Afghanistan is party to those Conventions.

The Afghans are affording more due process thus far than the United States has afforded suspected terrorists apprehended in Afghanistan, and held in U.S. custody. But much is lacking—for example, the presence of attorneys for Idema for trial. In the rush to trial, according to Tiffany, the Afghans and U.S. officials are not allowing enough time for a proper defense.

I warned in previous SOF articles that a U.S. policy of arbitrary detention, ignoring due process, and trying terror suspects in military tribunals, will come back to bite us. Let's hope the Idema case does not prove to be an example of that reckless ill-thought-out policy.

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by Frank Sherrill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Furey, We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12 – 1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir.
Bonner Cummings
Yosemite, CA

Dear Matt, When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I and the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot.
TREAT'EM ROUGH!
CPT Judd D. Mahfox – 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 bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Be one of the first 25 people to order and you'll receive 3 free **Special Reports** on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

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

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Al-Qaeda

AND THE

Zimbabwe Nexus

R.W. Johnson Ponders the Existence of a Political Triad Linking Osama bin Laden and Muammar Qaddafi via Robert Mugabe.

COURTESY FOCUS 34, THE HELEN SUZMAN FOUNDATION

On 7 August 1998 al-Qaeda suicide bombers driving trucks loaded with explosives crashed — simultaneously — into the United States Embassies in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar-Es-Salaam (Tanzania). Between them they killed at least 258 people and injured over 5,000 others. These twin assaults indicated a new level of ambition in al-Qaeda's strategy. Clinton's response — lobbing a few Cruise missiles at suspected al-Qaeda installations in Afghanistan and Sudan — was clearly viewed by Osama Bin Laden as a mere slap on the wrist. What the attacks had shown was that a few suicide bombers using everyday means of transport as a delivery mechanism could achieve complete surprise and inflict thousands of casualties on two or more targets at once by carefully co-ordinated action. With this al-Qaeda had found the weapon for which it had been searching — and which it was to use again with even greater effect on 11 September 2001.

On 25 August 1998, just eighteen days after the bombs in Kenya and Tanzania had been detonated,

Never one to curry international favor unless they were in a donor mood, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has been free to maintain liaison with other pariah states — when he has something to trade (in the case of Libya was it trading oil for a place to train/hide terrorists?)

a pipe bomb exploded in the Planet Hollywood restaurant on Cape Town's Waterfront, killing one and wounding 27. The police concluded from the fact that the target had sounded American and that a pipe bomb had been used that this was probably the work of Pagad. But no one was ever apprehended for the atrocity despite the fact that the ANC minister for safety and security, Sydney Mufamadi, had announced that the police were closing in and that an arrest

Rob Cooper, courtesy Aleitha Productions



was expected at any moment.

Later Mufamadi changed tack, seeming almost to blame the US for the bomb and suggested that it was a predictable reprisal for the Cruise missile attack on Sudan.

The FBI was more successful, quickly arresting three suspects for the African bombings, Mohamed Saddeck Odeh, Rashed Daoud Al'Ouhali and Wali al-Hage, the latter having earlier served as personal secretary to Bin Laden himself. All three were flown to the US where they confessed that the

kingpin of the operation, Haroun Fazil (26), had rented a villa outside Nairobi where the bomb had been constructed. Fazil had driven a white pick-up truck and guided the lorry laden with explosives, driven by his operatives, to the US Embassy. Straight after the bombing he had taken a flight to his native Comoros Islands. The FBI, finding a record of a phone call made from a Nairobi hotel to the Comoros, asked the help of the Comoros government in tracing the call but clearly Fazil was tipped off for on 22 August he fled to Dubai just as the FBI arrived in the Comoros —where they found incriminating CDs in his family home.

What this event drew attention to was the existence of a Muslim network running all the way down the East coast of Africa from the Persian Gulf to Cape Town. South Africa itself has many attractions for Muslim terrorists. Durban, after all, is home to Africa's richest Muslim community and its International Islamic Centre was built thanks to a personal donation by Bin Laden. Moreover, large sums of money can move easily through the Durban Indian community to Mauritius, Nairobi or Cape Town — and, indeed, to its overseas branches in London, Toronto and Sydney. One could be sure of finding, within southern Africa, enough al-Qaeda sympathizers, enough money and enough ways of making sure the two connected to make this region a major front in the terrorist war. Moreover, the region boasts not one but two failed states — the DRC and Zimbabwe — ideal breeding grounds for terrorism. An ironic advantage of this situation, I discovered as I started to delve into the question of terrorist links, was that some members of Mugabe's secret police, the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO), were feeling sufficiently disaffected to talk frankly, though of course anonymously, about the subject.

Mugabe's relationship with radical Islam goes back to 1978 when Libya's president Muammar Qaddafi provided arms and training for his Zanla guerrillas in Mozambique and, after Zimbabwean independence, trained 700 policemen for the new government. Mugabe was, however, well aware that Libyan sponsorship of various terrorist groups made friendship with Qaddafi extremely unwise and he kept relations formal and distant. This remained the case even after the Reagan administration's air strike on Tripoli in 1986 in retaliation for several terrorist outrages traceable to Libya. Qaddafi, who had a son killed in the raid and narrowly escaped with his own life, was badly shaken and arrived at the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Harare a few months later thirsting for revenge and tried to enlist Mugabe and the NAM in an anti-US crusade. Mugabe, hosting the summit, was carefully unresponsive and Qaddafi stormed out in a huff.



Official Libyan Government photo

Always a compulsive player on the world stage, Libyan strong man Muammar Qaddafi is known to have been an unflinching donor to terrorist causes and to view himself as the "go to guy" when your terrorist causes need money, arms, training or an all-around facilitator.

before. Qaddafi responded positively and the relationship between the two leaders became extremely close. Mugabe became increasingly sensitive to the currents and wishes of the Muslim world, particularly since the Mahathir regime in Malaysia was one of his few other friends.

Through John I managed to make contact with 'Walter', a high-ranking CIO officer who had served much of his career in Islamic countries, including Libya. My own presence in Harare was a somewhat delicate matter — I had watched the minister of information, Jonathan Moyo, denounce me on TV and say that I was not welcome in the country — so Walter could hardly be seen talking to me. Accordingly one night I was guided through the Harare suburbs by a car whose driver I never saw to a place where a second car was parked and which in turn led me to the house where I found Walter.

Walter told me that he had not been long in the Middle East before he had realized that Qaddafi's links with terrorism had not ceased after 1986 but had, perforce, merely become more discreet. Qaddafi, still animated by a desire for revenge against America, maintained contact with and sometimes funded a variety of Islamic terrorist groups but tried simultaneously to ensure that the US would have no excuse to repeat the 1986 raid. "I was surprised," Walter said. "Libya was still far more active in training and assistance to terrorist groups than was commonly realized. They sometimes trained such organizations in third countries such as Egypt and Yemen in order not to attract further US attention towards Libya itself. Most of the core Taliban fighters were Libyan-trained, you know. Libya also gave a lot of support and training to the fundamentalist FIS (the Islamic Salvation Front) in Algeria, and Algeria was sometimes used as an external training ground by Libyan instructors, for example in the training of Hamas, most of whose operatives are Libyan-trained. Hamas has very close links to Libya." Lebanese and Iraqi groups had also benefited from Libyan training, as had the PLO, he said. "From what I've seen the Libyans are the best in the world at terrorist techniques".

Naturally Qaddafi maintained links with al-Qaeda as well, Walter averred, but he had never come close to exercising the quasi-control over it that he did over some terrorist groups simply through the weight of his patronage. But any Middle East terrorist group which needed help would be likely to beat a path to Qaddafi's door. This was how it came about in September 2000 that Qaddafi asked Mugabe to receive an al-Qaeda contact, Zawahiri, Osama Bin Laden's Egyptian deputy. "In a way there'd been a dry run," Walter said. "Mugabe already had close relations with Yasser Arafat and when Arafat visited Mugabe in 1998 he brought with him six

Lebanese members of Islamic Jihad, one of the most fanatical anti-Zionist groups.

These guys were all men wanted by the Israelis but they stayed on in Harare for two weeks after Arafat left before exiting via Zambia to Libya (a fact later confirmed to me by another ex-CIO operative). Qaddafi learnt all about this from Arafat — the two men are close — and clearly realized that Mugabe might be willing to host wanted Arab terrorists.” Ayman Mohammed Rabie al-Zawahiri is one of the world’s most wanted men. A former pediatrician, he is regarded as the brains of al-Qaeda — besides his nine aliases the FBI also records that he is known as The Doctor and The Teacher, as befits a man who has been a fundamentalist militant since 1966. Fully one third of al-Qaeda’s fighters come from his Al-Djihad movement, including Mohammed Atta, the man who flew the first airliner into the twin towers. But why should Qaddafi want to introduce Zawahiri to Mugabe? “We surmised that what had happened was that Osama had sent Zawahiri to Qaddafi to ask for his help,” said Walter. “At the time, of course, we were in the dark but after the September 11 attack everything suddenly made sense. You see, this was exactly a year before 9/11 and al-Qaeda must have been planning that event well over a year ahead. They must have known that one of the things they needed most were safe bases far from the action. Qaddafi could hardly provide anyone with that — he would be an immediate suspect and anyway was eager to keep the Americans off his back. But Zimbabwe would have occurred to him right away — by then he was very close to Mugabe — and because we’re not a Muslim country no one would suspect us.”

The logic was indeed obvious. From al-Qaeda’s point of view Zimbabwe would have had many advantages. Once an atrocity on the scale of September 11 took place the US would clearly scan the Muslim world for possible al-Qaeda hideouts. Sudan and Afghanistan were clearly already potential targets, as were African countries with large Muslim populations. But Zimbabwe was not in that category — and it also had, as most African countries don’t, the modern communications and banking facilities al-Qaeda needed. It was also conveniently close to Nairobi, Durban and Cape Town — the three centres where Bin Laden already had links. In addition, Walter said, there were small Afghan communities in both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth — they had come there originally as seamen — and there was a lively trade between them and a small number of Bolivians in both places: hashish from the Khyber Pass was brought through Cape Town and traded for cocaine from the Bolivians. These networks were also useful for smuggling personnel or equipment, or laundering money.

According to Walter, Zawahiri spent 4 to 5 days in Zimbabwe and met with Mugabe and a number of ministers and top officials. His instructions from Bin Laden were to acquire an al-Qaeda base in Zimbabwe where, far from the scene of action, it could train its militants and plan its military strikes: there are many large, remote farms in Zimbabwe where they could be invisible. He offered large sums of money for Mugabe personally, with more to follow. Zawahiri doubtless already had the September 11 action in

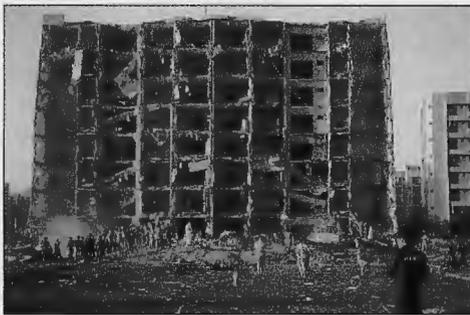
SOF Files



From the early years of his more than two decades in power, Mugabe stretched credulity and his nations lines of credit. Now, desperate for oil products, he had to have something to trade his Libyan benefactor.



The attack of high-profile targets, such as the U.S.S. Cole in the harbor at Aden, Yemen, requires training, logistical support and a network of facilitators. Was Zimbabwe’s President Mugabe a silent partner in such terrorist crimes?



Photos: U.S. DoD



When supported by states or stateless “nations” with adequate resources, dead-enders with nothing better to do are free to plan, equip and execute mindless atrocities, such as the bombing of Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia that housed multi-national UN peacekeepers. (right) Radical Muslim operatives responsible for the bombings of U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were supported by a network that, according to Zimbabwean CIO informants, extended to inside the Mugabe government.

mind but would hardly have disclosed any details of that. The al-Qaeda strikes against the US embassies in East Africa could not have left Mugabe in any doubt as to what he was dealing with, nor that he was risking extreme US displeasure — particularly since it must have been obvious that al-Qaeda was planning further large-scale strikes against US targets.

Later, Walter said, Zawahiri returned a second time to Zimbabwe, this time staying for two weeks. This return visit and Zawahiri’s quick fade into invisibility are perfectly consistent with what one would expect if, as Walter was inclined to believe, al-Qaeda had then proceeded to construct some sort of safe-house base in Zimbabwe. Walter, clearly nervous at every minute he spent in my presence, slipped away into the night as soon as he’d finished.

Next month: How the cabal if international terrorists work together to stay in power and support their sometimes disparate causes. ✕

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images: Dept. Of Defense

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

AMERICA AT WAR

1. UNITED STATES TEXAS OFFICIALS at McAllen-Miller International airport arrest Al Qaeda suspect. Al Qaeda has recognized that one of our vulnerabilities is our inability to completely seal and control access through Mexico. Arizona Border Patrol Agents make mass arrests of 71 illegal aliens, 53 of Middle East decent. "NUCLEAR TERRORISM" book by Graham Allison says that CIA source code Dragonfire reported Al Qaeda in possession of 10-kiloton nuclear weapon in NY. Weapon allegedly stolen from Russia. Al Qaeda negotiated for \$1.5 million uranium purchase from Sudan. A 10-kiloton nuclear weapon, if exploded in Times Square, would reach tens of millions of degrees Fahrenheit, vaporize or destroy the theater district, Madison Square Garden, the Empire State Building, Grand Central Terminal and Carnegie Hall; 500,000 could die. The Aspen strategy Group, warns of such an attack. Osama's top deputy boasts "We sent our people to Moscow, to Tashkent, to other Central Asian states, and they negotiated and we purchased some suitcase (nuclear) bombs." *NYT*

2. MEXICO BULLETIN ISSUED to U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, warning of Al Qaeda chief trained in flight, explosives and terrorism operations in Honduras, planning attack on U.S.

3. HONDURAS PANAMA CANAL TARGETED by arrested Al Qaeda operative who was staging plan to "plant explosives in the Panama Canal to hamper boat traffic in the area."

4. COLOMBIA KIDNAPPINGS: Government reports 21,078 in eight years — \$3000 average ransom — 2,000 still held, more than 1,000 killed or released; 65% taken by FARC or ELN, rest by common criminals. ANTI-KIDNAP campaign is supposedly working, cutting figures in half, from 1,906 in first six months of 2003 to 966 in same period 2004.

5. UNITED KINGDOM RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE REGIMENT of 600 members formed. Unit will operate globally, to gather info on Islamic terrorist ops.

6. SOMALIA A HEAD FOR A HEAD: Beheading of Iraqis in country threatened, in revenge for threat of beheading Somali worker in Iraq.

7. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AL QAEDA OPERATIVE who trained thousands of other operatives, captured in Dubai, turned over to Pakistan.

8. AFGHANISTAN TALIBAN RESURGENCE results in increased deaths. Opinion polls show 11% support of Taliban, 66% support of U.S.

9. UZBEKISTAN AFGHAN NEIGHBOR on fire: Two-dozen dead in bombings and gun battles in week of violence. Bombs strike perimeters of U.S. and Israeli embassies in Tashkent, killing two. Suicide bombings show careful coordination.

12. IRAQ HUMINT teams one of most effective peacekeeping efforts in Iraq. CAR BOMB FACTORY found south of Baghdad, four loaded with explosives: 60 arrested. INTERNAL FIGHTING between rebel al Sadr and U.S./Iraqi troops. PHILIPPINE military withdrawal encourages terrorists to kidnap and threaten beheading of other nationalities. STATELESS KURDS in Northern Iraq resist Moslem troops replacing U.S. troops. Kurds fear Iraqi government disarmament of Kurdish militias and loss of Kurdish autonomy.

13. IRAN PREEMPTIVE STRIKE against U.S. forces in Iraq threatened by Defense Minister. "We will not sit (with arms folded) to wait for what others will do to us. Some military commanders in Iran are convinced that preventive operations which the Americans talk about are not their monopoly," Shamkhani told Al-Jazeera TV, when asked if Iran would respond to an American attack on its nuclear facilities.

14. PAKISTAN TWENTY TERRORIST operatives arrested in one month. Computer images found containing photos of U.S. and London Heathrow Airport targets. TALIBAN SNITCH: Key aide to Taliban leader mullah Omar reveals Taliban operations in Pakistan and support of violence in Afghanistan.

UNKNOWN MIDDLE EAST LOCATION

COOKIE MONSTER Saddam Hussein in solitary confinement, writes poetry, gardens, and becomes American Junk food addict. Saddam suffers from high blood pressure and chronic prostate infection in white-walled, air-conditioned 9 by- 13-foot cell. The Red Cross visits every six weeks.

10. ZIMBABWE FAILED COUP by 67 men plotting to overthrow Equatorial Guinea's government, seized as they prepare to pick up shipment of Zimbabwean arms; 70 mercenaries face charges of illegal firearms trafficking. *NYT*

11. SOUTH AFRICA "BOXES AND BOXES" of fake South-African documents found in London. Al-Qaeda militants and other terrorists in Europe obtain South African passports from crime syndicates that have infiltrated government agency. Phony passports allow travel into Britain without visas. *AP*



On The Move With The 22nd MEU!

No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy

22nd MEU/BLT Gives Tit for Tat After Afghan Ambush

TEXT & PHOTOS BY DAVID GERALD

Kabul, Afghanistan, 17 June 2004: It was my first day at Indian Head, a deserted Afghan village deep in the high desert of Oruzgan Province. It was now headquarters for the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit's (SOC) Battalion Landing Team, First Marines, Sixth Regiment (22nd MEU/BLT). We'd gotten in late the night before on a long truck convoy that took about seven hours from FOB Ripley at Tarin Kowt. The length of the trip wasn't as bad as it was being crammed in the back of a seven-ton truck with 20 of Bravo Company's finest. "Come on! Pack it in! Three more!" had been the loading plan.

I was hooked up with Marine Corporal Jemmsey Alvarez out of the Orlando, Florida area. Once we made it to Indian Head, we didn't spend much time looking for a place to bed down for the night. Not wanting to get stepped on in the dark, we hunkered down next to a large mail pile. It was the first the Marines had seen since they left the safety of Kandahar Air Field three weeks before.

Sunrise comes around 0500 and is always quickly followed by Marines getting ready for the day. On this day, May 8th, things were a bit more anxious. I was scheduled to join up with one of the companies and do some patrolling, perhaps a cordon and search. Before long however, Cpl. Alvarez informed me that plans are scratched and things are on hold for at least a day. A few minutes later, a lieutenant gives us a glimpse of what's happening: Apparently just a few hours before, a patrol from the 2nd Light Armored Recon had been ambushed and a Marine killed. Nearly the entire BLT was on its way in response.

I asked to join the operation and was given the thumbs up. Once again I was hooked up with Bravo Company. We were to be the second company helo-lifted in, behind Charlie Company, the primary helo company.

Once Charlie was gone, we had a 15 minute wait until the

CH-53 Sea Stallion's came swooping back in around the mountains, landing 150 meters from where we were lined up to mount. The dust cloud that accompanied the choppers was incredible.

Already at the LZ were Charlie, 2nd LAR, and a platoon of Afghan National Army soldiers (ANA). Now it was our turn. On command I raced toward the chopper in the left column, number four spot, and quickly boarded with the Marines. At this point I could just concentrate on being as fluid as possible with these young men who had been training without me for many months — now all of a sudden, there was an unfamiliar body in the mix.



(opposite) Marines guard perimeter as CH-53 swoops in to pick up Leathernecks for air assault on area where fellow troops were ambushed. (right) Marines work house-to-house in a classic cordon-and-search operation.



(above) Marine with M249 SAW covers other Marines during cordon and search in town of Gumbad, following deadly ambush. (left) Suspected Taliban fighter is detained near ambush area. Men and boys "of fighting age" are gleaned for such suspects.

The load-up was quick, and before we knew it, we were off. The Marines were getting pumped up, exchanging hand slaps and smiles. Outside the chopper, we flew low through narrow, rocky valleys. Low and fast.

Within 10 minutes, they were setting us down. Everyone got up and on command, charged out the back of the bird, throwing on our packs on the way out. I ran hard to the nearest cover, a boulder, about 25 meters away. The boulder was already occupied by one Marine, but neither of us seemed to mind.

Locals Lead

At this point, my goal was to hook up with the ANA. The ANA always go in first. The coalition wants to make sure the people of Afghanistan see Afghans first, then coalition. Since they go first, that's where one would presume the best pictures will be.

Soon after the LZ was secured, I saw Marines begin to get up and work their way toward a crest in the road and I headed that way myself. The walk to the crest was about a Klick; Over the crest were the towns of Tawara and Gumbad.

As we approached the crest, I could see the evidence of some sort of action: Used pop-up flares, spent shells, used medical supplies. Just beyond was Tawara. I saw the ANA



Lt. Col. Asad Khan, a native of the area, tells village elders, "A Marine is your best friend or your worst enemy..."

Colonel Asad Khan, the BLT commanding officer. When I found him, he was sitting in a fold-up chair in the middle of everything just taking it all in. "We're just separating the bad guys from the good guys," he said to me. Just then, some Marines behind me pointed out a place, they think, I'll find a good picture. Kahn confirms their story. "Yeah, go take a picture of that. There's a dead guy around the corner."

I make my way toward the body and find it with little trouble. Not far from where he lay was a pile of weapons, ammo and anti-tank mines. This was one of four ACM (anti-coalition militia) that were found following the ambush.

I headed back toward Khan to get some details about the ambush. I sat next to him in the dirt and we talked for about an hour. We talked about a lot of things, but in particular, he gave me the initial details surrounding the ambush.

The five-man patrol had been scouting an area for 2nd LAR to set up an "attack position" just outside of Tawara for ops that would commence at sunrise. Intelligence reports suggested a medium value ACM target was in the village.

Ambush!

As the patrol approached the village, the Marines saw a man on the hill to the right of the road. The Marines waved for the man to come down and as he did, he opened fire, immediately hitting the platoon leader, Staff Sergeant Robert Thompson, in the groin. Military reports say that Cpl. Ron Payne Jr. Of Lakeland, Florida, immediately returned fire, killing the initial attacker. That brought on the full attention of the ambush, as small arms fire zeroed in on Payne, hitting him several times.

The other Marines, Private Bret Miller and Lance Corporal

Continued on page 77

and made my way toward them. When I got there, I staged my pack with the rest of the packs that we neatly lined up, and I went my way toward the village.

On the ground, face down with their hands cuffed, are about a hundred "fighting-age men and boys." Apparently it took Charlie no time clear out much of the town. I took a couple of photos and pushed out with the ANA and Bravo as they cautiously made their way the two Klicks through poppy fields toward Gumbad. I was with the first six men, one a Special Forces marine advisor leading a fire team of ANA. Behind us were the rest of the ANA and Bravo Company. The mission was to search every house for weapons and evidence and detain every man of fighting age. This is Oruzgan Province, home of Mullah Omar. You never know what you may find here.

Our fire team tactically rushed the first compound and the search was on. From this point, about a half-dozen different teams of Marines moved from building to building, systematically searching every structure and rounding up every male inhabitant. Fighting-age males and village elders were led back toward Tawara where they would be questioned and possibly detained.

For the most part, the village was home to opium farmers, both local and seasonal. Doors that were locked, were kicked in. The rest of the time, Marines worked fast in searching the adobe homes. While we went house to house, Harriers, Cobras and Hueys buzzed overhead, just waiting for the call.

Marines poured through the valley, across the riverbed and over the mountains. By 1400, both villages had been emptied of most boys and men, who were now all sitting in different groups back near the pass where the ambush occurred.

It was here I met up with Lieutenant

Marines escort "men and boys of fighting age" from village of Gumbad, to be interrogated.



MIAMI'S MAD MAX

Marines

*Vanguard, Rearguard, Who Cares?
This Is All War All The Time!*

BY DONALD SCHUTT

PHOTOS BY SERGEANT MICHAEL A. LOZANO
& THE MARINES OF TOW/SCOUT MIAMI

PART 4

PANTHERS

BRING

HELL

Last month the Miami Marines staged an all-day Drive-By on the highway to Baghdad. Scout Platoon Leader Zummo was hit badly, manning a .50 Cal. MG in the lead vehicle of his battalion. He refused medical attention and stayed on the gun. Iraqis faked surrender and dived for concealed weapons at the last minute.



Marines halt in village to reorganize and resupply. Note logistic variant of the HUMMV, 7-ton truck, and the huge tow bar of a M88 tank recovery vehicle (that can be seen behind the truck — this is the vehicle type that was used to pull down Saddam's statue on 9 April 2003).

AS the three Iraqi came up pointing AKs they were immediately cut down. The Marines completely riddled them with bullets before they had a chance to use their stashed weapons.

The Iraqis had tried to get close enough to the Marines with their fake surrender to use an explosive charge, failing that they had attempted to engage the Marines from close range with the stashed weapons.

The Marines were quickly learning to not trust surrendering Iraqis. One has to assume that the Iraqi leadership was teaching its forces these ineffective tactics more to keep control of their troops than to hurt the Americans. With the Americans on constant edge and quick to fire on suspicious Iraqi soldiers it was more difficult for the Iraqi soldiers to surrender.

By keeping the Americans on edge, and using their own thugs to directly threaten their troops who didn't want to fight for Saddam, they prevented the large-scale surrenders that had occurred in Desert Storm.

Often the Marines would be confronted with Iraqi Soldiers who fired a burst, then threw their weapon down, and held their hands in the air. The Marines could not stop to take them prisoner. So, as the part of the convoy that he had surrendered to passed, the Iraqi would pick his



weapon back up, and start shooting at the next group of vehicles.

Other Iraqis would pop-up and fire the one shot in their RPG and miss. Then they would have a sudden epiphany, causing them to drop their now empty RPG, and put their hands in the air in surrender.

At the rear of the column the Marines of Panther Section were being hard-pressed by the enemy. Panther Section was alone at the back of the column. The Iraqis became emboldened as the Tanks and Tracks, well in front of Panther, passed out of sight.

The Iraqi Troops could see that the six HUMMVs trailing the column were left somewhat alone and isolated. Republican Guard Soldiers were running up the alleys toward the road from the sides to reinforce their comrades. The fire on the Scouts began to increase. Many of the houses and buildings were filling with Iraqi Soldiers eager to fire on what they perceived to be an easy target.

Staff Sergeant Green, Panther Section's Leader, remembers seeing the fire build as they approached the built-up areas. "We got a lot of heavy resistance from different buildings. When we could see them, heads popping up, of course your favorite AK sticking out of a window, opening up full blast, that's where the heavy gun-

ners got a lot of good time.”

The Scouts were much more heavily armed than the TOW Marines. Every vehicle had a crew served weapon — a Mk19, a .50-caliber machine gun, or a SAW. The TOW sections by comparison with nine HUMMVs and twenty-one Marines had only one .50-caliber machine gun and one SAW to share between them. The M16A2 rifle was the main firepower for the TOW Marines.

Action Left, Action Right

Luckily, Panther Scouts were well armed and organized to direct their firepower en masse into any target called out by a member of the section. If someone identified a target and called an action left or right the firepower of two .50-caliber machineguns, two Mk19 fully automatic 40mm grenade launchers, and two SAWs massed on the target would usually quickly silence anyone bold enough to fire on the Scouts.

As they began to take heavy fire a convoy of several unarmored HUMMVs from an artillery unit began to overtake the Scouts. These Artillery Marines were the scouts for the batteries supporting 2nd Tanks drive up the road. At first they rode up to the rear of the Panther Scouts. They were riding without doors on their HUMMVs. The passengers sat confidently with one leg hanging out of the vehicle with their weapons at the ready. Then incoming fire started to build. With absolutely no armor and no concealment the Artillery Marines quickly realized their naked vulnerability. They started to drive panicked through the Panther Scouts column.

Staff Sergeant Green: “Some good fire got going on. They just flew by us. To the point of putting themselves in danger from our guns firing across their bows.”

Like many of the other Marine units, the Artillery Scouts were just not equipped correctly. They needed armored vehicles.

Their job was to travel forward and secure new artillery firing sites. In a perfect war where the front moves slowly

and completely clears the enemy ahead this would be a low risk job. In the fast-paced operation they were engaged in, the objective was the regime in Baghdad. Hostile forces were left behind everywhere. Nothing was really secure.

So the Artillery Scouts did the only thing that they could to avoid the incoming fire. They sped up and weaved through the column ahead. They used other vehicles to block the fire, and speed to avoid fire when no cover was available. They were literally driving convertibles through a shooting gallery.

Utter Destruction

Corporal Diego Castro, who in civilian life is a Police Officer with Miami-Metro-Dade, was in command of the last two vehicles in the column. He was in fact in the very last vehicle. As he moved forward through yet another built-up area a scene of utter destruction unfolded before his eyes.

Tanks - T-55s, BMP-1s, BMP-2s, five-ton trucks, and other assorted debris of war lay burning and exploding with secondary explosions all along the road. Dead Iraqi soldiers lay about. Iraqi units in the town had taken heavy losses, trying to stop the tanks.

Units of the Republican Guard “Al Nida” Division held the town. They had been badly mauled by the M1A1 tanks that had passed ahead of Panther Section. Fighting against the M1A1 tanks was an exercise in futility. The elite Iraqi soldiers had come out a distant second.

With the lethal American tanks moving down the highway out of sight, the remaining Iraqis became emboldened. They saw the force-ratio turning in their favor. The Iraqis were looking for some payback. The Panther Scouts would be their target.

As Corporal Castro manned the .50-cal. machine gun atop his vehicle he drove past one of the many T-55 tanks that were on fire. Just as he passed the tank, it exploded with a secondary explosion just off the road to his right. He continued firing his heavy machine gun until it emptied the ammo



can attached to it.

He looked down at his arm. It was bleeding, badly. He thought to himself that he must have been hit by a piece of shrapnel when the tank had exploded moments before. He wasn't sure if he could properly man the critical .50-caliber position. He ordered Lance Corporal Michniewicz, of Boynton Beach, Florida, from the passenger seat, to take his place manning the big gun.

Lance Corporal Christopher Olloqui in the vehicle in front of Corporal Castro's was busy engaging a group of Iraqis who had begun firing on the Scouts from a five-story building on the left side of the road. He was only armed with a SAW — which did not have the power to penetrate the large concrete structure. The rounds bounced off the cement walls. All he could do was to continue his fire, hoping to keep the enemy's heads down.

As Corporal Castro and Lance Corporal Michniewicz changed places, the big .50-caliber gun guarding the column's rear fell silent. With Lance Corporal Olloqui in the vehicle ahead engaging left, and Corporal Castro and Lance Corporal Michniewicz

changing places on their HUMMV, an Iraqi wearing a white helmet and green uniform on the right saw his opportunity to attack as the Marines were preoccupied.

The Iraqi ran out from the buildings on the right. Firing from the hip from twenty-five feet away he emptied a magazine from his AK into the side of Castro's Hummer blowing both run-flat tires on the right side of the vehicle.

The Bold Iraqi

Lance Corporal Olloqui spun around with his SAW to the right and emptied a burst of 5.56mm rounds into the bold Iraqi wearing the white helmet. The Republican

Village Fight: One of the many Built-up along route 6, which provided cover and concealment for ambush style attacks from Republican Guard and foreign fighters. In many places two to five story buildings were literally a few feet from the narrow highway. (right) Marine mans the cupola of a HUMMV. The main weapon of the TOW Marines was the TOW anti-tank missile system. It proved of little value other than as a source of cover in the short-range fights that were the norm in the urban terrain along route 6.





Soviet designed IFV is toast after encounter with Marines' Mk-19 fully automatic 40 mm grenade launcher. Each 40 mm round can blow through 2.5 inches of steel easily burning multiple holes in this BMP-2.

Guard soldier fell dead.

The Al Nida Division soldiers in the five-story building on the left continued to pour fire down onto the Scouts. Panther Section's leader Staff Sergeant Green called an action left. All six vehicles stopped and poured .50 cal., 40mm, and 5.56-mm fire into the large building. Chunks of the concrete were blasted from the building; the façade of the building was being torn apart. The concrete that was protecting the Iraqis was torn off the building from the intense American fire. The Iraqi guns went silent.

Sergeant Ron Abraham, of Hollywood, Florida, remembers the action left: "We all were coming up the road, the Staff Sergeant (Green) called contact left. Everybody turned left and started opening up. I think I fired about 150 rounds myself. The fire from the building stopped. Then we moved out again."

With Castro's vehicle partially disabled with two blown tires the Scouts reshuffled the order of march. Although the run-flat tires on the HUMMVs are still usable after getting bullet holes in them they are not ideal. Castro's Hummer was leaning to the right and had been slowed down. He moved up to the number four vehicle in the staggered column while Sergeant Ron Abraham's vehicle dropped back to take his place at the rear of the column.

As the Panther Scouts drove forward at twenty-five mph they received multiple contacts from all directions. Republican Guard Soldiers fired small arms, RPGs, and recoilless rifles into the column. The buildings and houses were directly adjacent to the wide road. Iraqi soldiers were reinforcing their comrades, intent on killing the Scouts. Lance Corporal Olloqui remembers seeing individuals running up the alleys leading to the main road while other soldiers engaged the Americans from the buildings.

A large house on the right erupted in muzzle flashes as the Panther Scouts approached. The Scouts did an action

right and poured fire from all their weapons into the house, silencing the fire.

Only a little further up the road, intense fire poured down on the Scouts from a Squad of Republican Guards in a four-story concrete structure. The Iraqis fired bursts of automatic weapons fire out of each of the top floor windows. The Scouts returned fire with .50-cal., SAW, M16, and Mk-19 fire. The building was solid. The rounds were tearing chunks off the building but not having much of an effect on the Iraqi soldiers within.

Green's Masterpiece

That was until Staff Sergeant Green performed a miracle. The veteran Marine saw each Iraqi soldier pop up and fire out the window and then drop down to take cover. He promptly fired a burst from his Mk-19 through each window in turn as he rolled by, still on the move. The Iraqi fire was silenced.

Lance Corporal Olloqui: "It was something, a masterpiece, magnificent. Something from a movie. You've never seen anything like it. I saw it with my eyes, and I had to stop and look at him, cause it was three grenades going through each window, while the vehicle was rolling. He was moving slowly. We were creeping forward but still moving. He's putting them — three grenades per burst through each window. Then you see the explosions going off against the back of each room."

Staff Sergeant Green's incredible skill and accuracy contrasted sharply with that of the majority of the Republican Guard Soldiers. Many of them seemed to be more interested in firing lots of ammo than in actually hitting anything. The incredible volume of fire pouring toward the Scouts did not have the effect that one would imagine. The Iraqi fire was wildly inaccurate.

Corporal Jean-Francois: "A lot of guys were hiding, you know — spraying and praying. You know, putting it (their rifle) over their heads and hiding. You know, you see an AK sticking out and someone shooting — shooting one-handed out the window."

Lance Corporal Olloqui: "A lot of these weapons that we

would pick up, they were missing their butt stock. They were screwed off or were collapsible stocks that weren't opened up — I don't know. That reduces accuracy."

A short way up the road two Al Nida Soldiers fired on the passing Scouts from a sandbagged bunker on the left side of the road. The first RPG flew directly between Castro's vehicle in the number four position and Corporal Jean-Francois's vehicle in the number five position. A second RPG was launched and skipped on the ground between the divided highway. This one was deflected upwards and about five feet behind Lance Corporal Olloqui's vehicle.

Lance Corporal Olloqui started firing his SAW at the RPG gunners who were trying to kill him. His bullets were absorbed by the sandbags and did no damage. "I engaged, but the SAW can only do so much."

Torrent of Fire

Lance Corporal Carlos Mora manned the .50-caliber machine gun atop Sergeant Abraham's HUMMV, which was now bringing up the rear. He unloaded a torrent of fire into the sandbagged position. His gun was loaded with SLAP rounds. The special rounds fire sub-caliber penetrators at extreme velocity. The effects of his .50-caliber fire were devastating. The special rounds of his weapon tore apart the bunker killing both Iraqis.

About 200 meters farther down the road was another T-55 tank on fire. It sat on the right side adjacent to the highway. As Staff Sergeant Green passed the burning tank he called on his radio to warn the other Scouts in his section: "There's a T-55 that the ordinance is blowing on."

Corporal Castro's vehicle was passing by the burning tank when he heard Staff Sergeant Green gave his warning. Castro grabbed his gunner, Lance Corporal Michniewicz, by the leg and yelled "Duck down!"

Michniewicz waved a warning to Olloqui in the next vehicle and dove for cover into the cabin of the HUMMV.

Lance Corporal Olloqui recalls: "I can still see Lance Corporal Michniewicz's face putting his hands down and telling me to get down because its about to blow."

Lance Corporal Olloqui ducked down just in time. The explosion was so powerful that the entire turret of the tank sailed into the air. A chunk of shrapnel slammed into the missile tube of his TOW vehicle severely denting the missile casing and permanently disabling the launcher. His pack attached on the back of his vehicle was shredded from the explosion.

Lance Corporal Michniewicz, in the vehicle directly in front of Olloqui's, looked up at his 50-cal., the entire weapon was covered in soot and heavy black oil from the exploding tank. The entire gun had been torqued to the left but was still functional.

The heavy turret from the exploding tank sailed up into the air and slammed down in the road in front of Sergeant Abraham's HUMMV which was now bringing up the rear of

the formation. His driver swerved around it to the left side of the road. They continued rolling.

Incoming fire was raking the column from both sides. RPGs were flying through the air, barely missing. 82mm mortar rounds were hitting the roadway amongst the Scouts. Every weapon the Marines had was being used against the enemy.

Captured AKs

Lance Corporal Olloqui began to worry about his ammo supply. For some reason 5.56mm ammo had been in short supply the whole war. He was down to fifty rounds of ammo for his SAW. He began to stop his vehicle intermittently and pick up various Iraqi AK's lying on or about the roadway. He began to use the captured AKs to engage the enemy.

He was saving the last of his 5.56mm ammo for an emergency. The Marines in the other Scout vehicles were in the same situation and began to do the same thing — using the enemy's weapons against them. They were not going to let a poor supply system slow down their advance.

Lance Corporal Olloqui remembers engaging the numerous Iraqi trucks scattered along the route as the Scouts pressed their attack forward: "We engaged every Iraqi vehicle subject to fire, because we didn't know whether the vehicle was manned or abandoned. As I shot one of those Iraqi five-tons, or so, firing through the doors and through the engine, blood would start coming out the windows.

So what the Iraqis would be doing in the civilian vehicle, which had machineguns mounted, they'd be lying down hiding in either the bed or below the dash. We'd be shooting at the trucks and guys would be running out that were standing behind them, the trucks, and they'd be running fast."

The Republican Guards defending the route had sited numerous ground-mounted anti-aircraft guns, 14.5mm, 23mm, and 37mm, along the highway. Many had been destroyed or their original crews killed by the tanks that had passed by earlier. Bodies of dead Soldiers lay around many of them. Often times as the Scouts approached

these positions Iraqi soldiers would run out and attempt to man the deadly weapons.

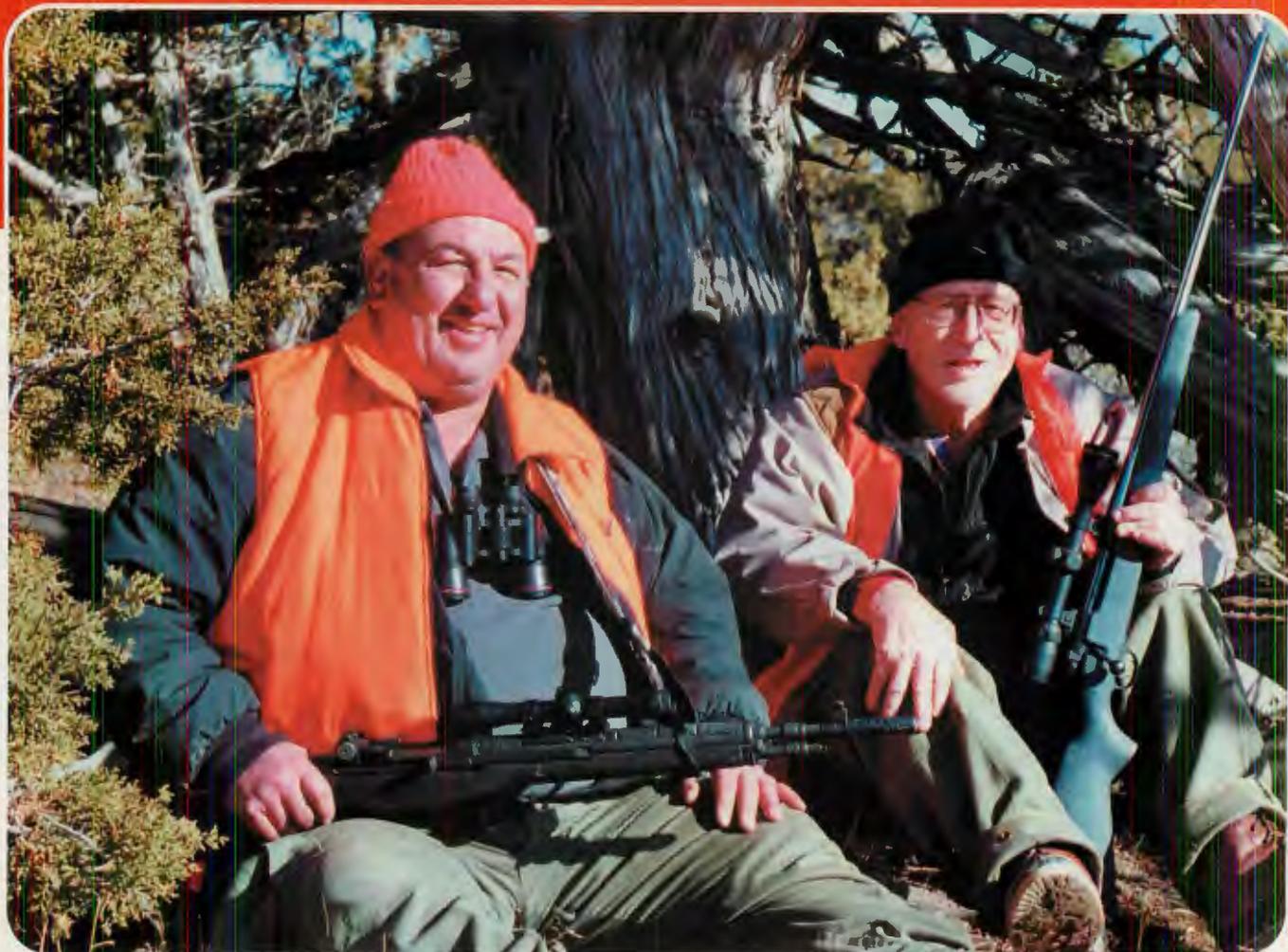
Lance Corporal Olloqui: "It was a scary sight. These guys running out to man those guns. They were anti-aircraft guns that could have been used against HUMMVs. We would have been toast if they had brought even one of the guns into action against us. We would shoot them up the best as we could. There were dead bodies hanging on the weapons. It was a scary sight"

Donald Schutt is a Lt. Col. USMCR. He is a Desert Storm veteran, and former OIC of TOW/Scout Miami. He is an airline pilot.

Next month SSG Michael tells the Battalion Commander that stopping now would be like stopping in the kill zone of an ambush. ✕



The Miami Marines were justifiably proud of their unit. This Marine plans his future commemorative tattoo when the war ends.



Gear for Deer ..and Elk

BY COL MIKE PECK, USA (RET.)
PHOTOS BY PAUL AVALLONE

When I was in Germany with the 8th Division, long before the collapse of the Soviet Union, we spent an inordinate amount of time in the field, or so it seemed. Prior to my tenure in Germany, I only *thought* I had been cold, but after almost four years there I knew what being cold was really like. One of my German Army counterparts once told me, however, that there is no such thing as bad weather — only bad equipment. Thinking back on that, what he said was true. I spent most of my time in the Army in Special Forces, Airborne, or “Straight Leg” Infantry, and even when I found myself in a Mechanized Infantry Unit, I had the tendency to travel light, thinking in terms of rucksacks, rather than duffle bags, footlockers, and trailers like the seasoned Mech guys did. I still do a lot of camping out of the back of a car — Mech-Infantry-style, but I also do the Light Infantry back-packing routine, on foot or out of a canoe or kayak. That, and hunting, is when the difference between good and bad equipment becomes painfully (literally) apparent.

Over Veterans Day last year, Bob Brown, editor and publisher of SOF, hosted an elk hunt in a remote area of the northwestern high country of Colorado. A detailed account

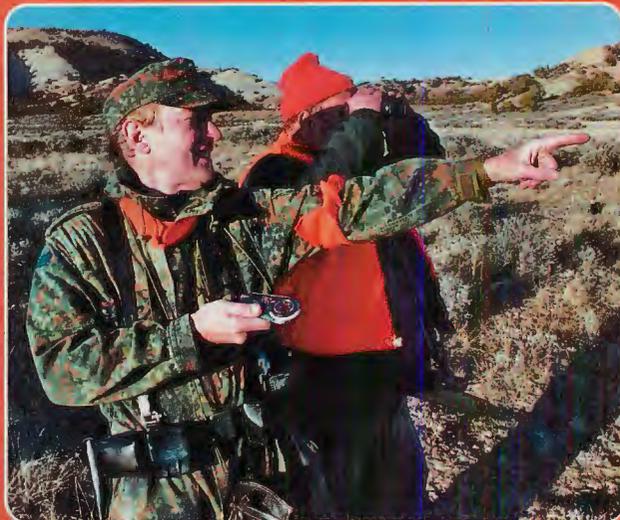
(top) Taking a break. Karwan, left, carried a Springfield Armory M1A Squad Scout Rifle (who says you can't use an “assault rifle” to hunt with?) topped of with a Leupold Scout Scope. Brown hunted with a .300 Weatherby Magnum with a Bushnell Elite 3200 scope with an illuminated “Firefly” reticle. The reticle is illuminated by charging it with a flash light for a few minutes and lasts for 20 minutes. Brown used this rig to drop a cow elk at 490 paces, mas or menos, with one shot, a few months later near Raton, New Mexico.

of that adventure appeared in the March 2004 issue of SOF. I had elected not to annoy the elk, and came along to do the story and simply hang-out with a bunch of great guys. One of my other duties, along with Paul Avallone recently back from a tour with the SF National Guard in Afghanistan and Chuck Karwan (one of the world's foremost arms experts), was to test a number of new items of equipment which various manufacturers had sent to Bob for evaluation. Unlike some of our past hunts, the weather was fairly benign, but cold enough to be uncomfortable if not dressed properly.

Although I could argue that I had been restricted by cube and weight when I flew out to Colorado from Virginia, the truth is that I failed — as usual — to pack the proper cold weather gear, based upon my Airborne habit of tailoring everything too tight simply to “look good”. Works at Fort Bragg (sometimes), but everywhere else you freeze your *derrière* off. I was using a pair of cotton long johns that were ancient and dog-eared — waste-not, want-not! They were only minimally effective, and I was bordering on miserable when Bob Brown inadvertently came to my rescue by asking me to field test the **GoLite C-Thru, Mid-Weight Top and Tight** set, a state-of-the-art base layer that uses new technology to keep you warm and dry. When I saw the “C-Thru” trademark, I initially thought that maybe the fabric was transparent, like the tan-thru bathing suits. It is actually quite dense, however, and I subsequently discovered that the “C” refers to the shape of the open-channel fibers (one side of them is open, like a hose that has been split from end-to-end), the idea being that moisture is allowed to escape more freely than if it were confined in the conventional tube-like hollow fibers normally used for such garments. Clever. As I keep learning over and over, walking in the wilderness on a cold day, carrying any kind of equipment, makes you sweat, no matter how low the temperature, and, whenever you stop, all the built-up perspiration evaporates at once, refrigerator-style, to make you truly wretched. The **GoLite C-Thru** fibers definitely help. When climbing the rugged terrain around our camp, carrying a Ruger Blackhawk, K-Bar, binoculars, cameras, canteens, compasses, *et caetera*, I discovered that I was comfortable both on the move and while stopped, simply because no moisture ever built up on my skin; it was all very efficiently wicked-away. Kudos for **GoLite**. Those things were *great!*

Although we never conducted any elk-whacking operations that far from camp, it is always good to know where you are. I had with me a **Brunton 9076 LENSATIC** (Engineer Directional Compass) that I bought some time ago through the mail. I like it because it is similar to the old GI compasses that I know and love so well. Although it is an elderly design, I still like the “lensatic” feature because it is easy to read, even if your eyesight is not what it used to be. The “Engineer” is an inexpensive, no-frills instrument that is about as effective as the much more expensive military version.

In addition to this bonanza, Bob loaned me another of their models to look at, the **Brunton 8099 PRO ECLIPSE™**, which is a marvel of ingenuity; it is very innovative, featur-



The “Dynamic Duo” — the Brunton Eclipse Compass and Brunton Eterna 8x32 4012PW binos.



Peck orienting himself and John Sullivan, Norwegian TV producer with the Pro Eclipse Compass. “What? You mean we’re not in Kansas anymore?”

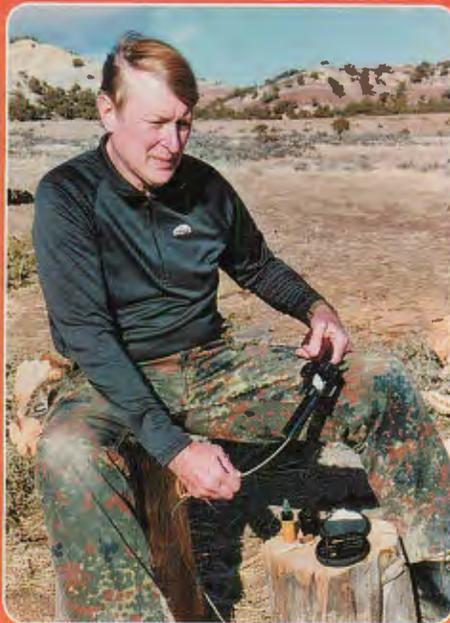


Rats! I mean Ontario RAT-7, I think we just lost the patient.” This well designed knife got a good work out. Everything from gutting elk to splitting firewood. As good as they get.

ing a scale for setting map declination, a clinometer for measuring grades, and a complete set of instructions for its use, which also included a transparent map coordinate scale, as well as tips on emergency first aid and survival (only in English, though). The instructional cards are housed in a rubber shoe underneath the body of the compass. I must shamefully admit that one of the reasons I like compasses with mirrors for sighting on distant points, is simply because I used one for shaving in Vietnam and in the 82nd when we were in the field — very handy. They work well, however, for their intended purpose. The real value of this compass is the instructional booklet that accompanies the instrument, and I feel a person with no land navigation experience at all could become proficient with it by simply following the detailed instructions. It is strictly a day compass, however, and, as an old (but I guess not so bold) Ranger, I attached an LED mini-light to the lanyard for sneaking around at night, which now makes it the most versatile of all my compasses. With a suggested retail price tag of \$99, it is primarily made for professionals who really have to be precise. No one who is skilled in land navigation could fail to be impressed with it, though.

Paul Avallone used another of the Brunton compasses. His was the **Brunton 8097 ECLIPSE™**, and, other than the add-ons, it is basically a less expensive version of the one I tested. According to him it is a well-made, everyday compass that is easy to use. The declination adjustments are simple to dial in, it has a rapid needle response, as well as a scale for back-azimuth reading. There is also a handy magnifying window built into the body to read individual map points, and a straight-edge, 1000 meter scale, set for UTM 1:24,000. For anyone who is *really* lost, there is also a removable whistle attached to the lanyard. Paul felt that it should have luminous readings for night use, and agrees in my recommendation that a red-lens mini-light be attached to the lanyard to round it out. The suggested price for this little gem is \$39.

To save a little weight and space, I brought a pair of sub-compact binoculars with me, but quickly concluded that they were of limited value out in the vastness of Colorado. Because of my carping, Bob gave me a pair of **Bausch & Lomb ELITE Model 62-4210's** (10x42) to try out. They feature waterproof, roof-prism construction with multi-coated lenses, and both center and individual focus. They weigh 28 ounces, just about the same as the old GI 6x30's, maybe a little lighter. I used them extensively throughout the hunt, and found them to be among the *best* binoculars I have ever held. They were sufficiently powerful to view distant objects with great clarity and detail, but not so powerful that they could not be held steady enough to take advantage of the enhanced view. The system for attaching the strap is unique, in that plastic tabs are molded into the strap ends which clip into a blind recess on each side of the body. Unfortunately, one of the tabs apparently got short-changed in the injection-molding



Col. Peck wearing the GoLite Basic Layer Top while cleaning his Ruger with the Otis Deluxe Cleaning Kit; he balked at showing-off the tights, however. Karwan also was impressed with GoLite, saying, "... it's silky smooth ... extremely light in weight ... no chafing from friction of my legs rubbing against each other ... great to wear in my mummy bag at night ... will be definitely worn on my next cold weather trip.

process, and was deformed. Rodney Ranger here always has spare suspension line and nylon shoelaces, so poking a boot lace through the appropriate hole was a quick and dirty fix.

Another great pair of binoculars that we tried was the **Brunton ETERNA™ 4012PW**, the 8x32 mid-sized model. Paul and Chuck worked primarily with them, but all agreed that they were really good. Paul passed them around one day, and everyone was amazed at the brightness and clarity of the image. They are relatively lightweight at 25 ounces, featuring a compact, roof-prism design with phase-coated lenses to maintain a sharp image even in subdued lighting. Designed with this gang in mind, they are water and fog-proof, and come in a protective neoprene BinoGlove case with permanently-attached lens cover protector flaps (that you can't lose), which can be turned to block out glare. They also come with a lifetime warranty and a relatively modest MSRP of \$399, adding-up to a great bino for someone who wants the best in a mid-size set of optics.

Another gadget that I had the opportunity to try was a system I had used before, the **Otis Deluxe Rifle and Pistol Cleaning Kit**. This is an extremely compact and clever system, slightly reminiscent of the old German "tobacco tin" arrangement, but round and nylon, rather than rectangular and metal. Also, instead of the "chain", Otis provides a plastic-covered cable. I tried it to clean the Ruger I was carrying, and it worked great. For many years I used the "weight and string" US and British cleaning systems, but this has them beat by miles, since the cable is very sturdy and there are a great variety of jig and brush attachments for it.

As an inveterate collector, I seem to acquire all sorts of things when I am travelling, even when grossly overloaded. The Colorado jaunt was no exception; however, I was afforded a simple and efficient solution for hauling away the additional stuff that always seems to end-up in my luggage at the end of the trip. It was with great enthusiasm that I checked-out the **GoLite Gust Pack**. This is an featherweight, high capacity back pack made out of a light but incredibly tough material registered as Dyneema, which GoLite says is pound for pound, ten times stronger than steel. It is made primarily for multi-day outings since you can put a large amount of cargo inside, loading it through the top, very much like a duffle bag. Once full, there is a drawstring closure and retention strap to keep everything secure. You can also adjust the capacity by folding the top over and cinching the retaining strap down. To obviate the requirement for a frame, the bag features a contoured foam back pad, which is why its total weight is only 1.4 pounds. I really did not have a chance to hump a heavy load any appreciable distance with it, but fully loaded with all my excess gear, its overall shape and lightweight, plus the padded shoulder straps and hip belt made it ride very comfortably. Although rated for 30-pound loads, I was able to consolidate all of my newly acquired objects and

additional detritus, along with my medium-size checked bag, into a neat package for the flight home, without the fear that it would either ex or implode at the seams — a worthwhile transport system, at a suggested retail of about 100 bucks.

Knives are about as indispensable as rifles in a hunting camp, and, although everyone brought along his own slicing and slashing instrument, Bob had a new Ontario model that was worthy of note. Named the **Ontario RAT-7** (Randall Adventure Training, Model 7), it is a medium-sized knife at 12 inches overall, with a 6.5" business end, weighing-in at a tad over 13 ounces. The blade is made from 1095 carbon steel, with the handle fabricated from canvas micarta laminate. Chuck Karwan is the knife-guy and he seemed to like it. It is a sturdy, no-frills implement that will get any cutting job done with maximum efficiency, and will undoubtedly outlast its owner. A fine quality piece of cutlery.

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DSA SA58 Carbine

The FAL (Fusil Automatique Legere) rifle has been the mainstay of many armies of the free world since the 1950's. One of the very best US made examples of this fine design comes from DSArms of Barrington, Illinois. I carried their SA58 Carbine chambered in 308WIN / 7.62NATO, with a 16.25 inch barrel on the 2003 Soldier of Fortune Elk Hunt in Northwestern Colorado. With a five round magazine (also from DSArms) it is legal to hunt in Colorado with this type of firearm. On the final few range sessions before the hunt, I noticed that the usually ultra reliable rifle did not always chamber a round. I cleaned and lubed it, but it made no difference. A quick phone call to the service desk at DSArms established that after several thousand rounds that I had put through the gun, the recoil spring was beginning to weaken. I shipped the rifle back to DSArms under warranty. It was repaired and returned to me one week later, with no charge. Now that's good customer service! The SOF Hunt was also an opportunity to try out a Boonie Packer sling. This allows the wearer to carry a rifle in the horizontal position, suspended about waist height and is quick to get the rifle up to the eye and into the shoulder. In the interests of safety, wearers should be very careful of where the muzzle is pointing when in the horizontal carry position. ❖

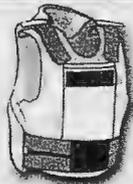


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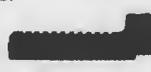
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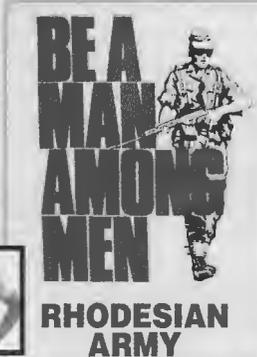
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Carroll Media	75
Chase Durer	C4
Dark Ops Knives	7
DS Arms	80
EO Tech	73
Global School Inv.	52
Hurley & Withington	29
Inter-American Security	52
Imperial Designs	74
Iron Wolf Ent.	18-19
Jonathan Ciener	53
Jungle Toy	81
Kestrel	72
Lightfighter Tactical	16
Matt Fury	31
Marc Wolfe Art	75
Maxsell	27
Military.com	81
Mil-Comm	79
Muscle Products	80
Otis	3
Neil Cooper	25
NIC Law Enforcement	56
One Stop Knife Shop	79
Paladin Press	5
Polartech/Insport	9
Ratchet Belt Co.	56
R.M. Equipment	78
Silver Creek Industries	53
Silverman's	53
Southern Ordnance	81
Steve Arnold's Gunroom	76
Sure-Fire	11
Tactical Assault Gear	23
Tamiami Int.	52
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SILVER LININGS IN IRAQ CLOUDS

BY F. ANDY MESSING JR.

BAGHDAD Iraq: During a recent mortar attack on the main U.S. compound in Baghdad, which formerly was Saddam's grand palace, an optimistic chief of logistics explained how the expanding flow of \$18.4 billion of U.S. aid would produce long-term change. He also things had already improved in the 12 months he had been there.

In an earlier interview, Ambassador John Negroponte said correctly that, without security, the other facets of economic, sociopolitical change could not occur. Accordingly, these points were further amplified by his comments that Iraq's future must be viewed not in the short term but "a longer view" and that there is important traction. He saw Iraq filled with promise. The Defense Department puts out daily reports on some 2,000 successful projects based on information accumulated from civilian and military sources on the ground. However, most of the American media have diligently avoided reporting on this plethora of good news, negatively flavoring the worldwide impression of our efforts. Furthermore, historical perspectives like comparisons of American efforts under Democratic administrations in Japan, Germany and Korea have also been avoided.

Therefore, our altruism is downplayed while the combat mission supporting the Iraqi government is highlighted.

Day after day, these media reports on a narrow band of dissident combatants that include outside agitators color perceptions while affecting both our military and civilian morale. Meanwhile, a mixed group of committed coalition people are working hard and risking their lives to bring Iraq from ruin to future stability and prosperity.

In the U.S. Military Hospital in Baghdad, as Medivac helicopters fly in from Najaf, the staff works feverishly trying to save a critically wounded Iraqi soldier [-] who lies next to an American soldier from the 1st Cavalry. This while another group of medics attend to a accidentally burned child, as her traditionally garbed mother fingers prayer beads beside her bed.

In another part of the city, coalition elements work on clean water and electricity generation, and how to rejuvenate cash-making oil production amidst turmoil. They are addressing some basic infrastructure issues for the first time since before the Iran-Iraq war. As one British consultant said: "The faster we help the Iraqis, the faster they get

a better life, the faster people quit fighting." For America, that means the faster we get out of there.

A first lieutenant in the 10th Mountain Division, caked in dust, said, "Our helping Iraqis makes sense." When told he was a long way from the West Point parade grounds, he said: "This was what I was meant to do, help people." This statement, as we near 1,000 American military killed in action, illustrates the deep seriousness, selflessness and intent of our cause. So, while there are fainthearted, non-Trumansque types running for the door to abandon a John Kennedy-like noble effort, remember that the patient and earnest helping of Iraq will prove correct even if it takes 10 years. In the short term, it may look ugly but President Bush's political heroism will only become evident after the current election, as success in Iraq starts kicking in. Admittedly, as a side benefit, this may give America access to much needed oil to keep our economy going. This, while radical environmentalists slam the door on development of oil in our own Alaskan Arctic Wildlife Reserve.

Even amid our mistakes and blunders, Iraqis are becoming better off, receptive and appreciative. It can be hoped this will later be reflected in the Arab world, relieving pressure on Israel.

Last, we must make atonement, in the collective, cosmic sense, to our forefathers, our American military dead and those almost 3 million innocents killed after we abandoned Indochina in 1975. America must not repeat that history. This atonement comes by helping Iraqis and as many others as we can, people yearning to be free. Otherwise, we will be condemned to a spiral of expanding warfare unprecedented in human history, as "evidoers" take charge and flourish.

F. Andy Messing Jr., a retired U.S. Special Forces major, is executive director of the National Defense Council Foundation in Alexandria. Mr. Messing has been to 27 conflicts, and just returned from a medical fact-finding mission to Iraq. NDCF has provided 140 tons of medical relief to combat areas worldwide.

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ARMALITE'S NEW .300 REMINGTON SHORT MAGNUM AR-10T

The AR-10 Is Ready For Long Range!



TEXT & PHOTOS BY
GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

When Mark Westrom purchased all rights to the original ArmaLite Company several years ago, he got more than just the name. With it came the introduction of an improved version of Eugene Stoner's original .308 Winchester-caliber AR-10. Like Stoner, Mark Westrom is a U.S. Military Veteran who always had a fondness for the 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester) cartridge as well as the AR-10 that Eugene Stoner designed to use it.

Following an extensive R&D program at the new ArmaLite, Mark Westrom designed his own improved variation of the AR-10. Although it was larger than its .223 caliber sibling, the new AR-10 used a number of small parts and springs in common with ArmaLite's .223 caliber M-15 versions of the AR-15. However, one part uncommon to either rifle was the magazine Westrom selected. Renowned by many as the finest .308 caliber detachable box magazine in the world, it is the magazine designed by John C. Garand and used in the M14 rifle.

Since the M14 magazine uses a totally different method of insertion and retention from the AR-15 magazine, the M14 magazine was converted to use the AR-10's magazine catch. Once that was solved, making the magazine follower activate the bolt hold-open device was a little more tricky, but Westrom solved that too. In the rear of the follower is a spring-loaded plunger that is beveled on the bottom. When the magazine is loaded, pushing the follower down cams the plunger inward so that it can pass down into the magazine body (it may have to be assisted). When the last shot is fired, the plunger is above the magazine body and extends to lift the bolt hold-open device. What is arguably one of the finest rifles in the world now has one of the finest magazines.

Operated by direct gas, the bolt carrier (actually the gas cylinder) and the bolt (actually the piston) move all the way to the rear of the receiver when gas pressure is transferred directly to them via the gas tube. With seven locking lugs, the bolt rotates directly into the barrel extension to create a

strong and reliable breech. As with the original, ArmaLite's new AR-10 amounts to an enlarged version of its .223 caliber counterpart originally redesigned from the AR-10 by L. James Sullivan, of the original ArmaLite Corp.

Having previously tested several ArmaLite AR-10 rifles, I can attest to their excellence. One was even shot side by side with an original AR-10, and while both produced identical 1.5 MOA accuracy, the



Whether or not ArmaLite's new AR-10T in Remington .300 Short Ultra Magnum caliber was made with the military in mind, it's definitely ready for long-range duty. (inset) For comparison, the .308 Winchester is seen on the left followed by the .300 Rem. Short Ultra Mag., and the .300 Winchester Mag. Although the .308 and .300 Rem. Short Ultra are the same length, the two magnums are closer together in performance.



For Johnston's test, he chose the Valdada-10R 10x42mm Sniper Scope with Valdada's 30mm mounts. The lower receiver of the rifle is standard AR-10 configuration. (right) The larger bolt face of the .300 Remington Ultra Magnum (L) is compared with that of a standard .308 Winchester caliber AR-10.



improvements in the new ArmaLites reflected all the evolutionary improvements made to their .223 caliber siblings over the years. As such, the new AR-10 is measurably superior to the original.

The guns I tested previously included the precision grade AR-10T, the AR-10 Carbine, and the AR-10-B, the new ArmaLite rendition of the original variation popularly referred to as the Sudanese Model, and the AR-10A4, but this is old news. Now there is a whole new fleet of ArmaLite AR-10 rifles, as part of ArmaLite's 2003 MilSpec Upgrade that involves all of ArmaLite's rifles. However, one new variation deserves special mention.

The AR-10T .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum

Not long ago I received a sample of a new ArmaLite AR-10 in .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum caliber. Being of the AR-10T configuration, this rifle has a flattop upper receiver and was designed for long-range precision shooting. Being the same overall length as the 7.62x51mm NATO (.308) cartridge, the .300 Rem. Short Ultra Magnum has a much larger diameter throughout its body and at its rimless case head.

Originally designed as a military cartridge, the .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum is thicker in its web area than others, and this is why ArmaLite's President, Mark Westrom,

selected it for the AR-10 over other short magnum cartridges. The rifle's bolt is also special, and not merely an AR-10 .308 Winchester caliber bolt with an enlarged bolt face. This is also true of other parts of the rifle that are specially fitted. Fitted so tight, in fact, I had to use a drift and mallet to remove the locking pin for the upper and lower receivers.

Incorporating a match-grade stainless steel Lothar-Walther barrel, the AR-10T .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum also has a free-floating, round handguard with four M1913 rails at the front. These can be used to mount iron sights, lights, lasers, and a bipod. I mounted a Harris Bipod using an A.R.M.S. Harris Bipod ThrowLever Mount. Forward of the rails is the gas block, which on this model has been moved farther forward to offset the longer pressure curve of the magnum cartridge.

In addition to its other match-grade features, the .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum AR-10T comes with a match trigger that is excellent. Two five-round magazines are also furnished. Essentially ArmaLite's 10-round AR-10 magazines with a modified follower, this new magnum magazine will hold five rounds of .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum ammunition. Special enlarged feed ramps facilitate feeding of the larger rounds.

Shots Fired

In preparation for shooting my sample AR-10T .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum rifle, I mounted a Valdada-

ACCURACY CHART

Five 3-Shot 100-Yard Groups Using ProChrono LE. Elevation 7000 feet, Temp: 72°, Humid: 31%

.300 RSUM Cartridge	Muzzle Vel.	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Rem. 150 gr. JSP.	3207 fps.	0.84"	1.09"	0.96"



All groups were fired from the Buck Bench portable shooting rest (above) from ODEX. (below) Nearly all test groups held under 1 inch at 100 yards, as this 0.84" group illustrates.



ARMALITE AR-10A4

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum.
Muzzle Velocity:	3200 fps.
Operation:	Long-stroke gas piston and cylinder via direct gas.
Type of Fire:	Semi-automatic.
Barrel Length:	24" Lothar-Walther stainless steel.
Overall Length:	43.5 inches.
Weight: (rifle alone)	11.5 pounds.
Feed Device:	5-shot, modified M14 box magazine.
Safety:	Thumb safety/selector.
Sights:	None: ArmaLite open sights and scopes optional.
Stock Furniture:	Synthetic OD Green.
Finish:	MilSpec matte black.
Price:	\$2340.00 (suggested retail).

IOR 10X42mm Tactical scope on it, using IOR 30mm steel rings. ArmaLite also furnished two of its one-piece mounts for the rifle, one a 30mm and the other for 1-inch scopes, but since the IOR had already been mounted on another flattop AR-10, it fit perfectly on this one.

The AR-10T was tested from the prone position, and also from the Buck Bench from ODXS, of Prescott Valley, Arizona. However, only one type of ammunition was available, and this was 80 rounds of factory Remington 150-grain Core-Lokt soft-point hunting ammunition I had received from Remington. This round not only functioned perfectly, but

Continued on page 65

ArmaLite's AR-10T

Continued from page 64

also, somewhat to my surprise, it provided very good accuracy. Recoil was also relatively mild for a cartridge of its size even in the relatively heavy rifle.

Among all the rifle's other assets was ArmaLite's superb 2-stage Match trigger, which made letoff a piece of cake. The accuracy from the test is recorded in the accompanying chart.

Although it comes with OD-green stock furniture, the new AR-10T .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum rifle was reportedly not designed for the military or law enforcement, but for hunters who wanted a superior, long-range .30 caliber cartridge. However, in my opinion, the rifle has excellent military application. A complete upper receiver group can be purchased for use on any AR-10 lower receiver group with no modification.

Whether or not the AR-10 in .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum was designed with the military in mind, its OD green stock furniture certainly does suggest military application. The one rub could be the five-round magazine. A 10-round single column magazine could easily be molded from synthetic, but with the feed ramps designed for a two-position feed, it may be best to leave it as is. It would certainly make an excellent long-range sniper rifle with ballistics more than 30% better than the .308 Winchester. At 300 yards, this cartridge has almost as much velocity as the .308 at the muzzle. However, for some time I have thought that this case would be an excellent candidate for necking down to 6.5mm. A 140-to 150-grain 6.5mm bullet would be a fantastic flier in this combination.



Shown on Johnston's AR-10 Carbine is the AR-10 ERGO Grip from Falcon Industries, which is also available in OD green.

For an optimum grip I would replace the AR-10T's issue grip with an ERGO ambidextrous grip from Falcon Industries. One of the best grips in the business, this one comes with a special adapter for the AR-10 receiver, and ERGO grips are now available in OD green and other colors. Other than this, there's not much I can think of to improve the rifle.

If you're looking for a semi-automatic rifle to fill a variety of needs, be sure to check out ArmaLite's new AR-10T in .300 Remington Short Ultra Magnum. For information on its entire line, contact ArmaLite, Inc., Dept. SOF, 745 S. Hanford St., Geneseo, IL 61250; phone: 309-944-6939, on the web at www.armalite.com.

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OSPREY:



Bird Of Prey... Or Killer Albatross?

Examining if the V-22 Suffers from Growing Pains, or a Terminal Illness

BY JOHN "TILT" MEYER

PHOTOS COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

When it comes to the Marine Corps' controversial tiltrotor MV-22 Osprey, I predict that more Marines will die in this experimental aircraft before it becomes operational.

When I ran top-secret missions into Laos during the Vietnam War, the most crucial moments were insertions into and, extractions from, target areas. Today's MV-22 can't get into and out of LZs as quickly as the old UH-1s and H-34s. Unlike those old aircraft, the MV-22 doesn't have defensive weapons on it. The MV-22 cabin is constructed with windows so small and poorly placed that passengers can't get an accu-

rate feel for the terrain the aircraft is approaching. And, if hostile forces open fire on the unarmed MV-22, armed men inside have no means of defending themselves, as they did on the UH-1s and H-34s.

Sadly, this aircraft — which takes off in a helicopter mode, then whose wings rotate the two 6000-horsepower turbine engines while in flight into a turboprop, fixed-wing configuration — continues to cost the government about \$100 million a month. Meanwhile, crucial issues about the aircraft go unanswered because Bell Helicopter-Boeing has deftly landed various production aspects of it in nearly every state, making

it safe from honest scrutiny in congress. This corporate heavyweight also has spent millions of dollars among key congressional powerbrokers, particularly in Texas, thus insulating itself from the necessary checks-and-balances of our democratic processes.

To add insult to injury, nearly two dozen of the flawed aircraft — called “hangar queens” by its detractors — have been produced and stored in hangars while the horrific production costs continue to mount. And, if this aircraft gets approval by some sort of magical action, millions more will have to be spent to bring the “hangar queens” up to date, because this aircraft has been in research, development and testing for more than 20 years.



(above) Design characteristics of V-22 make it a superior rotor-wing craft for such missions as HALO ops, but close to the ground for fast-roping (inset) it is vulnerable to ground fire, and its own problems with vortex ring state.

(opposite) RPG gunner's view of a high-value, essentially defenseless target — a couple dozen U.S. Marines in an unarmed craft, about to hover to the ground.

(below) Float like a butterfly (most of the time), sting like a bee (not). Flight characteristics and essentially unarmed status of V-22 Osprey make it highly vulnerable to conditions on a hot LZ.

I hope I'm wrong in my prediction, but, the Corps learned a costly lesson in April 2000 — the first time ground troops were airborne for a test flight in the MV-22 — when the trial ended tragically in Marana, Ariz., with a fiery crash that killed all 19 Marines aboard the ill-fated aircraft. Since that date, there have been tests, delays, and investigations, but, the Osprey continues to slowly roll off of production lines with no one in public asking key questions about performance. Any knowledgeable critics are ignored and/or berated for their criticism.

The key culprit in the Marana crash was a phenomenon known as “Vortex Ring State.” This is a flaw within the design structure of this aircraft, where, as it descends in a helicopter mode — with the side-by-side props pointing upward, one of the engines begins to





Long range and speed of V-22 make it an attractive replacement for an aging chopper fleet — at least on paper. Other options include the new S-92 (above), which appear more cost effective.

lose its grip of the air while the second engine's props continue to grab air. The phenomenon surfaces rapidly, with the dominant engine and prop spinning the aircraft and pointing its nose toward the ground and thus plummeting the aircraft to earth — as it did in Marana.

That issue has not been fully addressed according to MV-22 critics, yet, production goes forward. "It's mind-boggling how the Corps blindly supports this killer albatross," Franklin "Chuck" Spinney said. Spinney, who retired in 2003 after 34 years in the Air Force, is a long-time critic of military spending waste and said, "The Vortex Ring State is a fatal flaw of that aircraft. The physics of the aircraft are susceptible to it as no other aircraft. It happens so fast, I'd argue that no warning device, can prevent it."

In addition, no one in a key decision role, either in the Corps, Congress or the Department of Defense, ever saw the collection of 49,586 verbatim quotes from Marines and key Army personnel who were flown in the aircraft, because the report was deep-sixed. The reason it was hidden: The majority of comments in it are negative. Yes, there are positive things stated, but, the clear majority is negative.

We were able to obtain a copy of those quotations taken directly from an Operational Test and Evaluation database, which was compiled during tests in 1999 and early 2000.

The participants were given questionnaires about their experiences, problems and recommendations. Their answers were written in their own words and, in the spirit of Marines, they didn't hold back their feelings.

The GAO and Inspector General's office have conducted investigations, but without the statements from the

questionnaires, from men who rode in the controversial aircraft. Instead they queried Bell Helicopter-Boeing spokesmen, Marine Corps public affairs officials or congressional fatcats more interested in padding their re-election coffers than looking after the interests of U.S. service members.

Following are several critical comments of the MV-22 taken from those questionnaires, which were provided to SOF by a group of former pilots who have been highly critical of this craft. Retired Air Force test pilot Harry Dunn is among that group of critics who has asked for congressional

hearings on its viability to operate as an effective flying machine. The outspoken Dunn was involved in final Air Force testing of the H-3 chopper built by Sikorsky in the early 60's that led to production of the CH-53s that remain in service today.

Exclusive Report: the Troops Speak Up

"If there are 24 troops with packs and weapons the aircraft is too packed and egress could be impossible for the troops. There is no room for the c/c [crew chief] to get to anyone to help them, and the lookout doctrine is pretty much not there during forward flight. You only have enough room for one crew member." "Visibility — totally unacceptable." "Windows are too small for effective lookout."

"The icy conditions are a concern on all V-22 missions."

"Need to have awareness of stall speeds, particularly in a turn, when down low due to limited altitude to



Osprey flies around Washington last spring — but don't look for them at the White House carrying the commander in chief.

down low due to limited altitude to recover" [The Marana crash occurred at low altitude.]

"Seats need to be larger and belts need to be longer."

"The temperature in the back of the aircraft is unacceptable. On a long flight the extreme cold and the extreme heat could be a health factor. Extreme caution should be taken for hydration and keeping your body warm."

"The seatbelts and seat need to be replaced. Their design is ineffective for what we do and should be replaced w/ a more standard seat and seatbelt."

"Field of view stinks and there are no warning tone(s) for the crew in the back."

"... The comm (communications) system is not compatible with other SOCCOM (Special Operation Center Command — SpecOps such as Navy SEALs and Force Recon) aircraft, so our teams must have another piece of gear to transload from one aircraft to ours"

"Not clear on oxygen on extended flights over two hours at altitudes above 19,000 feet."

"The jumpers could not avoid getting air sickness ... just not enough room for combat loaded troops ... I never got airsick before I rode the V-22 ... air sickness has been a problem in the cabin. When the cabin is closed there is very poor air circulation."



Osprey moves artillery piece in a demonstration of its design abilities.



On board suitable ships, hybrid Osprey re-oriens its fixed wing, folds its props/rotors for stowage.

"Rapid descents does [sic] cause ear blocks."

"Ditching the aircraft in water would kill everyone in the back if the troops had full packs..."

"The [M]V-22 seems more cramped for space than the [CH-] 46 or [CH-] 53...Wasn't built for combat troops..."

Oversight integrity questioned

Dunn and other critics have questioned the integrity of many in federal government who were charged with the oversight of development programs such as the MV-22. In May 2003, despite serious problems with the MV-22, the Pentagon's Chief of Testing, Pete Aldridge, reviewed the program and announced the V-22 was testing well and that increased production should be considered. He retired the next day and became a board member for Lockheed-Martin.

Aldridge joins Norman Augustine, as a Lockheed-Martin board member. Augustine was on an independent panel that reviewed the MV-22 program after two deadly crashes in 2000. This four man "Blue Ribbon Panel" concluded the V-22 could be fixed and that production should continue.

After completing work as head of the Blue Ribbon Panel, retired Marine General John Dailey became an outside director for Smiths Aerospace. A few months later, Smiths won a major contract for MV-22 components from Boeing.

The effort at Marine Corps headquarters to keep the MV-22 alive during the Marana tragedy was led by the head of Marine Aviation, Lt. Gen. Fred McCorkle. Soon after retiring from the Marines in October 2001, McCorkle joined the board of directors as a senior advisor for GKN Aerospace Services, which produces MV-22 fuel tanks.

While these generals receive huge monthly retirement checks from the Marines, a tradition has emerged in which the head of Marine Aviation is financially rewarded after retirement for not rocking the boat. Questioning the progress of the MV-22 by Marines is difficult when some former Marine aviator generals are handing inquiries.

A spokesman for Marine Corps headquarters said Marine generals who go into the private aviation industry after years of service to the government are not breaching any ethical rules of conduct and in fact are simply following a long tradition of generals and admirals who have left the military for better salaries and perks in the big-money civilian world.

Ain't No Prez Plane

While aviation industry and military brass don't mind low-ranking troops riding in the MV-22, during the last 18 months, elite pilots felt it was too dangerous for Washington D.C. VIPs. The dangers of the MV-22 are no secret in Washington D.C. The fleet of Presidential helicopters is aging, and replacements are needed by 2012.

According to a 16 June 2003 article in the *Washington Post*: "The Marine Corps has asked Boeing Co. to enter the competition with its (M)V-22 Osprey, which suffered two high-profile crashes in 2000, killing 23 Marines. But a senior Navy official said the aircraft, which could become operational as soon as 2006, may not be mature enough."

HMX-1 pilots provide White House helicopter support. HMX-1 pilots, who are not part of the Bell-Boeing V-22 test team, flew the V-22 several times. Dunn told *SOF* that the HMX-1 pilots were unimpressed with the aircraft. Thus, it isn't good enough to transport the president or White House VIPs. Dunn and Spinney said Washington insiders know the V-22 is unsafe, yet are unwilling to battle the political forces

Continued on page 79

THE WINNERS ARE IN!

SEVENTH PRIZE OVERALL



"Rock & Roll Rocket" by SFC Garth Corner

C Co, 54th Combat Engineers:
1LT Korneliussen, SGT Crooks, SFC Corner,
SSG McGlensey



Garth wins a Gerber Legendary Blades
Silver Trident™ Combat Dive/Utility Knife
and Gerber MultiPlier © 600

EIGHTH PRIZE OVERALL

"Trying 'Em On For Sieze" by SGT Jeremy Christiansen

MPs SGT Jeremy Christiansen, left,
and SGT Ryan Wilkerson



Jeremy wins a Cold Steel SRK



FREEDOM PHOTO CONTEST

For the next few issues, *SOF* will take pride in publishing the winning entries of the Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom Photo Contest. We would like sincerely to thank the sponsors of this contest, who have demonstrated their generous and patriotic support for our men and women in uniform and in

harm's way, by donating prizes of "the right stuff" as a tangible example of our national appreciation. This good-as-it-gets gear is a suitable "Thank You" to our troops who have given the very best of themselves. Prizes awarded will be showcased with winning entries, as a "thank you" to our generous sponsors.

NINTH PRIZE OVERALL

"We Said, 'Move That Thing' " by **PFC Terry Bolton**

TOW 2A at Al Hadeffa, Iraq



Terry wins a Cold Steel SRK

TENTH PRIZE OVERALL

**"Taps Over
Camp Virginia"**
by **SFC Dan Sweeney**



**Dan wins an Ontario ATAK Bush
Blade/Survival Knife**



Bounty Hunter On Trial

Continued from page 30

Assassination Plot

One witness is to be the Minister of Education, Yunus Qanuni, and his brother and security chief, Haji Ibrahim. Idema said his unit had uncovered a plot to assassinate Qanuni. Idema said he worked for a secret counterterrorist unit directly responsible to the Pentagon, and the U.S. embassy knew of his activities.

He claimed to have captured a high-level Taliban official, and handed him over to U.S. forces. He claimed to have uncovered plots by Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the wanted Pushtun warlord and terrorist, to assassinate Qanuni, and defense minister Marshal Muhammad Qasim Fahim. And also — while they were at it — to blow up fuel tankers in the United States and NATO military headquarters.

On Wednesday, 21 July, the tribunal was opened to the public for a pretrial hearing, with hundreds of journalists and Afghans present. The hearing was vastly different from the arbitrary, draconian tribunals held by the Taliban when they were in power.

A bearded Idema, wearing his customary dark glasses, appeared in court in khaki uniform, with a reversed American flag on the shoulder.

The prosecutor Muhammad Naeem Dawari read the charges.

Caraballo's brother said that the family had been in contact with the U.S. State Department and his defense attorney, who had made it to the hearing. On-site sources confirmed that the trial had begun and that the charges were "having a personal jail, taking hostages, and torture."

Dawari alleged that Mr. Idema had admitted under interrogation that he had no connection with any American government agencies, and that he had entered Afghanistan, from India, without a proper visa. Under pressure, Idema also supposedly admitted detaining men in his house.

Maulavi Siddiq Ullah, a prominent Islamic cleric told the judge he had been beaten and starved, and said he was humiliated by being stripped and forced to use the toilet in front of his captors, says *Knight Ridder News*.

Taxi driver Ahmad Ali, told the court that he had been seized in his taxi, en route to Kabul from Northern Langhman province. He said he had his

head dunked into a basin of water repeatedly and was beat on the feet and stomach. He testified that he was fed two pieces of bread in seven days. "They kept showing me pictures of people and asked if I knew them," Ali said. "They said they'd bring my family and beat them as well," AP reports.

Terror Suspects

Kabul shopkeeper Sakhi said he gave his captors the name of fellow detainee Mohammed Arif Malikyar, and Afghan Education Ministry official, in an attempt to stop repeated beatings, after he failed to recognize any pictures of terror suspects Idema's group had showed him," *AFP*

Idema's wife, Viktoria, continues to be as staunch a supporter as she was several years ago when I met her.

Jim Morris, Special Forces three-tour Vietnam vet, author, war correspondent for SOF and for Rolling Stone, who has known Idema for twelve years, said, "The press deems it perfectly acceptable and sensible for the government to offer a huge reward for the capture of OBL, Mullah Omar, and others, but somehow disreputable for anyone to try to collect it.

"There is little question that Keith

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would have accepted the reward if he had captured someone significant. He is in business; he has expenses.

"I should like to point out that a trained and experienced privateer, in Afghanistan or anyplace else, has an advantage that no one else has. He doesn't have to get permission from some bureaucrat, scared to death that he will ruin his career, to make his move.

"Time after time, and I know this from active duty Special Forces operators in Afghanistan and Iraq, leads have been blown while higher dithered.

"An ancient rule of thumb for guerrillas and terrorists is that you never stay in one place for more than seventy-two hours, and, in today's world, seldom for more than twelve. Bureaucracies can't make decisions to move that fast. That is the sole reason OBL and Mullah Omar are still at large. A privateer doesn't have the resources of the government, but he can move fast and take chances no bureaucrat would ever countenance. Apparently no journalist will either," said Morris.

In the 1980s, Idema formed an academy to train people in anti-terrorism techniques, John Idema, Keith's father, told the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

Idema said his son trained different government agencies, including U.S. Customs. When President Reagan dedicated the Statue of Liberty in 1986, John Idema said, the government called on his son to help provide security.

"He's a very good and intensely American boy," John Idema said. "He thinks of nothing else but that. Really, he is a dedicated American, and we should have a few more of them."

FBI Vengeance

Barry Farber, has told his audience, "The soldier, who more than a decade ago first warned the Pentagon about the Russian Mafia selling suitcase nuclear bombs to terrorist-supporting nations, now languishes in an Afghan prison, along with other members of his independent antiterrorist team.

"We smell FBI vengeance, payback fueled by Keith's volunteer success in rounding up the bad guys. We're open to being proven wrong. The other side doesn't seem to be open to anything."

"In contrast to these official torture allegations, a NATO spokesman, who claimed his troops were deceived into going on three raids with Idema's group, spoke of, 'their apparently professional approach — also in handling

prisoners,'" Ted Kavanau said.

NATO bomb-disposal teams found traces of explosives in two houses raided by Idema's group, Richard Caraballo cited from an AP account.

Judge Abdul Baset Bakhtiari, who granted a fifteen-day adjournment for the defendants to prepare, said, "I like Mister Jack. He has a lot of good things going for him. He is very active and very confident."

However, this same judge, who spoke those friendly words in front of a crowd in the preliminary hearing, also said, "We are creating a government here, and only the highest government authority is entitled to solve ministers' problems or to decide what to do," Judge Bakhtiari reportedly said. "Afghanistan is not a forest that any animal can behave how it wants.

"This is the clearest case I have seen in my twenty years as a judge," he said. "The criminals were arrested at the scene of the crime; they were armed and their prisoners were there for the police and everyone to see." NYT

That's what he said before he had even examined all the evidence?

Dr. Martin Brass is a longtime SOF contributor. ✕

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Continued from page 24

"There is no doubt that illegal drug trafficking is a serious threat to our country's security, and we are committed to do everything possible to disrupt this dangerous criminal enterprise," he said.

The DEA estimates that 65 percent of the cocaine and most of the marijuana that enters the United States comes from Mexico. In one week U.S. agents caught Mexicans in San Diego with nearly 6,000 pounds of marijuana valued at 2.7 million dollars, a sports utility vehicle with 1,000 pounds more, worth 1.25 million, and

a big rig carrying a ton, 2.5 million dollars worth, of marijuana.

Drug investigators discovered three tunnels and a fourth under construction at the U.S.-Mexico border at Nogales, Mexico. Hundreds of drug traffickers have flooded into North Carolina, according to Schlafly.

Arizona police report that sixty percent of the homicides in Phoenix involve Mexicans smuggling drugs and people, Tucson's crime rate has grown to twelve times the national average, and a vehicle is stolen in Arizona every ten minutes. City gangs have invaded. The worst city gang may be MS-13, a ruthless Salvadoran group that has spread to at least twenty-eight states

including Massachusetts. Deserts and national parks have become favorite routes for the entry of illegal aliens.

Mexican Army Invasion

Heavily armed Mexican army troops and police, paid handsomely to escort the drug traffickers and their illicit shipments across the border into the United States, often protect the smugglers, according to U.S. law-enforcement authorities.

The drug lords are expected to spend more than 500 million dollars this year, in bribes and payoffs to a cadre of Mexican generals and police officials, to ensure that the illicit drugs reach their destination, the authorities said.

U.S. Law-enforcement authorities all along the U.S.-Mexico border hesitate to work with Mexican military troops and police. Several officials told the *Washington Times* that many Mexican police agencies along the border have been "totally corrupted" by drug smugglers and that the corruption included a number of key Mexican generals and other commanders.

"I'm not sure what other country allows foreign military troops such willy-nilly access," one veteran Border Patrol agent, told the *Washington Times*. "I've seen them come across the border, heavily armed and equipped, and I often wonder why we're not doing anything about it."

"There's no doubt Mexican military units along the border are being controlled by the drug cartels, and not by Mexico City," said Rep. Tom Tancredo, Colorado Republican, "The military units operate freely, with little or no direction, and several of them have made numerous incursions into the United States."

He said the trafficking has been tied to Mexican drug cartels, and the shipments often are protected — sometimes even delivered — by Mexican military units.

U.S. officials report 118 incursions by the Mexican military in the last five years. No one can guess how many times they infiltrated without notice. Seper of the *Washington Times* tells the grim story in his article "Border War: Mexican police join drug lords."

The Mexican Military denied the charges, claiming that those crossing over U.S. borders were 'lost'.

"Some of these 'lost' units are carrying drugs, and we've seen them before," a veteran Border Patrol agent told Seper. "Besides, if they are lost, why are they shooting at us instead of

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asking for directions?"

In 1998, the DEA reported an extensive connection between drug traffickers in Mexico and senior members of the Mexican army. The DEA said at the time that it avoided cooperating with Mexican army officers for fear that intelligence would be passed on to drug smugglers.

Former DEA Administrator Donnie Marshall said that drug traffickers "have long had the ability to corrupt public officials and institutions throughout the world,"

"They have two-way radios, night-vision gear, body armor and carry automatic weapons. They have powerful four-wheel-drive vehicles and are under orders not to stop — to shoot their way through if they have to."

Mexican military officers assigned to the Mexican Attorney General's Office as anti-narcotics agents have been arrested in Mexico City on charges of drug trafficking and alien smuggling.

"The Tohono O'odham Nation reservation, which shares seventy-six miles of international border with Mexico, is a "Smugglers paradise and border cop's nightmare".

Many members of the Tohono O'odham Nation welcome the migrants. The 2.7 million acre spread has "turned into a major corridor for drugs and illegal immigrants on their way to construction sites, sweatshops and street dealers across the United States. Five hundred illegal immigrants are smuggled at peak season. More than 50 million dollars in marijuana has been smuggled by the drug traffickers. The 11,000 residents load and drive vehicles and provide stash houses for the gangs. *Denver Post*

Many of the drugs never reach their destination. Drug abuse has risen in the economically depressed reservation that has forty-two percent unemployment. Residents are putting bars on

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their windows. Of 179 federal drug trafficking indictments originating on the reservation last year, fifty-nine involved tribal members.

Human mules or "backpackers", earning 1200 dollars carrying forty pounds of marijuana, dump drugs in hideouts or designated houses. Last year the tribe spent seven million dollars on law enforcement and medical costs related to the flow of drugs and immigrants. Half of the Police Department budget is spent on border related issues.

All of this adds to "the destruction of our culture," Chairwoman Vivian Juan-Saunders told the *Denver Post*.

High-Tech Thugs

"They keep us running like you can't believe," said Detective Sgt. David Cray, who heads the Tohono Police Department's anti-drug unit. "They have two-way radios, night-vision gear, body armor and carry automatic weapons," he told the *Washington Times*.

"They've put people on the hills to act as lookouts, and use portable solar panels to power their communications equipment," he said. "They have powerful four-wheel-drive vehicles and are under orders not to stop - to shoot their way through if they have to."

Telephone fraud flourishes among the immigrant community, costing phone companies and the American consumer almost two billion dollars a year.

In 2001, three Nigerians were charged with a massive identity theft scheme that pilfered nearly ten million at the cost of the innocent. U.S. officials say that this crime wave is "absolutely epidemic" in the Nigerian immigrant community.

Officials have arrested more than 1000 Nigerians since record keeping started in 1989, accounting for ten percent of the fraud arrests made during that period by the entire Secret Service.

Immigrants from countries as diverse as Russia, Yugoslavia, Vietnam, Armenia, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria regularly perpetrate similar check cashing and credit fraud schemes.

Immigrants run and man "crash scams" on California freeways, intentionally crashing junker cars into commercial trucks and then suing for the liability insurance (often settling out of court). U.S. consumers eat the bill.

There's more. Lots more.

Dr. Martin Brass is a longtime SOF contributor. ✕

Continued from page 41

Gary Spangler quickly joined in the fight as the Marines began to exchange heavy small-arms and grenade fire at roughly 15 meters with an estimated dozen or so ACM fighters.

The patrol corpsman, Robert Spejcher of suburban Chicago, moved quickly to help the wounded Marines. Sensing Payne's urgency, Staff Sgt. Thompson ordered the corpsman to leave him and help the wounded corporal who is lying in the open. HM3 Spejcher made it to where Payne was lying and dragged the 235-pound man 10 meters to the safety of a boulder and began first aid. The corpsman spent a few minutes and used a pop up flare to signal for help and then called for help on the radio. As Spejcher transmitted his first call, an PG rocket slammed into the rock next to him, spraying his body with shrapnel and rock, destroying the radio and rupturing his eardrum. At this point the corpsman can only return fire. First with his pistol, and then with three different machine guns, all of which eventually jam. Next to him, the young corporal, suffering from multiple gunshot and grenade wounds to the upper chest, becomes the first and only Marine to die in combat during the 22nd MEU's deployment to Afghanistan.

A few meters away, Thompson had been joined by Lance Cpl. Spangler, and the two continue to return fire the best they can. Spangler also began a barrage of hand grenades, which forced the ACM back (evidence of at least two direct hits were found the next morning). While this is happening, Spejcher and the fifth man in the squad, Private Brett Miller (who had suffered a broken leg), work their way up 7 Klicks to the rendezvous point, while reinforcements move up to support Thompson and Spangler.

A few minutes later, Colonel Kahn joins the men of 2nd LAR to hear some final words from the unit chaplain for Cpl. Payne. "He was a good Marine." Khan would later tell me. "I write his parents every week, sometimes several times a week," he added. "I think about it (Payne's death) every day. I think that will be the case until I meet his parents," as he intends to do when he and his Marines get home.

Final Cleaning

Today, the focus remains on the men and boys. Interrogators work their way

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through the men, looking for any evidence of ACM. Meanwhile, Kahn spends time addressing all of the village elders.

Still sitting in his chair, the colonel, using a translator, addresses the men in a very nonchalant "as a matter of fact" way. He tells the men that security begins with them. He also tells them



Author prepares to mount up with Bravo Company.

that a Marine can be your best friend, or worst enemy. Finally, he reminds them that there are returns on cooperation, including wells and schools.

The speech goes on for about 20 minutes and when it ends, everyone gets up as Colonel Kahn personally greets and speaks with the men individually. Speaking in his native tongue, Pashtun, he surprises the local leaders (it's their native tongue as well). At the same time, he instantly earns much needed respect.

In the late afternoon, the Marines begin letting people go home. They'd been fed some and given ample water, and in the end, all but seven were determined to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Of those seven, just two were determined to have enough significance to earn a trip to Bagram and possible places beyond.

The Taliban leader who was suspected to have been the cause of all of this, was gone. Slipped away into the mountains.

For the Marines of the 22nd MEU, this deployment was historic. It was the first time, and probably the last, a Marine Expeditionary Unit has completely deployed to a landlocked engagement. The only thing the Marines do not have at their disposal is their sea power. Considered a "surge force" by the coalition, the 22nd MEU has killed nearly 100 ACM and captured nearly a hundred more. Most were killed and captured during a weeklong battle near Daychopan in western Zabol Province in early June.

David Gerald is a freelance military journalist who covers all aspects of military activity in Afghanistan. ✕

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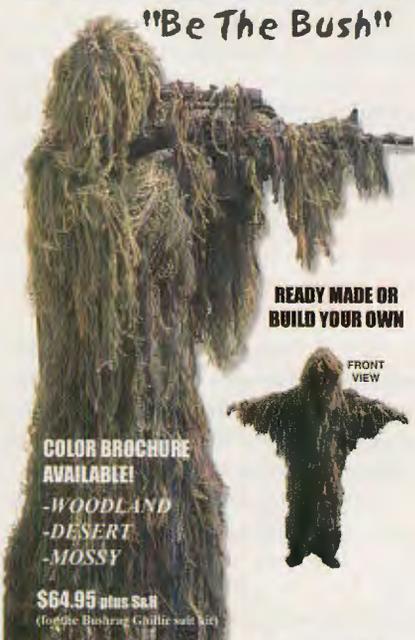
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Osprey

Continued from page 69

that profit from air industry largesse. This black eye to the MV-22 is significant and reflects how America's premier helicopter pilots view it. Meanwhile, the Air Force is looking for the ideal Combat Search and Rescue aircraft to replace its aging fleet of Sikorsky H-60s.

Speed and range are crucial for the more than 100 medium-lift aircraft the Air Force plans to buy. Yet, the flyboys turn thumbs down to the MV-22 due to its multi-faceted problems. Over in the Special Operations Command, the Air Force remains a minor player in the Osprey program, yet it is seeking to replace its aging MH-53s. However, Special Ops operators view the aircraft with distain. One high-ranking special operator recently told SOF, "If the Marines are willing to have their troops wasted in [a] killer bird and spend precious resources on it, so be it. But, over here [in SOCOM] no one considers it a tactical advantage provider."

The primary complaint is that the cabin of CV-22 is much smaller than the MH-53J, so much of their equipment will not fit inside. However, the Special Operations Command does not want to upset political supporters by backing out of the CV-22 in favor of new MH-53Ks, preferring to wait until it fails again. The Navy backed out of plans for 48 HV-22s two years ago in favor of the MH-60S, although the MV-22 program ignores this reality. The MH-60s costs one-quarter of a MV-22, weighs one-third as much, yet can lift almost the same amount of cargo.

And, "there's one more problem," said Dunn: "If the Osprey experiences engine failure, it can't go into autorotation, as helicopters do."

Last but not least, he pointed out that Sikorsky is marketing an S-92 that weights about half as much as the Osprey, can travel over 500 miles without refueling, has a bigger cabin than the MV-22, has been proven safer, and it has defensive weapons capability. Oh, in late 2002, it was approved by the feds as being safe enough to enter the commercial service — a fete the MV-22 is a far away from. Oh, each S-92 costs \$20 million each. The U.S. could buy five for one MV-22.

A frequent contributor to SOF over the years, Tilt Meyer is a newspaper journalist and TV personality. ✂

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Continued from page 16

a short list of selected hotels, where there has been negotiated a better discount than the regular government price. But they also will be required to identify themselves as air marshals to receive the cut rate. This hotel policy "has caused great anxiety, as [marshals] worry about the various security risks involved in having a set, observable and discernible pattern of activity regarding their hotel accommodations," Mark L. Cohen, a lawyer for the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association noted in a letter to the Department of Homeland Security. "If terrorists were to ascertain that a predetermined list of hotels was being used, these sites would be high value targets," Cohen was quoted in the *LA Times*.

Protocol Question:

Readers often write us with questions, not because we're likely to know anything in particular, but because we can in turn ask our eclectic readership, and often turn up an answer. Here's what one reader asked: "If we are flying the flag at

half staff for 30 days for President Reagan, will we have to wear our pants around our knees for 30 days when Clinton dies?" Well, we certainly hope not, especially if it's an election year, as there's enough dirty laundry being aired in Washington already.

Veteran's Cruises

Vets who like to socialize with their own will no doubt find of interest a series of cruises that feature good vessels going to interesting ports — and an onboard program of seminars and Power Point presentations on conflicts from WW II to the Great Sandbox, by notable such as Major General Donald Shepperd, USAF Retired, analyst on CNN and ABC television, Dr. Conrad Crane, Director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute at the Army War College, and former professor of military history at West Point, and Glen Sweeting, military historian, author and retired curator from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, who specializes in the history of weaponry and foreign armed forces. These seminars, of course, are in addition to the usual cruise amenities, and there are activities for the Rib, as well.

For information and booking contact CruiseCenter.com at 800-825-5793 or visit the Veterans Site at www.veteranscruise.com.

Mefloquine/Lariam Warning

The Department of Veterans Affairs is alerting VA clinics to possible long-term dangers from the anti-malarial Drug mefloquine (generic for Lariam).

The VA will also provide resources to support a Department of Defense study of the effects of mefloquine under deployment and post-deployment conditions, VA Secretary Principi said.

Lariam has recently been found to have caused vestibular damage in 11 U.S. service members who recently served in the Middle East, and may be linked to suicides and other violent behavior by its users.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Information Letter on Lariam for clinicians is at the following website: <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/health/infulet/102004007.pdf>. It notes, "Review of available literature ... suggests that certain health effects may be associated with mefloquine, some of which may persist after the drug is stopped. Self-reported symptoms in 'travelers surveys' include: insomnia, mood impairment, depression, 'strange thoughts,' altered spatial perception, sleeping disturbances, fatigue, dizziness and other neuropsychiatric effects, lasting in some instances more than two months. Clinical trials and epidemiological studies suggest that reported side effects are not common, are self-limiting, and include: depression, panic attacks, anxiety, insomnia, vertigo, nausea and headache, and strange or vivid dreams."

Why SOF Is Not "Mainstream" Media

Mosul, Iraq — Coalition soldiers questioned two news media cameramen and a reporter after a roadside bomb exploded near a Coalition convoy two kilometers north of Mosul on June 3.

The media, who were at the scene prior to the attack, told soldiers at the scene they had received a tip to be at that location prior to the attack and they had witnessed the explosion.

3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division soldiers requested the media accompany them to a base camp in Mosul to answer questions as witnesses to the incident. The news media representatives left the base camp in the mid afternoon. ✕

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Flak

Continued from page 10

of the reason for this is because SOF is one of the very, very few magazines worth subscribing to! Received my October issue in the mail today and, again, am grateful to have seen the KerryLied.com page.

God bless your magazine!
Wayne Jenkins

You're welcome. Three decades ago, the men who served honorably in Vietnam were slandered as men who murdered, raped and tortured — and those who were fortunate enough to come home were spit on and called baby killers. For three decades, they have wanted to set the record straight, but have for the most part just been getting on with their lives. However, it looks like that when one of their highest-profile slanderers before Congress wanted to run for the white House on a shaky "war hero" ticket and be the new commander in chief, 33 years worth of heartburn spontaneously boiled over and Viet-Vets from all quarters decided it was time to speak up. Every election brings a crop of contrarian organizations and web sites, but the reaction to John Kerry's candidacy was a phenomenon a journal that has reported on Viet-Vet issues for three decades had to acknowledge. And for the most part, we agree with the myriad veterans organizations that question Sen. Kerry's suitability to be president.

Gung-Ho!

I am 17 and currently in training to join up in the Marine Corps. My Parents are all for it. My grandparents (both sets), my aunts and uncles, my cousins, and my friends all think I'm joking and I think that says something about our current state of thought. We think that any one that cares enough to go out and kick some ass and take some names for Uncle Sam is either joking or a fanatic. Well let me set the record straight, I am not joking, I am not a fanatic, I love my country and the freedoms that my forefathers died to preserve, and I will give up my life to further the defense of freedom in the United States of America.

Thank you and God bless America.

Future recruit,
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Wicked Wednesday

BY OLIVER NORTH

RAMADI, Iraq — “There was about a half mile stretch of the main road in town that instantly became a battlefield as we moved through it,” explained Maj. Mike Wylie, the executive officer of 2nd battalion, 4th Marines (2/4). Wylie was describing the genesis of a truly violent clash on “Wicked Wednesday” here in Ramadi, the provincial capital that lies about 70 miles west of Baghdad.

Marines and soldiers were on patrol, making their way through town in the 120-degree mid-afternoon heat, when an improvised explosive device (IED) was set off by insurgents in an attempted ambush on the convoy carrying the executive officer of 2/4. The IED exploded beside the vehicle that was carrying our Fox News cameraman, Mal James, who jumped out of the humvee to capture some of the most dramatic war footage since the major hostilities of 16 months ago.

The ensuing battle, which involved upward of 600 soldiers and Marines and lasted for well over four hours, occurred near the government center, where, clearly, the insurgents do not want this government to succeed. Wylie, who did a magnificent job running the operation, called it a “large sized battle — probably the third or fourth largest of our deployment.” During the battle, 25 insurgents would be killed, 17 more wounded, and another 25 taken off the streets and into custody. Fourteen Marines sustained minor injuries during the clash.

The attack began with the detonation of an IED, whose cousin is the VBIED — Vehicular Born Improvised Explosive Device, or car bomb. IEDs are the preferred form of attack in Iraq against coalition forces and the new Iraqi government, whether they are used in vehicles or simply in trash cans off to the side of the road. The enemy no longer wants to face soldiers and Marines head-to-head, as evidenced by the lopsided outcome of Wednesday’s firefight.

One evening earlier in the week, just after 9:00 pm, the Marines responded when Iraqi police called in what they said was a suspected VBIED. The Iraqi officers pulled up to a vehicle parked in the middle of a six-lane highway, inspected it and took off upon realizing it was a car bomb. Though the Iraqi police are training to deal with IEDs, they don’t yet have the kind of equipment that the Marines do to neutralize them. So the Marine explosive ordnance disposal team was dispatched with a security force from Weapons Company.

While preparing to deploy a robot to detonate the bomb, Weapons Company was attacked by mortars. A Marine on the scene decided instead to use a TOW, a wire guided anti-tank weapon, to destroy the IED, which they

did in dramatic fashion.

Sgt. Jeremiah Randall is the TOW section leader in 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. It was one of his gunners who shot the 2.5-pound warheads that destroyed the IED. Though the TOW’s range is about 3,750 meters, the shots taken against this IED were from only about 350 meters. Randall explained that the close range actually made the shot more difficult because the gunner doesn’t have time to adjust the shot.

That IED was eliminated before it had the chance to do any harm. The Marines are also decreasing the insurgents’ effectiveness by manning observation posts at strategic locations throughout the city of Ramadi. There are Marines on these outposts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The purpose of these outposts, which are very hot during the day and very lonely at night, is to ensure that the Iraqi authorities know if something is going wrong.

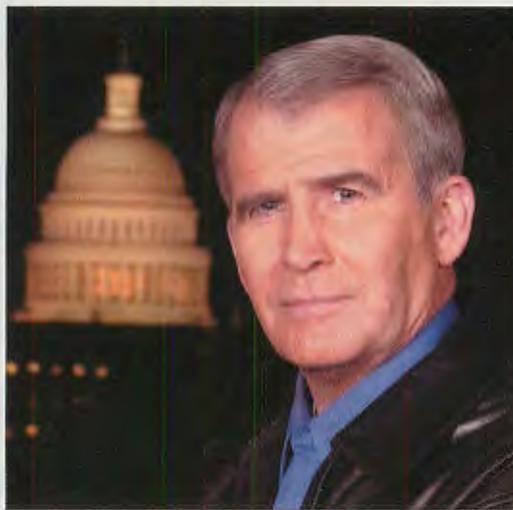
Sgt. Shell of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines has been here since February. He told me that these observation posts help the Marines provide better defensive security for themselves and for the Iraqis.

The Iraqi government supports the effort, knowing these observation posts help provide security for the country. In fact, even after the transfer of sovereignty, the new Iraqi government wants these Marines out there in this province. The Iraqi police are doing a better job of securing the areas and improving every day, but they still need the help of the Marines. Shell told me that the Iraqi police force is getting better because, “ultimately, the Iraqi police realize it is up to them to provide the safety and security — not just for the country, but for their fellow citizens.”

To do that they will have to continue to combat not only the local insurgents, but the foreign fighters from neighboring states like Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, who continue to cause trouble.

But the belief among those I talk to is that democracy, if given time, can take root here. Since I was last here in April, things are getting better. Since sovereignty was turned over, it has been the Iraqis who have been enforcing curfews and increasing their patrols. There will be more efforts to undermine the new government here, but if the coalition continues to follow the lead of the United States — not the Spain and the Philippines — democracy will ultimately succeed.

To find out more about Oliver North, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.



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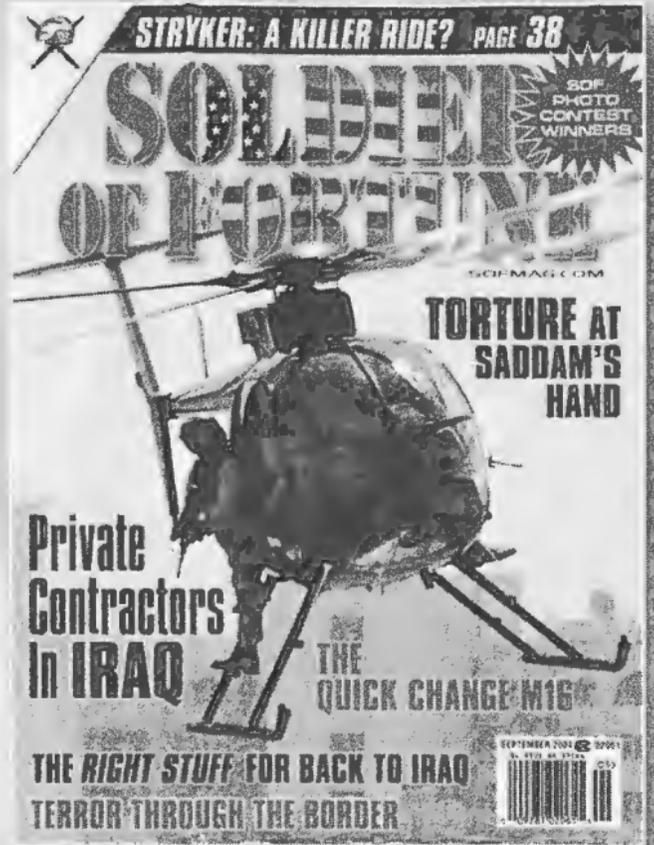
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