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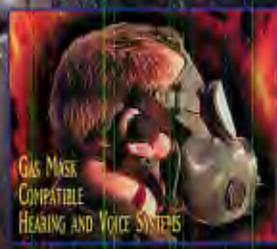
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*Support Our Troops!*

SEPTEMBER 2005 ✕ VOL. 30 NO. 9



Photo: Richard Lucas

**On The Cover**

Legionnaire patrols the mean streets of Kabul as part of a French presence to help stabilize, de-mine, and rebuild Afghanistan. Story on page 38.

## AMERICA AT WAR

**BOMBS, BULLETS, GEAR ON**

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 "Our driver saw it first..." \_\_\_\_\_

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 Theft of police identity suspected; al Qaeda cell broken up in Lodi, California \_\_\_\_\_

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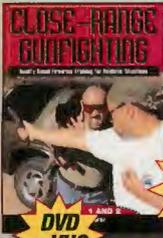
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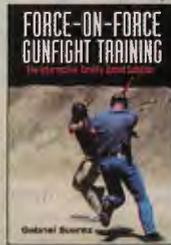
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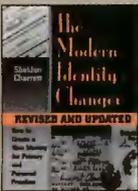


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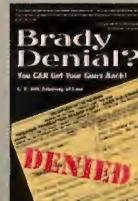
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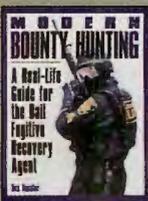
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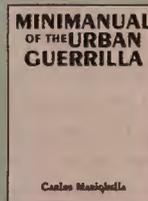
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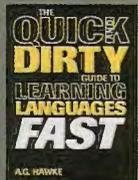
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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

MIKE BENGE

## Vietnam: "When Will They Ever Learn?"

Vietnam recently was named as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), ranking it among the "Top 10" of the world's worst violators of religious freedom and human rights.

This designation carries the option of sanctions against repressive countries, such as barring its officials from traveling to the United States. Instead, State Department officials have arranged for Prime Minister Phan Van Khai to come to the White House to meet with President Bush on June 21. Vietnam is one of the last bastions of communism along with China, Cuba, North Korea and Cambodia.

Once again the State Department's position seems to be all carrot but no stick, seemingly forgetting the Vietnamese communists broke every agreement with the U.S. As Pete Seeger's '60s antiwar song goes, "When will they ever learn?"

During the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese communist's strategy was "talk and fight." During negotiations, U.S. diplomats were lulled into diplomatic la-la land, while the communists repositioned and resupplied their troops for the next round of fighting: Advantage, the communists. The communists' policy has not changed to this day.

In return for the U.S. suspending proposed sanctions, the Vietnamese communists have conned U.S. diplomats into believing they will reform on religious freedom and human rights. As a token gesture the Vietnamese communists released a few high-profile political and religious prisoners from their swinging-door prison system, only to place them under 24-hour surveillance and house arrest and bar them from

media access, including using the Internet.

Released after 16 years in prison, Monk Thich Thien Minh of the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) wrote, "There is no amelioration in human rights and religious freedom. I have exchanged my small prison for a bigger one." Still, many Buddhist monks, Catholic priests and Christian pastors and laypersons remain in prison. The State Department has asked Congress for several more weeks before considering sanctions, "and indicated the talks were bearing fruit." Evidently, the diplomats have a preference for spoiled fruit.

While negotiating with the State Department, the Vietnamese communists were filling their prisons with other not-so-high-profile political/religious prisoners sentenced up to 15 years for "undermining national security and unity." In reality, these people fled religious persecution in Vietnam for refuge in Cambodia, but were captured by Vietnamese and Cambodian forces and sent back for prosecution.

Now Prime Minister Phan Van Khai made the oblique promise to ease registration requirements for churches. Nevertheless, churches are still requested to register; the names of each churches' congregation must be filed with the state, and no one else is allowed to attend services; sermons must be submitted for approval, and monks, priests and pastors cannot deviate from the approved script; all sermons must be given in Vietnamese and all pastors must be Vietnamese, which excludes ethnic minority languages and pastors;

*Continued on page 54*

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## The Real Kowalski, Part I

An article about our son appeared in the June edition. Thanks for printing this piece. I think it shows people what their young men and women are enduring for our freedom. Would it be possible to get some copies to send to friends and family? The article was titled "Marine's Sniper Diary." Again thanks for printing this part of our son's life.

Sincerely,  
Doug and Lynnette Kowalski  
(they're on their way)

## The Real Kowalski, Part II

I am writing in regards to your June 05 issue. I read "Marine's Sniper Diary." I recently got out of the Marines. I was a Scout Sniper with 1/5 and deployed to OIF as a team leader of Seminole 5. It was an outstanding article, except I noticed one discrepancy. Right now I am once again deployed to ( ), regretfully not as a Marine. I work with ODA 062, and friends of mine from that team are identified as CPL Kowalski. For one thing I think it is common sense that Marines don't wear the old desert cammies; two, we didn't carry suppressed M16's (by the way, that's an SR-25); and three, those guys on page 44 don't look anything like CPL Kowalski behind a SASR. I mean, look at the subdued American flag patches, and SF hats. Finally, Marine Scout Snipers don't set up on the rooftop without any kind of cover and with sunglasses on the cap so the light can reflect off of it.

Yuri  
SSp 1/5

(Guess this proves Scout Snipers have better eyes than editors... We went with the caption information supplied with the Marine Corps photo used on page 44 which, obviously, was wrong. We already took lumps from Stoner for misidentifying the rifle.)

## AA-12 Article

Sir,

The above-mentioned article was brought to my attention by one of my fellow Marines here at the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL). I viewed the article on the Soldier Tech web page on the Military.com web site. I want to point out several errors in the text. Among my duties as the Infantry Weapons Chief here at the Lab is being the Project Officer for the FRAG-12 HE shotgun cartridge. I also test fired the AA-12 shotgun at the MPS shop at Tennessee. I would like to clarify the following points:

1. The AA-12 shotgun does not chamber FRAG-12 ammunition. All FRAG-12 ammunition is produced in a 3" shell length. The AA-12 utilizes 2 3/4" ammunition exclusively.
2. There is no link what so ever between the FRAG-12 experiment being conducted at MCWL and the AA-12 weapon system.
3. There is definitely not any AA-12 program of any kind either in place or being contemplated at MCWL. To the best of my knowledge there is no AA-12 program of any kind being contemplated anywhere in the Marine Corps.
4. After test firing the AA-12 and conferring with my counter parts in the infantry requirements branch of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, fleet Marine infantry units, and Marine Corps Systems Command we concluded that:
  - a. There is no current or anticipated requirement for a full automatic shotgun capability in the Marine Corps.
  - b. MCWL has no plans to do any further testing with the AA-12 weapon system.
5. The only official document I am aware of pertaining to the AA-12 is my trip report from the AA-12 test fire at the MPS shop in Tennessee. Although I will not go into the particulars of that report I can categorically state that it did not contain any reference to "extremely favorable results" as stated in Mr. Johnston's article.

I just wanted to insure you are getting the straight scoop as I know SOF magazine strives to get the "good gouge" out to their readers.

GySgt Martin Custer  
Infantry Weapons Chief, GCE Branch  
Marine Corps Warfighting Lab

Johnston replies:

I never meant to imply there was any connection between the USMC's FRAG-12 tests and the AA-12, but only that a future test was a possibility. My information is that the FRAG-12 was originally designed as a 2-3/4" 12 gauge round, but that, due to the USMC's adoption of a shotgun that fired 3" rounds, it was redesigned. Since the success of the 3" shotgun in the USMC is



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in question, and because of the AA-12 program, I understand that the FRAG-12 round may be under redevelopment in the 2-3/4" format.

As for the extremely favorable impressions of the AA-12 I mentioned, this pertained to a USMC General and did not reference any particular staff evaluation. Since then, many end users in several branches of the Service have fired the guns with equally favorable impressions.

Additionally, I did not imply that there was a program underway with the USMC and the AA-12, or that there was a requirement for a full-automatic shotgun (the AA-12 can be offered in a semi-automatic only version). However, the USMC has had a requirement for a semi-automatic shotgun, a requirement that is also being studied by other branches of the Military, and unlike some others, the AA-12 is a shotgun that works!

The history of the acquisition of military weapons and equipment has traditionally been littered with political debris in the path of progress, both from within and outside of the Service, this while America's finest are dying. Big money runs programs too often involving 3rd rate equipment while something better never has a chance. You can lead a horse to water...

Respectfully, GPJ

## USMC K-9 Handlers

I really enjoyed your feature on the Marine Canine Handlers. I'm currently a prison guard with a narcotics detection dog and I can understand how these guys feel about their partners. I want to show my support to my fellow handlers. If possible, could you please provide me with a point of contact in Iraq and/or Afghanistan so I can assist these hard working

K-9 teams with some sort of supplies that they may need for themselves or the dogs (leads/toys/bowls/supplements/collars/treats), that they may not be able to get in that part of the world. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration regarding this request. Keep putting out a great magazine.

Greg Ferrell  
grell8087@webtv.net

Greg, we'll run your email and they can contact you directly.

## RKB... Consultant to the Dark Side?

Bob,

It was a bright, beautiful day, at Arlington. Hundreds gathered to put a great Warrior down.

You were there, from the Chapel, to the grave, the Reception.

We, of BAND OF BROTHERS, were honored by your presence.

You got my first book published; he encouraged me to write.

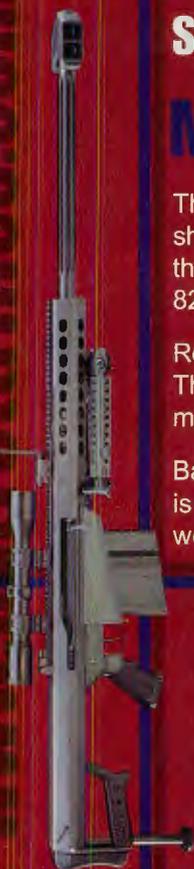
Hack once said, "If you need the answer from the dark side... contact Bob Brown. You can trust him for the truth."

Airborne...  
Tom Willard

Tom Willard is author of the Black Saber Chronicles

Continued on page 53

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Recently the Chief of Staff of the US Army published the "Top Ten Inventions" of 2004. The M107 was selected as one of these inventions and is the only small arm ever to make this prestigious list.

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The California Legislature has banned the .50 BMG from the good citizens of the state of California violating their rights and the constitution of our republic. Therefore, Barrett will not sell to or service any California government agencies.



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# BULLETIN BOARD



## Keep a "Seasoned" Soldier in the Fight

SOF is soliciting supporters of Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown USAR (Ret.) to circulate petitions on his behalf to be placed on the NRA Board of Directors ballot again this year. "I've stepped on a number of toes over the past few years and would not be surprised if I were not re-nominated by the nominating committee," Brown said. And with no apologies, we might add, as to keep people on their toes, sometimes you have to step on those toes.

We will provide you with petition forms you can circulate and then return to SOF. If you desire, we will recognize your efforts in print. Each standard NRA petition form has space for 15 names: If you need multiples of that number, please ask for more than one nominating petition form.

For a copy of a nominating petition, send your name/address to:

Nominating Petitions – SOF  
5735 E. Arapahoe, Unit 5A  
Boulder, CO 80303

Or go online to: [www.sofmag.com](http://www.sofmag.com) for a petition form.

## We Be Reel Cerebral

Remember those from your old class who never could hold an honest job but tried to pass themselves off as scholarly, as if that were an excuse?

Remember during the last election how the liberal press (and Dems, of course) worked every angle to portray Dubyah as a rustic at best, a full-blown rube at worst, in contrast to the "intellectual" John Kerry?

Well, ahem, the truth will out: Sen. John F. Kerry's grade average at Yale University was virtually identical to President Bush's there. Kerry had a cumulative average of 76 and got



What's the first thing you give a shot-up GI after the plasma? Why, a copy of his favorite read! When the 82nd ABN's SSG Jose A. Gonzales, Carolina, PR (center, prone position) took a blast from a 155 round made into an IED on Highway 5 out of Baghdad, the first thing his buds took to make him feel better was SOF. On his right is SGT Angel Hernandez, on his left front to back are SPC John Brown, SSG Javier Rosa Aguadilla, SSG John Rushbrook and SGT Anthony Tripoeux. Eight surgeries later, Gonzales is mending at Ft. Bragg.

four Ds his freshman year. Bush had a cumulative grade average of 77 his first three years at Yale, and a similar average under a non-numerical rating system his senior year. Bush received one D in his four years.

Kerry graduated from Yale in 1966, Bush in 1968.

## "Our Spies Are Everywhere"

Two Chinese defectors, one a diplomat who walked away from his post, claim that the PRC is running a spy network in Australia and other Western

countries.

The diplomat, Chen Yonglin, left his job as the first secretary at the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney and has sought political asylum in Australia. Chen claimed China ran a ring of 1,000 spies in Australia involved in illegal activities including the abduction of Chinese nationals. A second Chinese official seeking asylum in Australia, Hao Feng Jun, reiterated Chen's claim of a Chinese spy network in Australia in an interview with Australian television. Hao said he had been a member of China's internal security police who suppressed dissidents, before he came to Australia in February as a tourist and sought asylum.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has dismissed Chen's claims as slander.

## ATT and GI Phone Cards

One of the most requested – and most used – items for a GI is a phone card so he can call home. But not all phone cards are created equal! The typical phone card you buy at Wal-Mart or from a gas-station or quickie-mart vending machine is designed for use in the USA: They will usually work from overseas... but they typically run out about the time the hapless GI has made a connection home. They're great for distribution to military hospitals CONUS, however, and we encourage SOF readers to keep on sending them to the USO

or chaplain's office on any U.S. base in the 50 states.

ATT has come to the fore with prepaid phone cards that can be used from land or sea in most parts of the world, to call the USA. Their use is measured in "units" instead of "minutes" like domestic cards, and they provide a lot more talk for the buck when Snuffy phones home. They are available at the best rates from Army and Air Force exchange outlets, USO centers, on-base vending machines – and the good news is they are also available on-line from the exchange service, to anyone wanting to send one to a GI.

ATT has donated some \$6 million worth of these cards for prepared care packages that have gone to the troops, and they set up and are administering the hardware and program overseas at about a break-even basis, so here's a big smooch for Ma Bell from SOF.

For the details on how to purchase and use these AT&T Global Pre-Paid cards, go to: ATT ([www.att.com/mil](http://www.att.com/mil)), or Army & Air Force Exchange Service ([www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)), or the USO ([www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)).

## Hmmmm

Spanish High Court Judge Santiago Pedraz wants to question three U.S. soldiers as suspects in the death of a Spanish cameraman who was killed when a U.S. tank fired on a hotel housing foreign journalists during the 2003 assault on Baghdad.

Telecinco cameraman Jose Couso and Reuters cameraman Taras Protsiuk were killed and several other people were injured by a shell fired on the Palestine Hotel on 8 April 2003, during the assault on Baghdad. A Pentagon investigation found no fault with the soldiers in the tank.



## Project Bore Snake

Marines stationed at Babylon with the 4th ANGLICO company commissioned local Iraqis to produce a special memento for Sheriff Jay Printz, who was Serving as a National Security Force Advisor 2004-2005. Knowing guns, and having spent a year in the Iraqi theater, Sheriff Printz well understands what it takes to keep 'em cranking – which is why he has lent his name and prestige to Project Bore Snake. The project gathers names of end-users in-theater, gathers funds, and then sees to it that these troops get bore snakes to keep their weapons in the game so they can come home safe. Check the Project out on the web at: [www.projectboresnake.org](http://www.projectboresnake.org), or by mail at P.O. Box 28537, Fresno, CA 93729-8537, or phone: 559-222-4050.

*Continued on page 53*

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# Drug Thugs Put Bounty on FBI, CIA

**Drug Cartel Bosses offer rewards for the head of any Minuteman, CIA and FBI agent's head.**

By Dr. Martin Brass

Photos courtesy Alan Korwin

*An Hispanic-looking male, with a woman riding backup on a dirt bike, zipped north on the unpaved road behind the Minuteman lines at Highway 92, during our watch. We got advanced word of his arrival on the walkie talkies everyone carried, and in keeping with the prime directive — a 100% no-contact policy — we simply observed them, and took notes and photographs. They returned southbound a few minutes later and were not seen again. The bike had no license plate.*



Desperate citizens take drastic action. Last month we looked at the highly publicized Minuteman Project that asked for volunteers to stand watch at the Mexico-U.S. border in Arizona for the entire month of April. The volunteers, some armed, were to spot illegal aliens and alert the Border Patrol by cell phones or radios.

"Pure frustration and years and years of inaction by the United States legislature triggered the action," former Governor Richard Lamm of Colorado said in an interview when we asked his reaction to the Minuteman Project. "Citizens decided to take matters into their own hands when the legislators refused to act."

**WANTED!! DEAD MINUTEMEN!! \$15,000 a head!! DEAD FBI and DEA AGENTS!! \$10,000 a head!! \$50,000 a head for Border Patrol or Law enforcement officers!!**

Mexican drug traffickers now offer rewards for the head of each dead Minuteman. The Tijuana cartel, the Sinaloa Cartel and Ismael Armayo Sambada Drug Traffickers are putting up \$10,000-a-head for each dead U.S. FBI and DEA agent, Channel 40, Tuscon's Spanish language channel announced on 7 June, according to an undisclosed source.

The Zetas are former members of the Special Air Mobile Force Group, an elite para and intel unit trained to fight drug trafficking along the Texas border. U.S. law-enforcement authorities said the Zetas have offered bounties of between \$30,000 and \$50,000 for the killing of border agents and state and local officers, reports the *Washington Times*.

The ruthless drug thugs are not making idle threats.

Mexican *narcos* are raging a bloody war for control of the

entire southern border to monopolize the drug and people smuggling routes, according to law enforcement sources.

## Bounties Are Confirmed in Mexico

Angel Luna, who had gone back to Oaxaca, Mexico, his hometown, to check out the Mexicans' reaction to the Minutemen, confirmed that drug lords are indeed offering reward for dead Minutemen.

"The Minutemen topic in particular has caught everybody's attention in Mexico," Luna writes, "It's the talk of the local bar, the back of taxi cabs, and even on the campus at Uabjo Universidad."

"Damn white boys, they don't want us to progress," a Mexican friend told Luna.

"Word on the street in Oaxaca is that the narcos are going to give juicy rewards to anybody who wastes a member of the Minutemen organization," Luna said.

"Reports on popular websites in Mexico, such as La Vox, confirmed what I was hearing on the street. It said that the Marasalvatrucha (MS-13), a gang made up of primarily young Salvadorean thugs, famous for their executions that is thought to control the border, has declared war on the Minutemen. It said one of the MS-13 who is detained in Texas, gave an order to all the followers of the MS-13 in the U.S., Mexico and Central America to declare a war on the Minutemen," Luna said.

Most of the members of MS-13, one of the most violent and numerous street gangs in the United States, are in the country illegally. The gang has carried out beheadings and grenade attacks in Central America and is known to hack their enemies with machetes in cities along the East Coast of the United States, according to official records accessed

by the AP.

Half of the alleged gang members have prior arrests or convictions for violent crimes, including murder, sodomy, assault, arson and weapons and drug possession, officials state.

### **U.S. Trained Commandos' betray U.S.—Once More**

Ironically in a twist of events that has become all too sickeningly familiar, the Zetas were trained as elite commandos by U.S. forces at an enormous multi-million dollar cost to U.S. taxpayers.

The “Zetas” or the “Z’s,” are suspected in nearly 90 deaths of rival gang members in the past two years. Members use their military training and stolen equipment, including high-powered weapons, in turf wars with other gangs over the southern border.

The Z’s abandoned the Mexican military in 1991, and sold out to Mexico’s Gulf Drug cartels then went off to establish routes into the United States for their own drug exploits. Mexican authorities said dozens of rival gang members have been ambushed with assault rifles or assassinated in drive-by shootings on the streets of Nuevo Lareda, just south of Laredo, Texas, reports the *Washington Times*.

“They are extremely violent, and they are very much feared in the region because of the bloodshed they unleash,” Jose Santiago Vasconcelos, Mexico’s top anti-drug prosecutor warned.

Five hundred have been killed, many in an execution style, with hands tied behind their backs, by the Z’s, headed by kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo”, *worldnetdaily* cites Mexico’s attorney General Daniel Cabeza de Vaca.

A U.S. federal agent was recently killed in a shootout with members of the Zetas in Matamoros, across from Brownsville, Texas.

### **Sorry, No Room Left In Jails For Criminals.**

The Department of Homeland Security releases many drug and human traffickers, in what has become known as a “catch and release” policy. The Department is short of resources to keep the apprehended in jails according to official records, *FrontPageMagazine.com*

Twenty percent of hundreds arrested in March in the Naco area had criminal records, according to Americans for Legal Immigration. [www.alipac.us](http://www.alipac.us)

Only the most violent felons, those known to be terrorists and those who have been previously deported are on a “mandatory” holds list. Those on a “High,” “Medium” or “Lower Priority” list can be released if there is insufficient space to keep them.

Upon release, the illegal aliens are given notices to appear for a hearing. **Only three percent show up.**

There are roughly 465,000 fugitives. 80,000 of those are criminal aliens who have committed an offense in addition to immigration violations, according to Victor X. Cerda, acting Director of Detention and Removal Operations for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, cited by the *Washington Times*.

“Lookouts”—snipers hired by drug traffickers and illegal alien smugglers—target U.S. Border Patrol agents. One week in February, agents assigned to the Douglas station in Arizona’s southeastern corner were fired on in six occasions. Agents assigned to the Tucson sector, which includes Border Patrol stations at Douglas, Naco and Nogales, were assaulted 80 times from 1 Oct 2004 to 1 Feb 2005. Assaults were more than double 2004 totals.



*(top) Looking due south into Mexico, across a dozen miles of scorching Sonoran desert to the distant mountains, you can see a well-worn path leading to the hopelessly inadequate fence separating us from them. Harder to see, the lower barbed wires have been cut away, removing any obstacle for the countless illegals who walk similar paths all along the unguarded border.*

*(middle) Standing at the rickety border fence, we watched the slow moving freight train about a mile into Mexico, which illegals ride to get close to their incursion point. Plainly visible with binoculars were multiple blue water flags, placed there by Mexicans, to signal the jump off point and provide refreshment for the passportless immigrants.*

*(bottom) A Minuteman's car drives the hopelessly dusty dirt road that follows the single strand barbed-wire border between the U.S. and Mexico. The Border Patrol sometimes smoothes the sand here, so they can count footprints in the morning and estimate how many illegals passed on through. A Border Patrol captain told us they are pretty good at such estimating but that it is an imperfect science. Traffic from the Minuteman Project upset this of course, but since the illegals avoided our patrolled areas, or were largely spotted and captured, it didn't really matter. Privately, BP agents made it plain they were glad we were there.*

*(left) My friend and fellow Minuteman Brad Beebe is standing at our watchpost on the line, position 9, on the east side of rural highway 92. From this vantage point it would be impossible for illegals to sneak across the road undetected. We are about three or four miles from the actual border, on one route illegals often take to make their way inland. It was a comfortable spot for us, with shade and other Minutemen within shouting distance all along the highway. The far side of the road was all private land and home sites, which we diligently avoided out of respect for property rights.*

*(right) Huge concrete culverts passed under highway 92 to allow storm drainage to flow. Big enough for a person to walk through erect, illegals typically used the cover these provided instead of crossing the road itself. Naturally, Minutemen stationed themselves within view of these passage points, rarely more than 100 yards apart and often much closer. You can see a volunteer's vehicle parked on the far side, where both road and culvert could be observed.*



## Arizona Smoldering

Desperate citizens took drastic action.

Arizona is the new illegal gateway to America, and no one was doing anything about it.

"The big problem spot used to be El Paso, but authorities gained control of that so migrants moved elsewhere. San Diego became the next big problem area, but that has now been fortified too, forcing migrants elsewhere. Now the main area is here at Naco and they're working on gaining control of this," Alan Korwin of Gunlaws.com, who joined the Minuteman Project in Arizona in April and provided an article on the MMP in the August 2005 SOF issue, said.

Capt. Jose Garza, Community Relations Officer told Korwin that in the dead of summer smugglers use the western sector more, which didn't make sense to the Border Patrol,

since it is the more dangerous route and creates greater humanitarian issues for Border Patrol charged with handling and saving lives. The local area is fortified right around Naco with a metal fence of varying height that runs through the town and in broken fragments

on the outskirts. Elsewhere it's just open fields with porous barbed wire.

"Smugglers cannot effectively go to New Mexico because there are no smuggler-friendly assets near the border there; the nearest town is Albuquerque, more than five miles from border, and it's too easy to catch illegals between the border and there. There are natural impediments to viable smuggling points because of geography and social infrastructure. The Naco area has tactical advantage for illegals, with homes, ranches, stores, and tree cover west of the city."

From October to December last year 23,000 illegal aliens were arrested compared to 8,230 arrests in the same quarter last year, a 180 percent increase, according to the *Washington Times*.

"Perhaps even more astounding than the \$1.3 billion a year that uncontrolled illegal immigration is costing Arizona is the rate at which those costs are increasing," said Jack Martin, author of a Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) report.

"Between 1996 and 2000, the illegal alien population of Arizona grew by a staggering 150 percent, and that increase has not abated. Unless the federal government takes steps to clamp down on the massive influx of new illegal aliens, and state officials begin cooperating with immigration enforcement authorities, illegal immigration will do to Arizona what it has already done to California's state budget," Martin said in his report.

*As sunset falls dramatically over the Huachuca Mountains, it is obvious that the hills and vegetation provide excellent cover for the masses sneaking into America, but that crossing rural Highway 92 undetected is a significant challenge, assuming anyone is there to watch.*



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## Am I in California, Mexico, or California, U.S.A.?

Billboards in Los Angeles portrayed two Spanish language newscasters sitting in front of Los Angeles' downtown skyline, reports the L.A. Times. The "Los Angeles, CA" printed on the billboard was crossed out and replaced by "Tu ciudad. Tu equipo"—Your city, your team—by the designers of the ad.

The costs of illegal immigration to Californians is \$10.5 billion per year. \$7.7 billion of that is to educate illegal aliens, according to FAIR.

"California's addiction to 'cheap' illegal alien labor is bankrupting the state and posing enormous burdens on the state's shrinking middle class tax base."

"A small number of powerful interests in the state reap the benefits, while the average family in California gets handed a nearly \$1,200 a year bill," Dan Stein, President of FAIR said.

There are more than 3 million illegal aliens in California alone, an estimated 15 million nation wide.

### Arizona Catches Up. Taxpayers Pay Up

Arizona has an estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants, according to *USA Today*. Fifty-two percent of the 1.1 million illegals captured by Border Patrol agents in the Southwest were caught in Arizona. Simcox of the MMP told Korwin that it used to be one out of eight caught, but that now it's down to one out of five.

The average Arizona household pays more than \$700 per year to pay Uncle Sam's bill for supporting the illegal immigrants. The costs of illegal immigra-



Brad is pointing to a small culvert for draining storm runoff under Highway 92. Illegals have been known to use these to cross highways, especially if the larger walk-through concrete culverts are being watched. We smoothed the sand at its mouth and carefully arranged some twigs—borrowing the Border Patrol trick—to detect anyone who might have slipped through. No one did during our watch, the swing shift, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

tion have increased nine fold in the last decade, according to official figures.

The cost of educating illegal aliens is \$810 million per year, and healthcare costs \$400 million.

Yet illegal immigrants pay back only \$257 million of those skyrocketing costs in state taxes. The claim that illegal aliens pay taxes that benefit our economy is a myth, according to Grassfire.org Alliance:

"Most illegals are paid in cash and therefore pay no taxes. Even in instances where they do pay taxes (only possible if they use a fraudulent social security number or tax ID) they don't pay enough to cover their expenses."

### Import Illegal Aliens, Export Illegal Cars

The crime rate in Arizona spikes with the increase in illegal immigration.

More than 56,000 vehicles, mainly SUV's and pickup trucks, were stolen in Arizona, the car-jacking capital of the world, in 2003, according to FBI statistics. Owners took a nearly \$600 million hit. Illegals use the vehicles for smuggling people and drugs into the United States, according to Frosty Wooldridge, author of numerous articles and books including *Immigration's Unarmed Invasion—Deadly Consequences*.

"When the vehicles are recovered, they are smashed up wrecks in the desert. If not found, they have new owners south of the border as thieves drive the cars through the desert and into Mexico as easily as you drive your kids to soccer practice. THAT's how porous our borders are," Wooldridge wrote.

"Seventy-five percent of drugs arrive from Mexico at a net cost of \$120 billion hard currency that leaves our country for good," Wooldridge said.

"When an alien criminal gets caught for rape, murder or drug distribution, you pay \$1.6 billion annually in prison costs to house, feed and clothe those filling 30 percent of our federal and state prisons—not to mention TV, movies, weight rooms and other entertainment they enjoy while being incarcerated....How about the \$56 billion in pure cash illegal migrants sent to their home countries last year and every year?"

*Continued on page 68*



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# Bombs, Bullets and Gear on the Bad Streets of Baghdad

“Our Driver Saw It First...”

Text & Photos By Ben Nathan



PSD counter-sniper with HBAR scans for trouble at sunset, from Baghdad rooftop.

**F**ebruary 2004 2330 hours, River Road Downtown Baghdad  
Our driver saw it first, the driver of the vehicle behind us swerved to avoid it, and the IED exploded between the fourth and fifth vehicle in our convoy. The right front tire was blown out on the fifth vehicle. Luckily, the Suburban was equipped with run-flat tires. The convoy accelerated quickly to exit the kill zone. No small arms fire was exchanged as we sped through the deserted streets of downtown Baghdad. The right front tire was flat, but fortunately stayed on the rim. We made it the remaining couple of miles back to the palace (the Coalition Provisional Authority Headquarters) without having to stop. Other than the tire, the only damage visible had been caused by shrapnel from the IED. Luckily for the team members in the fourth vehicle (an unarmored Ford Explorer K-9 vehicle), they dodged the bullet.

Our PSD Team (personal security detail) was returning from a late night visit of our principal in downtown Baghdad. The principal was not in our convoy. His motorcade had returned minutes earlier by another route. Our convoy of vehicles looked almost identical to our principal's motorcade. I believe they were trying to attack our principal.

**June 2004, Baghdad International Airport** His two-car BMW convoy departed Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) at 1045 hours. They had just picked up the client, a senior engineer, and were headed south from Baghdad to Iskandariah. The PSD team consisted of four members. “Texas” and N were in the lead vehicle. The client was in the rear seat of the lead BMW. A and L were in the follow vehicle. Texas was from, (you guessed it Texas). Texas was a former U.S. Army paratrooper and a former SWAT cop. He also had interna-



PSD team member on protection detail at BIAP with then Secretary of State Colin Powell. Operator carries Bushmaster HBAR with Leupold scope.

## NOTES ON EQUIPMENT FOR THE DESERT

When it comes to equipment, only purchase the best. You won't be able to go to Muhammad's Tactical Supply to purchase more gear to replace broken or substandard equipment. You will be allowed to shop at the PX, and they are normally stocked with some gear.

Boots are one of the most important purchases that you will make. Many hours will be spent on your feet. If your boots are uncomfortable, substandard, or ill-fitting you will be miserable. I would highly suggest breaking in your boots prior to deployment. Hiking boots are very comfortable and normally give good ankle support, which is extremely important. The standard U.S. Military desert boot lacks good ankle support. I have had excellent results with Danner desert boots. They are very comfortable, long lasting, and the soles have not shown any appreciable wear. Avoid black boots because they are very hot and they will look like hell all of the time due to dust and dirt.

A durable heavy-duty pistol belt is extremely important. Avoid leather belts because your heavy sweating makes them stretch. I have been wearing the same Blackhawk belt now for over a year and a half and it has been excellent. U.S. Mail normally arrives in 12 to 14 days in Iraq. So, you can have needed equipment sent to you relatively quickly.

I would also avoid leather holsters. The synthetic holsters seem to fare well in the intense heat and rough conditions. Personally, I wore a Safariland model M6004 drop-leg holster when we were out of the Palace grounds and a Safariland model 561 BL when inside. The M561 is a very durable open-top design and I have been wearing this version for many years. The Safariland drop-leg style holsters are the most widely used holster of this type. Safariland holsters are used by most U.S. Military Special Operation units. The reason these holsters are so popular is not to be stylish but because your pistol is so much more accessible below your body armor and magazine pouches. It is also a secure and comfortable method of carrying a pistol. Many contractors prefer the Kydex paddle holsters. By far, the most popular are the Uncle Mike's version. These seem to be durable and are inexpensive. Keep a close check on the screws as

they tend to loosen and fall out. As popular as the paddle holsters are they have their drawbacks. I have noticed several times on the range that the holster as well as the pistol will come out on the draw. As humorous as this is on the range, it could be disastrous in the field. I do not prefer paddle holsters.

Magazine pouches and load-carrying vests are another valuable piece of gear. A good ballistic nylon load-bearing vest is worth its weight in gold. The Rhodesian style magazine pouches are widely used. Loaded with six M4/M16 magazines, the Rhodesian magazine pouches will cause a great deal of neck strain, especially if you are standing around for eight to 10 hours a day. The ceramic plate hangers with attachments for magazine pouches are also heavy and hot, but at least the load is a bit more evenly distributed.

A quality digital camera is indispensable. A good pocketknife or two should always be on your person. A Swiss Army knife is always in my pocket. It is handy to remove those pesky Corona bottle tops. I was always a popular person at our frequent block parties on the Boulevard due to my knife. A Camelbak-type hydration system is essential. Most of the year is very hot and I can't emphasize enough how important it is to drink plenty of fluids. A medium-size backpack that is hydration-system compatible is a wise purchase.

You will want to keep any necessary items always close at hand, and the pack will ensure that you have what you need. Compact binoculars could be a lifesaver (literally), insect repellent, sunscreen, extra water, at least two MREs, maps, small compact quality flashlight, extra ammunition, and a GPS are all items you will use – if you have them..

The most widely used optics are Aimpoint, ACOG, and EoTech. The ACOGs are very pricey, durable, difficult to locate, and allow a wide variation in the magnification of the optics. For up-close work, the Aimpoints and EoTechs work very well. A durable wristwatch is highly advisable. I purchased a high quality Suunto, the Observer. It is equipped with many features, the most important of which is a compass. This feature could possibly save your life. It also has a barometer, thermometer, and altimeter. Suunto offers a new version equipped with a GPS.



*PSD counter-sniper scans along Tigris River from Baghdad rooftop. Snipers, rocket attacks and similar hazards are best detected – and defeated – from afar.*

tional protection experience prior to deployment to Iraq.

The team had just passed a military convoy that was stopped investigating the ambush of a Pajero (an SUV widely used by PD teams in Iraq). Texas spotted a green Opel sedan approaching their motorcade at a high rate of speed. Texas shouted to his partner to watch the approaching sedan, and all hell broke loose! The green Opel opened fire on the follow vehicle with AK-47s on full auto. The heavy volume of fire caused the driver of the rear BMW to loose control. The follow vehicle crossed the median and continued across the northbound lane. Their vehicle was disabled and came to rest on the northbound shoulder.

The insurgents began to concentrate their fire on the lead vehicle. N swerved the lead BWM across the median, then back into the southbound lane of Highway 8. The vehicle

eventually came to rest on a sandbank on the southbound shoulder of the highway.

A and L sprinted across the median to the disabled BMW, and luckily the pair arrived just in the nick of time. Suddenly and without warning, another Opel, white in color, approached from the south. The fire from the second Opel was intense. The driver was firing from the driver's side window and the passenger in the left rear was firing from his window. Two other insurgents were firing from the opposite side of the vehicle, by sitting on the passenger-side window-sills and firing over the top of the Opel at the PSD team. Still on the attack, the green Opel passed by the lead vehicle and was now making a U-turn in order to make another firing pass at the PSD team. The green Opel had now stopped 60-75 yards south of the team in the southbound lane, and was continu-



*PSD teams make a helo pick-up of their principal at CPA palace: much of the security detail's job is guaranteeing their client gets safely to where his job requires him to be, by whatever mode of transport.*

ing to fire on the beleaguered group.

The team had now taken up positions behind the lead vehicle and had pushed the client down to protect him from incoming fire. The vehicle they were using for cover was still functional but lodged against the sandbank. Two team members attempted to push the vehicle free from its encumbrance, but were unsuccessful. The incoming fire continued to intensify. As bad as this sounds, it quickly went from bad to worse. L was hit in the leg by rifle fire and was down. A was firing to the south and Texas and N were busy engaging the white Opel as it approached from the south on its second firing pass.

The white Opel had now completed its pass and Texas quickly decided to make a move. Fortunately for the team, a passerby in a white Nissan pickup truck had stopped to observe/avoid being killed in the crossfire. Texas reloaded his AK and called for A to cover him. He shouted his intentions of attempting to commandeer the pickup.

Texas sprinted across the median to the Nissan. Upon his approach the driver sat up in the seat and spotted Texas as he approached his vehicle. The driver decided that he only wanted to observe and not be a participant. He quickly exited the truck on the driver's side and would have won any 100-yard dash in history. Assholes and elbows was the last thing seen by the team on the departure of the driver.

Fate was definitely with the team on this day. Luckily, the driver had left the keys in the truck. Texas drove the pickup across the median, made a wide U turn in order to face the truck northbound and waited on his teammates to climb in the vehicle. A entered the truck on the driver's side, causing Texas to move to the center of the front seats. The client entered on the passenger side. The two remaining team members dove into the bed of the pickup. A was returning fire from the driver's side window. The rear window of the Nissan exploded as

*Continued on page 79*



*Typical of counter-sniper equipment used is this Bushmaster HBAR with Leupold scope and Harris bipod, Glock 17 with Streamlight M-3, Bushnell laser range-finder, Steiner binos.*

## EQUIPMENT SOURCES

**511 Tactical**, Dept. SOF  
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**Uncle Mikes**, Dept. SOF  
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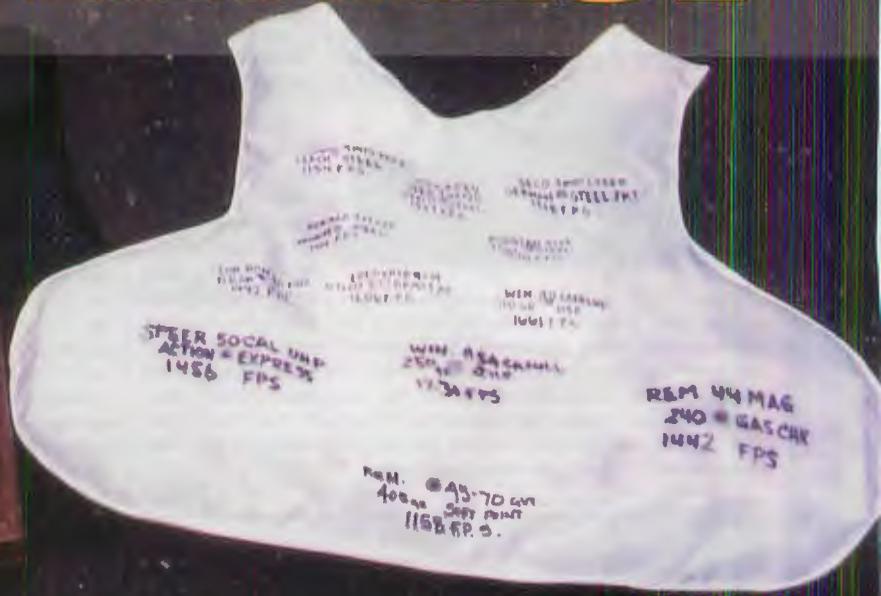
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# Body Armor



## The Myths and Realities of Your Best Friend

By Gary Paul Johnston

*Level IIIA body armor is capable of stopping a great variety of bullets. Photo: Author*

Although the term is relatively new, the concept of body armor has been around for thousands of years. First made of wood and animal hide, shields and garments used to protect one from an adversary were followed by suits of armor made from iron that were as heavy as they were decorative and utilitarian.

Accommodating the armor suit's extra weight was made possible by the horse and it was a necessary byproduct in protecting the wearer from both the relatively high velocity arrow and the lower velocity broadsword. However, a revolutionary escalation in force soon relegated the suit of armor to museums. This force was the lead musket ball that the iron suit could not stop. From that time, almost a millennium ago, until almost a century ago, there was almost no use of any material worn as personal protection against gunfire.

### The "Bulletproof" Vest

With the invention of steel, personal armor began to appear once again, not only in the form of helmets, but also with facemasks and something called the "bulletproof" vest. This was a garment made using a variety of materials, almost always incorporating steel mesh, screen, or thin steel plates overlapping

each other, or layered. Although not much lighter than the iron suit, these more recent garments were more flexible, but they weren't bulletproof.

While the "bulletproof" vests of the 1920's and 30's could stop most handgun bullets, they could not stop most rifle bullets. Those that could stop some rifle bullets did so by adding more steel. Such vests were still being used by some law enforcement agencies into the 1970's, and weighed as much as 30 pounds.

### Kevlar

With the escalation of violence against law enforcement officers following the big city riots of the 1960's and the proliferation of drugs across America, came a new age in police equipment with an accent on something called "officer safety." One of the best entries in the new equipment parade was a new concept in the old "bulletproof" best called by a new name, body armor.

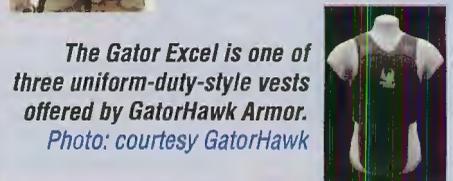
Like its ancestral "bulletproof" best, body armor wasn't bulletproof, but it was lightweight, thanks to the development of new Aramid (light nylon) fibers that had qualities useful in stopping many types of bullets, such as their very favorable tensile-strength to weight ratio. The first of these was DuPont Kevlar



*In addition to concealable soft body armor, American Body Armor makes a variety of tactical vests. Photo: courtesy American Body Armor*



*First Choice offers a wide selection of body armor for law enforcement, military, correctional officers, and K-9 protection. Photo: courtesy First Choice*



*The Gator Excel is one of three uniform-duty-style vests offered by GatorHawk Armor. Photo: courtesy GatorHawk*



*Many law enforcement officers wear Point Blank concealable body armor. Photo: courtesy Point Blank*



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introduced in the early 1970's and first used in automobile tires.

On the heels of Kevlar came a similar but superior material called Twaron, and Spectra later proved superior to both of them. Another aramid-based fabric is Gold Flex that is composed of specially processed non-woven fibers. In 2001, Zylon 524 came along, and in 2003 Bartek has emerged along with Au-Tex, a Russian fabric. What do these tough materials have in common? They are all synthetic-based polymers, fibrous, and lightweight. While Kevlar is yellow in color, the rest are shades of white to gold. Some are relatively thin and some thicker, some are more flexible than others, and all stop bullets by spreading the impact across the body armor material. Many companies blend two or more of these materials together to enhance strength.

### NIJ Requirements

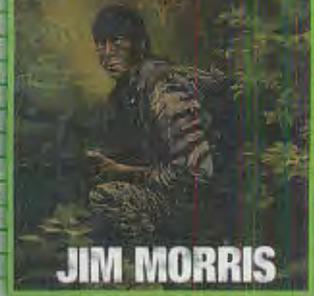
If any body armor is to meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) requirements it must undergo and pass standard testing. One of these tests is what is called a "V0." This means that a vest must sustain no penetration from any bullet specified at given velocities for a par-

ticular level of protection. There is also a "V50" test for a 9mm bullet fired at a velocity of 1450 feet per second (fps). This test establishes a breaking point of material (BPM) level. Here a given piece of body armor must stop 50% of the test bullets fired at 1450 fps from 125 feet. Although body armor makers are not required to submit to, or pass NIJ standards, all major body armor companies adhere to them.

### Lighter, Thinner and Levels

Lightweight body armor sounds great, but with lightweight comes thinness, and just how thin are we talking about? Body armor comes in five threat levels classed as IIA, II, IIIA, III, and IV. Simply put level IIA should stop 9mm, .357 Magnum, and .40 S&W bullets traveling up to about 1100 fps, while level II should stop 9mm up to about 1205 fps, and .357 Magnum and .40 S&W up to about 1430 fps. Level IIIA should stop both 9mm and .44 Magnum up to about 1430 fps (and those in between), and Level III should be good for 7.62mm NATO full metal jacket rifle bullets and similar up to 2780 fps. Level IV armor should defeat .30-06 M2AP Armor Piercing (and similar) up

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

(Hint: Whatever Your Answer, The Odds Are... You're Wrong!)

**G**rab his hands! Kick him in the groin! Strike the arms or punch the solar plexus! 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 Attacking!! They're always the one BEING attacked.**

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

*You're surprised by two attackers. You've left the first on the ground writhing in pain, and now have control of the second one and are about to make him wish he'd never targeted you today...*

Possible? Of course. It's just that no one (I'll bet not even you) 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...

And that's the **HUGE problem**: Some 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, stunned that 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. See, think like that and...

**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 total disregard for society and it's rules, he has no regret whatsoever in cramming a blade into your gut... just to get what he wants.

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

**You are hopelessly training techniques** (then praying they work) against some thug who isn't 'training' for you at all. 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:** 98.1% 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 never advocates violence. TFT just de-mystifies it. He's often quoted...

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

Look... others try to impress you with how 'bad' they

are, with their accomplishments in some "secret military or government world" you and I aren't privy to, or with their athletically-gifted 'guru' status. Larkin isn't like that.

His 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 now claims they teach this type of training so even though he's often treated like a guru there, you'll rarely hear him talk about it.

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

But the **real reason** this is important to you, and what makes Larkin and his instructors **so different, is simply this**: rather than focusing on instructors or a guru, **Target-Focus Training instead is focused on a system... one YOU can quickly and easily learn.**

Everything is designed to give you the tools needed to defeat a sociopathic criminal in any violent situation... regardless of your current skill level. Plus, you get these immediately. Not weeks or months or even years later... but **right now**. Nothing is ever held back. And surprisingly...

**Not Only Is What You Learn Usable Immediately... But Just Like Riding A Bicycle, It Stays With You Forever... Remaining Instantly On Call, Even If You Never Practice It Again!**

**Here's why:** the key lies in the fact this is the only system based totally on PRINCIPLES (not techniques) that determine the outcome of any physical confrontation. Combine this with the 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 anyone else had ever experienced."* Brian (last name withheld), US Border Patrol, South Carolina

Last year Larkin trained over 600 CEO's in Europe. This year he spent 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 personal protection 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. Training camps 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 this program... a life-or-death confrontation in some dark alley will seem like a cake-walk.

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! **Totally different, 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. Larkin shows you that...

**It's Very Easy To Ramp This Down To Fit A Lesser (Even Competitive) Situation... But It's Impossible To Ramp Up If You've Never Trained For It!**

Others will be shocked, dismayed, offended, even **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** effectiveness of this system and the competence of Larkin's instructors to teach it to you. Their knowledge of anatomy and how to inflict trauma on the human body is unmatched.

Each instructor 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 causing trauma in 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 and former Special Adviser to the President, 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 techniques or cool setup moves—then stop reading here. **This is for those who want to know how to defeat a criminal in a life-or-death situation!**

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**What would you do?  
New DVD explains.**

to 2880 fps. As the levels increase, so does their thickness and weight. Level IIIA offers the most protection in concealable body armor.

As with many things, the trend in body armor is to be lighter and thinner for one reason, and that is simply so people will wear it. Generally, the problem with lighter and thinner is added blunt trauma, but while we've all heard this "buzz-word" term, just what is it?

While virtually all body armor will stop most commonly encountered handgun bullets and others, there remains the after effect we call blunt trauma. This is the residual effect of the impact of the bullet against soft tissue even though it is stopped by the body armor.

Is the threat of blunt trauma overrated? That's a good question, and some believe it is exaggerated where standard handgun bullets are concerned. Nevertheless, blunt trauma is a concern of the NIJ and it has established a testing criterion for it, which all body armor must pass. Because it holds its shape, modeling clay is used to measure blunt trauma, and the impact of the body armor into the clay must not exceed 44mm (about 1-3/4"). The comparison here is that a person with such an injury would typically be able to walk into an emergency center unassisted. However, some blunt trauma can greatly exceed 44mm.

## Shock Plates

Shock plates are rectangular sheets of steel or other material placed in a pouch on the front section of most body armor. The purpose of the shock plate is to protect the sternum and the heart from the effects of blunt trauma from handgun bullets. Where large, slow projectiles such as shotgun slugs and some large caliber rifle bullets, like the .45-70, are concerned, even though standard concealable soft body armor may stop these, the blunt trauma from them could kill the wearer, especially if they hit in the area of the solar plexus.

Not long ago one police officer accidentally shot another in the chest with a 12-gauge slug as he handed him a shotgun (muzzle first). The slug hit the steel shock plate on the front of the victim officer's body armor and he escaped serious injury or possible death. What about blunt trauma to other parts of the body protected by a standard vest?

## Blending

One method of lessening blunt trauma while increasing the bullet-stop-

ping strength of body armor is done by blending two or more of the materials listed above, and most body armor companies continually experiment with formulas and new methods for doing this. Blending can allow a thinner, lighter, and thus a more comfortable vest to provide increased strength and less blunt trauma. All such blends are closely guarded industry secrets.

## Knives & Ice Picks

Attacks with hand-held sharp instruments are very different from projectiles, because they are two-fold. When a bullet strikes body armor, or anything else, it does so only with the force it carries with it. It either penetrates the vest, or it doesn't, not withstanding whatever blunt trauma it delivers. However, when a knife or pick is thrust, its initial impact is delivered followed by the weight of the arm and body of the attacker, as he or she follows through, and this is what completes the penetration. In my experience, a knife must have two qualities to penetrate body armor; it must be pointed and it must be sharp. An ice pick without a sharp point may be difficult to put through a vest. Some body armor offers knife resistance.

## Myths, Care, and Maintenance

In addition to use of the term, "bulletproof," there are a number of myths perpetrated about body armor. As often as not these myths stem from competition within the body armor business. An example is that some salesmen may advise not to buy a vest containing Kevlar, because it will not stop bullets when wet. Although this is true, what is the likelihood of the Kevlar in a vest getting wet just before a gunfight? If a vest does get wet with plain water, it will be fine once dry.

Another element that attacks Kevlar is chlorine bleach. It's true that exposure to chlorine bleach, and even the chlorine in a swimming pool, can ruin Kevlar as a bullet stopping material. Materials such as Spectra and polyethylene, on the other hand, are not adversely affected by water, or chlorine, but can be damaged by temperatures above 150 degrees, as can Zylon. Extended exposure to ultra-violet rays, such as from the sun, can also damage body armor, and those wearing body armor in hot and sunny desert environments especially need to be aware of proper maintenance.

Virtually all body armor comes with a protective cover that helps keep water and harmful chemicals out. This cover

Although well known for its protective shields, Protech also makes a variety of excellent tactical body armor.

Photo: courtesy Protech



P.A.C.A.'s RAD-RTH ballistic vest can be had with the company's Armor Ice for extra comfort. Photo: courtesy P.A.C.A. Body Armor

Several types of tactical body armor make up just a portion of vests offered by Protective Products.

Photo: courtesy Protective Products



As Second Chance's founder, Richard Davis, says, "Wearability is everything. No body armor ever saved anyone while hanging in their locker." Photo: courtesy Second Chance



Retired LAPD SWAT Armorer, Bob Weber (L) and crew pose in Safariland's body armor testing lab. Their new body armor system could stand the industry on its ear. Photo: Author



Most body armor contains a blend of two or more bullet-stopping fabrics. Photo: Author

may be scrubbed with warm, soapy water to clean it when necessary, but bleach of any kind should never be used. Stains come with normal wear. Don't worry about them. When not in use, the vest should never be stored in the trunk of a car, or elsewhere where it is exposed to bright sun, or heat. The best solution is to not lay, but hang the vest in one's locker, not by its straps, but by using strong clothespin or similar clamps on the body of the vest. If you don't have a locker, hang it wherever possible in the shade. If you can't hang it, lay it on a flat surface, or wear it. It is also recommended that body armor be replaced every five years.

Thus far, we've gotten a crash course in ballistic body armor. Now let's take a look at some of its growing list of suppliers.

### American Body Armor

One of the oldest body-armor companies, American Body Armor (ABA) is owned by the largest manufacturer of body armor in America, Armor Holdings, which also owns ProTech, and Safariland. ABA markets an extensive line of state-of-the-art duty-style concealed body armor in all levels, as well as tactical body armor that is visible, such as entry-level and military-style armor.

### First Choice Armor

Based in Brockton, Mass., this company's flagship vest is the "Revolution,"

which is billed as the world's first front-opening, concealable vest. This vest is stab resistant, comes in ballistic threat levels IIA, II, and IIIA with a soft or

hard trauma plate, and can be had in black, blue or white. A variety of other concealment, Tactical, Riot, Military, and Floatation vests is also offered, along with ballistic shields, chaps and greaves, helmets, and a K-9 vest.

### GatorHawk Armor

Located in Ventura, California, GatorHawk Armor uses a blend of Spectra Plus and Gold Flex in its body armor, and offers seven styles of body armor from concealed uniform duty to tactical models. It also offers four sizes of tactical plates in both Level III and Level IV.

### Point Blank

Having been around for a couple of decades, Point Blank points to its use of Aramid protective vests along with materials such as GoldFlex and Zylon. Point Blank's best-selling body armor includes its Hi-lite duty vests, its Fusion tactical vests made of Zylon and SpectraShield Plus, and the Beast, its latest Tactical body armor. Point Blank also specializes in body armor for prison correctional officers including its Argus, Counter Point, and Block 10 systems, and Titanium High Risk Correctional Vests.

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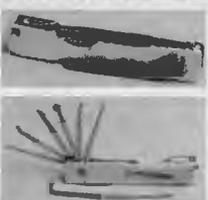


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## Pinnacle Armor, Inc.

Pinnacle Armor has developed what it calls "Dragon Skin," to provide Level III protection in tactical vests for military and law enforcement. Using overlapping ceramic disks in conjunction with soft body armor, the construction resembles that of scales, and this results in optimum flexibility. Outer carriers in almost any color or camouflage pattern are available.

## ProTech

A pioneer in tactical armor for law enforcement, ProTech is perhaps most well known for its Body Bunker armored shields. Available in various levels of "ProTecthion," these shields can be had in levels that will defeat NATO standard ammunition. ProTech also offers an extensive line of associated tactical armor products.

## Protective Apparel Corporation of America

Better known by the acronym, P.A.C.A., this company makes only duty grade body armor that is worn under another garment. Offered in five hybrid models from level II to IIIA, P.A.C.A. uses several ballistic materials including Zylon, GoldFlex, Spectra, and Twaron.

## Protective Products

Using combinations of Twaron, Gold Flex, and Zylon, Protective Products offers some 16 types of body armor including seven tactical vests. It also offers its K-MAX K-9 armor for a cop's best friend. The K-MAX vest offers full back, chest, and neck protection.

## Safariland

One of the greatest names in body armor is Safariland, and for good rea-

son. Now a division of Armor Holdings, Safariland has been making outstanding body armor for decades for law enforcement and military customers, and has its place on the cutting edge of this ever-changing science. Famous for its wide range of uniform and tactical body armor, Safariland maintains the strictest manufacturing and testing standards to insure that its products remain state-of-the-art.

I was recently allowed into the inner sanctum of Safariland's top-secret testing laboratory operated by my longtime friend, Bob Weber, LAPD SWAT (retired). There I witnessed the daily regimen of experimentation and shooting under tightly controlled specifications, in order to produce body armor that is second to none in the world.

While at Safariland I was allowed to see the first samples of a new concept in body armor proof-tested. Safariland's new body armor uses a special matrix to prevent it from twisting into a ball ("balling") when hit by a bullet. At the same time the vest remains totally flexible. First shown at the 2004 SHOT Show in a tactical vest, this new design will also be offered in concealable body armor.

## Second Chance

Founded by Richard C. Davis, Second Chance body armor was originated for one reason – to save the lives of 1,000 law enforcement officers. As of this year the count is over 860 officers saved worldwide. Having known Richard Davis since he pioneered concealable body armor 30 years ago, I know two things about him in addition to making body armor: He loves cops and he hates bad guys who shoot at them. Not only does Second Chance's catalog picture nine law enforcement officers



*American Body offers a folding stand that will allow an officer to go prone behind it to return fire. Photo: Author*

who were saved by its vests, but Davis also uses these officers throughout the catalog to model a myriad of Second Chance body armor.

I lost count at 37 for the number of police and military body armor types Second Chance makes using a variety of blends, not counting its K-9 Partner Armor, Blast Suppression Blanket, helmets, shields, ballistic belt and holster, and a host of accessories. The company's 53-page color catalog tells it all.

## Zylon Failures

In 2003, Second Chance experienced two failures with soft body armor, at least one of which involved a .40 S&W bullet, and a vest worn by a law enforcement officer in Pennsylvania. Luckily, the officer survived the injury.

# New Body Armor Technology

Now comes word of several new developments in body armor, such as Aberdeen Proving Ground developing new "liquid" body armor for the Military. The key component of the new technology is Shear Thickening Fluid (STF). Comprised of hard nano-particles of silica suspended in liquid polyethylene glycol, STF is non-toxic and can withstand a wide variance in temperatures. The combination produces a system of flowable hard parts with unique properties.

In normal use the material is very deformable, but when struck it becomes extremely rigid. The STF is soaked into all layers of Kevlar, which holds it in place and also helps stop the projectiles. The treated Kevlar can be sewn like all other fabrics. The uses for STF are unlimited. Not only can it prevent stabbing, but also could be used in jump boots to stiffen on impact and protect ankles from injury.

Next, Rabintex Industries, Ltd., of Israel, has developed what it calls Knightex, now used in its new Attack Helmet. Reportedly much stronger than Kevlar, Knightex remains lightweight, but reportedly can protect against rifle fire. The only contact information is Rabintex's phone number, (011) 972-3-5700-196.

The latest body armor being tested by the Military is a soft body armor with total body coverage. Although heavier than a standard uniform, this material allows a fair amount of flexibility, if not speed on foot. This concept has appeal for special applications if not for general duty, but the old advice against becoming a "SWAT turtle" comes to mind. (GPJ)



*Long-time SWAT cop, Sgt. Ron McCarthy, LAPD (ret.) poses with one of Safariland's latest tactical body armor vests. This vest holds Level III Spectra plates front and back. Photo: Author*

The reason for the failure is unknown, but may be due to a number of causes. The vest was relatively new, but reportedly contained only Zylon (a moto vest) instead of a blend of several fabrics (a hybrid vest). However, there have also been some 30 other officers shot who were saved by Zylon vests. Let's look at some facts.

The Zylon in question appears to have been the same material used by all major body armor manufacturers. Called Zylon 524, this material is a 500 denier weight with a 24x24 per square inch weave, and it is reported to be the best such material with the best weave. However, there have been questions re-

garding the use of quilt stitching as well as the quality of the outer cover and its ability to resist moisture.

Second Chance's Matt Davis reports that quilt stitching was not the problem with Zylon, but that moisture probably was. According to Davis, humidity is an enemy of Zylon, because, as manufactured, Zylon contains too much phosphorous (a bi-product), as well as a small amount of moisture. Since moisture and phosphorous can combine to produce phosphoric acid, it is believed this weakened the integrity of the fabric.

Whatever the case, Second Chance began a program to replace all its Zy-

## Contacts

**American Body Armor**, Dept. SOF  
13386 International Pkwy.  
Jacksonville, FL 32218  
800-428-0588  
[www.armorholdings.com](http://www.armorholdings.com)

**First Choice Armor**, Dept. SOF  
764 N. Main St.  
Brockton, MA 02301  
508-559-0777  
[www.firstchoicearmor.com](http://www.firstchoicearmor.com)

**GatorHawk Armor**, Dept. SOF  
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Ventura, CA 93003  
805-639-0841  
[www.gatorhawkarmor.com](http://www.gatorhawkarmor.com)

**Pinnacle Armor, Inc.**, Dept. SOF  
P.O. Box 5839  
Fresno, CA 93755  
800-200-0915  
[www.pinnaclearmor.com](http://www.pinnaclearmor.com)

**Point Blank Body Armor, Inc.**,  
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800-413-5155  
[www.pointblankarmor.com](http://www.pointblankarmor.com)

**Pro Tech**, Dept. SOF  
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Jacksonville, FL 32218  
800-347-1200  
[www.armorholdings.com](http://www.armorholdings.com)

**Protective Apparel Corporation of America**, Dept. SOF  
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Jacksboro, TN 37757  
800-722-7667  
[www.pacabodyarmor.com](http://www.pacabodyarmor.com)

**Protective Products International**,  
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800-509-9111  
[www.body-armor.com](http://www.body-armor.com)

**Safariland**, Dept. SOF  
3120 E. Mission Blvd.  
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[www.safariland.com](http://www.safariland.com)

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lon body armor and, as of June, 2005 has remedied the situation by replacing more than 90,000 soft body armor vests world wide. The body armor replacements are made of a proprietary blend of 100% aramid fibers providing either Level II or IIIA protection, whichever rating the replaced vest carried. The NIJ met to discuss the Zylon question, but did not condemn the material, and it continues to test Second Chance's replacement body armor.

Second Chance has ceased the use of Zylon in its body armor, but what about the continued use of Zylon in other body armor? Indications are that other makers of soft body armor believe Zylon 524 is a valuable and proven material for use in blended, hybrid body armor. However, although Zylon has excelled in the tests, the question is whether it will survive the politics.

Well, there you have it, or at least most of it, but let me tell you about the first body armor I owned. I bought it in about 1974 when body armor was brand new. It was a Level IIIA vest by American Body Armor, and I used it for about 10 years. I didn't "baby" it by any means, and hung it on a hook in my locker when off duty, although I did wash it periodically. When I finally got

a new vest, I let my SWAT team use my old ABA vest for testing various types of ammunition. No handgun bullet or shotgun slug tested penetrated my old vest, even after roughly 50 rounds were fired into it. Level IIIA was the only body armor I wore as a police officer, and it's still the only body armor I periodically wear.

There are some of the secrets about body armor, but although it may seem like magic, it isn't. In less than five minutes I can make virtually any standard handgun bullet defeat all soft body armor including level IIIA, and I've demonstrated this many times to law enforcement officers. In addition, don't believe all of the stories a particular body armor salesman might tell you about the competition. There probably aren't any bad body armor companies out there, but some models are better than others. In addition to law enforcement personnel, many Americans are buying body armor for loved ones in the U.S. military. Study your needs and the attributes of all available body armor in addition to price. Once you've acquired your body armor, read the instructions carefully, wear it when on duty, and treat it like your best friend. ✕

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# Hack's Funeral: Not A Priority For the U.S. Army?

By Nathaniel R. Helms, Soldiers For The Truth



Photo: Soldiers For The Truth (sftt.org)

**C**olonel David H. Hackworth, universally known as "Hack," was laid to rest on May 31, 2005 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. It is ironic that he was killed in Vietnam more than three decades ago by American-made herbicides despite surviving seven years of vicious combat, only to die slowly in America another quiet casualty of the insidious war in Vietnam.

At the chapel in Ft. Meyers, Virginia the little mahogany box filled with Hack's cremated remains sat simply on a table before his witnesses seated in a solemn row on the raised alter overlooking his bier. Except for a folded American flag and the august presence of so many heroes there was nothing present to indicate the ashes in the little box was once one of the greatest soldiers in American history.

The speakers climbed onto the podium one after another to remember Hack as an airborne infantry legend, a demanding journalist, and a provocateur. They offered the packed chapel noble profundities about a simply spoken warrior who always saw things in brilliant contrast. They talked about Hack's kindness, his devotion to his soldiers and his razor sharp mind. A few spoke of his warrior spirit, fierce nature, and combat cunning. Hack was never one to give an opponent an inch, no matter who it was.

Perhaps that is why there weren't any senior U.S. Army officials there, not a one. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wasn't there. Neither was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers, or Gen Peter J. Schoomaker, the Chief of Staff of the Army and a reputed airborne stud himself, or any

of the current Army commanders, corps or division commanders. There wasn't even an official Army photographer to record the scene, so I called the Army and asked them "Why not?"

Flinty B.G. Vincent K. Brooks spoke for the brass. He is the Chief of Public Affairs and the guy with the West Point perfect presence who became the stone face of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brooks replied:

*"I find your inferences and predispositions most offensive. If you were a personal friend of the late Colonel Hackworth then it is no doubt due to your sense of loss that you would send such an email to me. If not, then I can only guess as to your motives."*

*The late Colonel Hackworth served his country with distinction and he was laid to rest as a Soldier should be — with military honors. Now it's time for you to let the honor linger. May he and all of our veterans recently deceased rest in long-awaited peace."*

Why none of the brass showed up was apparently lost in Brook's magnificent shuffle. Usually important funerals at Arlington National Cemetery are magnets for high ranking generals and Department of Defense dignitaries looking for a safe place to show their caring side. These days there are plenty of opportunities at the ceremonies for the dead from America's war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Perhaps that is also the reason the brass didn't come that day. Maybe they didn't want to be reminded that caring, no matter how heart felt, is never enough. Maybe they didn't want to be reminded of how wrong they can sometimes be by the memory of the dead man in a little mahogany box. ✕

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By Dr. Martin Brass

## AMERICA

## AT WAR

 **1. INDONESIA** U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS CLOSED due to constant terror threats; 7-page letter, assumed to be sent by Jemaah Islamiyah, detailed training of militants for suicide bombings, believed to match Bali bombings of 2002, according to the *Strait Times*.

 **2. UNITED STATES** FOURTH BOMB TRANSPORT JET CRASH in eighteen months. Plane carrying four 500 lb. bombs and 300 rounds of 25-millimeter ammunition crashes one mile from Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma. THEFT OF POLICE IDENTITIES for use in terrorist activities is suspected. Feds break up al Qaeda terrorist cell Lodi, California, 40 miles south of Sacramento. Suspect Hamid Hayat arrested after boarding San Francisco-bound plane, even though his name appeared on a no-fly list of suspected Islamic terrorist operatives. Hayat admitted attending al Qaeda explosives and weapons training camps in Pakistan in 2003 and 2004 to learn "how to kill Americans." His target practice included shooting photographs of President Bush and other high-profile U.S. political figures. (homelandsecurityus.com)

 **3a. HAITI** PRO-ARISTIDE GANGS are trained by al Qaeda sympathizers in weapons and explosives use and indoctrinated in Islam. *Strategypage (SP)*

 **3b. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** ISLAMIC RADICAL groups contacted international fundamentalist groups, seeking financial and technical assistance. *SP*

 **4. NICARAGUA** AL QAEDA COURTING dissidents, with goal of helping them stage terrorist attacks against the government. *SP*

 **5. COLOMBIA** GAS CYLINDER BOMBS, common IEDs used by FARC, kill dozens of civilians. Indigenous groups in the Department of Cauca targeted and decimated by the crude, inaccurate, but deadly bombs.

 **6. ECUADOR** RADAR SITE built on Colombian border is manned by 500 security troops who secure border against FARC and drug trafficking.

## 7. ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, & PARAGUAY

**Three Frontiers Region:** HIZBOLLAH operates freely throughout borders, establish training camps, safe houses, and logistical bases. *SP*

## 8. ALGERIA

**ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST** Kingpin of Salafi rebel group and 15 followers killed in clashes between rival wings of the fundamentalist organization, it was reported. Security Forces arrest 24 fundamentalist terrorists.

## 9. RUSSIA

**COLD WAR PARTNERS** and neighbors Russia and China join India in Vladivostok summit, and team up in fighting terrorism. Governments fear that the explosive Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan will follow Chechnya's example of Islamic separatism.

## 10. EGYPT

**SUEZ CANAL THREATENED** when security forces confiscate explosives and documents with plans, targeting canal.

## 11. ISRAEL

**CROWD DISPERSAL DEVICE** emits painful burst of sound at a maddening frequency, to break up demonstrations.

## 12. SYRIA

**KURDS DEMONSTRATE** after Sheik Mohammed al Khasnawi is brutally tortured to death. Kurds are 10% of 17 million population. Government accuses gangs of murder.

## 13. IRAQ

**OPERATION SQUEEZE PLAY SOUTH**, the largest Iraqi-Coalition operation, with four Iraqi brigades, four U.S. battalions, and with U.S. Air Force and Navy support captures 230 suspected terrorists. More than 600 suspected terrorists detained in Baghdad area operations led by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, since 20 May. **THIRTY-THREE TERROR SUSPECTS SEIZED** by Iraqi Army and Task Force, 2 million Iraqi dinars and a variety of bomb-making materials seized. Multinational Corps Iraq has opened a criminal investigation into two Task Force Liberty soldiers' deaths 7 June at Forward Operating Base Danger, near Tikrit, Iraq, officials in Iraq reported today.

## 14. SAUDI ARABIA

**I HATE THOSE "SAVAGES — They Will Burn In Hell."** Brit Anesthetic technician, Sandy Mitchell held in Saudi jail and tortured with pickax and 300-pound Saudi using him for a seat until he confessed to bombing U.S. military base in 2003. In a trial at "Chop-Chop Square" he was sentenced to crucifixion, partial beheading and public display of his corpse. Mitchell, who was released after officials proved al-Qaeda was responsible, is suing U.K. government for lack of action. *Washington Times*

## 15. YEMEN

**INSURGENCY** claims 250 lives. Police battle insurgent's mountain strongholds, as violence spreads to urban warfare.

## 16. AFGHANISTAN

**AID WORKER** kidnapped by four unidentified men with AK-47 assault rifles. **CAPTURED —** Taliban Chief Mullah Abdul Razak, responsible for increasing roadside bombing.

## 17. PAKISTAN

**NUCLEAR SMUGGLING SCAM** headed by Pakistani Abdul Qadeer Khan includes instructions for building and testing nuclear bomb equipment. UN warns that missing electronic drawings are sold to rogue states such as Libya and Iran. Khan admitted to orchestrating sophisticated global underground selling of equipment and secrets. *UPI*

# French Foreign Legion

## Securing for Today, Building for Tomorrow

Text and Photos by Richard Lucas

**A**s this year's harsh winter ends, the snow has blocked the mountain passes and left many rural areas virtually isolated. Afghanistan's rural economy is on the move. Farmers are once again in the fields preparing for spring planting and the herders are taking flocks up to summer pasture. But in this country, which is just starting to recover from more than 20 years of civil war, along with the coming of spring comes the danger of renewed hostilities. Since U.S. and Coalition forces occupied the country three years ago following the ouster of the radical Taliban regime, most of the warring factions have gradually been



From observation post Pomelle, atop a steep hill overlooking the road to Kabul's International airport, French snipers and MANPADS observers keep an eye for suspicious activity – especially surface-to-air missiles, as most planes flying into Kabul pass over this corridor on their approach.

# in Afghanistan

disarmed and have come under ISAF (International Security and Assistance Force) control. Nevertheless, the ever-present danger of terrorist attacks by residual Taliban groups or other renegade factions remains.

The observation post, code named *Pomelle*, situated atop one of the steep hills that surround the city of Kabul, overlooks the road leading to Kabul's International airport. Most planes flying into Kabul would pass over this corridor on their approach. At this point, flying in low, they would be in dangerously close range of any sort of ground-to-air missile coming from the valley below.

Precluding such attacks is a unit of MANPADS (Man Por-

table Air Defense System) observers. In charge of this unit is Lieutenant François Darthoux of the 2nd Régiment Etranger d'Infanterie. The 2nd REI is a motorized infantry regiment of the French Foreign Legion, based in the city of Nîmes in the south of France.

For the past year the legionnaires of 2nd REI, working in 12-hour shifts, have had the valley below under constant surveillance. Lt. Darthoux explained their mission: "From up here we have a view of the entire valley. The observers are constantly scanning the sector through binoculars and if they pick up on anything suspicious, someone carrying a weapon, especially anything which resembles a missile or launcher, we have an intervention group ready to go in. As the intervention group is on their way down, the snipers we have posted up here and on the adjoining hills cover the target, ready to give fire support or intervene directly if need be."

From the main observation post, which was placed in the center of what had once been a line of soviet defensive positions, Darthoux led the way up a steep grade to the snipers positioned above. As we reached the crest, the rusting remains of a Russian tank, its turret still pointed menacingly toward the valley below, bore witness to the Soviet determination to defend Kabul by controlling the strategic high ground.



*Legionnaires of the 1st REG Régiment Etranger de Genie, Legion Combat Engineers, have been busy with de-mining and munitions-disposal ops. When munitions are found they are trucked to a secured area and destroyed. The OIC of the EDD ops reports already destroying hundreds of tons of rockets, mines, mortar rounds, and artillery shells – and that that this will be going on for many years.*



*One legacy of 20 years of internal war and/or military occupation are thousands of pieces of rusting former-soviet armor – dead soldiers from the latest foreign power who tried to occupy Afghanistan.*

As we were enjoying the magnificent view of the Afghan countryside stretched out before us, a call came over the radio. An observer had spotted three individuals entering the fields from the village below. They seemed to be carrying cylinders. That was enough information to set off a general alert. Darthoux radioed to the intervention group who were already aboard a vehicle and ready to roll. They immediately set off down the dirt track curving down toward the hamlet. The sniper teams were contacted and had radioed back that they had the three men in their crosshairs.

Likewise, the two snipers who were up there with us, “tireurs d’élite” (elite marksmen) in French, had positioned themselves and were following the action through the scopes of their FR-F2 sniper rifles. Later one of our snipers told me, “The FR-F2 is good up to 800 meters, which covers a good part of the area down there. At longer distances it may not

be one shot one kill but, from up here, we can sure make someone down below feel pretty uncomfortable.”

By radio, the lieutenant guided the intervention group through the village and toward the target. Within a few minutes the sergeant heading the group had made contact with the three men. It turned out that they were local villagers heading into the relative tranquility of the orchards in order to find a calm place to carry out their afternoon prayers. The “cylinders” they were carrying were rolled up prayer rugs, as is the custom in this country. A few polite words and a handshake and the intervention group started back to the observation post.

Darthoux said that this type of intervention was an almost daily occurrence. The villagers were accustomed to having the legionnaires patrolling from time to time and that it actu-

*Continued on page 58*

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By definition, the Cold War would seem to exclude the concept of combat. And for the 45 years of its duration, the fiction was maintained that the struggle between the Soviet Union and its Communist allies and the United States was waged bloodlessly. This, of course, was not true.

The "cold" fight to contain communism worldwide (which excludes the full-fledged wars in Korea and Vietnam) involved numerous hostile encounters and claimed at least 359 American lives by enemy action. A large proportion of those lives were lost in the air during the highly secretive aerial reconnaissance campaign conducted along the Communist rim. If accidental operational casualties (deaths in aircraft crashes, etc.) are included, the toll climbs even higher.

Once and for all, the notion that the Cold War was won "without firing a shot" must be laid to rest. The nation owes the Americans killed behind and around the "curtains" of communism that much recognition and respect.

# COLD WAR 1945 - 1991

By Richard K. Kolb

## Part One of Two

Members of the Berlin Brigade patrol along the Berlin Wall.

*"People don't really understand and know that the Cold War was a real war with real casualties. Real people died."*  
—Family member of a fatality

DDO PHOTO

# Iron Curtain

## EUROPE

- 1944** **Nov 7 Yugoslavia.** First Hostile Encounter of the Cold War. Incident at Nis. P-38s from U.S. 82nd Fighter Group squadrons mistakenly attack a Soviet column, killing 31 Soviet soldiers on the ground. They then shoot down 3 Soviet fighters. 2 U.S. pilots KIA: Lts. Phil Brewer & "Sid" Coulson.
- 1945** **May 8–Nov 30 Czechoslovakia.** U.S. troops, peaking at 22,023 in September, face off against the Soviets along a 266-mi. demarcation line in Bohemia.
- May 23–Jun 14 Yugoslavia Border.** U.S. 85th ID moves into the Italian province of Venezia Giulia along the Morgan Line to counterbalance the Communist Yugoslavian 4th Army. It remains on a 23-day alert status. 91st, 34th and 10th Mountain divisions also serve in the area.
- Oct 3 Yugoslavia Border.** 88th ID takes over U.S. sector of Morgan Line.
- Dec 23 Germany.** Berlin. 2 GIs of the 78th ID are killed near Tempelhof Airport.
- Dec 24 Yugoslavia Border.** 1 GI of Co. E, 349th IR, is killed by Yugoslav partisans.
- 1946** **Feb 9 Soviet Union.** Stalin effectively declares war on the West. He does so in a Moscow speech.
- Feb 10 Czechoslovakia.** 12 Americans infiltrate on an intelligence mission—3 are captured and held for 21 days. 1 GI of the 126th Combat Engineer Bn. earns a Soldiers Medal for heroism.
- Mar 3 Germany.** Berlin. 1 Army ordnance officer is killed by a Soviet sentry.
- Jul 12 Yugoslavia Border.** Firefight at Ursina. 8-man squad from L Co., 351st IR, is ambushed. U.S.: 0. Yugoslavs: 2 KIA.
- Jul 16 Yugoslavia Border.** 1 GI is killed along a road from Trieste by Yugoslav Partisans.
- Aug 9 Yugoslavia Border.** Ljubljana. U.S. C-47 transport is forced down by Yugoslav aircraft: 7 airmen briefly held captive. B-17s begin flying the route, with gunners ordered to "shoot if interfered with." B-17 flights end Oct. 23.
- Aug 19 Yugoslavia Border.** U.S. transport of the 305th TCS is shot down by a Yugoslav plane, killing the 5-man crew and causing an international incident.
- Oct Yugoslavia Border.** 88th ID (11,352 men) is the only division in the entire U.S. Army at full operational strength, as a result of tensions with the Yugoslavs.
- 1947** **Mar 12 Europe. Truman Doctrine.** U.S. officially declares "war" on Soviet expansion and subversion.
- Sep 15 Yugoslavia Border.** Outpost 5. 3 GIs of Co. B, 351st IR, are captured by Partisans and held for 5 days.
- 1948** **Jul 8–Jul 12, 1949 Germany.** Berlin. Berlin Airlift. 31 U.S. airmen die in 12 fatal accidental aircraft crashes during Operation Vittles between these dates. 733 incidents of Soviet harassment in the air reported.
- Jul 17 Britain.** 60 B-29 bombers of SAC's 28th & 307th BGs arrive at Marham Royal Air Force Base.
- Oct 30 Austria.** Vienna. 1 U.S. diplomat is abducted and beaten to death by Soviet NKVD.
- Dec 10 Czechoslovakia.** Ceska Kubie. 2 GIs of the 6th ACR are captured and not released until February 1949.
- 1949** **Jan 22 Greece.** 1 U.S. Air Force officer is captured and KIA by Communist guerrillas after his AT-6 is shot down by ground fire while directing a strafing mission.
- 1950** **Apr 8 Baltic Sea.** Latvia. Soviet fighters shoot down a PB4Y (Det. A, VP-26): 10 KIA.
- May 18 Azores.** Lajes AB. B-29 crashes: 16 crew die.
- 1951** **May 3 Austria.** Vienna. 1 soldier of the 796th MP Bn. is killed by two Soviet soldiers.
- 1952** **Apr 26 Atlantic.** USS Hobson collides with the carrier Wasp: 176 destroyermen die.
- 1953** **Mar 10 Germany.** Regensburg. F-84 of the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing is shot down by 2 Czech MiG-15s in German airspace. Pilot parachutes safely.
- 1954** **Aug 12 Czechoslovakia.** Czechs shoot down 2 U.S. trainer planes: pilots are held until fall.
- 1955** **Aug 11 Germany.** Karlsruhe. 2 C-119s collide, killing 56 soldiers of A Co., 499th Eng. Bn., 555th Eng. Grp. and 10 crewmen from the 10th TCS, 60th TCG.
- 1956** **Oct 23 Germany. Hungarian Uprising.** U.S. 6th ACR on full alert for a week; moves to the German border.
- Nov 17 Germany.** Kaiserslautern. U-2A (WRSP-1) explodes in mid-air: pilot dies.
- 1957** **Dec 23 Albania.** U.S. T-33 is shot down: Pilot survives.
- 1958** **Aug 2 Lebanon.** Beirut. 1 GI of 24th Airborne Brigade is KIA by Moslem snipers. 4 U.S. servicemen die in accidents during Operation Bluebat, launched to preempt Soviet interference in the region.
- Sep 2 Soviet Union.** Armenia. Worst Single Cold War Hostile Loss in Europe: 17 KIA. 4 Soviet MiGs shoot down an Air Force recon plane of the 7406th Support Squadron, killing 6 crewmen and 11 members of the USAF Security Service's Det 1, 6911th Radio Group Mobile. A C-118 was shot down over Armenia on June 27: all 7 crewmen were released July 7.
- 1959** **May 29 Iceland Coast.** USS Grenadier forces a Soviet sub to the surface for the first time ever.
- 1960** **May 1 Russia.** Sverdlovsk. U-2 (WRSP-2) is downed by a missile over Ural Mts. Pilot held until Feb. 10, 1962.
- May 25 Germany.** U.S. C-47 is shot down over the East: All 9 aboard survive. They are released July 19.
- Sep 2 Germany.** Grafenwoehr. An errant artillery round kills 17 and wounds 25 men of D Trp., 3rd Recon Sqdrn., 12th Cav, 3rd AD, during Operation Winter Shield.
- 1961** **Jan 15 Atlantic.** 75 miles east of Barnegat Island. "Texas" Tower 4 (designed to warn of a bomber attack) sinks during a storm: 28 die—14 airmen +14 civilians.
- Aug 20 Germany.** Berlin. Berlin Crisis. 1st BG, 18th IR (1,500 men), convoys along the Helmstedt-Berlin autobahn in a show of force in response to the erection of the Berlin Wall 7 days earlier.
- Oct 26 Germany.** Berlin. Checkpoint Charlie. Co.F, 40th Armor, backed by Co. E, 2nd BG, 6th IR, stands down the Russian tanks for 16 hrs.
- Dec 4 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal** is created by executive order to recognize vets of Cold War operations.
- 1962** **May 22 Germany.** Munich. A mid-air aircraft explosion claims 26 lives: 22 men of VQ-2 + 4 Army specialists.



**IRON CURTAIN PATROL:** U.S. armored cavalry units patrolled the East German and Czech borders. Starting with the Constabulary outfits, famous regiments such as the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 11th and 14th ACRs saw service along the "Iron Curtain" that separated the West from the Communist East.

- 1963** **Apr 10 Atlantic.** 220 miles east of Boston. USS Thresher sinks, after a piping failure, with 129 men: 112 crew members +17 civilian workers die.
- 1964** **Jan 28 Germany.** East. Soviet fighters shoot down a U.S. T-39 training plane of the Wiesbaden Air Base Group: 3 KIA.
- Mar 10 Germany.** Gardelegen. U.S. RB-66 (10th TRW) is shot down: the 3 crewmen survive.
- 1965** **Dec 14 Soviet Union.** Black Sea. Soviets shoot down an RB-57 (7407th CSS): 2 KIA.
- 1966** **Jan 16 Spain.** Palomares. B-52 collides with K-135 tanker while refueling: 7 men die.
- 1968** **May 27 Atlantic.** Off Azores. USS Scorpion sinks with crew of 99. Cause unknown.
- Aug 20 Germany.** Czechoslovakia Invasion. U.S. 2nd ACR goes on alert when Warsaw Pact forces invade during the Prague Spring.
- 1970** **Oct 21 Soviet Union.** Armenia. Soviets shoot down an Air Force U-8: 4 crewmen survive.
- 1972** **May 11 Germany.** Frankfurt. Red Army Faction (German Marxist terrorists) explodes a bomb at V Corps HQ: 1 KIA, 13 WIA.
- May 24 Germany.** Heidelberg. Marxist RAF bombs U.S. Army HQ: 3 KIA, 5 WIA.
- 1973** **Oct 6 Mediterranean Sea.** 6th Fleet on Defense Condition 3 Alert for 26 days in response to Soviet moves during Arab-Israeli war. U.S. Navy tracks 26 Soviet subs.
- 1975** **May 29 Germany.** Winterberg. U-2 (349th SRS) crashes.
- 1977** **Dec 7 Cyprus.** Akrotiri. U-2 (99th SRS) crashes on take-off, killing 5: pilot and 4 ground crewmen.
- 1979** **Apr 12 Turkey.** Izmir. 1 U.S. airman is killed by Turkish Marxist terrorists.
- May 11 Turkey.** Istanbul. 1 GI is killed by Turkish Marxist terrorists.
- May 15 Arabian Sea.** Planes from the USS Midway take to the sky when 2 Soviet IL-38s circle the carrier.
- Dec 14 Turkey.** Istanbul. 1 GI and 3 civilians are killed by Turkish Marxist terrorists.
- 1980** **Apr 16 Turkey.** Istanbul. 1 U.S. sailor is killed by Turkish Marxist terrorists.

- Nov 15 Turkey.** Adana. Incirlik AB. 1 U.S. airman is killed by Turkish Marxist terrorists.
- Dec 10 Germany.** Soviet Union threatens to invade Poland. U.S. deploys 4 E-3A planes.
- 1981** **Aug 31 Germany.** Ramstein. Marxist RAF bombs Air Force HQ: 17 WIA.
- 1983** **Nov Germany.** During NATO's exercise Able Archer, Warsaw Pact units go on full alert, believing the West is about to launch a preemptive nuclear strike.
- Nov 17 Greece.** Athens. 1 U.S. Navy officer is killed by Greek Marxist terrorists.
- 1985** **Aug 8 Germany.** Wiesbaden. 1 GI is killed by the Marxist RAF.
- Aug 8 Germany.** Rhein-Main AB. Marxist RAF car bomb explodes: 2 U.S. KIA, 17 WIA.
- 1985** **Mar 24 Germany.** Last U.S. KIA of the Cold War in Europe. Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., part of the U.S. Military Liaison Mission in East Germany, is shot dead by a Soviet sentry in Ludwigslust. Nicholson is posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit & Purple Heart.
- 1988** **Apr 14 Italy.** Naples. 1 U.S. servicewoman is killed by Marxist terrorists.
- Jun 28 Greece.** Athens. U.S. defense attaché is killed by Greek Marxist terrorists.
- 1989** **Nov 9 Germany.** Berlin. Wall Falls. B Co., 6th Bn., 502nd IR, is the U.S. infantry unit on duty at the time. Signals effective end of Cold War in East Europe.
- 1990** **Mar 1 Germany.** Fulda Gap. Last Patrol. 11th ACR conducts the final border patrols of Cold War in Europe.
- 1991** **Mar 12 Greece.** Athens. 1 U.S. airman is killed by a Greek Marxist terrorist bomb.
- Dec 25 Soviet Union.** Moscow. Communism Collapses. USSR ceases to exist.

## Cactus Curtain

### LATIN AMERICA

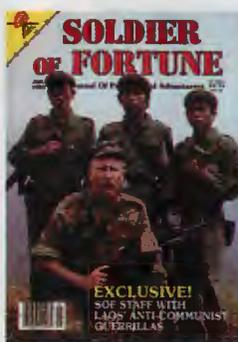
- 1961** **Apr 19 Cuba.** Bay of Pigs. 6,000 U.S. sailors and Marines cover the Cuban exile invasion. 4 CIA-contracted U.S. pilots from the Alabama Air National Guard are KIA.
- 1962** **Oct 14-28 Cuba.** Missile Crisis. 30,000 U.S. sailors and aviators aboard 63 vessels participate in the blockade. SAC is placed on full alert: 70 B-52s airborne, fully armed. 5,750 Marines are based at Guantanamo Bay.
- Oct 27 Cuba.** Nipe Bay. Soviet missile downs a U-2 (SAC's 4080th SRW): 1 KIA. He is the first to ever receive (posthumously) the Air Force Cross.
- Oct 27 Bermuda.** Kindley AB. An RB-47, while taking off on a recon mission, crashes: 4 airmen die.
- Oct 23 Cuba.** Guantanamo Bay. Leeward Point. C-135 cargo plane crashes: 7 crewmen die.
- Nov 20 Florida.** Off Key West. U-2 (4028th SRS) crashes. U-2 operations are conducted from McCoy AFB for overflights of Cuba.
- 1964** **Jan 10-11 Panama.** Canal Zone. Cristobal. Firefight at Masonic Temple. 3rd Plt., C Co., 4th Bn., 10th IR, 193rd IB, engages Panamanian rioters who support Cuba's Fidel Castro. U.S.: 3 KIA, 16 WIA.

- 1965**
- May 3 Cuba.** Guantanamo Bay. 5 U.S. sailors stumble into and die in the base's minefields. Before perimeter minefields are finally cleared 35 years later, 13 men of the Marine Minefield Maintenance Platoon die.
  - Jul 19 Cuba.** Guantanamo Bay. Marines shoot and kill 2 Cuban soldiers on base perimeter.
  - Apr 24 Dominican Republic Intervention. Operation Power Pack** is launched to thwart Communist-led rebels. U.S. forces peak at 30,522: 20,463 (12,439 soldiers; 6,924 Marines; 1,100 airmen) ashore and 10,059 sailors offshore.
  - Jun 15-16 Battle of Santo Domingo City.** Bloodiest engagement of intervention involves 82nd AD. U.S.: 5 KIA, 31 WIA. Rebels: 67 KIA, 165 WIA.
  - Jul 20 Guatemala.** 1 U.S. helicopter pilot is killed by Guatemalan guerrillas. 1 U.S. MAAG colonel later slain.
- 1966**
- May 22 Cuba.** Guantanamo Bay. Marines kill a Cuban.
  - Jul 28 Bolivia.** U-2 (4080th SRW) crashes: pilot dies.
  - Sep 21 Dominican Republic.** Last U.S. troops depart. Total U.S. Casualties: 27 KIA, 172 WIA. Non-hostile deaths: 20.
- 1968**
- Jan 16 Guatemala.** Guatemala City. 2 U.S. military advisers KIA & 2 WIA by Marxist terrorists.
  - Oct 12 Brazil.** Sao Paulo. 1 U.S. Army officer is assassinated by Marxist terrorists.
- 1979**
- Dec 2 Puerto Rico.** 2 U.S. sailors killed by Macheteros (Marxist terrorists).
- 1983**
- Oct 23-Nov 2 Grenada. Operation Urgent Fury** is designed to counter Marxist government. 20,000 U.S. troops participate. U.S.: 9 KIA, 120 WIA + 10 non-hostile deaths. Cubans: 24 KIA, 59 WIA. Grenadians: 21 KIA, 337 WIA.
  - Oct 25 Grenada. Ambush at Calliste.** Gun Jeep Team Five, A Co., 1st Bn., 75th Rangers, is ambushed by Marxist Grenadian soldiers. U.S.: 5 KIA.
  - May 25 El Salvador.** 1 U.S. Navy SEAL is assassinated by FMLN (Marxist terrorists).
- 1984**
- Jan 11 Honduras.** 1 U.S. Army helicopter pilot is KIA by Sandinistas near Nicaraguan border.
  - Oct 18 El Salvador.** CIA plane crashes: 4 agents die.
- 1985**
- Jun 19 El Salvador.** 4 unarmed U.S. Marines are murdered by FMLN while off duty.
- 1987**
- Mar 31 El Salvador.** El Paraiso. 1 Special Forces soldier is KIA in a firefight with FMLN.
  - Jul 15 El Salvador.** 6 GIs die in a helicopter crash while evacuating an injured GI.
- 1991**
- Jan 2 Honduras.** Rafael Habra. FMLN shoots down a U.S. helicopter of the 4th Bn., 228th Avn. Regt.: 3 KIA.
  - Feb 25 El Salvador.** Lake Ilopango. U.S. helicopter crashes: 5 GIs die.
- 1992**
- Feb 1 El Salvador.** Last U.S. advisers (3,600 served there during insurgency) depart. Total U.S. Casualties: 9 hostile deaths, 26 WIA. 11 non-hostile deaths. ☒

PHOTO COURTESY: FRED SPALLDING



**CARIBBEAN UNREST:** Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Div. take cover from sniper fire during the 1965 Dominican Republic intervention. A total of 27 GIs were KIA.

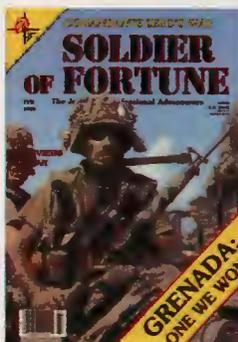


◀ **JANUARY 1982:** The Cold War in SE Asia did not end with the fall of Saigon. SOF publisher Robert K. Brown visited anti-communist guerrillas in Laos, and SOF staffers and correspondents made repeated forays to Cambodia, Burma, Thailand.

▶ **NOVEMBER 1982:** Examining a surrogate war where U.S. technology would bankrupt Soviet interest, SOF went many times to Afghanistan – and in the spirit of its own brand of participatory journalism, sometimes SOF publisher Robert K. Brown got in some trigger time.



◀ **FEBRUARY 1984:** Much of the Cold War was fought through surrogates, and in the case of Castro, even the surrogate had a surrogate – Grenada. On the ground with U.S. troops in Grenada, and interviewing captured Russian troops in Afghanistan, SOF filed its reports.



▶ **JULY 1987:** Brushfire wars never ended during the Cold War – from Vietnam-occupied Cambodia to Honduras.



◀ **AUGUST 1988:** Central America was widely under attack during the Cold War, and SOF staffers and correspondents made uncountable trips to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala to observe, report and train – even spending five months inside Nicaragua.



**NEXT MONTH...**

**Bamboo Curtain  
Ice Curtain  
Jungle Curtain**

This article was taken from the book **Cold War Clashes**, published by the VFW. For further info, check out page 77.

# Boys, Their Toys, and Pigs

By Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)



Photo: Frankie Icenogle

Well, it sounded like a good idea, and it was time to get out of Dodge, or what passed for the People's Republic of Boulder. And who could turn down an invitation to cavort and pop caps with some of the finest in the tactical weapons community?

The man behind the event, Jim Hodge, told me, "I thought it would be a valuable experience to host a Texas Tactical Rifle Hunt to allow various individuals within the weapons community to meet and exchange ideas on the development of systems that would be of value to SpecOps operators and S.W.A.T operators that go in harm's way."

This was the third such event, held at the Double C Ranch, which specializes in exotic game hunting in South Texas near Crystal City. "The first year, we had seven participants, the second about 30 and this year about 40. And next year, we will host no more than 50," Hodge told me. By invitation

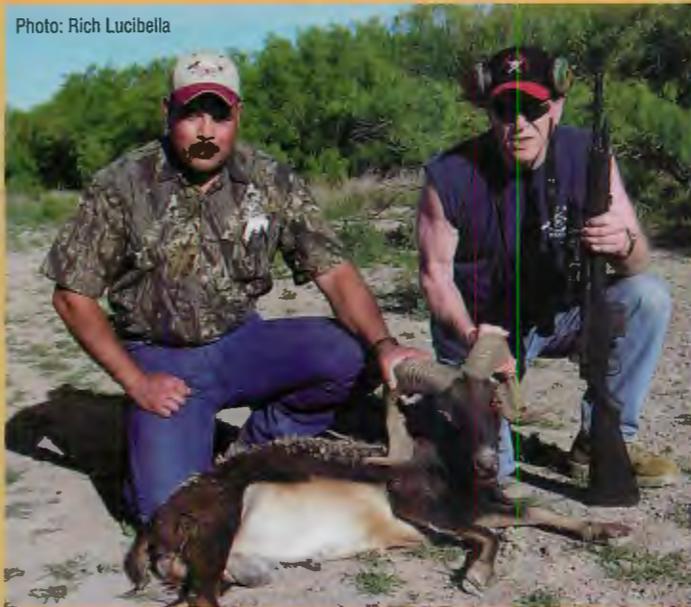
only, he emphasized. This is the first time an opportunity was provided for individuals from a variety of firms to get together face-to-face and exchange ideas, as well as kick back and relax. Surefire and Camelbak supported the event by passing out samples of their products to the attendees.

Jeff Meyers, owner of the Double C Ranch, was a suburb host and provided fine food along with a pleasant atmosphere as well as an opportunity to shoot skeet and hoist not a few brews. Special thanks go to former Marine Frankie Icenogle who volunteered to photograph the event. Everyone left the Double C Ranch ([www.huntingwithjeff.com](http://www.huntingwithjeff.com)) with an up-beat attitude and more knowledgeable than when they arrived. I'm looking forward to next year's event and might even learn a little bit about all the new fangled gadgets that our modern warriors use in their fight against terrorism. ✕

(1) Rich Lucibella, Publisher, S.W.A.T. Magazine (2) Denny Hansen, S.W.A.T. Magazine Email: [editor@swatmag.com](mailto:editor@swatmag.com) (3) Tim Wegner, Blade-Tech Email: [tim@blade-tech.com](mailto:tim@blade-tech.com) (4) Marty Bordson, Badger Ordnance Email: [bordson@badgerordnance.com](mailto:bordson@badgerordnance.com) (5) Jeff Hayes, GA Precision Email: [a10xrifle@aol.com](mailto:a10xrifle@aol.com) (6) Tom Butler, Blade-Tech E-mail: [tomb@net-venture.com](mailto:tomb@net-venture.com) (7) Jeff Wemmer, Spec-Ops Brand (8) Dave Skinner, STI International Email: [dskinner@igg-tx.net](mailto:dskinner@igg-tx.net) (9) (Unidentified) (10) Tom Crawford, Blade-Tech Email: [tom@blade-tech.com](mailto:tom@blade-tech.com) (11) Tony Gonzales, MGSS Jet Suppressors Email: [jetsuppressors@yahoo.com](mailto:jetsuppressors@yahoo.com) (12) Christian Hays, Surefire (13) Scott, Spec-Ops Brand Email: [info@specopsbrand.com](mailto:info@specopsbrand.com) (14) Travis Mitchell, Surefire Email: [travis@surefire.com](mailto:travis@surefire.com) (15) Bill Davison, Tac Pro Shooting Center Email: [email@tacproshootingcenter.com](mailto:email@tacproshootingcenter.com) (16) Joe Bays, GA Precision Email: [a10xrifle@aol.com](mailto:a10xrifle@aol.com) (17) Robert K. Brown, Editor/Publisher, Soldier of Fortune Magazine Email: [rkb@sofmag.com](mailto:rkb@sofmag.com) (18) Stormy Stormes, CamelBak Email: [stormy@camelbak.com](mailto:stormy@camelbak.com) (19) Dale Mack, Badger Ordnance (20) Allan Mack, Badger Ordnance (21) Tim Roberts, GA Precision (22) Alice Davison, Tac Pro Shooting Center (23) Preston Pritchett, Surgeon Rifles, Inc. Email: [preston\\_pritchett@hotmail.com](mailto:preston_pritchett@hotmail.com) (24) Lawrence Stevens, Rogue Modular Combat Systems (25) Casey Allen, GA Precision (26) Eric Reid, GA Precision Email: [a10xrifle@aol.com](mailto:a10xrifle@aol.com) (27) George Gardner, GA Precision (28) Andy Conrad, US Army (Ret.) Email: [aconrad@satx.rr.com](mailto:aconrad@satx.rr.com) (29) Chris Matthews, GA Precision Email: [a10xrifle@aol.com](mailto:a10xrifle@aol.com) (30) Jim Hodge, AMTI Email: [sws762@yahoo.com](mailto:sws762@yahoo.com) (31) Brian Buckingham, Rogue Modular Combat Systems Email: [roguedesign@rogers.com](mailto:roguedesign@rogers.com) (32) Mike Brown, MGSS Jet Suppressors Email: [jetsuppressors@yahoo.com](mailto:jetsuppressors@yahoo.com)



Photo: Rich Lucibella



RKB zapped the Dall ram within spitting distance, with a Springfield Armory .308 Scout with a 2 3/4 Burris Scout scope. 150 grains of lead courtesy of Hornady. RKB tromps around in his Danner boots and sports a pair of Walker's Ears, protecting what little remains of his hearing and Wiley X protective glasses. On the left is his guide, Jose Luna. Special thanks to former Marine Frankie "Ice" Icenogle for the photography and representatives from Camelbak, Surefire, SpecOps and Blade Tech who were generous in passing out samples of their gear.

## 2005 Tactical Hog Hunt

I have been in the firearms industry for almost 25 years and one thing always bothered me, the lack of interaction within our own industry.

The Tactical Hog hunt has helped to change that, not in a big way but at a grass roots level.

In the past it seemed that everyone in the gun biz had the attitude that "If company A sells a gun, that's one I won't sell." Pretty closed minded! At the Hunt guys who are direct competitors get together, show each other their stuff, discuss their techniques (trade secrets) and give advice.

It is really not about the hunting: Yes we hunted, and some were very successful, but everyone really looked forward to hanging out at the lodge and socializing and tearing down some of those walls, the rest of the gun industry should consider doing it. Everyone wins, even the consumer

This is really something that could be done in other industries, set up a hunt for your company, invite others in the same industry and expand the horizons of everyone involved.

**Martin Bordson**  
CEO, Badger Ordnance



Photo: Frankie Icenogle



Photo: Robert K. Brown

**(Left)** Tobias "Toby" Albrecht, CEO of Neat Guns, Inc., popped this porker with an Accuracy International SWP .308 with fluted barrel and Schmidt & Bender 10X scope.

**(Above)** Hunters and their goodies load up on the "Zebra," originally a 1980 Suburban sans doors and top on way to blinds on Meyers 28,000 acre hunting facility. Holds 10 including driver.

**(Below)** RKB hammers .50 cal rounds down range with a Accuracy International AW topped off with Schmidt & Bender MKII 4-16x50 scope graciously provided by Bill Davison, head honcho of the Tac Pro Shooting Center, who is 14 year veteran of the British Special Forces and Royal Marines Tac Pro, located near Mingo, TX, is an up-scale 550 acre facility that runs courses for the military and law enforcement and has now opened up to civilians. For further info, check out: [www.tacproshootingcenter.com](http://www.tacproshootingcenter.com)



Photo: Frankie Icenogle



# Only Hits Kill Part Two

By John Higgs



## SOF Examines What's New with Marksmanship in the U.S. Army

Text and Photos by John Higgs

*Last month we looked at how the U.S. Army Marksmanship unit is training individual soldiers to shoot, and building the best rifles possible for them to take to war. Now we examine first hand how the Army is using competition as a training tool to improve the marksmanship skills of all soldiers.*

### From Shooting Matches to Combat

In March 2004 the USAMU resumed hosting the Army Small Arms Championships at Ft. Benning. These rifle and pistol matches are voluntary and are as much a training tool as they are a means of competing. Every soldier that shoots both rifle and pistol competitions in the All-Army matches leaves with a certificate of training for 60 hours of advanced Known Distance (KD) rifle marksmanship, combat rifle marksmanship, and combat pistol training. My visit to the USAMU coincided with the 2005 Army Small Arms Championships.

Among other things, I attended the mandatory Advanced Pistol class conducted for all competitors, by the USAMU's Sergeant First Class Jacobsen and Staff Sergeant Sokolowski. Each soldier was issued a copy of the USAMU Advanced Pistol Guide. This is a marksmanship guide, not a tactical manual. It covers a broad array of subjects related to hitting a target: Fundamentals of Marksmanship (stance, position, grip, sight alignment, breath, and trigger control), Slow and Sustained Fire Techniques, mental and physical conditioning, etc.

The standard M9 (Beretta Model 92F) 9mm pistol was used by most of the soldiers, although on the line I noticed a few of the M11 Sig P228 9mm pistols, a more compact pistol than the Beretta. Jacobsen and Sokolowski led us through various topics, beginning with the single most important: safety. And then on to the loading and firing commands: "LOAD" the pistol is drawn from the holster and a magazine is inserted. "ACTION" shooter chambers a round. "INSTANT" shooter puts the safety on, decocking the hammer. "WATCH AND SHOOT" shooter stands in the ready position with the pistol in both hands, drawn back against the chest, finger off the trigger. From this position, with the feet about shoulder width apart, knees bent slightly, weight forward, the shooter pushes the pistol out and up in line with the eye in a classic Isosceles position. Despite being a practitioner of the Weaver stance myself, I can see how the addition of body armor and various chest rig pouches would require most soldiers to shoot with both arms almost fully extended.

### The Pistol Matches

"John, there's nothing in the regulations that says a civilian can't shoot unofficially in the matches," Lt. Col. Liwanag told me one day as we stood watching one of the rifle matches, "So if you want to shoot in a pistol match tomorrow [out of competition], we can accommodate you." I didn't need to be asked twice, trigger time is always welcome. The following day, wearing a Kevlar helmet, LBV and green nylon M84 hol-

(above) Pistol competitors shoot the barricade stage from both sides of 4x4 post, to simulate firing from cover or concealment.

## The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit

At the direction of (then) President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) was formed on 1 March 1956 to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army. The USAMU has three missions: To compete and win in inter-service, national, international and Olympic Competitions; to promote the Army; and to enhance combat readiness. These may seem like three completely separate tasks, but in fact they form a shooting triad that demonstrates to the world that the U.S. military leads the way in skill at arms.

To date, members of the unit have won hundreds of individual and team national competitions, more than 40 world championships, and 20 Olympic Medals. This impressive record helps with the unit's second mission, to promote the public's confidence in Army marksmanship and to encourage recruiting. Finally, the wealth of technical expertise and experience in the unit enables it to conduct basic rifle and pistol train-the-trainer clinics on request, and to conduct research and development programs using competitive shooting as a test bed to develop arms, ammunition, and equipment that may eventually be used in combat.

The M-21 (National Match M14 rifle and scope) and M-24 (Remington Model 700BDL bolt action rifle and scope) Sniper Systems and Special Reaction Team Rifles were developed and tested here, as well as the USSOCOM Mark 12 SPR. The USAMU is comprised of a Custom Firearms Shop with world class ammunition reloading facility; supply, operations and administrative branches; and six competitive shooting sections: Service Pistol, Service Rifle, International Pistol, International Rifle, Action/Combat Shooting, and Shotgun.

The Commander is Lt. Col. David J. Liwanag, a career Special Forces officer. Among other accomplishments, he is the former commander of the U.S. Army Parachute Team, "The Golden Knights." He took part in Operations Uphold Democracy and Iraqi Freedom. He is a U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman, trained as a sniper and in Special Forces Close Quarters Battle (CQB), and is a U.S. Secret Service Firearms Instructor. His uniform bears the tab for the "President's Hundred," for finishing among the top 100 shooters in The President's Rifle or President's Pistol Match held at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio; the Special Forces tab; and the Ranger tab. He knows of only three other serving officers who wear all three tabs.

The USAMU is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of Fort Knox, Ky., which is under U.S. Army Accessions Command, of Fort Monroe, Va. Accessions Command is charged with overseeing recruiting and training of the Army's enlisted soldiers and officers. Further information on the AMU may be found at: <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>

The following day was the General George Patton Combat Pistol Team Match. This is similar in concept to the rifle "Rattle Battle." A four-soldier team shoots standing, two-handed, onto six 11-C pistol targets: Stage one 50 yards, 14 rounds per shooter in 50 seconds; stage two, 25 yards, 14 rounds per shooter in 40 seconds; stage three, 25 yards, 14 rounds per shooter in 30 seconds. This is a Fire Distribution Match where different team members will shoot a varying number of rounds onto some or all of the targets to get the maximum possible coverage. But there's a catch: Each team has to



*Match had a few M11 SIG pistols, but most competitors fired the M9 Beretta – not the favorite handgun of many. Complaints from the field regarding reliability, usually from bad aftermarket magazines, and stopping ability, have prompted a review of the M9 and its suitability as a combat arm.*

ster, all borrowed from SFC Jacobsen, I reported to the line at Parks Range to shoot the Secretary of the Army Pistol Match (Individual). This is a three-stage match, shot at 25, 20, and 15-yard distances. The shooter engages three 11-C pistol targets on each stage for a total of 75 rounds fired. Stage One: standing to kneeling to prone. Stage two: standing barricade. Stage three: standing quick fire.

As I chambered a round in the M9 and applied the safety (which also decocked the hammer), it occurred to me that the only pistol I've shot less than a Beretta is probably a 17th century flintlock. This put me on a par with some of the other competitors, many of them combat veterans who, prior to attending the USAMU pistol class, had no experience with the pistol. This situation will change as the USAMU ramps up its pistol program to train more soldiers. The match wasn't a great success for me. I managed a score of 179 out of a possible 375. I had trouble shooting the barricade position, where the shooter is required to maintain contact with the vertical 4x4 wooden post while shooting two-handed (first to one side with the strong hand, changing pistol to the other hand, and shooting two-handed on the other side of the barricade).

On this stage I noticed I strung my shots horizontally, probably due to the poor grip I had shooting with my "off" hand. On other stages I strung some shots vertically. I noticed that some of the other shooters had similar results on their targets. The troops don't like the Beretta. Its performance in the close-quarter battles of Afghanistan and Iraq has given it the reputation of being unreliable and lacking in stopping power, prompting the Army to conduct a formal review of the weapon.

run two miles in full battle gear in less than 25 minutes and then step onto the line, heart pounding, and shoot the three stages. Three soldiers who had never shot together before invited me to join them. With several other teams we set off on the run a mile up a hill, turned around, and ran back to the start line. I run regularly in Colorado, a mile above sea level, so I thought running at the much lower elevations at Ft. Benning would give me an advantage. I hadn't counted on the additional weight of the gear I was wearing. Our two youngest team members took off from the start line like a couple of greyhounds chasing a rabbit, while I began a steady pace.

Our team leader resisted the temptation to charge ahead and stayed with me the whole race, offering words of encouragement. A little over halfway through, I asked him, "Do we have a team name?" He thought for a moment, "Team Ranger of Fortune." As we came into the home stretch we picked up the pace and crossed the line with a time of 19:50. This gave us 30 bonus points to be added to our team score. We hit the firing line and shot the match, hearts pounding – at least mine was. The other guys looked like they'd just been out for a stroll; tough dudes. Due to my civilian status we could not compete as an official team, but as I learned later that didn't stop us from taking an unofficial second place overall. It was good day.

### **"Follow Me!"**

"Being able to shoot, being a marksman, is what being a soldier is all about" Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Jones, Deputy CG

and Chief of Staff of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command said when he addressed the competitors at the Army's 2005 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships. "I know that now you're more confident marksmen and better soldiers and I ask that you take this training back to your units and share it with your fellow soldiers; It's tremendously important. Go back and tell your leaders about the good training that the Army Marksmanship Unit and Fort Benning provide; I think there's none better."

Every person with whom I spent time at Ft. Benning had a Can Do attitude and great enthusiasm for the part they play in training troops before they are sent overseas. Each one of the Combat matches has a list of winners, but everyone who attends these matches is a winner because they learn advanced marksmanship skills they can take directly to the battlefield. Some day soon a bunch of Tangos will decide to attack what they perceive as a soft target like a convoy or a support unit, and they will get their butts kicked. Not by a cruise missile, but by an accurately aimed 5.56mm rifle bullet, launched with confidence from three to six hundred yards away by a clerk with a warrior attitude and a thorough understanding of Marksmanship Fundamentals. ✕

*An NRA and Colorado POST certified Firearms Instructor and a graduate of Yavapai, Gunsite, and DTI firearms training schools, John Higgs is a frequent contributor to Soldier of Fortune.*

*A pistol match? You bet! The Gen. George S. Patton Pistol Match begins with a two-mile run – each four-man team must cross the finish line together, and may win a bonus towards their aggregate pistol score. Here a team digs down deep on the home stretch.*



## WTF,O? Baghdad Intramurals: Friendly Fire/Friendly Detention?

Some 16 American security contractors who work for the North Carolina-based company Zapata Engineering, along with their three Iraqi translators, were detained for three days by U.S. Marines near Fallujah. Zapata is under contract to the Corps of Engineers for explosives disposal. No one was injured during the alleged incident that led to their arrest, but there are varying accounts of the nature of the incident – or even if the incident happened, and widely divergent versions of what happened after the men were detained. The contractor's vehicles and weapons, which belong to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, were impounded by the Marines.

Marine spokesman Lt. Col. David Lapan said a Marine patrol in Fallujah reported receiving fire from a convoy of civilian trucks and SUVs, and that Marines also saw armed men in the convoy fire on civilians in the streets of Fallujah. Three hours later, Marines at an OP reported receiving fire from a similar convoy, and the convoy was stopped with spike strips and the 14 security personnel, two technicians and three Iraqi translators taken into custody. Zapata officials investigating the incident said they found no evidence their security personnel fired on U.S. forces, although they had fired warning shots in the air when an unidentified vehicle approached the convoy as it was passing through Fallujah on a mission. "Our personnel did not fire on the Marines," Zapata Senior Vice President for Operations Mary Richards said. "Based on everything we know and everything that we have collected, they followed the rules that are required when working as a contractor in Iraq."

As to what happened later, again,

accounts vary: The contractors were taken to a U.S. military lockup where they were held for three days. "The Americans were segregated from the rest of the detainee population and, like all security detainees, were treated humanely and respectfully," Lapan told the *LA Times* in an email. They were subsequently escorted to their company compound three days later.

Several of the American security contractors, however, disagree with the official Marine characterization of their treatment. "I never in my career have treated anybody so inhumane," said one of the contractors who is a former Florida State trooper. "They treated

**"The convoy was stopped with spike strips and the 14 security personnel... were taken into custody."**

us like insurgents, roughed us up, took photos, hazed us, called us names." Mark Schopper, an attorney representing two of the contractors, said his clients were subjected to "physical and psychological abuse." Schopper said his clients reported that several of the contractors had been "slammed around" and had loaded weapons placed near their heads. Others reported being stripped and threatened by working dogs while Marines jeered and took photos. "How

does it feel to be a big, rich contractor now?" Schopper said Marines shouted at the men. Schopper also said that during their detention, the contractor's relatives in the United States received phone calls from "people with American accents" threatening to kill their loved ones if they talked about the incident.

Schopper has contacted the FBI and his congressman regarding the incident. "It was repulsive, appalling treatment," he said.

*Editor's Memo to all hands: Security Contractors, think firearms safety. Leathernecks, think diplomacy. All hands, think teamwork. Don't make a fat old man have to come over and hit you-all 'longside da head!* ✕



## Darwin Award/June 05

I was stationed at E.O.B Endurance when the alleged Sherpa crashed. I'm Army and in an attack helicopter tack force and was out launching one of our AH-64 Apaches when it crashed. It wasn't a Sherpa then nor was it after the last fire was put out. It's a C-130 Hercules for God's sake. When we responded to the crash, there wasn't an Air Force personnel to be seen except for the crew that survived the ill-fated crash.

It's a good thing that author of the June issue's letter remained anonymous because his Air Force buddies would laugh him out of Iraq for misidentifying that aircraft. I suggest that he get out of the office a little more, Aim High buddy. ✕

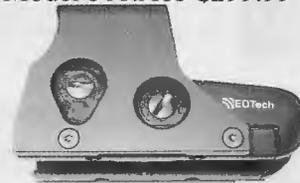
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monks, priests and pastors cannot proselytize. According to Human Rights Watch, the Vietnamese government continues branding all unauthorized religious activities as potentially subversive.

Targeted in particular are ethnic minority Protestants, Mennonites and members of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. In a final insult to religious freedom, secret police agents infiltrate churches to ensure compliance.

Prime Minister Phan Van Kahi two months ago reportedly instructed officials to "ensure that each citizen's freedom of religious and belief practice is observed [and] outlaw attempts to force people to follow a religion or to deny their religion." Is this something new? No. This is written into the Vietnamese communist constitution. Has the repression stopped? No. In northern and central Vietnam persecution continues and local officials harass and beat Christians and confiscate their rice fields when they refuse to renounce their religion. Recently in Buon Ale A in Darlak province a pastor was forced to sign an affidavit stating the Montagnards enjoyed religious freedom after he was almost killed by hanging as part of the torture designed to crush his resistance.

Because no independent organizations are allowed in the areas where most persecution occurs, there is no way for the State Department to verify the Vietnamese communists live up to their promises.

Moreover, families of Montagnard Christians who fled Vietnam after religious protests in 2001 and resettled in the U.S. are not being allowed to immigrate for family reunification in direct violation of the Jackson/Vanik Amendment that prohibits trade with countries that do not allow free emigra-

tion.

Vietnam's communists have been good students of Chinese policies that permit repression and retain power by playing off America's "Coke bottle diplomacy." What's behind the Vietnamese communist's charade of easing religious persecution and the State Department's swallowing the "spoiled fruit" of its diplomacy? Trade. The U.S. is now Vietnam's biggest export market -- totaling \$5 billion. The Vietnamese communists hope to again pull the wool over U.S. diplomats' eyes long enough to gain U.S. backing for Vietnam membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). "When will they ever learn?"

In his second Inaugural speech, President Bush pledged: "All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: The United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors."

In his June 21 meeting with Prime Minister Khai, the president must set concrete benchmarks and timelines to prove the Vietnamese communists are improving their citizens' religious freedom and human rights. Mr. Khai must be told that if the Vietnamese government does not meet these standards, the U.S. will curtail trade and it will no longer enjoy our diplomatic support for WTO membership. Unless this is done, the president will have broken his pledge to the oppressed and exposed the U.S. as the paper tiger it has always been when negotiating with the Vietnamese communists. ✕

*Michael Bengé, a long time friend of, and contributor to SOF, spent 11 years in Vietnam as a Foreign Service Officer, working closely with the Montagnards. He has continued working with Montagnard emigres in the United States and on behalf of those still in Vietnam.*

# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE BACK ISSUES 2003



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Much of the French sector is patrolled by the 4th squadron of 1st REC (Régiment Etranger de Cavalerie), the Legion's armored regiment. The 4th squadron, the scouting and reconnaissance unit of the REC, is deployed in small patrols, aboard French VBLs — "Véhicule Blindé Léger," — a small, three-man armored vehicle ideal for reconnaissance. The unit visits outlying villages to check on illegal military activity, and gather information regarding economic and medical needs.



#### FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION • Continued from page 40

ally reinforced a feeling of security in the hamlet below. This could be attested by the fact that I saw several Afghans passing by to exchange greetings with the legionnaires posted here.

Later in the day, Lieutenant Darthoux's squad would be relieved by a specialized "night ops" group accompanied by a German Fennek. The Fennek is a light armored reconnaissance vehicle with all-wheel drive. For long-range observation by day and night, the Fennek is equipped with a telescopic mast with a sensor head, which can be adjusted in height and lateral direction. The sensor head is part of an observation and reconnaissance equipment package including Carl Zeiss Optronics and thermal sensors. The radar is capable of picking up human movement up to 2 to 4 kilometers away, depending on weather conditions.

The legionnaires making up the night ops intervention group are each equipped with "LUCIE" DIPT-18C (*Dispositif individuel portatif terrestre*) night vision optics made in France by Ag-nieux. Worn individually by each soldier during night ops, the small, lightweight "LUCIE" night vision goggles flip down for use or flip up for normal vision, can be worn with glasses, and provide a sharp greenish-yellow image in extreme low-light conditions. Their weapons, the standard issue FAMAS assault rifle and the FR-F2 sniper rifles, are equipped with night

ops scopes.

For the most part, direct intervention after dark is avoided if possible, due to the difficulties of target identification and the possibility of provoking unwarranted hostilities. Nevertheless, surveillance of the area is essential, so any activity detected during the night is dealt with at first light. In this mountainous country where road travel can be extremely difficult at times, security of the airport and maintaining a flow of air traffic is of utmost importance for the success of the ISAF mission; A lesson hard learned by the Soviets during their occupation of the country, when the presence of "Stinger" missiles in the hands of the opposition fighters greatly compromised their military efforts, leading ultimately to defeat.

Included in the area under the responsibility of the French contingent is the northern part of the city of Kabul and a large sector stretching from Kabul northwest to the Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan borders.

Urban security in the French-controlled sector of Kabul

is carried out by units of the 2nd REI, using armored vehicles and daily foot patrols. They work in close coordination with Afghan police units, and in constant contact with local officials. The population of Kabul nearly tripled during the war, as the flow of refugees from the rural areas poured into the city. As the outlying regions are secured, and mine clearance operations carried out, efforts are being made to return the refu-



On patrol with the 4th squadron, author visited a remote village, where they met with local leaders. Over a cup of tea the OIC spoke to the headmen, questioning them about arms caches and mine clearance, and of local needs for medical, agricultural or technical assistance.

gees back to their farms and villages and to revive the agricultural economy of the country. But for the moment, the highly concentrated refugee population of the urban areas could be a potential "safe haven" for terrorist groups and a spawning ground for insurgent activity. Frequent patrols in the sector and co-operation with the local authorities and the Afghan security forces are essential in maintaining the sector.

The rest of the French sector, covering a large area, is patrolled by the 4th squadron of the famed 1st REC (*Régiment Etranger de Cavalerie*), the Legion's armored regiment. The 4th squadron, the specialized scouting and reconnaissance unit of the REC, is well suited for the task they have been assigned. They are deployed in small patrols, aboard



*Urban security in the French-controlled sector of Kabul is carried out by units of the 2nd REI, using armored vehicles and daily foot patrols, in close coordination with Afghan police units. Kabul nearly tripled during the war, as refugees from the rural areas poured in. This refugee population is a potential "safe haven" for terrorist groups and a spawning ground for insurgent activity.*

French VBLs. The VBL, "Véhicule Blindé Léger," is a small, three-man armored vehicle that, because of its size and maneuverability, is ideal for reconnaissance and rapid deployment. The unit visits outlying villages to check on any illegal military activity and to gather information regarding their economic and medical needs.

On patrol with the Legionnaires of the 4th squadron, I visited Alghui, a remote village, where we met with local leaders. Over a cup of tea the officer in charge spoke to the headmen,

questioning them about the possible existence of arms caches and the progress of mine clearance in their area. We also spoke of the general situation, the crops that were being

*Continued on page 80*



## The FR-F2

The standard light sniper rifle of the French military, this bolt-action rifle is manufactured by GIAT Industries, a government-owned weapons manufacturer. It is chambered for the 7.62 NATO round. Introduced in 1984 as a replacement for the older FR-F1, the FR-F2 was developed along the same lines of its predecessor. The most significant modifications are the addition of a black plastic "thermal sleeve" around the barrel which has three functions: 1) it prevents the heat of the sun from warping the barrel, thus losing accuracy 2) it prevents a heat haze rising from a hot barrel and interfering with the sight picture, and 3) it lessens the infrared signature of the weapon, making it less likely to be detected.

<b>Chambering:</b>	7.62 x 51mm NATO or 7.5 x 54mm French service
<b>Operation:</b>	Bolt action
<b>Length:</b>	1138 mm
<b>Weight:</b>	5.20kg
<b>Barrel:</b>	559mm 4 grooves, right-hand twist, one turn in 305mm.
<b>Magazine:</b>	10 rounds
<b>Muzzle Velocity:</b>	850 m/sec (2790ft/sec)
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Giat Industries, Versailles-Satory France



# THE GUNS OF EL CABRON

By Nathaniel R. Helms

All photos from author's collection

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**T**he foul spawn of Saddam Hussein is gone, blown away almost two years ago by American SpecOps and the 101<sup>st</sup> Screaming Eagles in a lop-sided game of 52-card pickup that snagged the rabid pair of aces from the marked deck of America's most wanted in Iraq. What became of the automatic weapons they used to hold some of America's best soldiers at bay for six hours?

No one then or since had ever said anything publicly about the weapons that must have been there that fateful day, until an Army officer sent to Iraq for a stint as an advisor inadvertently stumbled upon a place he called the "museum" last April near the Iraqi city of Tadjji. When nobody said not to, he proceeded to capture the contents of the nondescript location on a videodisk.

At one point, while recording a Marine officer holding up a gold-plated AK he had removed from a green crate that also contained a chrome-plated Kalashnikov, the photographer asks a narrator off-camera, who the weapon belonged to.

"That was either Uday's or Qusay's, right?" he asked.

"Probably the older boy, it was gold," the voice replies.

"Uday?" the major inquires.

"Yeah, yeah," the authority responds.

The video reveals "the museum" to be a fascinating place filled with of all nature of artifacts. There are statues and busts of Saddam, unusual wrought-iron ware, strange weapons,

weapons of undetermined origin, and a bronze larger-than-life foot remarkably like what was left on the pedestal after Saddam's huge bronze statue was toppled in Baghdad, the photographing officer noticed. In the background, lining the walls of the nondescript building, were carefully stacked crates with undisclosed contents. But perhaps most interesting, it is the reputed place where the gilded weapons of Uday and Qusay Hussein were being held.

The video clearly reveals that the building to be a storage site of some importance, an observation confirmed by the Marines and soldiers working there who explain their jobs off camera, while the officer records the amazing collection of artifacts laid out before him. The narrators say their job is to document and tag these unusual artifacts for safekeeping, or, as some soldiers have since speculated, as souvenirs for museums or the big dogs running the war.

Some of the weapons could be the same ones seized from a house near Uday's palace in Baghdad on 12 April 2003. A giant collection of gold-plated weapons was discovered in the Al-Harithiya neighborhood of Baghdad, hidden among crates of more conventional arms. But most of the weapons at the "museum" are different than that bunch: They are highly detailed and exquisitely displayed in felt-lined cases.

The gaudy, gilded guns are anodized to look like gold and were mass-produced for gifts given by Saddam Hussein to party loyalists and flunkies in his favor, investigators eventually determined. The plated AK assault rifles and sniper rifles found in the civilian house carry inscriptions indicating they were gifts, Army officials said. Many of the weapons in the "museum" are personalized and carefully packaged along with



(top of opposite page) An anodized AKM found in Baghdad in April 2004.

(1) This 9mm Turkish-made automatic pistol was in a presentation case and engraved with the name of Izzat Al-Douri, the former Vice President of Iraq and one of the reputed leaders of the insurgency in Iraq. Al-Douri is the King of Clubs in the famous deck of "most-wanted" playing cards, and one of the most sought-after former regime loyalists still on the loose.

(2) Great numbers of these decorated custom Kalashnikov assault rifles were discovered in Iraq by invading American troops. Such weapons were frequently given to regime loyalists by Saddam's officials. This particular weapon is boxed with a traditional Kalashnikov, an RPG launcher and a gas mask and wrapped in bubble wrap in the same manner as the weapon confiscated at Heathrow Airport.

(3) This anodized "gilded" SVD Dragunov variant was intended for an unknown VIP.

(4) This baby-blue Krinkov variant was embellished with logo emblems imbedded in the grip and hand guard. This weapon reportedly belonged to Uday and was recovered in his palace in Baghdad on 14 April 2003 by soldiers from the 3rd ID. How it arrived in Taji is unclear. It is boxed along with a chrome-plated AK with a folding stock.

(5) A matched set in a custom display case containing a customized Kalashnikov AKM and an unidentified Browning-pattern pistol.

(6) A tagged, anodized Kalashnikov AKM in its storage container along with the paperwork documenting its origins. Hundreds of similar weapons have reportedly surfaced throughout Iraq since the end of the campaign.

(7) Troops at the site called this "Big Boy," and even in Iraq it would be a collectible — a WW I German "anti-tank" Mauser in 13mm, the gun that led Gen. Blackjack Pershing to have John M. Browning design the Ma Deuce in .50 BMG. Note the muzzle brake and cocking ring on firing pin (insets).

(8) A box full of interesting weapons including a chrome-plated AK-47 made into a "Krinkov" and sporting the trademarked "Nike" symbol on the pistol grip. Other weapons in the container include an RPG launcher, a PPSH41 sub machine gun, an SKS and several other unidentified weapons.



other artifacts.

A few days after the big cache of golden arms was seized in Baghdad, another one was found hidden in a crate marked "computer parts" that showed up at London's Heathrow Airport, customs officials there said. The loaded assault rifle was discovered along with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, six bayonets and a sniper rifle. An unnamed source told *The Daily Mirror* that the AK-47 was loaded, packaged in bubble wrap along with a spare magazine, and was bound for an address in the United States when it was picked up by an X-ray machine.

The story passed virtually unnoticed in the American press.

What was well reported, was that on 22 July 2003 Saddam's so-called "lion cubs," along with Qusay's 14-year-old son Mustapha and a bodyguard, fiercely resisted arrest using automatic weapons fire while American ground commanders tried to orchestrate a way to force them to surrender rather than die. Both the Western and Arab press was filled with stories of their fierce resistance.

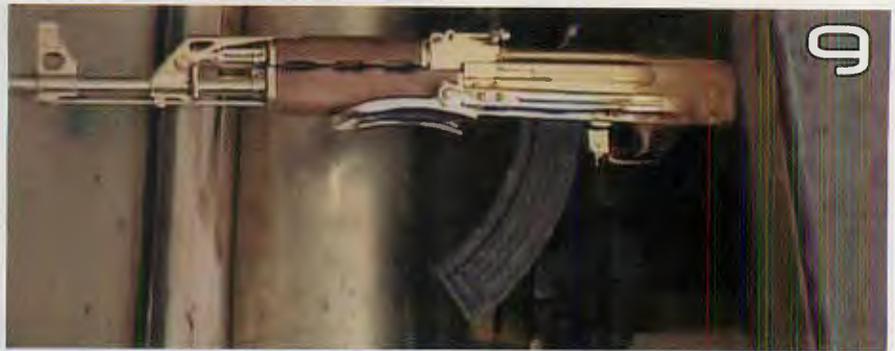
The veteran combat soldiers who were there reported hundreds of rounds of Kalashnikov fire were sprayed by the four during the all-day gun battle. Before it was over, four Americans were wounded by the fugitives.

So what happened to the guns the brothers left behind? The official reports don't say and nobody who was there seems to know.

What is certain is that when it was over in the ancient northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the mysterious operators from Task Force 20 and Col. Joseph Anderson's 2<sup>nd</sup> "Strike" Brigade troopers found the madman's sons Uday, the Ace of Hearts, and Qusay, the Ace of Clubs, ripped apart from a barrage of TOW anti-tank missile strikes that obliterated the front of the reinforced concrete villa where the pair had holed up. They were caught in a double-cross that brought a \$30 million windfall to the fat man who turned them in.

Uday and Qusay's betrayal marked the beginning of the end of a short-lived dynasty of sadistic thugs who ruled the willful Iraqis with a hand so strong that in 25 years it nearly crushed the life out of a land that has survived 3,000 years of wars, famines, pestilence and revolutions. The dynasty finally died on 13 December 2003 when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was captured hiding in a dirty hole, ending once and for all this regime of madmen.

*Continued on page 75*



(9) This is a close up of the anodized "golden AKM" Uday Hussein was reportedly using when he was killed. It is in the same storage box as the weapon reputed to belong to Qusay. Photographer was not afforded the opportunity to examine accompanying documents – and CENTCOM isn't talking... yet.

(10) The Kalashnikov AKM Qusay Hussein was reportedly using when he was killed. It is displayed in a box that also contains Uday's golden AK. A manila folder containing the history of the weapon can be seen under it.

(11) Another crate held two SVD Dragunov sniper rifle variants. Included in this collection is a custom-made "Nike" AKM and what appears to be a standard issue AK-47. The manila folder in the box holds all the clues.

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# Shadow Wars

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## Turning Point: Operation Iraqi Freedom

By David Pugliese All photos courtesy of ADF

**T**he Australian SAS trooper hoisted a Javelin anti-tank missile and took aim at one of the two Iraqi trucks speeding towards him.

As the Iraqis got closer, they opened fire with RPGs and machineguns. The 20 Iraqi commandos, travelling in two SUVs, were determined that the missile installation they were guarding wouldn't fall into the hands of coalition forces.

Standing in the turret of his long-range patrol vehicle, the SAS soldier looked into the Javelin's sighting system and manipulated its computer cursor until it was precisely on top of the image of one of the approaching SUVs. He then pressed the firing button, sending a missile flying downrange at more than 90 metres a second. As it cleared the launch tube, the missile's infrared seeker took over, homing in on the truck's engine heat. When the eight-kilogram explosive warhead slammed into the SUV, it lifted the truck momentarily into the air before the vehicle burst into flames.

As the first vehicle lay burning, 36-year-old Trooper X – the name given to the Australian in later dispatches of the day's event – swung the patrol vehicle's .50 calibre machinegun around and opened fire on another Iraqi position. Bullets whizzed by as enemy commandos directed their gunfire towards him. Trooper X quickly prepared another Javelin to take out the second Iraqi vehicle. Again the missile did its job, turning the truck into a twisted hulk of smoking metal.

Seeing that other Iraqi soldiers were now preparing a mortar for firing, Trooper X grabbed a sniper rifle, put the crosshairs on the weapon, and squeezed the trigger. His first shot hit the mortar tube, disabling the device and sending Iraqi soldiers diving for cover. By now, some Iraqis were surrendering to the advancing SAS soldiers, but others determinedly held out, continuing to shoot their AK-47s at the Australians. After Trooper X placed several well-aimed shots at the Iraqi holdouts, they finally surrendered, realizing the SAS man had them in his deadly sites.

He probably didn't think about it at the time, but Trooper X was helping make special forces history. Although the war in Iraq would last less than two months, it would be a turning point for SOF units. Operation Iraqi Freedom, the code-name for the war of 2003, would witness the largest use of such soldiers since the Second World War.

One of the biggest SOF operations took place in the opening days of the war in the western desert near Iraq's border with Jordan where a joint force of 100 to 150 British SAS and 100 Australian SAS seized the airfields dubbed H2 and H3. Members of Delta Force, U.S. Army Rangers, paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne and U.S. Air Force combat controllers were also involved in the fighting over a two-day period.

U.S. planners were worried that the bases, located near the desert town of ar-Rutba, 380 kilometres west of Baghdad, could be used to launch Scud attacks against Israel. Satellite

photos of the area indicated the Iraqis had moved truck convoys and what appeared to be missile launchers into the bases. Seizing the bases would neutralize the Scud threat and also give the coalition a secure location for Apache attack helicopters and other aircraft to provide close air support for an advance on Baghdad.

The airfields were targeted even before the war started, being hit on the morning of March 14 by two B-1B bombers in an effort to knock out a



mobile early-warning radar and air defence center. It is believed the bombers were guided to their targets by Australian and British SAS who had already been inserted by an MH-47 Chinook helicopter to conduct initial reconnaissance on the airfields.

The main British SAS force, made up of more than 100 troops, seized the bases in a highly mobile attack involving dozens of Land Rovers which spread out among the buildings and command and control centres. The SAS quickly took over the control tower and went from hangar to hangar engaging in fierce firefights with Iraqi troops. Other SAS troopers engaged in hand-to-hand combat as they killed Iraqis guarding the missile launchers.

Several hundred Iraqis were taken prisoner and scores were killed. After the initial seizure of the airbases, about 1,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne were brought in as reinforcements. Delta Force, the Australian and British SAS, and coalition troops together beat back at least one determined Iraqi counter-attack.

Although no Scud missiles were found, H2 and H3 soon became a hub for coalition air operations as special operations forces continued pushing across the desert towards Baghdad. Royal Air Force Harrier jets and U.S. Air Force A-10s provided cover for the units while Predator UAVs often preceded the commando columns to scout out targets for attack. The Australians, in particular, mounted aggressive patrols to keep Iraqi garrisons in the region off guard. "They are generally creating havoc and uncertainty behind lines, and are constantly redeploying in their area of operations,"

Australian army chief Lieutenant General Peter Leahy told journalists as the war unfolded. Part of the havoc was created by hit-and-run raids against command and communications centres, as well as targets of opportunity.

Some of the Australian SAS had been inserted 600 kilometres into Iraq by a U.S. helicopter while another group, travelling in a column of long-range patrol vehicles, stole across the border at night from Jordan. The latter was able to successfully avoid a series of Iraqi guard posts, but after travelling just 30 kilometres, the column ran straight into an enemy patrol. After a brief firefight, the SAS rounded up their Iraqi prisoners while medics treated two injured Iraqi soldiers. Not wanting to

be slowed down by prisoners, the SAS stripped the men of their weapons and sent them on their way.

Meanwhile, the 600-kilometre helicopter insertion was even more difficult, being carried out at night in poor weather and at low altitude. During the journey, the chopper crew conducted a tricky mid-air refueling, as well as having to avoid extensive enemy air defence systems. "When our people hit the ground, they were at that time by far and away the closest coalition ground elements to Baghdad and they remained that way for a number of days," said Australia's Special Operations Command Chief of Staff Colonel John Mansell, who declined to identify the SAS location, other than to say it was in the western desert.

Once inside the country, the Australian SAS determined that their mission would best be accom-

plished by conducting aggressive patrols that would draw out Iraqi troops. While those patrols were underway, other SAS teams conducted surveillance on the main highways in case the Iraqis moved Scuds or larger conventional forces in and out of the region. Almost every day, the SAS fought heavy firefights with the Iraqis, with

officers noting that the enemy was clearly seeking out the Australian forces in a coordinated fashion.

On their second night in Iraq, a large number of the SAS gathered for an attack on a well-defended radio relay station. A team put the station under surveillance and then called in air strikes to destroy its transmitter tower. SAS officers say a large number of Iraqis were killed although no official numbers have been released. Knocking out that tower, Australian officers noted, was one of the keys to crippling Iraq's ability to launch Scud missiles, although it would eventually be determined that the country never did possess the banned rockets, at least not in the Australian area of operations.

The attack on the radio relay station didn't go unnoticed and Iraqi commanders promptly counter-attacked with troops and six armored vehicles. An SAS team was involved in a running firefight for a number of hours with that force but the Iraqis retreated when the commandos called in air strikes and destroyed the armored vehicles.

At another location, an SAS patrol was set up to conduct surveillance on Highway 10, a main roadway in the area. The troopers were well enough hidden that they went entirely undetected even though there were a number of enemy moving



around the area, as well as nomadic Bedouin. It was during such a reconnaissance that the Australians determined that what appeared to be a truck-stop was actually a key Iraqi installation. Dubbed Kilometre 160, the centre was a main marshalling area for Iraqi forces in the region and at one point was defended by more than 200 soldiers. Over a 48-hour period, the SAS team called in air strikes from its concealed position, eventually obliterating the target. The commandos then assembled a large vehicle strike force to attack Kilometre 160. However, Iraqis who survived the bombing were able to withdraw under the cover of a sandstorm.

It took about a week for the enemy in the Australian area of operations to be neutralized and, for at least the first 96 hours, the intensity of the combat was such that the SAS troopers didn't get any sleep. Iraqi casualties in confrontations during the opening days of the war with the SAS were said to be at least 100.

Besides having to deal with the enemy, the desert also offered up its own challenges for the SAS and other special operations forces units roaming the vast expanse. Temperatures at night dropped to minus 5 degrees Celsius while during the day they exceeded 40 degrees. On one occasion, sandstorms

*Continued on page 74*

*(Above) An Australian SAS trooper somewhere in Western Iraq with suppressed M4 system. (Below) Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), accompanied Australian SAS during the raid on Al Asad airbase. Much of Iraq's air force was discovered hidden at the base.*





**"I Gave Up Weight Training to follow a top secret 15-minutes per day routine of bodyweight exercises and..."**

# **I Got Into The Best Shape of My Life in Record Time... You Can, Too"**

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

I was the total skeptic. Not only had I lifted weights and run long distance for years, but I had major success under my belt, including a world kung fu championship and a national collegiate wrestling title.

So I just didn't want to believe what Karl, a 76-year old man told me about exercising WITHOUT weights... and WITHOUT long-distance running.

Most importantly, I didn't want to hear that a good exercise program only took a few minutes. Hate to admit it, but I was addicted to the "hard work or nothing" mentality and refused to believe you could get into the best shape of your life by doing LESS... not more.

Let me tell you, when I looked at this so-called "old man's" physique and watched him demonstrate his exercises, I could not look the other way. I had to check them out for myself, even if it meant saying, "Okay, I've wasted a lot of time doing it the wrong way."

### **What I discovered shocked me from head to toe!**

Before I met Karl I THOUGHT I was strong. I thought I was tough. But the exercises he gave me exploited every weakness that weights and running could not cover. In a matter of minutes, I knew Karl "had me."

So I gave up the weights and began a routine of bodyweight calisthenics called *Combat Conditioning*. After all, when a man of 76 can do things that a 36-year old cannot do, that tells you that "Yes, there's gold in them there hills."

The exercises I learned had such a profound and dramatic effect on me, that for six years I have been introducing men and women of all ages and of all backgrounds to this extraordinary program - and the results are shocking, awe-inspiring and PROOF that this system works, and works FAST.

### **Who is Combat Conditioning for?**

**It's for** the hard-working man or woman who often finds it difficult to squeeze in a quick workout.

**It's for** the traveling executive who sleeps in hotel rooms more than at home.

**It's for** those who have trained their whole lives on weights.

**It's for** athletes, martial artists and the military.

And... **IT'S FOR** the man or woman who hasn't done a lick of exercise in decades.

### **Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!**

Unlike other exercise program where you are told you MUST do 30 minutes of cardio per day and an hour of weights, to get results, *Combat Conditioning* is totally different. 15 minutes is all it takes to whoop the hard-core trainee. But for the total beginner, he or she can get results starting with ONLY one minute a day. And no, this is not a joke.

**Time is not the issue!**



### **Matt Furey**

won a national collegiate wrestling title in 1985 and a world shuai-chiao kung fu championship in 1997. Furey has a knack for taking the average and ordinary person and transforming him with his powerful programs. Furey was inducted into the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and spends much time each year traveling

throughout the world, searching for the very best information available to his world-wide audience. His website, [www.mattfurey.com](http://www.mattfurey.com), is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

Forget all those workouts that take all day. With *Combat Conditioning*, all that's required is your own body and a tiny "get started NOW" decision to DO a little something each day.

The key to your success is in the magical, transformative power of these exercises - not in your belief system about hard work. For many people, just one rep is all they can do at first, and they're shaking like a leaf on a windy day in Chicago. And so, that's all that person should do at first. Even if you think you're not doing enough - the exercises work their magic anyway. Your body has its own intelligence and will work FOR YOU if you'll simply get out of the way and let it.

When you do, pretty soon you'll be the type of person who can do 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 or 128 repetitions and feel no fatigue. Instead of tiredness you'll feel exhilaration and ENERGY. You're building strength and endurance from the INSIDE-OUT. And believe me, once you can do more than a few reps, inches of unsightly fat and pounds of excess flab will fly off your body at break-neck speed.

### **New Results from Forgotten Exercises**

Are the exercises in *Combat Conditioning* NEW? Well, not really. They go back about 5,000 years - but for the most part, they got lost in the shuffle when weights, gadgets and gyms came around. So although they aren't NEW, they're "New to YOU!"

Before I learned these exercises, I read about the Great Gama of India, a wrestler who followed this program and was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. I also read that the legendary Bruce Lee did these exercises, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible martial arts skills. Then there was the All-Pro NFL running back, Hershell Walker, who did bodyweight exercises each day. The list goes on and on. The key is in having a proven program with a track record, and *Combat Conditioning* is just that.

### **Puts you into the Old Clothes You Dream of Wearing Again!**

The main reason why *Combat Conditioning* works is because it targets all the weak links in your body. And when all those weak links are given a little attention, your entire body gets stronger, faster, more powerful and more energetic. Spend time each day doing a few functional exercises and the payoff is HUGE.

You get functional strength, endurance and flexibility - all at the same time. Not to mention seeing the excess inches flying off your body, making it easy for you to fit into the clothes you dream of wearing again. Stop dreaming. Start DOING. And get results.

### **12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!**

Follow this program and your body is going to change big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most powerful benefits that hundreds of thousands of others all over the world have gotten from the *Combat Conditioning* program. Let's take a look:

1. Cranks up your metabolism so you burn excess body fat a lot, lot faster. This means fitting into the clothes you WANT to wear.
2. Packs attractive and healthy functional muscles (not grotesque) onto your entire body
3. Simultaneously doubles your strength and flexibility - and does so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. Quadruples your endurance inside of 30 days. Never get tired again.
5. Within a couple weeks, it often eliminates chronic back and shoulder pain from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing - or other forms of abuse.
6. Sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as you hit the rack you're out like a light.
7. Your self-confidence will have no bounds. Especially when you get compliments from people who hardly paid attention to you before.
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9. You get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less.
10. You'll turn back the clock. Friends may tell you that you look 5-10 years younger.
11. You'll have an explosive type of strength that weights cannot give you. Your every movement will be lively and full of vigor.
12. Your muscles will be pliable and powerful, like a tiger's.

### **Here's How to Order**

*Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness* has 48 super effective bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Order NOW and you'll receive 3 free Special Reports on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain. Your total investment in this no-nonsense book is only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H U.S. (foreign orders add \$12). Order online at [www.mattfurey.com](http://www.mattfurey.com).

Or pick up the phone right now and call 1 813 994 8267 to order. You can also send a money order to Matt Furey Enterprises, Inc., 10339 Birdwatch Drive, Tampa, FL, 33647.

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SCF 07/05

## Dangerously Compromised Security

Illegal aliens have flooded the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona, not only posing security threats, but also resulting in increased lost training time for air and ground units training for deployment for the Global War on Terror.

Marines were recently briefed on the danger of the situation by Lt. Gen. Gregson.

Illegal immigrant activity has resulted in over 1,000 hours of Range Closure time in 2004, up 12.7% from the previous year. The USBP Yuma sector apprehended 8,535 illegal immigrants, to include 418 Other than Mexicans (OTMs) in the first four months of this year, according to the Marine briefing.

One hundred and fifteen Marine units trained in Yuma in 2004, up from a 42 unit per year average over the previous seven years.

Coyotes—human traffickers—drop the illegal immigrants on the Marine base, as well as on other Army and Air Force bases.

Since July, 2004, the Marine training range has been shut down more than 500 times because of immigrants spotted on the range, resulting in loss of more than 1,100 training hours, Col. James J. Cooney, the base commanding officer told the *NYT*.

“That is equivalent to almost 46 days of training. We’re getting overrun here,” he said, “any moment we take away from a Marine’s experience base could cost him his life in combat.”

Col. Cooney said that more than 1,500 illegal immigrants were intercepted on the range last year and turned over to the Border Patrol, and over 1,100 in the first three months of this year.

“I have to use Marines that aren’t trained to do that, which puts me at a liability. It’s completely counterproductive to our whole training operation.

“We just don’t want them to come here, because we’re firing lasers, we’re shooting machine guns, we’re shooting 203-millimeter cannons, and we’re dropping practice bombs, and we don’t want to hurt anyone” he said.

The Air Force had to interrupt exercises with F-16 pilots after illegal immigrants were spotted on the bombing range east of Gila Bend, north of the border.

“In 2004, we suspended range operations 55 times for a net loss of 122 hours,” Jim Uken, director of the 56th Fighter Wing range management office told the *NYT*.

Col. Cooney warned that foreign terrorists could slip through the cracks as well.

## Citizens Fed Up

Alan Korwin, of *gunlaws.com* who joined the Minuteman project spoke to frustrated locals.

“A convenience store clerk said he would have illegals in his shop five or six times a week before MMP. Once, one came in and asked him to call a taxi. Then he said ‘please get two taxis because there were a lot of them’. He called Border Patrol instead, and they caught five of twenty (the bulk were hiding outside, ran and escaped).

“A Gal working at Radio Shack says she has illegals coming through all the time, that they terrified her, that she kept a .22 rifle at her bedside and that on more than one occasion, she held illegals at gunpoint until her Dad got

home.

“A Wal-Mart truck driver in line at Subway sandwich shop couldn’t stop thanking us for the work we were doing, the place had been overrun with illegals everywhere you looked.”

“An acquaintance in Phoenix was dove hunting in the Huachucas years back and stumbled upon a band of 21 illegals. They saw him and his shotgun and sat down. As he left, they followed him, because they refused to leave. He tried to shoo them away but they stayed with him. So he called Border Patrol on his cell phone. Border Patrol arrived and took them away. ‘They were probably drug smuggling ‘mules’ who had dropped off their loads’, the agent said, ‘and why walk all the way back to Mexico when they could get a ride? Happens all the time.’”

## Border Patrol Forced To Tip Toe

Korwin met with Capt. Jose Garza, Community Relations Officer, 10 years with the Border Patrol, at the Naco Border Patrol Office. Capt. Garza, from the Tucson sector, was on assignment in Naco due to the extra activity caused by the Minuteman Project. Korwin made the following notes in an after action report.

All the agents in the office “appeared to be wearing body armor, one with heavy ballistic armor, all had multiple double stack mags and polymer semi autos. The Dept. had 19 guys when Garza started ten years ago, now there are 400 and they are getting more. More staff requires more buildings, but since other offices nationally are in line for more buildings too, they set up temporary huts in the meantime as fast as



Mobile observation towers were positioned strategically, several miles into U.S. territory, to spot streams of illegals who had made the border crossing and were passing through open desert terrain enroute to their destinations nationwide. Sparse wilderness vegetation provided them with some cover but not much. Tinted glass made it impossible to see into the towers, and I had to wonder how well the agents could see me as I trekked a ways to get a close photo. Was it hot in there?

The most respectable looking building in run-down Naco is the U.S. Border office there. The no-guns-or-ammo sign has no text with it, presuming perhaps that gun owners cannot read. Bringing even a single round into Mexico gets you into one of their helatious prisons for two years. Mexican officials are rumored to be in great fear of revolution from their oppressed masses, hence the virtual ban on private arms, or bringing weapons into the country. This rumor is supported by the fact that 5,000 Mexicans a day attempt to escape across the U.S. border, a worse exodus than even the communists faced. Drug cartels, armed to the teeth but fixated on profits, are apparently not an issue, and are left alone by officials, since attention to this matter has a tendency to lead to rapid assassinations. The warning sign forbids bringing more than ten grand in cash across the border.

they are able under budget constraints.

Although the Minuteman Project organizers James T. Gilchrist and Chris Simcox asked for cooperation, the Border Patrol could not give it to them as they were ordered from their officials not to support the MMP project.

"MMP do complicate matters because they do trip sensors, they are forcing immigrants to go elsewhere and they attracted ACLU 'observers,' Korwin said.

"Two hundred and sixty-eight thousand illegal immigrants were caught from Oct. 2004 thru April 25, 2005 (their fiscal year starts in Oct.) About 20,000 of these were Other Than Mexicans (OTM). Most of the OTMs are from South and Central America, but also Japan, Australia, Europe and elsewhere. Capt. Garza claimed he did not know precisely how many are from terrorist watch list countries, because that is handled through Homeland Security, of which Border Patrol is now a part. Simcox, [one of the MMP organizers] told me they had found 650 watch list entrants through March.

"Capt Garza claims Border Patrol is catching about 1,200 a day now with MMP in place, only one or two of these are drug smugglers, and the peak is about 2K/day," Korwin said.

"When approached by the media, the Border Patrol has



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the same “find a good angle” problem as anyone else doing PR,” Korwin reports. “When they catch 1,000 pounds of dope, the media responds, ‘so what, you do that all the time, it’s not news’.”

### Great Equipment, Faint-Hearted Orders

Border Patrol agents were constantly streaming by or stationed in portable lookout towers and mountain top observations posts with their cameras and lights on fixed poles during the MMP vigil, according to Korwin.

“I heard that from five miles away they could tell if you needed a shave,” Korwin said.

“They have 43 very valuable air assets, and need much more. Choppers are great but have fatigue issues—pilot time, repair, fuel and range, time aloft.

“The Border Patrol Agents have only conducted tests with Predator drones but haven’t gotten to fully deploy them, although they wish they had them: \$1.5 million camera gear on board can spot and count bands of men from 17,000 feet and determine, for example, that they have long guns. They can linger for as much as 12 hours. This eliminates the need to dispatch agents for herds of cattle that trip sensors, or send in agents ill-prepared for the nature of the threat.

“In the old days they used index cards, Polaroids and paste-up books to help identify repeat captures, OTMs and felons. Now they have computerized fingerprint and photo files, can much more easily ID those not from this country who formerly could claim they were innocent or Mexican, etc.

“Their guys get good at it, counting footsteps in soft sand, comparing that and other indicators to numbers arrested during a period of time. Capt. Garza repeatedly refused to reveal

information since it was “operational,” and would not say anything about types of sensors in use or location.

### MMP Made a Difference But I Don’t Dare Say

“Although Capt. Garza downplayed the effect of the MMP, he did acknowledge that numbers of illegals were down during the vigil, but quickly pointed out there are multiple factors — Mexican federales activity, operational things he could not talk about (a lot was left unsaid because “it’s operational”).

“He did tacitly suggest repeatedly that MMP is having a positive effect. If he was quoted as saying such (he did not) he would be out of line with department policy and in trouble with his superiors.

“They do expect that when the Minutemen leave they will see increased activity here (another tacit admission of the beneficial effects of Minutemen). They expect this will set them back a little as they try to re-establish and regain control.

### “We’re Ready, C,mon”

Now that MMP have plugged up this area, smugglers and illegals will have to again look elsewhere, but BP position is, “We’re ready for you, c’mon,” Korwin said.

And Minuteman Project organizers are also getting ready. One project in the works is the plan to monitor a portion of the Texas-Mexico border along the Rio Grande in October.

Other plans are being made for monitoring the southern U.S. border.

Stay tuned in. ✕

Dr. Martin Brass is an international lawyer and long time contributor to SOF.

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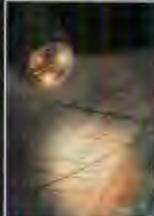
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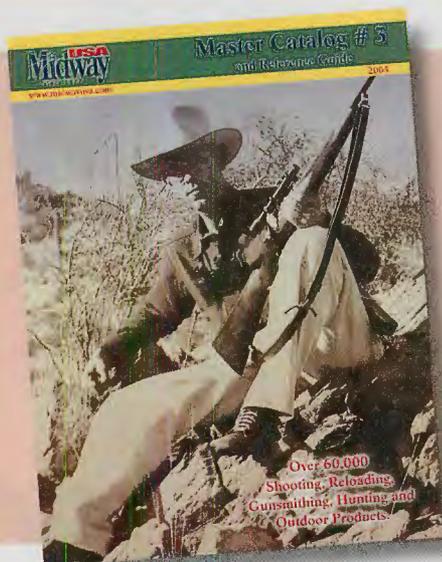
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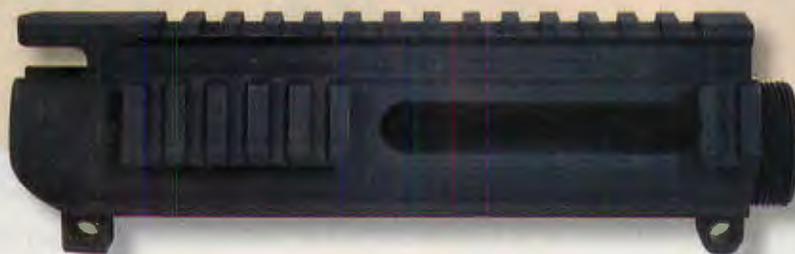
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blew constantly for two days, ripping up tents and coating vehicles and equipment with sand that had the consistency of talcum powder. At times, visibility was reduced to 10 metres. In contrast, there were other occasions when it rained so heavily that the SAS found its weapons being clogged by wind-blown mud.

Part of the reason the troopers were able to mount their long-range patrols so far behind enemy lines was a well coordinated logistics chain. Tonnes of ammunition, water and food were airdropped to the SAS.

Typical was a drop that contained more than 1,500 patrol rations, more than 1,000 litres of water, two tonnes of JP8 fuel, spare parts, radios and batteries, and ammunition including additional Javelin missiles. The gear was packed onto 10 specially designed containerized delivery pallets attached to parachutes and delivered to the SAS by U.S. Air Force special operations aircraft. To protect the equipment, particularly the communications gear, the pallets used honeycombed cardboard to cushion the load as it hit the desert floor.

The SAS, both British and Australian, controlled western Iraq.

It wasn't long before the interdiction teams got results. On Friday, April 11, an Australian SAS patrol captured 59 Iraqis in a convoy as they were trying to leave the country. Most appeared to be Fedayen guerrillas and Baath Party members. As they searched the bus and two cars, the SAS discovered weapons, gas masks, radio equipment and \$600,000 (U.S.) in cash. Documents were also discovered which offered a reward of \$5,000 for anyone killing a U.S. soldier.

The SAS troops continually changed their locations so as not to set up a recognizable pattern, thereby retaining the element of surprise. "Clearly, if you set a pattern, this gives the opposition the opportunity to prepare themselves with some sort of suicide bomb capability," explained Australian special operations command Chief of Staff Colonel John Mansell.

On Friday, April 18, a six-man British SAS patrol captured Saddam's half-brother, Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, as he tried to cross the Syrian border near the town of Rabia.

He had been travelling down the highway from the northern city of Mosul when he was grabbed by the SAS, who had been tipped off by the Kurdish Peshmerga that Watban would attempt an escape along that route. Although he was no longer a ranking official, having been removed from power after a falling out with Saddam's son, Uday, his capture showed that special operations forces were serious about tracking down anyone associated with the regime who could provide information about the whereabouts of its leadership.

The mystery of what happened to some of Saddam's air force was also solved on April 16 when a force of 200 Australian SAS and commandos from the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, seized the al Asad airbase 175 kilometres northwest of Baghdad. Before the war, military analysts had voiced concern that Iraq still had a fleet of 100 to 300

Russian-made fighter aircraft that could play an effective role in striking back at any invasion force. Strangely, the air force never took to the skies.

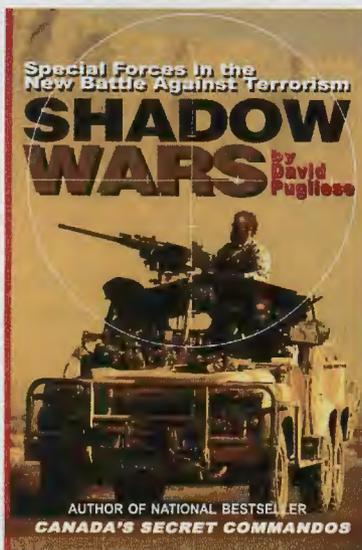
As the SAS approached the al Asad airbase, they found it occupied and defended by about 100 armed looters, who weren't inclined to give up their booty too easily. Some of the thieves manned an anti-aircraft gun and fired several rounds at the Australians before a few well-placed shots by SAS snipers, combined with the sight of Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 fighter jets flying cover overhead, prompted the looters' quick retreat.

The big find was discovered when the SAS started searching the hangers and the area surrounding the airbase. Fifty-one fighter aircraft, mainly older MiG-21s but

also three modern MiG-25s, were found. Some of the planes just sat abandoned in hangers, but many of the aircraft were covered in camouflage netting or hidden in waddies. Many were still operational. Troops also discovered a French-made Roland air defence missile system and almost 8 million kilograms of ordnance, including missiles, bombs and anti-aircraft shells.

Australian SAS confirmed that they had no casualties. ✕

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(Left) Blowing sand and scorching temperatures were common challenges for all coalition SOF in Iraq, including these Australian SAS troops. (Right) Australian SAS troopers on patrol in northwestern Iraq, equipped with suppressed M4s.

Although they are gone and their doomed father is in jail, the legacy Uday and Kusay left behind continues to breed brutal legends and soiled myths and shadowy tales of terror and intrigue that shroud so much of the truth of what happened during Saddam's sordid reign.

One such yarn began that very day in Mosul and continues to this moment as bits and pieces of truths and lies are spun together into a tapestry of tales about the weapons the psychopathic pair of killers used to hold a vastly superior force at bay before their aces were trumped. That story begs the question "what happened to those weapons?"

Officially the Army doesn't even know!

"According to CPT James Page, division historian, the only weapon retained by the 101st Airborne Division units from the operation that resulted in the death of the brothers Hussein was a shotgun," LTC Edward S. Loomis recently said. Loomis is the PAO and official spokesman for the 101st at Ft. Campbell, KY.

Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the

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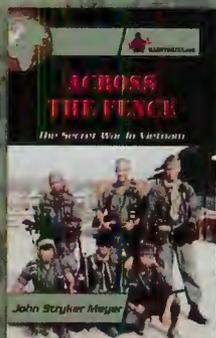
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senior commander in Iraq at the time, said the mission began at 10:00 hours on 22 July as a "cordon-and-knock operation," Army parlance for kicking doors and searching the buildings for suspected insurgents. In this instance troops surrounded the villa and then "knocked" using a bullhorn to order everyone out of the building, Sanchez said. When they got no response, soldiers entered the home at 1010 hours local time.

"Immediately upon entering the building, shots were fired," Sanchez recounted to assembled reporters. "We immediately determined that the targeted individuals were barricaded in the fortified portion of the building, which was the second floor, and they started engaging with small arms,"

an Army press release dated 23 July said, "which soldiers at the scene reported to be Kalashnikov assault rifles."

It is an understandable presumption.

Uday, 39, was known to carry a golden AK and was reportedly seen with it on public appearances. Thirty-seven year-old Qusay, although less pretentious and flamboyant than his older brother, was also known to stay heavily armed when out in public. Both men were completely paranoid and not without reason. Uday had already survived an assassination attempt that crippled him and left him impotent, a revelation that cost the treating physician his life. Besides that, both men enjoyed participating in a savage beating or summary execution occasionally, and they both loved killing for sport.

The brothers Hussein got their final opportunity after they were cornered. There were more than 200 warriors from

**Although they are gone and their doomed father is in jail, the legacy Uday and Kusay left behind continues.**

the 101<sup>st</sup> on the scene when the battle erupted. The firing started after the sky troopers cordoned off the building and sealed any avenues of escape. Overhead,

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Kiowa scouts and AH-64 Apache attack helicopters orbited just in case. Above the helicopters was a pair of Air Force A-10 Warthogs. There was simply no way out. It is very clear the weapons of Uday and Qusay were not spirited away by an unknown or unwitnessed confederate.

Anderson recently described in an email that the composite unit was essentially a "company team (+) consisting of elements from 3-327 IN, 3-502 IN, 2-17 Cav and 503d MP Bn."

U.S. Army pictures show that the building which was the maniacs' last refuge was tightly cordoned off by the heavily armed American forces. Among the team surrounding them was enough firepower to literally erase Saddam's boys from this earth. It is extremely unlikely that anyone escaped, particularly carrying the weapons of the brothers Hussein.

After two aborted attempts to get inside and capture the fugitives alive, the Task Force 20 operators assigned to grab them fell back in the face of more intense automatic weapons fire, and called in the heavy stuff. At least 18 TOW missiles and 20 2.75 inch rockets from circling Kiowas smashed into the reinforced concrete refuge, spraying

chunks of concrete and debris in every direction, official reports said.

"All hell seemed to break loose," one soldier reportedly told CNN News.

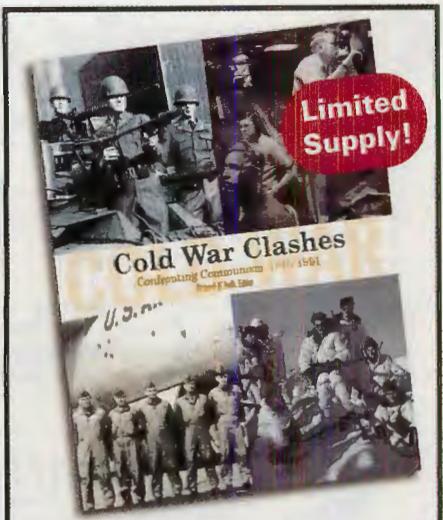
After the final lethal assault from the TOWs, the operators crept inside again, only to be set upon by Qusay's teenage son Mustapha, also armed with an automatic weapon. After a brief exchange of fire, he was cut down with small arms and the snatch team was inside.

Anderson said his soldiers had no choice but to unleash the massive firepower that also included Mk 19 automatic grenade launchers, M2 Browning .50 machine guns, rifles, pistols, and the Kiowa scout helicopters firing rockets.

"You're going to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Once you've got soldiers wounded, then the gloves are off," Anderson said. "The choice is always theirs. There was plenty of time to stick a white sheet out the window."

Before it was over, four Americans were wounded and all four holdouts were dead. But the Kalashnikovs they used so effectively had disappeared. Except for the single shotgun discovered in the room where Uday and Qusay lay smashed to a pulp, the weapons had disappeared into thin air.

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weapons and a cache of ammunition, the Army's searchers reported finding a container of Viagra, a condom, packaged underwear, shirts, cologne and an ugly tie. Also in Uday's leather briefcase marked with his name in gold, they reportedly found \$400,000 in American greenbacks and a paltry 21 grand in Iraqi dinars

101<sup>st</sup> Airborne spokesperson MSG Kelly Tyler gleefully told reporters who flocked to Fort Campbell to hear the grisly news that, "The 101st kicks ass. The 101st has a proud history of military tradition, and this just adds to that tradition."

But she said nothing about the weapons that normally would have been captured and displayed. It is a curious oversight and a tremendous deviation from usual Army PR methods, which include trumpeting victories with fanfare and carefully displayed captured trophies.

Whether the guns of the brothers Hussein are actually the same ones purported to be at the storage facility is Tadjiri open to debate, although the comments of the soldier showing the visitors around the place indicates they are. He is heard on the video claiming the weapon a Marine officer is shown holding is the notorious golden AK of Uday Hussein, the same one he was shooting the day he died.

Because the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, which had operational control of the scene, says it found only a shotgun, that leaves Task Force 20 (TF 20) operators as the only other soldiers at the scene. So all the remaining weapons must have been seized by the secretive operators, right? Wrong!

Although TF 20, later redesignated TF 121 was under the operational command of COL Joe Anderson that day, it is a subordinate unit to the U.S. Special Operations Command located at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and operates under the command of the U.S. Central Command situated nearby. Because of operational security requirements, that is the only command TF 121 reports to.

Already spooky, the Special Operations Command gets a little testy when folks come around with questions on topics it considers secret. COL Samuel Taylor, PAO for the command, declined to talk at all. He preferred having his sergeant major refer all questions to the U.S. Central Command. The PAO for Central Command denied any knowledge of anything and declined to comment, saying he had forwarded

Continued on page 81

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PSD member with local Iraqi PSD. He carries commando-length M4, while locals favor various iterations of AK, as they are reliable and familiar.

gunfire continued in their direction. Orange tracer rounds snapped past their vehicle as the insurgents continued to press the fight. Texas was operating the manual transmission vehicle from the center of the seat as the team sped north toward the U.S. Army convoy seen earlier by the team.

Texas, once again the quick thinker, wisely advised the team members to leave their weapons and dismount the vehicle with their hands in the air as



PSD K-9 handler and his partner "Mallie." Security details must check vehicles, routes and buildings for IEDs, and personnel for weapons and suicide IEDs, and for this a working dog is unbeatable.

they approached the military unit. All team members approached the lead Bradley Fighting Vehicle as advised without incident. The U.S. Army troops quickly called in a Medevac helicopter and the team was airlifted to the Combat Area Support Hospital (CASH) located at CPA.

All four PSD team members were wounded. L was struck in the thigh, and lower back. A was hit in the left jaw, both hands, and the upper right arm. Texas was shot in the left forearm and received shrapnel wounds in the same forearm and neck. N had multiple cuts and abrasions from glass in both arms and face as did all three team members. The client was not injured in any way. This was a job well done on the team's part.

Both vehicles were rendered completely inoperable as a result of insurgent gunfire. Both vehicles were mercifully put to sleep by the U.S. Army. One HE tank round per vehicle finished off both BMWs.

Texas fired seven 30-round magazines during the firefight. This attacking group seemed dedicated on the total destruction of the entire team and their client, changing magazines frequently to keep the team engaged. It is not known if any of the insurgents were killed or wounded in the brief but violent confrontation. ❌

(The names of Texas' teammates were deleted as they are still operating in Iraq.)

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planted, problems with machinery or irrigation and the health of the locals. Much of this information would go to the Office of Civilian-Military affairs, which would ascertain if any particular technical or medical aid were required.

Anti-personnel mines are an ever-present danger in Afghanistan, attested by the fact that people with landmine-related injuries arrive at the Kabul Hospital on an almost daily basis. Most of the countries involved in ISAF have incorporated mine-clearance and demolition experts in their contingents. With the French contingent, a company of legionnaires of the 1st REG Régiment Etranger de Genie, Legion Combat Engi-

neers, has been included for de-mining and munitions-disposal operations.

When stockpiles of munitions are found they are systematically trucked out to a secured area dedicated for the purpose, wired with C-4, and destroyed. The Legion officer in charge of the EOD operation told me that they had already destroyed hundreds of tons of rockets, mines, mortar rounds, and artillery shells, and, in view of the amount of stuff still coming in, that this would be going on for a number of years. ✕

American Journalist Richard Lucas is a frequent contributor to SOF.

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the inquiry to Baghdad. Despite several emails to the PAO there, Baghdad never got back in touch.

If the "museum" actually is where the high-value souvenirs of Operation Iraqi Freedom are being boxed, tagged, and prepared for storage and eventual distribution, it must be a mighty big secret. According to military regulations currently in place in Central Command and throughout the U.S. military, it is against the law for an individual, no matter who it is, to possess such weapons, particularly automatic weapons. More than one GI has been kicked out of the service attempting to spirit home illicit souvenirs, and there are no exemptions for brass hats: Vice Admiral Joseph Metcalf III lost his fourth star and his career when he tried to bring home his collection of souvenirs from the invasion of Grenada in late October 1983.

The visiting officer who filmed the warehouse wasn't thinking about building a private collection while he toured the building filming the troops browsing the massive collection of memorabilia: He was more interested in recording the most fascinating collection of automatic weapons he had ever seen, while bantering with the soldiers and Marines running the facility. As he moved from box to box and treasure to treasure, the story of each one's recovery was narrated by the officer off camera. How often does one get to record history before it even hits the museum?

Perhaps the most telling indication of the importance of the collection, was a presentation case containing a 9mm pistol engraved with the name "Izzat Al-Douri," the same name as the man who was designated King of Clubs in America's deck of most-wanted Iraqis, and the highest-ranking officer still being sought by American authorities. Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri is the former vice-president of Iraq and one of Saddam Hussein's closest henchmen. Although he has been reported captured at least twice, the red-headed fanatic is believed to be running the insurgency that has cost more than 1,600 American lives since the war "ended" almost two years ago.

One day the entire story of these artifacts will be revealed. Among that collection of priceless, irreplaceable pieces of history are the weapons purported to be those of two of the worst mass murderers since World War II. They belong to history. ☒

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# Unilateral Self-Flagellation

BY LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, USMC (RET.)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The "Blame America First" crowd is wielding the whip. The target: Camp Delta, the U.S. Military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Spurred by a false story in Newsweek and then Amnesty International's unsupported charge that it is the "gulag of our times," Guantanamo and the people it houses have become the left's latest "cause celeb." Kofi Annan, Old Europe's old leaders, Jimmy Carter, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi and most of the so-called mainstream media have now declared that the facility must be closed.

President Bush, apparently smarting under the lash, now says such a move is "under consideration." If the White House goal is to make the pain go away, the Bush administration ought to think again. Before shutting down the Guantanamo facility and sending its 547 occupants to their home countries or, as some have suggested, a country of their choice, the administration ought to first try telling the American people more about what "Gitmo" is really like and why it's needed.

First, a truth check. When confronted with the facts, Amnesty International, once respected for holding the Soviet Union and other totalitarian regimes accountable for human rights abuses, backed away from its accusation. "Clearly, this is not an exact or a literal analogy," offered William Schulz, head of AI's U.S. branch. "In size and in duration, there are not similarities between U.S. detention facilities and the gulag. ... People are not being starved. They're not being subjected to forced labor." He could and should have gone further.

Here's Amnesty's "gulag:" Upon arrival at Camp Delta, detainees are issued a blanket, a sheet, two orange jump suits, flip-flops, a foam sleeping pad, two bath towels, a washcloth, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, a prayer rug and a Koran. They are allowed two 15-minute showers per week; they get recreation time and three culturally sensitive meals per day. Schedules are respectful of Islamic traditions, prayer calls are broadcast five times a day, and arrows painted on the floors point to Mecca. Their regular quarters include a flushing toilet, running water and an off-the-floor bed. Detainees who ask for them are provided with soccer balls, playing cards, chessboards and paperback books. All of this courtesy of the American taxpayers the detainees have sworn to kill.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld noted this week that our military has a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing every aspect of detainee treatment, including how Korans are to be handled, observing that he has not seen this brief document reproduced by the major media. Rules for handling the Koran include the requirement to wear "clean gloves," and instruct that "two hands will be used at all times when handling the Koran in a manner signaling respect and reverence" and to "handle the Koran as if it were a fragile piece of delicate art."

Add to these regulations stringent rules of engagement, the Geneva Conventions, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, hours of sensitivity training and allowing camera crews -- like mine with FOX News -- to tag along on combat missions, and it's apparent that ours is the most scrutinized, examined and professional force for justice and peace on earth. According to the Department of Defense, more than 68,000 terror suspects have been in U.S. custody at one

point or another, and more than half a million young Americans have served overseas since Sept. 11. Yet, only 371 credible allegations of misconduct have been leveled against U.S. troops, and fewer than one-tenth of 1 percent of American service members have been found guilty of abuse or mistreatment.

The second challenge, responding to those like Jacques Chirac, Joe Biden and Fidel Castro who want to "release the detainees," should be even easier. Gen. Dick Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said this week: "If you release them or let them go back to their home countries, they would turn around and try to slit our throats, our children's throats. These are the people who took four airplanes and flew them into three buildings on Sept. 11."

Though some in the media immediately charged the general with hyperbole, he's right. Of the 247 detainees who have been released thus far, 25, more than 10 percent, are believed to have returned to the jihad.

One of them, Abdullah Mehsud, spent two years in Guantanamo after being captured fighting with the Taliban. He was released after convincing U.S. interrogators that he was an innocent Afghan tribesman. Last October, after returning to Pakistan, his "country of choice," he kidnapped two Chinese engineers. He claims that he and his followers will "fight America and its allies until the very end."

Mullah Shahzada spent two years at a special "seaside house" with fellow teenage detainees. There, he was taught English, played sports (removed comma) and watched videos designed to make him "like us." After swearing an oath against violence, he was returned to Afghanistan. Just weeks later, he became one of 12 former detainees confirmed killed by coalition forces while fighting with Taliban Al (u/c) Qaeda units.

According to the Pentagon, Guantanamo detainees have provided useful information on locations of training compounds and safe houses, terrain features, travel patterns and routes used for smuggling people and equipment, as well as for identifying potential supporters and opponents. Evidence is also being collected on terrorist plans and operations in the United States and Europe.

As for all of the allegations of abuse: An Al Qaeda training manual captured by British intelligence instructs those who are captured, "at the beginning of the trial ...the brothers must insist on proving that torture was inflicted on them by state security before the judge. Complain of mistreatment while in prison."

This is an enemy that refuses to observe any conventions, treaties or rules of warfare. They lie, cheat and violate agreements. They slice off heads like raw meat. They murder women and children. They fly airplanes into buildings.

But we're the bad guys. ☒

Oliver North is host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel. The opinions expressed above are his own and do not represent the views of Fox News and/or Soldier Of Fortune.

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**Sergeant Dorsel B. Boyer, right, with Ollie North, during North's latest trip to Iraq. Boyer, assigned to 2/2 Brigade Combat Team, hails from Coshocton, Ohio.**

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