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THE JOURNAL OF PROFESSIONAL MILITARY AFFAIRS
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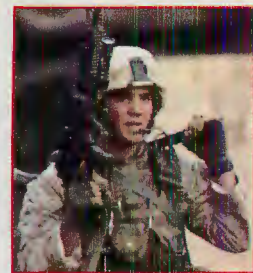
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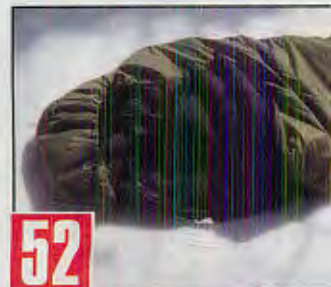


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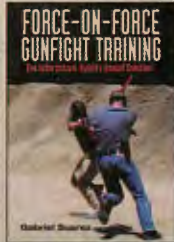
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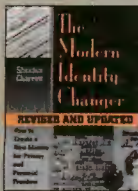
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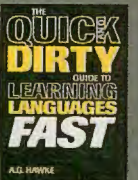
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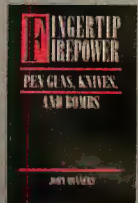
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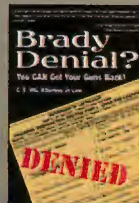
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Command Guidance

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

Common Sense: (Anti) Military Operations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Buried in all the mainstream media coverage this week over new terrorist bombings in London, space shuttles that didn't launch, the trashing of Karl Rove and the nomination of a new Supreme Court justice was a little-noted item about reenlistments in the U.S. armed forces exceeding expectations. USA Today offered some prominence to the story, but it was widely ignored by most of the Fourth Estate. Perhaps that's because it's a "good news story."

According to the Pentagon, all of the services are meeting or exceeding their reenlistment requirements — though the Army acknowledges shortfalls on new recruits. Through the end of June, the Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard all "made their end strength objectives" and the Marine Corps actually went 2 percent over its new "accessions" goal. Enlisted accessions are those who are new additions to the enlisted strength of

a military service. These are young Americans — virtually all of whom are high-school graduates — who have signed an enlistment contract and are beginning basic training. That's good news for the "All Volunteer Force" in what one recruiter called "a fairly hostile environment."

Unfortunately, all the "hostiles" aren't in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some are politicians, some are in the media and others are part of the old, anti-military, "Blame America First" crowd.

Last month Democratic California Senator Diane Feinstein's assessment of the war was "that everything seems to be going the wrong way." Ohio's liberal Senator Dick Durbin likened the men and women of America's armed forces to those of Cambodia's Pol Pot, Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin. New York Congressman Charlie Rangel actually proposed legislation to "bring back the draft."

Continued on page 68

Back in the '60s
this kind of
rhetoric helped
to alienate
America's
citizen-soldiers
from the citizens
they served.

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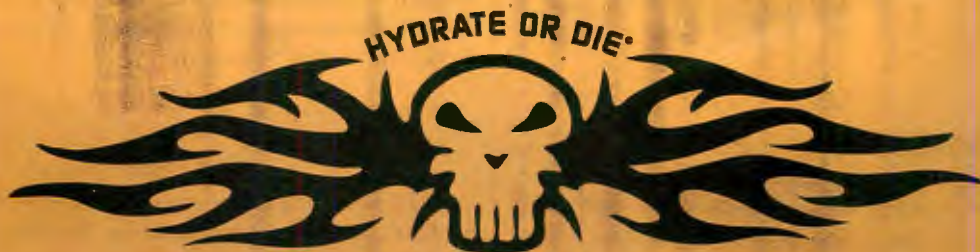
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Power to the Point

My name is 2LT (). I'm currently a platoon leader with () here at Fort Campbell, KY. My brother showed me your recent article, "Roadside Rendezvous With Death; Analyzing Terrorist Ambush Techniques In Iraq."

I was particularly interested because I will be leading convoys in Iraq towards the end of this year. I will potentially be involved in those convoys mentioned in the article and I'd like to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure for my Company to combat against those scenarios! I would be very grateful if you were to send me a PowerPoint Presentation of every scenario, i.e. Alley Way Ambush, Roadside IED, Staged-Accident Ambush, etc. This would be an excellent visual aid to use for my instruction, and literally a lifesaver! I would be willing to pay for these slides or to pay for an electronic version of the scenarios.

P.S. Thanks again for your time, and thanks for your informative reading material!

() ()

2LT, Platoon Leader
SSA

(The lieutenant was put in contact with the seminal source of this presentation)

Marines

(Observations from a fellow Marine in Iraq training Iraq Security Forces.) My short observations:

Iraq has an Army. We who are over here advising them need to focus on their staff planning skills, C2, and logistics development. These units AREN'T ours to fight. Anytime we spend time running their affairs is that much more time we have to spend here. They have built and trained an Army before, but they had no reason to fight, and every reason to give up in droves. Now they are fighting bad guys and have our support. Yet another Iraqi officer told me yesterday that he was surprised and gratified that we didn't take all their oil, rape their women, etc. He, like others, has found out that we ARE here to help, for their good, and the ultimate good of the region, and our own good. When they win, we all win, except for the terrorists. Too bad the rest of America can't hear this guy – and many others like him.

(name withheld by request)

IRR Respect

When I enlisted in the Marine Corps, it was for four years. I then extended my contract for one more year that would ensure I would be able to go to Iraq. After that I was discharged and went home. I was there for less than six months, when I

was called by the Mobilization Command, who asked me to volunteer (not ordered) for one more year and a guaranteed trip back to Iraq. My answer was of course a yes. Upon my arrival at Camp Talega I met the other guys who volunteered. We were all extremely motivated. Until we were put in our units.

Most of us were treated as if we had never been Marines before. Most of us had been to Iraq once before, whereas most of the people we were deploying with were as green as could be. At the time I had been a demolitions man for five years, to include being an Assault Breacher and 8154 (CQB Team member). My breacher and explosive log book is thicker than most people's SRB. But I was forced to get a class from an E-2 engineer about safety, and then my lieutenant said he would hold on to my blasting caps for me. Imagine a demo man with no blasting caps!

With the right amount of tact (and without) I was able to get my demo together before we went to Fallujah. I was even awarded my second NAM for an assault breach I made. But, many of my fellow IRR Marines did not get any of the respect they deserved.

Many Marines do not know what the IRR is, and with senior NCOs (especially Staff NCOs) telling them that IRR Marines are just "guys who could not get jobs on the outside" is not helpful. People need to spread the word about these brave men who have without doubt answered their country's call. How many people do you know who would drop everything in their lives and go to Iraq, just because they were asked to over

the phone? Respect is not given, it is earned.


Semper Fi,
Phillip Langley

One Man's Truth, Another Man's Terd

Pardon me for being the terd in the punchbowl while everyone is canonizing Hackworth. I served with him in 1/101 in 1965. Hackworth was all about Hackworth. He was certainly fearless but also egotistical, self-promoting and reckless. As far as his concern for the troops, during the battle of Dak To, in response to requests for Medivac support, he told his company commanders to "Cover your dead and wounded with leaves and maintain contact." I parted with Hackworth when he got into bed with all "perfumed princes" in opposition to President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld. As far as decorated heroes go, why not look into the career of Colonel Robert Howard of SOG fame.

Walter Oszczakiewicz
Major, USA Retired

You'll never be a terd with us for sharing your honest opinion, but here's a couple points to consider: The time of a man's passing



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is the best time to recount his victories and attributes; The adjectives "egotistical, self-promoting and reckless" have been applied with varying degrees of accuracy to many great military leaders. Patton comes to mind.

Combat Weaponcraft July Issue

I have been sending care packages for over a year now. But when I read your piece about the Marines needing mags for their handguns I got really PO'd. That is something that the Military should have an oversupply of, on hand -- especially after this long in-theater. Being retired military I feel that someone needs to get a slap alongside the head for this.

Maybe we need to drop Rummy and friends out there for a few weeks without the right gear.

Well, thanks for reading my rant. Gotta head to Wally World and see about getting those Marines some stuff.

Richard Jorgensen,
USN Retired

www.AmericanSnipers.org

(forwarded by Brian Sain)

Hi Brian,

I've just finished the article in Soldier of Fortune Magazine and I had no idea that your organization existed! What a great thing you have going. I would like to know how I could go about requesting assistance from your group in obtaining a piece of equipment for my use here in ()?

My name is Staff Sergeant () and I am currently a (). I have already purchased much of my own gear but there are two things that are currently eluding me, a laser range-finder (any kind at all) and a tripod for my spotting scope. Please advise me on how I could make a request for these items, or if I may do so at all. I would sincerely appreciate any information or assistance you could provide. Once again, what a great organization you have, it is really nice to know that the support network is out there for us. This is my second tour in () and the support seems to keep growing!

Thanks again,
SSG ()

If readers missed the story in the August SOF, they can go to www.AmericanSnipers.org for the full story on one more way to support our troops.

Needs Tools

First, I would like to thank you for the outstanding articles regarding operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the platoon sergeant for our battalion Recon platoon I have used these articles as training aids numerous times.

I would also like your help. As you probably already know, the Army supply system does not always work or does not have the right equipment for the job.

Would it be possible for you to put me in contact with groups or individuals who would be willing to get us the gear that we need. Currently, we need range finders for our four

Continued on page 61

Largest Distributor of Replica Guns in USA

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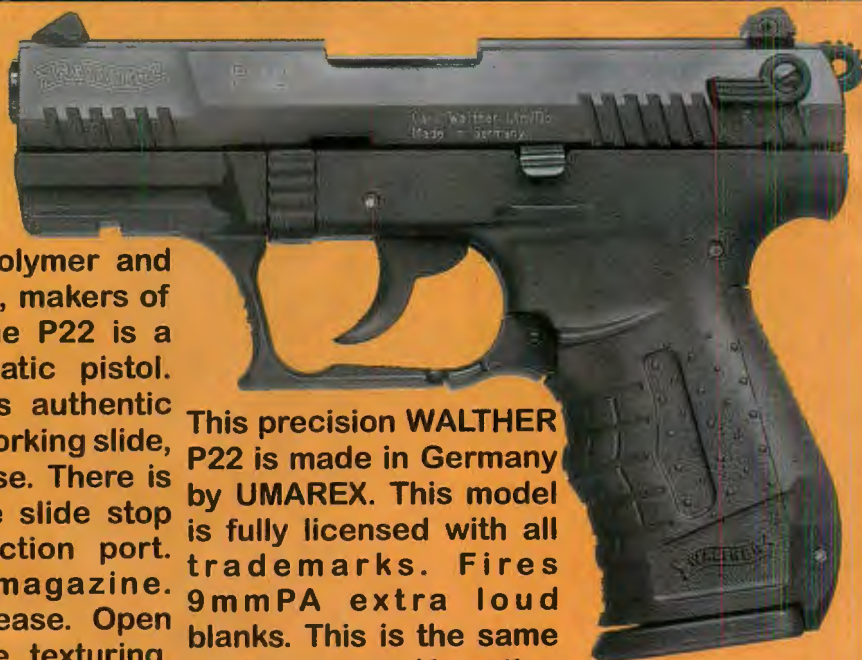
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Maxsell

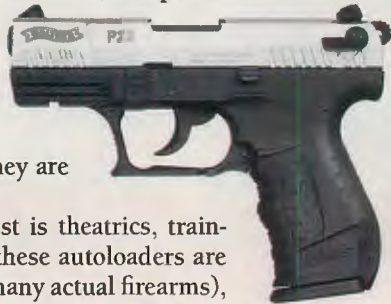
SOF Success story: Maxsell Corporation of Coconut Creek, Florida began advertising with SOF more than a decade ago, beginning with a 20-word classified ad and increasing size as business continually grew. Their half-page color ad in this issue is a precursor to a full-page color ad that will be in the December issue.

Maxsell is now the exclusive USA distributor for Walther/Umarex blank-firing replica guns. Importation of these realistic replicas has been approved by ATF as complying with all U. S. safety laws (no Federal license is required).

Maxsell also distributes KIMAR, BRUNI and VOLTRAN blank-firing replica guns and stocks more than 9,000 various models for prompt shipment. Hollywood movie studios like MGM, Paramount and 20th Century Fox are among many of Maxsell's clients.

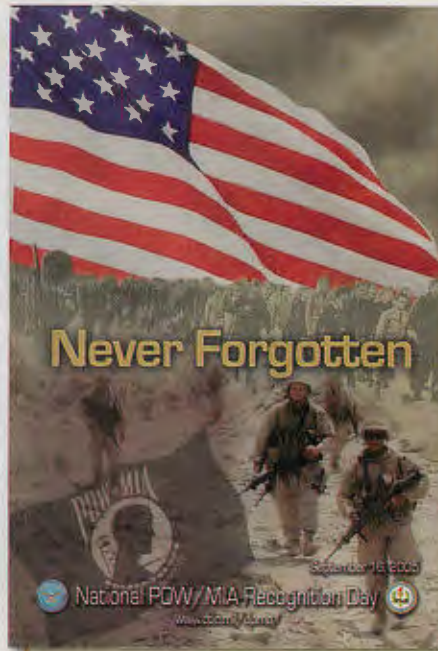
Because of safety issues, numerous military schools are using these replica blank guns for training new recruits. These are not your Daddy's cap pistol! SOF had the opportunity to fire one of these replicas, and not only is it as loud as – if not louder than – a genuine firearm, the pitch and tone of the report is more like a gunshot than any other blank-firing device we have tested, and as they load and fire in the standard form, they are suitable training pieces.

Whether your interest is theatrics, training, or just collecting (these autoloaders are more finely made than many actual firearms), visit www.maxsell.com for information, or call 1-877-332-2343.



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.



National POW/MIA Recognition Day: 16 September 2005 has been designated National POW/MIA Recognition Day by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office. Downloadable posters in digital form are available by going to: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/pow_rec_day_05_poster.htm.

Links from this site can also lead you to innumerable other related sites dealing with POW/MIA issues.

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, Suite A-5
Boulder, CO 80303-13404

Or go online to: www.sofmag.com for a petition form.

SOF's 30th Anniversary Issue!

We've been kicking butt and taking names for 30 years... believe it or not! To commemorate this calendar event, we're publishing a selection of outstanding articles by some of the best-known SOF authors in our December issue: This 30th



Found on the 'Net

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

Prayer Request: When you read this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our troops around the world. Of all the gifts you could give a U.S. Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and others deployed in harm's way, Prayer is the very best one.

Anniversary issue of *SOF* will be a collector's item. Authors include Col. David Hackworth on why the U.S. needs a Foreign Legion and why we lost in Vietnam; Al Venter on Rhodesia Yesterday and Today, as well as his take on Lt. Col. Robert McKenzie; Jim Morris on Ambush in Vietnam; and Bob Burton on Bounty Hunting Today. Look for it on the newsstands on or about 25 November.

General William C. Westmoreland

The military commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, General William C. Westmoreland, died Monday night 18 Jul 05 in a nursing home.

There was an excellent article on Page A13 of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* entitled, "U.S. was Defeated On Home Front" that comprised part of a speech he gave in 1989 summing up some excellent facts about the Vietnam War.

It's worth reading and passing on to others. The facts about America's longest and most controversial war are very hard to come by, but this article hits the nail "squarely on the head."

Why read facts about a long-past war? So that it never happens again.

God bless our troops. – Tom Foster, Veterans Advocate

CMP Military Rifle Instructors Trained

U. S. Army Service Rifle Team instructors trained 52 experienced civilian highpower service rifle shooters and coaches to prepare them to serve as Military Rifle Instructors. The

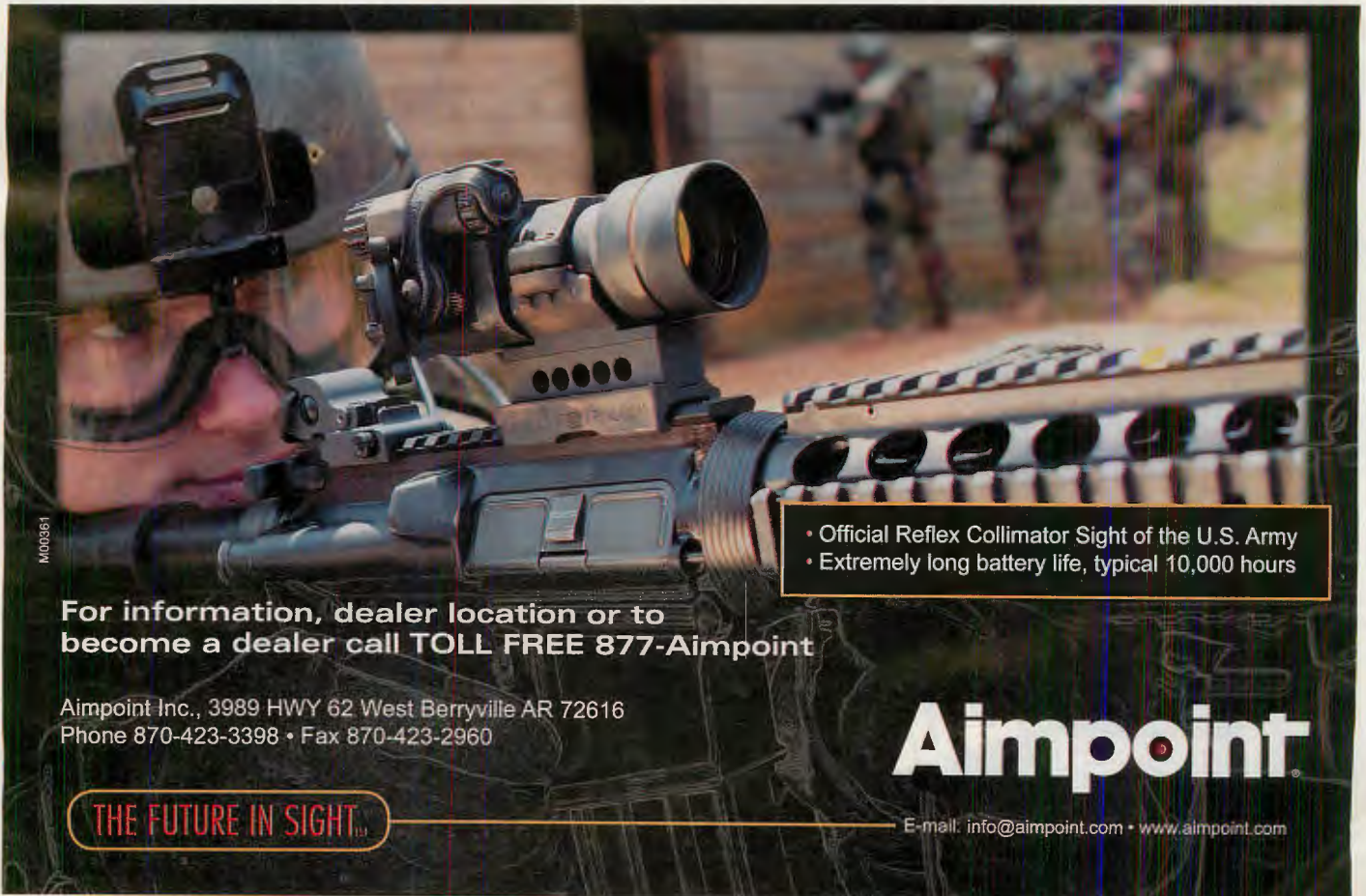
training course took place at Camp Perry, Ohio during the week of 13-17 June. The new CMP-USAMU Military Rifle Instructor Program was developed to provide a cadre of marksmanship experts who could augment USAMU instructors when assigned to train Army NCOs in how to implement the Army's new Squad Designated Marksman Program. If you are interested in applying to become a Military Rifle Instructor, please download the application form at <http://www.odcmp.com/Programs/MRIApp.pdf>.

On the Price of Liberty...

"In the name of my peoples, I'd like to thank all...the American people for the sacrifices [for liberty]. The American nation should be deeply proud of its sons and daughters who have worked hard and who have fought hard for the best values of liberation and democracy in Iraq. With such tremendous morale, with such sometimes terrible injuries, they have braved tremendously and they bear their suffering for the sake of humanity, liberation and democracy. I would like to say to these patients and to the American people that these sacrifices have not gone in vain. Indeed we shall have a world that is free from terrorism and where the human right and democracy are respected." –Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, after his visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

...And when that world finally comes into place, it will be the American warrior, not the liberal appeaser or the cowardly pacifist who is remembered.

Continued on page 60



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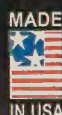
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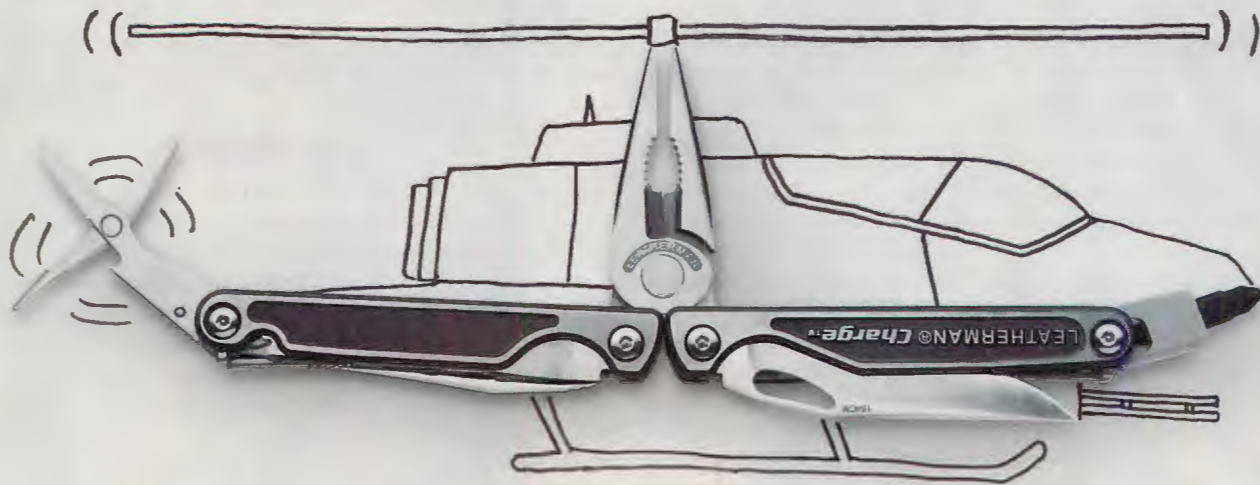
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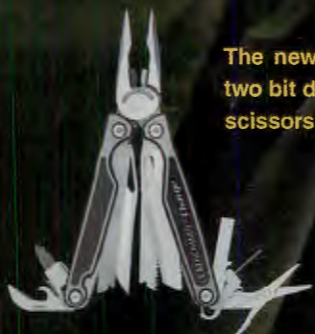
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Marines Shoot Their War

By Dr. Martin Brass

Ten days of fierce urban combat in the Unsacred City of Mosques

Fallujah, 35 miles west of Baghdad, in the Sunni triangle, was out of control. Four U.S. contractors were brutally mutilated and hung from a bridge 31 March, 2004. Al Qaeda strongman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, believed to be operating out of Fallujah, took credit for the atrocities.

U.S. intelligence determined that al Qaeda mastermind al Zarqawi was training snipers and martyrs from Pakistan, Chechnya and other countries in the city. The U.S. military decided that the terrorist presence in Fallujah was a terrorist cancer that had to be destroyed.

Foreign fighters and weapons easily entered the old trade route on the Euphrates. Fallujah is "on an ancient trade route linking the oasis towns of the Nejd province of what is today Saudi Arabia with the great cities of Aleppo and Mosul to the north. It also is on the desert highway between Baghdad and Amman. This city is a crossroads." Edward Marek of www.talkingproud.us gives an account of the battle of Fallujah.

The city housed 200 mosques, 60 of which had been converted to repositories for weapons caches. Three hospitals had been converted to fighting positions. U.S. troops found 203 weapons caches and bomb making factories, many of which were linked by tunnels. Marines found three slaughter and torture houses.

On 24 March 2004, the 82nd Airborne Division that had provided security in Fallujah since September 2003 turned control over to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). Seven Marines died in the first 10 days of deployment.

The next week, terrorists dragged four U.S. contractors' charred and mutilated bodies in the street and hung two bodies on a bridge in what became a highly publicized, sensational atrocity.

On 5 April U.S. Marines launched a heavy five-day offensive against the city. They were ordered to retreat at the end of the month after political and international pressure sparked by the heaviest fighting since the invasion, forced military leaders to abandon the battle and turn control over to Iraqi Brigades.

For six months the insurgents mobilized, deploying booby traps throughout the city and stockpiling caches of weapons.



Titan I twelve hours into the attack on Fallujah

Military officials feared that elections scheduled for January, 2005 would fail if Fallujah was not brought under control.

Pivotal Battle

The eighth November was D-Day.

U.S. Marine Corporal Brad had arrived 6 October in Iraq to help coalition troops Gordon off Fallujah.

"I joined the Marines after 9-11. I'd never seen anything like the terrorist attacks. I was outraged that they had done that to us. I wanted to do something. I was frustrated, and at 26, I was getting old for military service. Two weeks after the attack, I went to a recruiter and I was in boot camp by December. I was stationed in Hawaii with the 31st Marine Expeditionary UNIT (MEU). We went to Okinawa, not knowing if we were going to Iraq. We were on ship 16 Aug, my wife's birthday, and on 11 Sept, when my son was born, we hit ashore in Kuwait.

"We were deployed from Kuwait to southern Fallujah. For seven days we were engaged in combat operations in a show of force to deceive and surprise the enemy. The April Fallujah offensive was from the south. We practiced fake attacks, would pull in, shoot rounds, retreat so we could see their reaction. They thought 'these guys are coming in from the South'.

"We were ordered to the north three days before the offensive."

Operation Phantom Fury— "al Fajr"

Brad was attached to Marine sniper Corporal Travis.

"We spent every hour of everyday together. My wife jokes and says it was like Travis and I were married. We fought together, we were scared together, we ate together, and slept together. Let me clarify that—slept next to each other."

"Both of us are from First Battalion, 3rd Marines. We were attached to 7 REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM (RCT) during Operation Phan-

y In And Out Of Fallujah

tom Fury, more known to us as the Battle of Fallujah," Travis said.

"Our role during the initial assault on the city was to give Alpha Company all the support they needed by reducing targets, getting eyes on an objective, and over-watching the squads of the company as they cleared houses by moving rooftop to rooftop to maintain eyes on the squad, or just remaining in place if our field of view was good enough. Often times we would clear houses with the squads, which was common."

The ground attack launched 8 November became one of the most intensely violent, fierce battles of the war.

British troops were positioned south of Fallujah and in other volatile cities to cover for the Marines, so their offensive would be uninterrupted.

"We breached the city," Brad said. "We were nervous. Everyone was nervous. I was the observer, Travis the sniper, but when we attacked the city we would switch off missions. After an hour behind a spotting scope and looking through magnification, we had to have relief, so we traded positions."

Fallujah is Burning

"Fallujah was already in flames. The U.S. Air force had been pounding the city in strategic strikes since April, but that day all hell broke loose. Some say that the air strikes were random, but they were based on photos from unmanned aerial vehicles and other really good intel. We knew for a fact where the weapons were stashed and where the insurgents were operating. We were warned where the enemy was hiding.

Fallujah was a city of an estimated 300,000 inhabitants. 50-75,000 were left on the day of the offensive.

"Civilians for the most part had been evacuated. Everyone knew we were coming but didn't know from



Brad behind the M40A3 sniper rifle in a position we took atop a hill inside the city of Hit, Iraq

what direction.

"For 12 hours the city was pounded.

"We breached the city at 1900 hours. We went in as four man teams—two snipers two spotters. Charlie Company went in first, then Bravo, and then we from Alpha team followed them. As Charlie rolled through, they were met with fierce resistance. A good buddy of mine lost an arm and a leg. It took time to get him medevacked, so Charlie was held up.

"The 23-ton amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs) came back to get Bravo. Same deal. Then the vehicles came back for us. It was 0230 when our number was called. The ride took 15 minutes to the breach site. We could hear the bullets flying as we pushed to the breach site. At 0300, we made it through the breach site and to the railroad track that ran across north. The rail track had been blow to bits.

"We had four objectives. Once Charlie blazed to an objective, we would come up behind them. We would rest a little, get some water then push forward. When Travis and I got to a location, we would pretty much hit the rooftop. Charlie Company would have already been there. We got from the breach site to the track, then from the track to a mosque being used as a weapons hideout. We tried our best to stay out of mosques to respect their religion, so we would send in Iraqis. This mosque had a known weapons cache and the insurgents were using it for defense, so we could take it. We switched with Charlie Company who said they had not seen much, but within two minutes, we had insurgents all over the place," Brad said.

The Blazing Fire Fight

"RPGs were flying at us. We were a lot better shots than they were. They did not realize the force that was coming in to the city. There were 12 or 15 Marines on the roof. We engaged with these guys. The houses and buildings were so close, we were engaging up to 50 yards. The insurgents were up in buildings and shooting out of windows," Brad said.

"Shortly after we entered the city, we relieved another team from the roof top of a mosque. About a minute after we took up positions on the roof, we began receiving fire from the front, right, and left flanks. The sun had just barely risen, and most insurgents were shooting from inside of the build-

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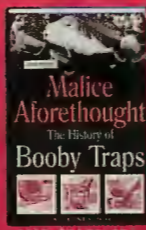
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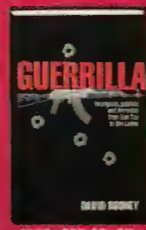
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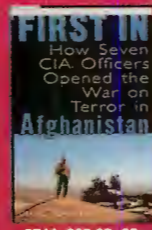
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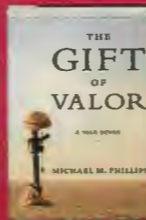
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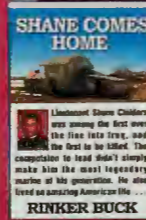
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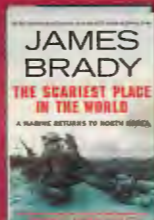
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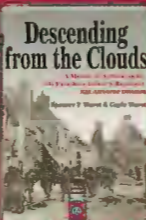
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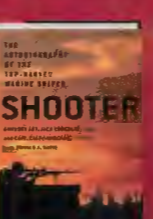
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(above) Brad with a creative placement of a Houston Texans bumper sticker. (below) Brad and Travis display an Iraqi flag with pride.

ings. Our four man team was spread out on the roof, all were engaged in this fire fight," Travis said.

"I remember telling Brad to walk me on to some targets but there were enough people shooting at our pos that we just began returning fire at muzzle flashes and silhouettes of the enemy engaging us. Shortly after returning fire, an RPG was shot right at our pos. You could see the rocket come right at you, and it curved to our left and missed.

"The insurgent that fired it fired from inside a room more than likely killed himself from the back blast. One insurgent fired off two RPGs from around a corner about 100 yards away. I believe one struck the bldg below us and the other missed. He fired and disappeared behind the corner fast," Travis said.

"Shortly after the fire fight began more Marines joined us at our pos and began engaging the buildings where we were receiving fire from rockets and AT4's. One of the members in my team began lighting up the building where the first RPG was fired from with his 203 grenade launcher, delivering highly accurate firepower to the enemy.

"After the fire fight died down, for a while we were still spotting and engaging insurgents periodically as they tried to sneak around corners and down the streets, trying to take up positions to engage us or other friendlies.

"A couple hours later we moved out attached to a squad to advance further towards our units objective," Travis said.

"We sent M16 203 automatic grenade launcher fire to take

out the insurgents who were everywhere, running around on the ground, shooting at us," Brad said.

"I was shooting my M4 and Travis had his M4 as well. The fire was coming at us so fast that there was no time to unstrap the rifle from the pack. There were too many to engage with and the firefight was going too fast to have time to look through the scope to get the moving targets. I had an ACOG sight on my weapon in the pack, but I had only had a few days practice. That was not enough practice time to be comfortable with it and things were moving too fast to move the sight on the target.

We Have Them Under Control

"On the morning of the ninth, five hours into the battle, we had them under control. We radioed our team downstairs to let them know we were OK. They couldn't come up the stairs because they would be met with hails of bullets.

"We stayed on the mosque for a couple of hours until we were ordered to the next objective, another building.

"Our fourth and final objective was a road that runs in the middle of town that separates homes from the industrial area. Once we had that secured, we could get re-supplied.

"That was late on the night of the ninth and early morning of the tenth. We hadn't slept, except for maybe half-hour breaks, but we couldn't go to sleep, as the adrenalin was pumping so hard. We organized security and got a couple of hours rest.



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"When the insurgents realized the force that came after them to get a foothold in city, they backed off, so by the time we got to our fourth objective, things were uneventful. They said it would take us 72 hours. It took us about 28 hours," Brad said.

"After our Battalion accomplished its original mission of gaining a hold in the middle of the city, the Battalion began clearing North, house to house, to find any insurgents that slipped through the cracks on the way in," Travis said.

Happy Birthday, Marines

"By 10 November, the Marine Corp's birthday, we had lived on a rooftop for a couple of days. We turned around and pushed north through every single house in our area of operation. We used military operation urban tactics. We would kick in the door. Lots of times we could see in the window. The houses, close together, had the same layout—an entry door, then to the left is a living room and a hall that led straight to another room to the right."

"They had grenades I had never seen before. They had ones that had Russian markings. When you find a grenade you might be looking at 500 pounds of other stuff in caches. There were Italian anti-tank mines. I saw a bag that had 10 different types of grenades in it, but can't tell you what they were. If I don't understand it, I don't touch it. We would lay all the grenades out and blow the stack out. We found them



in normal peoples' houses, in mosques. We would break in the door, and they would have weapons laid out, like a Dragunov sniper rifle, an *Ruchnoi Pulemet Kalashnikova* (RPK) machinegun, an AK47, and an RPG. Strange how they had it all laid out.

"We were going house to house, rooftop-to-rooftop. You can easily just jump the wall. We had to be careful since weapons were everywhere. A squad leader from Alpha Company found 500

pounds of explosives. If I had tossed a grenade into the house, the whole roof might have fallen down on us. I only carried two grenades at a time. You can't clear a house carrying a big rucksack," Brad said.

"The insurgents had very few trained snipers. There were guys who would hold their AK47s high over their heads, spraying sporadically. Their military tactics were a joke. Their snipers were not too bad. They took a lot of us out, there but I didn't see very many military tactics.

"They know where you are and can hear you out there, but it doesn't make them good soldiers. But when we were applying any kind of offense, they would be out in the middle of the street with no cover. Our battalion lost nine through the whole attack on Fallujah, many in house-to-house fights.

"On the 11th, we started to backtrack. We went house-to-house through Thanksgiving, almost to Christmas. Once we finally got done with our area, we went down to an industrial

Continued on page 76

(above) Travis and Brad on our last combat operation in Iraq, 6 Jan. 2005. (Below) Brad observing in the farmland south of Fallujah.



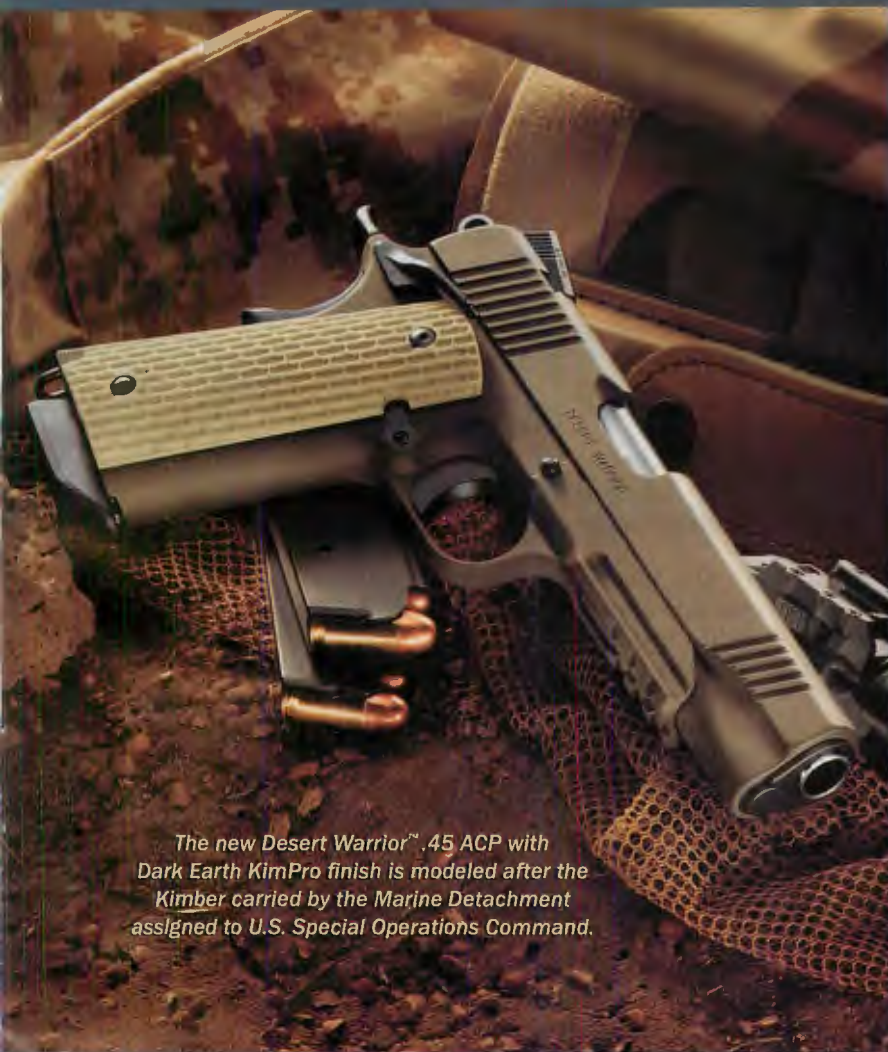
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Red Dragons patch



Text and Photos by Dale B. Cooper

Marine Flyers Risk All to Pull their Wounded from Baghdad Battlefield

At 0600 hours Baghdad time on 10 April 2003, two CH-46E Sea Knights from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268, Marine Air Group 39, Third Marine Air Wing, launched the first of five Casualty Evacuation (casevac) missions into Baghdad.

The "Red Dragons," as the squadron is called at Camp Pendleton, were supporting Regimental Combat Team Five's attack on one of Saddam Hussein's palaces on the north side of the Iraqi capital. The assault was spearheaded by 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, the most decorated battalion in the United States Marine Corps.

At sundown on 9 April, a few hours after a Marine tank retriever helped U.S. Army soldiers pull down Saddam's statue in downtown Baghdad, Marine Major Donald J. Presto and Captain Armando Espinoza attended a briefing at RCT-5's command post on the south side of Baghdad.

Their objective was Al Azimiyah, the so-called "Pleasure Palace," along the banks of the Tigris River. There, Saddam's two sons, Uday and his younger and even more brutal brother Qusay, played kinky games with young girls they picked up and took back to the palace. Their sadistic Dad had also been seen in the neighborhood on the evening of 9 April, talking to supporters some 500 meters from the palace.

The "Fighting Fifth" was ordered to sweep into Baghdad from the north and capture the Iraqi dictator.

This reporter was embedded with 1/5, as they maneuvered along the outer ring of Iraqi defenses littered with burning armored personnel carriers and tanks, and struck south along Highway 2 into Baghdad in the middle of the night. Lieutenant Colonel Frederick M. Padilla, the commanding officer, ordered all soft-skinned vehicles in 1/5, including the Chaplain's high-back Hummer, to remain behind with the supply train until the objective was seized.

One Thousand RPGs

After drawing his combat elements up tight a few yards from a mosque where a dozen Iraqi soldiers had been sleeping, "Hondo," as Padilla was known on the radio net, ordered his battalion to head down Highway 2. The time was 0100 hours local.

The assault south toward Baghdad proceeded without incident until 0300 hours, when someone fired a rocket-propelled grenade at Gunnery Sergeant Ronald M. Jenk's amphibious assault vehicle, which was the fifth AAV in Bravo Company's movement. The RPG missed the armored track, but hit a fully-loaded Iraqi gasoline tanker along the highway, which exploded.

"The explosion looked like an atomic bomb," said Jenk about the bright flash that turned night into day. "I've never seen anything or heard anything like it before in my career," said Jenk. "The enemy ran toward the tracks and sprayed them with small arms fire and RPGs."

One of the RPGs rounds hit below where Jenk was standing air watch in the cargo compartment. The explosion blew him and another Marine to the deck of the Amtrak. For 20 seconds, Gunny Jenk was out of body, barely conscious. He could see the smoke and fire, but couldn't hear the sounds of battle. "Everything around me was in slow motion," said Jenk.

Suddenly it was like someone turned his brain back on and he could hear the sound of gunfire and see blood seeping from the shoulder of the young Marine who was also getting up off the floor of the cargo compartment. Ignoring his wounds, the private said, "Gunny, let's get these sons of bitches." And get them they did. Jenk and company mowed down dozens of Saddam Fedeyeen, Ba'ath party loyalists, and



CH-46E from HMM-268 applies power and takes off with load of Marine casualties from the Al Azimiyah Palace.

to the Rescue

hardcore Republican Guard troops who had only one thing in mind: kill U.S. Marines.

"It was like shooting practice for us," said Jenks who fired magazine after magazine of 5.56 ammo into the mass of humanity. "That's how dumb the enemy was."

Shortly after the shooting started along Highway 2, Major Presto got a call from RCT-5's command post, ordering him to pre-position his helicopters at a secure LZ on the northeast side of the Iraqi capital just above Saddam City.

Running the Gauntlet

For the next three hours, 1/5 fought its way around traffic circles and down wide boulevards in Baghdad. Intelligence estimates that more than 1,000 RPG rounds and thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition were fired at the "Fighting Fifth." Few armored tracks or Humvees escaped unscathed. Some were hit multiple times by RPG rounds.

Alpha Co's beloved Gunnery Sergeant, Jeffrey Bohr, who came to this reporter's tent in Kuwait every night for coffee before the battalion crossed the border into Iraq, was mortally wounded in the head in one of those traffic circles, but Bohr went down with guns blazing and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Two RPG rounds skimmed over the hood of my Humvee and exploded in the rear of a Bravo Company track, ripping the lower jaw off one Marine and critically injuring another leatherneck. The driver of a Humvee behind me, Lance Corporal William T. Harriott, saw another PG whiz over the rear deck just behind where I was sitting and hit the wall of a building. It didn't explode. A black pajama-wearing member of Saddam Fedeyeen apparently fired from too close range and the rocket-propelled grenade didn't have time to arm itself.

As my Humvee entered the traffic circle where Gunny Bohr was killed, another Fedeyeen guerilla stepped from the shadows of an ice cream store and raised his RPG to his shoulder. As he squeezed the trigger, my gunner, Lance Cpl. Dominique Chevalier, cut him in half with a burst of .50 fire – but not before he pulled the trigger on his launcher. The RPG round skidded under the seat where I was sitting and exploded on the other side of the traffic circle. My guardian angel was working overtime in the early morning hours of 10 April.

Halfway to the palace, I heard Staff Sgt. Bryan Jackway, my section leader in Counter Mech Platoon, the combined anti-

armor half of Weapons Company, come up briefly on the radio. His transmission was chilling: "Tomahawk Two Down."

Corporal Jeremy Mahon, my vehicle commander, refused to turn around and go to Jackway's aid. To do so, he said, could be fatal. The entire column was under heavy fire from both sides of the street. "We have to keep pushing," screamed Mahon over the din of battle, "Jackway's on his own."

An RPG round had hit the driver's door of Jackway's Humvee, narrowly missed Lance Corporal Fu Lo's face, and exploded against the windshield. The bright flash temporarily blinded the four Marines inside the Humvee and sprayed them with small pieces of hot shell fragments, but a few minutes later Jackway came back up on the battalion radio net and said, "Tomahawk Two Moving."

Wounded

During the movement into Baghdad, Gunny Jenks was teamed with Marine Captain Shawn "Spaz" Basco, the battalion's forward air controller (FAC). Their mission was to coordinate the medevac of all wounded, and there would be many.

By the time 1/5 reached the gates of the palace, the battalion had taken close to 100 casualties. Some of them were in critical, life-threatening condition. Captain Basco sent out an urgent call for medevacs while the battalion was fighting its way to the palace.

"We got the call about 5:30," said Espinoza, "and were given the FAC's frequency."

Upon launching, Major Presto's lead aircraft, call sign "Grizzly-Four-Zero," experienced radio and navigation problems. Without hesitation, the section commander passed the tactical lead to Captain Espinoza (Grizzly-Four-One) who led the section of Sea Knights south at 120 knots at about 50 feet off the deck, paralleling a main road through the city to the east of



Crew of Grizzly 41. Left to Right: HM2 Michael Burnette, Sgt. Joe Morales, Captain Armando Espinoza, Captain Chris Graham. Kneeling: Sgt. Christoph Oakenson. Photo: USMC

the palace.

When Espinoza saw a division of gunships, three Cobras and a Huey, heading his way west of the LZ, he called the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) and asked if he could get them to run interference for him en route to the palace, but was told 3rd MAW had restricted all rotor-winged aircraft from going into the city. Espinoza was told Baghdad was too dangerous. Helicopters were taking too much battle damage due to small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

Major Donald Presto's CH-46E takes up a firing position south of the Al Azimiyah Palace on the Tigris River. It was a busy time for Marine air assets, and the Red Dragons had to provide their own covering fire as they picked up wounded.



“...What We Do for a Living”

“We had two RPGs pass through our formation as we approached the palace,” said Sgt. Christopher J. Oakenson, the crew chief on Grizzly-41 who was manning the left door gun. When he heard they were going in unescorted, Oakenson tightened his grip on the handles of his .50 machine gun and began scanning the ground below for bad guys. So did Sgt. Joe Morales, the other gunner.

“I felt a little uneasy going into Baghdad,” said Oakenson, but he and the other crewmembers were great aerial gunners. “I knew it was going to be hairy,” said Presto, “but I felt we could do it. Besides, medevac-ing wounded Marines is what we do for a living.”

The Sea Knights and the Cobras shared the same frequency, but when the division leader heard Espinoza’s call for help, he radioed, “Grizzly-Four-One I’d love to go with you, but I’m WINCHESTER,” a term fixed and rotary wing attack pilots use to indicate they’re out of ammunition. Even if they had ammo, the Cobras couldn’t have hung around long. They were “Bingo.” They had just enough fuel to return to their base south of Baghdad. However, the lead Cobra pilot did advise Captain Basco to provide routing to the Casualty Evacuation section, because his flight had taken fire from a location the Sea Knights were about to fly over. As the Cobras passed over the Tigris close to the Forward Air Controller’s position and headed out of town, heavy fighting broke out right in front of Espinoza as he landed at the palace.

Hot LZ

A few minutes after Gun-1 rolled through the gates of the palace behind some combat engineers and two tracks from Bravo Co, I heard the sound of approaching helicopters, and ran to see what was happening behind the palace.

On short final to a makeshift landing-zone next to the swimming pool behind the palace marked by purple smoke, Espinoza’s lead aircraft received concentrated small arms and RPG fire. As Espinoza swerved to avoid the heavy fire, he saw the landing zone.

“The LZ was tight, surrounded by 50-foot palm trees and bushes, just big enough for one aircraft to land,” said Espi-

noza as both gunners hung out the doors on the chopper and called out obstacles.

As Espinoza’s aircraft landed in a cloud of dust and debris from flowerbeds, Major Presto held south of the landing zone about 75 feet above the Tigris. When Basco radioed that the palace was taking fire from snipers on a rooftop in the vicinity, and that RPG rounds were exploding in the LZ, Presto moved his aircraft down to the river bank for protection. In defilade, he was able to identify a covered position about 50 meters from the landing zone.

Rising from the river bank, Presto kicked the tail of his helicopter around so that Sergeant Peter DiMartino, his crew chief, could bring his starboard .50 machine gun to bear on two black-clad figures that Presto saw on top of a nearby building.

DiMartino unleashed a couple of five-round bursts from his gun. When the dust cleared, the snipers were gone.

Engaging at Close Quarters

With the twin blades of the CH-46E still spinning, HM2 Michael Burnette, the Navy corpsman aboard Espinoza’s bird, ran down the rear ramp of the aircraft and helped stabilize four urgent casualties. This reporter had accompanied one of them to the LZ. Blood was dripping from the stretcher held high on the shoulders of four battle-weary Marines. The sound of battle was deafening. I could barely hear the helicopter over the roar of gunfire. A platoon of Marine reservists from upstate New York in M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks were backed up against the wall of the palace, firing point blank into buildings across the street. Machine gunners like Sergeant Chad Van Buskirk, the vehicle commander of TOW-1 in Counter Mech Platoon, climbed through the rubble of a bombed-out building next to the palace and began engaging enemy soldiers across the street with their M240s. Other members of CMP were engaging as well, like LCpl Chevalier who was stripping the .50 caliber machine gun from Gun-1’s turret and lugging it with several cans of ammo to the roof of the palace along with another Marine carrying his MK 19 heavy machine gun. First Lieutenant Karl Blanke, the commander of the Weapons Platoon in Charley Company, took

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Tim Larkin, creator, Target-Focus Training

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control and spotted targets for the gunners.

Upon confirming that six casualties, including Gunny Bohr's body, were securely loaded, Captain Espinoza pulled power on DASH-TWO and lifted off the landing zone behind the palace, and along with Major Presto proceeded north out of the city. Jinking to avoid enemy ground fire, they skimmed over rooftops at 120 knots.

"From where I was sitting in the cockpit, I could see enemy soldiers below, some of them turning to shoot at us as we went flying by," said Espinoza.

En route to Surgical Team No. 7 at Sterling Court south of Baghdad, Espinoza's crew spotted an S-60 Anti-Aircraft Artillery position and a T-72 tank. The gunners engaged the targets as Espinoza maneuvered to avoid incoming fire. After dropping off the first casualties, Espinoza and Presto proceeded to Ebbet's Field for fuel and further tasking. Due to a long crew day, the Cobras departed the area of responsibility (AOR) for Three Rivers Airfield and some crew rest.

Guns, Guts and Guardian Angels

When Presto and Espinoza arrived back at RCT-5's command post, they were assigned another casevac mission at the palace. This time, Presto took the lead. Nearing the palace, Espinoza's co-pilot, Capt. Chris Graham, and Sgt. Oakenson reported the section was taking fire from six to eight Saddam Fedayeen along the east side of the Tigris River. All the way into the landing zone, Presto's aircraft took tracer rounds and rounds from RPGs. Navy Lieutenant Cary Cash, the battalion chaplain, saw an RPG round bounce off one of the external fuel tanks on Presto's aircraft.

"It apparently hit the stub wing near the rear of the aircraft where the main landing gear is located," said Presto. The self-sealing external fuel tanks can take hits from 12.7mm anti-aircraft weapons, but not RPGs.

"My guardian angel was definitely watching over me and my crew," said Presto. During one of my many trips from the garden where my platoon (CMP) was digging in on the west side of the palace that had been destroyed by a couple of 2,000 pound satellite-guided bombs the night before, and which was now the casualty evacuation area behind the building, I ran into Captain Basco in a conference room at the palace. After chatting for a few minutes, I took a picture of "Spaz" striking a "hero pose" on one of Saddam's chairs, and Basco headed out the front door of the palace to touch bases with Gunny Jenks. I headed out the back door to check in with my platoon commander, First Lieutenant Jeremy Stalneck. As

Basco and Jenks ran to the aid of a downed Marine, at least three RPG rounds flew over the wall of the palace.

One of the rocket propelled grenades impacted the landing zone in front Presto's helicopter, spraying Basco with shrapnel. "It looked like he tripped," said Jenks, but what he didn't know was that a piece of shrapnel hit Basco just above the top of his boot and severed some nerves in the F/A-18 Hornet driver's right leg.

Pulling up his pants leg, Basco saw a small spot of blood, but didn't think he was hit very bad. He stayed on his feet, however, and after few minutes his leg locked up.

"Spaz" was hit less than 15 minutes after we parted in the palace. By the time I worked my way to the casualty collection point, Basco was flat on his back on a stretcher being examined by a corpsman.

Send Water and Ammo

"I can't feel my foot," said Basco as he scribbled a note on a piece of cardboard. Before Espinoza took off, the note was handed to Oliver North's producer at the Fox News Channel who was aboard Espinoza's aircraft. The note read, "Need water and ammo ASAP."

As Major Presto left the palace with North, who along with his producer were embedded with the Red Dragons, Captain Basco advised the section leader that more casualties had just arrived at the palace for pickup. Ignoring heavy fire that was bouncing off the palace like hail, Espinoza broke off from Presto and returned to the hot LZ.

Although he was wounded, Basco continued to direct

medevac missions from his litter until he was loaded aboard Espinoza's aircraft, an act that earned him a Bronze Star with a V Device for valor. I offered to let Spaz use my satellite phone to call his wife back home in southern California and tell her he had been wounded, but before I could dial her number, Doc Burnette yelled, "We gotta go."

Major Presto hugged the Tigris as he sped out of town with a second load of casualties. Climbing to avoid a suspension bridge across the Tigris, his eagle-eyed gunners, DiMartino and the other door gunner, Corporal Amanda Hoenes, spotted two snipers on a rooftop along their flight path. Presto maneuvered his aircraft into a 30-degree angle of bank at 100 knots to better engage the threat. As the snipers rolled from the prone position to point their rifles at his aircraft, Presto ordered DiMartino to open fire. The flight continued to Sterling Court where the section joined on deck and dropped off another load of wounded Marines.

Captain Basco was medevaced to Kuwait where he underwent surgery, and was shipped back to California for more



Marine Captain Shawn "Spaz" Basco, forward air controller for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, striking a "hero pose" in one of Saddam Hussein's chairs at the Al Azimiyah Palace on the Tigris River a few minutes before he was wounded in the leg by a rocket-propelled grenade.

surgery. A year after the war, he climbed back into the cockpit and set his hair on fire at Mach 1.5 in his F/A-18 Hornet.

Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition

In the middle of the afternoon on 10 April, Major Presto's section received an urgent request from 1/5 ordnance to bring MK-19 and .50 caliber machine gun parts, ammo and water to the palace. I watched as my company commander, Pete Farnum, who had just been frocked as a major, humped cases of .50 and 40mm ammunition. Farnum, a former grunt, didn't hesitate to help. Other officers also helped unload badly needed supplies: Marine officers are mission-oriented, and egalitarian under fire.

Loudspeakers from a mosque near the palace blared with a pre-recorded message. The battalion's interpreter told me it wasn't a call to prayer. "It's a call to battle," he said, "better take cover behind that big palm tree. Those crazies are gonna try to crash the gate," the interpreter said. They never got the chance. An Army SF team slipped out of the palace and lazed their position across the street. A couple of 2,000 pound laser-guided bombs from 3MAW ended their party before it got started.

By the time Presto and Espinoza were ready to depart the LZ with another load of casualties, the weather had degraded and they departed the area on night vision goggles.

The next casevac (the 4th mission) was 3 miles northeast of the palace. Five Marines from 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment had been wounded by a suicide bomber. The LZ was under a layer of smoke and backlit from a fire that degraded Night Vision Devices. Captain Espinoza took up an over-watch position while Major Presto picked up the wounded Marines. As they departed the city, they had to avoid a cone of AAA fire originating from Saddam City, a slum on the east side of Baghdad.

While on deck at Sterling Court, the encrypted radio suite in Major Presto's aircraft started acting up. He asked Captain Espinoza to monitor and maintain communications with the Direct Air Support Center. Espinoza was informed that 1/5 needed a gas tank for one of its tracks that had been hit.

Going It Alone

En route to the palace at 10:00 p.m. for their final casevac of the day, the Direct Air Support Center advised the Sea Knights that they had fixed-wing escorts available. Captain Espinoza made contact with a section of F/A-18s on station and coordinated clearance to the palace. But as they proceeded toward the LZ, the Hornets called "Bingo," a term pilots use to describe a low fuel state, and



Major Pete Farnum, commanding officer of Weapons Co. 1/5, helps hump ammo delivered to the Al Azimiyah Palace by the "Red Dragons" on their way in to pick up more Marine wounded.

side the front gates of the palace. One of the Marines was so shook up, he threatened to kill himself. But I assured him Navy corpsmen said the little girl, who was about the age of his daughter, would survive her wounds. He calmed down after he talked to Chaplain Cash before midnight.

Lots of Pedal Time

From the time they launched their first casevac mission until they shut down the engines on their Sea Knights, Major Presto and Captain Espinoza had flown more than 11 combat hours, of which four were under low-light-level conditions. The section's Aviation Survivability Equipment gave indications of missiles being fired at the aircraft – so many, Presto and Espinoza had expended almost all of their aircraft's chaff and flares. Their door gunners fired more than 250 rounds of .50 ammunition and had evacuated 35 casualties.

Corporal Hoenes is credited with taking out an enemy sniper who fired at every medevac mission, from a concealed position across the Tigris. Hoenes saw a laser designate the target from the palace and destroyed the position with a burst of fire from her .50.

For their bravery, superior airmanship and tactical leadership under constant hostile fire in challenging atmospheric conditions, and for saving the lives of fellow Marines in the Fifth Regimental Combat Team and the lives of Iraqi civilians, Major Donald Presto and Captain Armando Espinoza were awarded Distinguished Flying Crosses with Combat Distinguishing Devices. Their crewmembers received Air Medals.

The motto of the casevac crews in the First Marine Expeditionary Force is, "We Get You Home," and in the case of 1st

Battalion, 5th Marines, they lived up to that motto. None of the Marines who were wounded in the final assault on Baghdad died. They all reached a forward-based trauma platoon and were saved.

As Colonel Greg Goodman pinned the bronze cross hanging from a red-white-and blue striped ribbon onto the pocket flap of Espinoza's camouflage blouse at Camp Pendleton on 28 February 2004, Goodman called Espinoza "one of Amer-



Left to Right: Sgt. Peter DiMartino, Captain Dave Roen, HMC Thomas J. Barry, Cpl. Amanda Hoenes, Major Donald J. Presto. (inset) Major Donald J. Presto after receiving Distinguished Flying Cross at Marine Base Quantico, Virginia. Photos: USMC

Continued on page 81

Insurgents, Meet “Big

Story and Photos by Cpl. Mike Escobar

“One Shot, One Kill” Way of Life for Alabama Marine’s Team

SAQLAWIYAH, Iraq (May 16, 2005) — “To patiently suffer, and suffer patiently.” That’s what Sgt. Willis Davis thinks is the formula for success in his line of work.

While many Americans who spend a nine-to-five workday stuck inside an office cubicle may feel the same about their job, Davis’ reason is perhaps more extreme. He spends days at a time in one spot, barely moving a muscle.

The 31-year-old Lake Guntersville, Ala., native, is a scout sniper team leader with the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based infantry unit, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. As a member of the battalion’s Surveillance, Target and Acquisition (STA) platoon, Davis and fellow snipers serve as the eyes and ears of the battalion.

“Everything we do is on our belly,” stated the 1991 Guntersville High School graduate. “We insert into a position as covertly as possible, and stay there to observe what’s going on. You don’t stand up, so sometimes it gets pretty rough. We’ll be going for two, three, four days at a time in the baking sun in 113 degree weather.”

Once set up in their positions, Davis and his teammates scan the area searching for insurgent activity.

“We look for patterns,” he explained. “All people create patterns. We’re here to detect it.”

Insurgents in Iraq routinely observe coalition forces’ techniques, tactics and procedures in an attempt to circumvent their efforts. It is this threat that the snipers counter.

“We’re also looking for guys placing IEDs (improvised explosive devices),” Davis said.

From concealed positions, the scouts look for people dig-

ging holes or placing suspicious objects alongside the road.

“We’re on to their (insurgents’) game,” Davis stated. “They know they don’t have time to dig them in, so a lot of them are surface-laid. One of our teams has already caught an IED planter.”

To maintain their concealment as they perform these surveillance missions, Davis and his teammates wear something he calls “the one thing a scout sniper takes pride in,” a gilly suit.

These suits are full-body outfits made of materials such as tree leaves, burlap sacks and twigs, designed by each sniper to blend into his surroundings as much as possible. Davis said his snipers often wear their gillys despite performing missions in a primarily urban environment.

“Each individual makes his own gilly suit,” he continued. “That helps you understand the beauty of depth perception and concealment, and that sometimes, you don’t need to seek cover from fire because concealment is just as effective.”

Although these suits help them perform these tasks unnoticed, Davis said it makes working in Iraq’s heat uncomfortable.

“If it’s 113 outside, it gets to be 145-150 inside a gilly suit.”

In addition to concealment, the scouts also come armed with two weapons: extraordinary situational awareness, and their 7.62 caliber scope-equipped M40A3 sniper rifle.

“This weapon has a max effective range of 1000 yards on a point target,” Davis explained. “It’s a pretty nasty little deal.”



Brother”

He further said that he and his teammates could snipe a sprinting insurgent from hundreds of yards away.

“We can shoot movers at a full sprint from about 800 yards away through a system developed by some Marines in our platoon, both former scout sniper school instructors. Two of them came up with this formula that’s just ‘dead on the money’.”

Despite their marksmanship proficiency, Davis said his platoon always keep the basics in mind.

“A good thing to do is to take that ‘center mass’ shot, like the Marine Corps trains you to do. It gives you a little bit of variance.”

In recruit training, instructors teach every trainee to aim for the center of a target. This way, the round still strikes even if inches away from the original point of aim. The snipers continue to apply their fundamental skills in the performance of their missions.

However, the scout sniper team members are more than just deadly shooters.

“Lots of people think, ‘damn, those guys are good shooters,’ but we’re damn good scouts, too,” Davis stated. “We provide a lot of information when we’re out on the field, letting the companies know where the good cover and conceal-

Continued on page 40

(left) Sergeant Willis Davis talks on the radio shortly after observing possible suspicious activity from his rooftop position.

(top) Corporal Joseph R. Piner crouches atop a rooftop and scans the horizons for insurgent activity.

(middle) Sergeant Davis, left, and Cpl. Piner observe the terrain from a rooftop.

(bottom) Sergeant Davis looks through his rifle’s scope as he scans for insurgent activity.



NRA INSTRUCTORS TRAIN 101st

By Philip Lorenz III

Photos by Maj. Claude Morse, USAF (Ret.)

Army's new Life Cycle Units Train at Arnold AFB

Capt. Phil Chockley, USMC (Ret.), a U.S. Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) employee, and Clyde "Rusty" Nail, president of the Tennessee Shooting Sports Association, both Vietnam combat veterans and accomplished long-distance marksmen, helped train some of the more than 250 members of the 101st Airborne Division's 4th Brigade Troop Battalion at Arnold Air

Force Base's shooting ranges last June.

The brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. Kevin Johnson, is a new unit just formed last August and will be the first of the new Army life cycle units to deploy to Iraq this fall. Life cycle units comprise a new organizational concept, wherein personnel are assigned to the unit for longer periods of service, to enhance unit cohesion and efficiency. During the Vietnam

Clyde "Rusty" Nail helps GI adjust sight for the 300-yard range.



AIRBORNE

era a unit, for instance the 1st Infantry Division, would typically be assigned to the theater for a number of years, and personnel would rotate through it on a 12-month duty cycle. In life cycle units, however, personnel stay assigned to the unit, and the whole unit rotates from one duty station to another. This has been a common practice in other military organizations, such as the British Army, for some time.

During their week at Arnold, the 101st Airborne troopers had the opportunity for day and night-fire training, using virtually all the new generation of "red-dot" sights available. Troops represented all specialties, including intelligence, engineers, military police and others, as all troops retain a secondary MOS of infantryman – and an infantryman's tool is his primary weapon. The whole gamut of infantry weapons were represented in the training, from the M9 pistol through the M4/M16 carbine and rifle, the M249 SAW, the M203 grenade launcher, and the venerable Ma Deuce. How are the troops taking to the new sights? One SAW gunner turned in a perfect score on the popup range, with an M249 fitted with a ELCAN sight. Chockley and Nail began their instruction by teaching how to properly zero the individual weapon.

Rusty and Phil concentrated on basic, remedial and advanced instruction in the basic individual weapons – the M9, M4 and M16 – and with classes of about a dozen troops at a time on line, were able to give the individual coach-

(top) Phil Chockley and "Rusty" Nail helped train members of the 101st Airborne Division at the base's shooting ranges at Arnold AFB.

(middle) A Fort Campbell soldier shoots a burst from a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

(bottom) AEDC Commander Brig. Gen. David L. Stringer greets members of the 101st Airborne Division's 4th Brigade Troop Battalion while they trained at Arnold AFB.



While Nail and Chockley coached GI's on small arms, Army instructors polished the troops' skill with crew-served weapons such as the venerable Ma Deuce.



A soldier takes aim with a grenade launcher during the recent training at Arnold Air Force Base. Marker rounds were used.

ing to teach skills that will stick with the soldier – this was not your Daddy's “fire 20 rounds for familiarization” sort of training. Many thousands of rounds were fired, with each one supposed to hit its mark: There were no “spray and pray” exercises. Concurrently, Army instructors ran courses on the SAW and Ma Deuce. Plastic bullets were used in the .50 Brownings, as although Arnold has some 40,000 acres, firing .50 rounds could get complicated on an installation that has as much going on as does Arnold AFB, and the M203 gunners used marker rounds.

Before the soldiers departed, AEDC Commander Brig. Gen. David L. Stringer came out to the shooting range to meet with them in a show of support and encouragement. As future such units cycle through Arnold, local businessmen hope to be able to treat them to a barbecue.

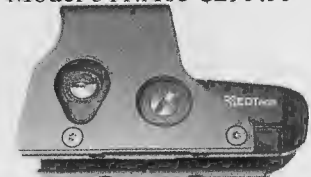
Lt. Col. Johnson expressed his delight at being able to access the combat experience of Chockley and Nail, as well as their expertise in long-range precision shooting. The two civilian NRA instructors are “ready to roll at any request” for help in training the troops how to shoot effectively – even in-theater. ✕

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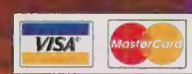
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Images: U.S. Army

By Dr. Martin Brass

AMERICA AT WAR

1. CHINA LONG RANGE MISSILE, jet and warship build up accelerates into arms race: DF-31 road-mobile intercontinental missile and JL-2 submarine-launched ballistic missile launches planned. GENERAL threatens to nuke the U.S. in confrontation over Taiwan.

2. THAILAND COPS LICENSED to Kill Terrorists. Five beheadings terrorize the locals. *Fyeoexpress*

3. AUSTRALIA 150 SAS SpecOps to be deployed to Afghanistan.


4. CANADA JOINT TASK FORCE 2 troops are deployed to Afghanistan. ELEVEN FERRET Sniper-Detection systems are sent to Afghanistan for Canadian troops.


5. UNITED STATES AMERICAN HIROSHIMA planned by Al-Qaida, planning to launch nuclear attacks against nine U.S. cities with highest Jewish populations, according to *Farah's G2 Bulletin*: Attacks designed to kill 4 million. Two nuclear weapons believed to be hidden in United States. TERROR THREATS against California National Guard facilities and Israeli Consulate found during search of gas station robberies suspect. AP SAUDI PRINCE Alwleed bin Talal, co-owner of ART TV network that sponsors anti-American channel IQRA, gives millions to U.S. groups, including \$5 million to the Carter Center and \$6 million to American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee. IQRA broadcast lecture that encourages Muslims to prevail over west by "slitting throats and shattering skulls." *NY Sun*. AIDS threatens Muslim world, according to National Bureau of Asian Research: Premarital sex, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality and intravenous drug use threatens spread of AIDS in Albania, Turkey, North Africa, South Asia, and the Persian Gulf.


6. MEXICO ZETA TERROR - former members of military battalions trained by the United States turn Nuevo Laredo into terrorized city of anarchy.


7. VENEZUELA DICTATOR CHAVEZ is training two million "to help repel U.S. invasion." Government warns Colombia not to infiltrate borders with troops, attempting to find FARC rebels in Venezuela.

8. COLOMBIA HOMICIDES and KIDNAPPINGS down, in army crackdown during last two years.


 **9. UNITED KINGDOM** **BOMBERS** who killed 50 in mass transport London bombings may be members of a new generation of U.K.-born Muslim extremist minority. **RADICAL IMAMS**, mosques and web sites preach jihad and recruit Islamic youth. **"WHITE MERCENARY TERRORIST"** criminal gangs recruited by al-Qaeda are questioned.


 **10. NETHERLANDS** **ASSASSIN** of Theo van Gogh who acted "in the name of religion," tells court he would do "exactly the same" for his religious convictions. Mohammed Bouyeri gets life sentence, as there is no death penalty in the European Union.


 **11. SPAIN** **PRISONS** become breeding ground for terrorists, many of which will be released for lack of formal charges. Suspects tell Spanish investigators they joined jihad out of anger at long-term detentions and police crackdowns. *WSJ*

 **12. ITALY** **MASSIVE ANTITERRORIST SWEEP** results in arrest of 200 suspected terrorists. **THIRTEEN** CIA agents ordered to be arrested for abduction of an imam in 2003, and sending him to Egypt to be tortured. *AP*


 **13. RUSSIA** **TERROR RAGES** in Chechnya civil war. Series of bombs rocks the province, civilians and rail transportation targeted.

 **14. SYRIA** **REGIME CHANGE** sought by United States: Syrian dissidents are being supported by U.S., according to *Geostrategy*.

 **15a. LEBANON** **HIZBOLLAH** strengthens, in power vacuum left by Syrian troop withdrawal. Israel prepares for attacks by Hizbollah cells.


 **15b. ISRAEL** **PRIME MINISTER** Ariel Sharon could be targeted by Jewish extremist assassins opposed to pullout from Gaza and the West Bank. *AP*


 **16. IRAQ** **FOREIGN MERCS** make up one fourth of apprehended terrorist fighters. Jordanian Abu Musab Zarqawi recruits from Chechnya, North Africa, and Asia.


 **17. AFGHANISTAN** **FIGHTING ACCELERATES:** U.S. troops take some of their largest casualties in firefights with Taliban.

 **18. PAKISTAN** **OUTLAWED JIHADIST** camps are training militants.

 **19. NIGERIA** **CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED:** ISLAMIC radicals have killed more than 10,000 Christians since 1999.

 **20. UGANDA** **HIGH-TECH** immigration system developed to monitor the borders for terrorist crossings. U.S. funds Terrorist-Interdiction Program for Kenya-Uganda border to, collect and analyze data of passport holders. *AFP*

 **21. ZIMBABWE** **MERCS** involved in Equatorial Guinea coup freed, after 12 months in the "hell hole" Chikurubi prison, plagued with infestations, disease and starvation.

 **22. SRI LANKA** **SUICIDE BOMBERS** train Nepalese Maoists in terrorist tactics, in camp on border of India. **HINDU** LTTE launch suicide attacks.



The Making of an Afghan Army

Text and Photos by Richard Lucas

International Effort Forges Afghanistan's New Sword at the Kabul Military Training Center



The primary goal of the International Security and Assistance Force, apart from maintaining security in Afghanistan, is the creation of an Afghan army, police and security units. The formation and training of the fledgling ANA (Afghan National Army) is a co-ordinated effort assigned to the French, British, and American contingents. The French are in charge of the CGSC (Command and General Staff College) where an officer corps is being built. The British are in charge of training non-commissioned officers. American forces supervise the training of enlisted soldiers. All are based at the KMTC (Kabul Military Training Center).

Six other nations, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Canada and Korea provide specific technical assistance.

At the CGSC, where officer candidates receive instruction in administration, personnel management, strategy and tactics, logistics and military procedures, I visited various classrooms and spoke with Lieutenant Colonel Natchez (1^o REG, French Foreign Legion). "Here at the college the officer candidates receive three months of training. Those who succeed are assigned to one of the

Brigades under NATO supervision to begin field training and gradually take over command. The candidates are selected by competitive exams and interviews carried out by French and Afghan officers. Most of them have had some military experience, either in the army or in the resistance movement. Others have been teachers, journalists, or businessmen who were willing to work and showed us that they had the capabilities of becoming good officers. So far, we've graduated about a hundred and fifty officers. Recently we've enlarged the program and hope to have sixty graduates ready for assignment at the end of each session."

During my visit I ran across Colonel Laurent Baker, USMC, one of the officers in charge of coordinating the program. "This is not an easy task. We're in the midst of building a viable army, more or less from scratch. The fact that the job has been divided between us and the French and the Brits really doesn't pose any particular problem. Our three countries have been working together for quite a number of years and, although training procedures may differ we're all familiar with NATO guidelines and we

Continued on page 48

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ment points are, and locations where they might want to move Marines to. We paint the battlefield for the commander."

Additionally, snipers serve as forward observers. These Marines are trained to call in indirect fire, such as artillery and mortar fire, upon insurgents' positions.

"If an indirect fire asset is there for us, we can destroy the enemy or delay them until the grunts (infantrymen) get in there and finish the job," Davis said.

Although highly trained and members of a close-knit elite unit, Davis and his teammates remain humble.

"There's nothing 'high speed' about our job," he said. "I'm not gonna say we're the best Marines in the battalion; we're just experts at what we do."

Through these difficult missions, Davis said the STA Marines stay motivated, finding comfort in each others' friendship.

"We've got a lot of respect for each other, because we all know the pain and suffering we go through. There's a lot of heart in this platoon, and that's what it takes to make it out here; intestinal fortitude." ❧

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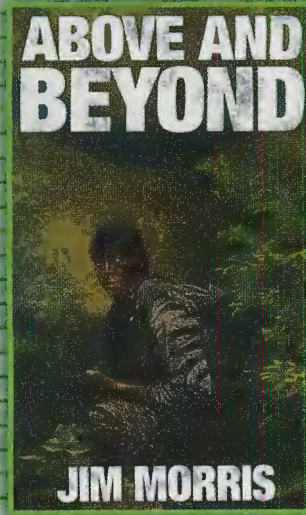
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OPERATION DRAGON ROUGE by A. Michael Leahy. On Nov. 24, 1964, U.S. C-130 crews plunged into the Congo blood bath to rescue Europeans and Americans held hostage by Marxist-led rebel Simbas.

COLD WAR CLASHES

1945 - 1991

By Richard K. Kolb

Part Two of Two

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.

"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

Jungle Curtain

SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

- 1960** **Jun-Jul Congo.** Independence from Belgium prompts Communist-led rebellion. U.S. Army helicopter crews receive heavy fire from Congolese rebels during rescues.
- Aug 27 Congo.** Stanleyville. Congolese rebels attack a C-124 crew of the 20th ATS: 4 WIA. **Operation New Tape** airlifts U.N. troops in the wake of a failed Communist coup. Missions continue until September 1962.
- Sudan.** Khartoum. U-2 (WRSP-2) crashes.
- 1964-65** **Congo.** U.S. Joint Task Force Leo (126 Americans) assists the government in the face of a Chinese Communist-backed revolt. On Sept. 7, 1964, the Congolese rebel leader declares war on the U.S. Some Leo airmen fly combat support missions. U.S. Air Force RC-97s fly recon missions under **Operation Running Bear**.
- 1964** **Nov 23-27 Congo.** **Operations Dragon Rouge/ Dragon Noir.** 12 C-130s from the 322nd Air Division (based in France) & the 464th TCW help rescue Europeans and Americans threatened by Marxist-led Simba rebels. GIs from the 504th IR, 82nd AD & 23rd IR, 2nd ID, provide security on the ground.
- 1967** **Jul-Aug Congo.** **Operation Bonny Birch.** 3 C-130 crews of the 464th TCW airlift Congolese troops during a rebellion. 150 men of a special U.S. task force also participate.

- 1970** Jan 11 *Ethiopia*. Asmara. 1 GI is killed by Eritrean terrorists. U.S. maintains a communications station at Kagnew to monitor Soviet ICBMs.
- 1975** Fall *Angola. Operation Feature*. CIA launches to counter Soviet-Cuban intervention in southwest Africa. CIA personnel and an Army mobile training team reportedly operate inside Angola. 7 U.S. volunteers participate in fighting: 1 KIA, 3 POW (1 executed).
- 1978** May 16-Jun 18 *Congo*. Cuban- and Soviet-supported guerrillas from Angola invade Saba (formerly Katanga) Province, killing 200 foreigners. Elements of numerous U.S. Air Force airlift units help transport supplies and equipment as part of the French-Belgian rescue of 3,080 foreigners.
- 1984** Apr 15 *Namibia*. Oshakati. 1 U.S. Army attaché and a U.S. diplomat are killed by a Soviet-made mine planted by Marxist guerrillas.
- 1989** Nov 27 *Angola*. Jamba. CIA plane crashes, possibly killing 4 Americans. CIA was supporting anti-Communists.

Bamboo Curtain

ASIA

Chinese Civil War (1945-1949)

- 1945** Aug 25 *China*. First American KIA of the Cold War. Army Air Forces Capt. John Birch, then an OSS operative, is killed by Communists near Hsuechow.
- Sep 2-16 *China*. Soviet fighters fire on U.S. 7th Fleet air patrols in Manchurian airspace.
- Oct *China*. III Marine Amphibious Corps peaks at 45,000 men. Part of U.S. effort to disarm Japanese.
- Oct 6 *China*. Tientsin. 3 men of the 1st Marines WIA in an attack by 50 Communists.
- Oct 18 *China*. Langfang-Peiping. Marines kill 6 Communists in a train-related firefight.
- Oct 22 *China*. Hulutao. U.S. Navy barge is hit by Chinese Communist rifle fire. USS *Seize* is raked by 35 min. of machine gun fire. *Seize* returns .50-cal. machine gun and 40mm cannon fire
- Dec 4 *China*. Anshan. 1 man of the 29th Marines is KIA. In reprisal, Marines lob 24 60mm mortar rounds into the village concealing the Communists.
- Dec 8 *China*. Shantung. 10 Marine aviators die when 6 dive bombers crash in a snowstorm.
- 1946** Apr 7 *China*. Lutai. Marine hunting party attacked by Communists. U.S.: 1 KIA.
- May 21 *China*. Tientsin. 1 Marine of recon party KIA when attacked by 75 Communists.
- Jul 29 *China. Battle of Anping*. 300 Communists attack Marine motor convoy. 4-hr. firefight ensues. U.S.: 4 KIA, 11 WIA. Chinese: 12 KIA.
- 1947** Apr 4-5 *China. Battle of Hsin Ho*. Tangku. At the ammo supply point, 350 Communists hit the 5th Marines in the "most punishing attack" of the North China operation. Marines: 5 KIA, 16 WIA. Chinese: 6 KIA, 25 WIA.
- Jun 19 *China*. Tsingtao. Pile Point. USS *Deliver* comes under Communist fire. Destroyers *Benner* and *Hawkins* provide covering fire for a landing force.



DMZ DUTY: Infantrymen of the famed ("Indianhead") 2nd Infantry Division at OP Dort on the lookout for North Korean infiltrators in 1967. From 1966-69, 44 U.S. soldiers were killed in and near the DMZ by North Koreans in what was referred to as the "Second Korean War."

- Sep 10 *China*. Goose Point. U.S. Navy rescue party, attempting to recover a downed Marine pilot, is fired upon. Chinese: 3 WIA.
- Dec 25 *China*. Tayu. Chinese Communists capture 5 Marines, kill 1 from the hunting party.
- Dec 29 *China*. Marine plane crashes; 4-man crew is captured (released July 1948).
- 1948** Jan 31 *China*. Tskankou Airfield. Last Marine firefight. Patrol pinned down by Communists. No casualties.
- Oct 19 *China*. Tsingtao. Navy plane crashes: 2 aviators held POW for 19 months.
- 1949** Apr 20 *China*. Hospital ship USS *Repose* corpsmen and stretcher bearers from the 3rd Marines assist wounded crew of the British ship *Amethyst* when it is attacked on the Yangtze River by Communists.
- May 26 *China*. C Co., 7th Marines—the last U.S. unit—departs China aboard the light cruiser USS *Manchester*. **Total U.S. casualties in North China:** 12 KIA, 42 WIA in 26 armed encounters. Communists (confirmed): 33 KIA, 30 WIA. 22 Marines died in aircraft crashes.
-
- 1945** Aug 29 *Korea*. Hamhung. 100 mi. north of 38th parallel. Soviet Yaks force down a U.S. B-29 dropping supplies to a POW camp. Crew survives. First postwar Soviet attack on U.S. aircraft. Moscow claims mistaken identity.
- Sep 9-10 *Korea*. Inchon. U.S. XXIV Corps (6th, 7th & 40th divisions) lands for occupation duty. U.S. troops peak at 72,360. Soviet 25th Army occupies North Korea.
- Oct. 15 *Yellow Sea*. Off Manchuria, Port Arthur. Soviets fire on U.S. Navy PBM *Mariner*—first such

attack on a U.S. recon aircraft.

1946 Aug 12 Korea. Yohyon-Ni. 3 GIs (32nd IR) are captured by Soviets and held for 13 days.

Sep 30 Philippines. Manila. Ft. McKinley. 19 U.S. MPs engage 35-40 Huks (Filipino Communists) in a 45-min. firefight. U.S.: 1 KIA, 1 WIA.

1948 Jul 19 Korea. Kaesong. 1 GI of E Co., 32nd IR, 7th ID, is KIA in an ambush near outpost on Ongjin Peninsula.

Sep 15 Korea. Napan. 36 GIs of the 7th ID are killed in a train wreck. Sabotage is ruled out.

Oct 20-21 Korea. Sunchon. NKs besiege Presbyterian Mission occupied by 2 U.S. advisors and 6 civilians.

1949 Feb 19 Korea. Kaesong. NKs shoot down U.S. observation plane: pilot WIA.

Apr 29 Tibet. 1 CIA agent is killed by Chinese.

Jun 30 Korea. Last U.S. unit—5th Regimental Combat Team—departs, leaving behind only a 472-man Korean Military Advisory Group (K MAG).

1950-1953 Korea. Manchurian Border. **MiG Alley.** America wages a secret air war with Soviet pilots. Soviets: 300 KIA. U.S.: 100s of airmen KIA.

1950 Early '50 Philippines. Luzon. 3 GIs of HQ Co., 29th Engineer Topographical Bn. and 1 U.S. civilian are killed by Communist Huks while surveying.

Dec 12 Korea. Yalu River. Soviets shoot down an RB-45C (91st SRS): 4 KIA.

1951 Nov 6 Sea of Japan. Off Siberia. Soviet fighters shoot down a P2V (VP-6): 10 KIA.

1952 Jun 13 Sea of Japan. Soviets shoot down an RB-29 (91st SRS): 12 KIA.

Oct 7 Pacific. Kurile Islands. Soviet fighters shoot down an RB-29 (91st SRS): 8 KIA.

Nov 29 China. Manchuria. Chinese shoot down a CIA plane: 2 KIA + 2 POW.

1953 Jan 18 Formosa Strait. Off Swatow. Chinese shore batteries shoot down a P2V (VP-22): 6 KIA. 4 Coast Guardsmen die in a flying-boat crash while searching for the P2V.

Jul 29 Sea of Japan. Soviet fighters shoot down an RB-50 (343rd SRS): 16 KIA.

Aug 17 Korea. DMZ. NKs shoot down U.S. T-6 aircraft.

1954 Jan 15 Korea. Inchon Harbor. An LCM and LST collide, killing 27 Marines of 3rd Bn., 4th Regt. and 2 corpsmen.

Sep 3 Formosa. Quemoy Island. Communist shelling kills 2 U.S. MAAG officers.

Sep 4 Sea of Japan. Soviets shoot down a P2V-5 (VP-19): 1 KIA.

Nov 7 Sea of Japan. Soviets shoot down an RB-29 (4th SRS): 1 KIA.

1955 Jan 19 Korea DMZ. NKs shoot at and hit an Army L-20 "Beaver": 2 KIA.

Feb 5 Yellow Sea. Off Korea. RB-45 (6021st RS, 91st SRW) is attacked. Dogfight ensues between 12 Chinese MiG-15s and 8 escorting U.S. F-86s (4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing): 2 MiGs shot down.

Aug 18 Korea DMZ. NKs shoot down a U.S. T-6 trainer (6148th TCS): 1 KIA.

1956 Aug 22 China Coast. Off Wenchow. Chinese shoot down a P4M (VQ-1): 16 KIA.

Sep 10 Sea of Japan. During a recon mission, an RB-50 (6091st RS) is lost: 16 killed. Possibly attacked by Soviet fighters. Other accounts attribute loss to weather.

1957 Aug 19 Siberia. Off Vladivostok. USS Gudgeon is depth-charged for 48 hrs. by 8 Russian destroyers.

1958 Mar 6 Korea DMZ. NKs shoot down a U.S. F-86 jet. Pilot bails out and is returned.

Oct 1 Taiwan. Matsu Island. 4 U.S. servicemen aboard the flying boat "Blue Goose" vanish.

1958-1962 Formosa Strait. A U.S. 4-ship destroyer division (based at Kaohsiung) patrols off China's coast.

1959 Sep 24 Japan. Fusigama. U-2A (WRSP-3) crashes.

Oct 1 Taiwan Strait. 4 U.S. personnel disappear in the "Blue Goose" (PBY Catalina flying boat) incident

1961 Apr 20 Korea DMZ. 1 officer of the 6146th Air Force Advisory Group is KIA when his plane is attacked by NKs and crashes near Seoul.

1962 May-Aug Thailand. 5,000 U.S. troops are deployed to counter Laotian Communist troops at border.

Oct 3 Korea DMZ. Hyang Yang. First GI is KIA on DMZ since the end of the Korean War. A soldier of B Bty., 6th Bn., 15th FA, 7th ID, is shot while on guard duty.

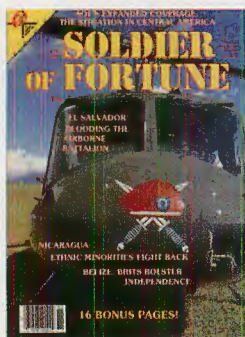
Nov 23 Korea DMZ. Outpost Susan. 1 GI of A Trp., 1st Recon Sqdrn., 9th Cav, 1st CD is KIA.

1963 May 17 Korea DMZ. 8th Army OH-23 helicopter is shot down by NKs: 2 pilots held POW for 1 yr.

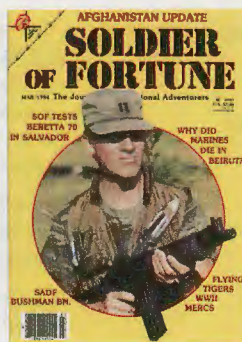
Jul 29 Korea DMZ. 2 men of 1st CD & 1 of 7th ID are KIA in NK ambushes.

Aug 4 Korea DMZ. 13 men of 1st Recon Sqdrn., 9th Cav, 1st CD, engage in 2-hr. firefight with NKs.

Aug 4 Korea. U.S. Army light plane crashes in South: 6 soldiers die in accident.

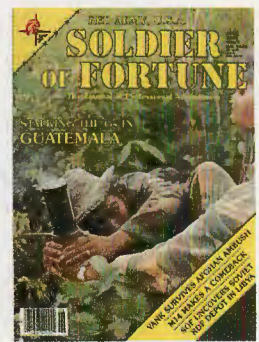


◀ **NOVEMBER 1984:** Although they were often not covered in the mainstream media, SOF spent so much time covering the hotspots in Central America, some Salvadoran units adopted the SOF logo.



◀ **MARCH 1984:** Smoldering facets of a larger picture, the brush-fire wars from Salvador to Lebanon to Afghanistan were never out of the headlines during the Cold War.

▶ **JUNE 1986:** One site for surrogate wars was Guatemala — another Soviet-fueled insurgency that largely died out the end of the Cold War.





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Cold War: U.S. Hostile Deaths

American military and CIA personnel killed as a result of enemy action: Listed by adversary.

Enemy	U.S. Killed
Soviets	116
North Koreans	94
Communist Terrorists/Guerrillas	102
Chinese	40
Yugoslavs	7
Total U.S. KIA:	359

NOTE: These figures do not include the thousands of GIs killed by the Chinese in the Korean War (1950-53) or the hundreds of airmen killed by the Soviets in aerial duels during the war.



Fall North Pacific. USS Swordfish is depth-charged by Soviet destroyers for 2 days.

1965 **Sep 24 Japan.** Kami Seya. 12 men of the Naval Security Group perish in a fire.

1966 **Nov 2 Korea DMZ.** "Second Korean War." 6 GIs of the 1st Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID, are KIA in a NK ambush, initiating 3 yrs. of skirmishing in the DMZ.

1967 **Jul 16 Korea DMZ.** Ambush: 3 KIA of 2nd ID.

Aug 10 Korea DMZ. Ambush: 3 KIA, 16 WIA of 7th ID.

Aug 29 Korea DMZ. Mines: 3 KIA of 2nd ID.

1968 **Jan 23 Korea.** 82-man crew of the spy ship Pueblo is captured off the North and held as POW for 11 months. 1 sailor was KIA in the ship's seizure.

Mar Pacific. USS Halibut locates a sunken Soviet sub.

Apr 2 Korea DMZ. Hostile fire pay is authorized for GIs serving north of the Imjin River. By this time, 31 Americans had already been KIA & 71 WIA.

Jun 6 Pacific. S. of Philippines. A-12 (9th SRW) crashes.

1969 **Mar 15 Korea DMZ.** 4-hr. fire: 1 GI of the 2nd ID is KIA. The helicopter evacuating the casualties crashes, killing the 2 WIA and 5 crewmen.

Apr 15 Sea of Japan. Off North Korea, Chongjin. **Worst Single KIA Loss of the Cold War.** NK MiG-15s shoot down a Navy EC-121 (VQ-1): 31 KIA.

Aug 17 Korea DMZ. NKs shoot down U.S. helicopter of 59th Avn. Co.: 3 WIA and held POW for 108 days.

Oct 18 Korea DMZ. Ambush: 4 GIs of 7th ID are KIA. "Second Korean War": Total U.S. casualties (1966-69): 44 KIA, 111 WIA in DMZ on the ground. 211 non-hostile deaths occur in accidents, etc.

1970 **Apr 2 Philippines.** Clark Air Base. 2 U.S. airmen are executed by Communist NPLA.

Jun 24 Siberia. USS Tautog collides with a Soviet sub 50 miles off Kamchatka Peninsula.

1974 **Apr 13 Philippines.** Subic Bay. 3 U.S. Navy officers are killed by NPLA.

Nov 20 Korea DMZ. 1 U.S. Navy officer killed by a booby-trap in a tunnel.

1976 **Aug 18 Korea DMZ.** 2 U.S. Army officers are murdered in the "tree-trimming" incident.

1977 **Jul 14 Korea DMZ.** NKs shoot down a helicopter of the 17th Aviation Grp.: 3 KIA.

1979 **Dec 6 Korea DMZ.** 1 GI (2nd ID) is KIA in a minefield.

1987 **Oct 28 Philippines.** Angeles City. 3 U.S. airmen are KIA by NPLA.

1989 **Apr 21 Philippines.** Quezon City. 1 U.S. Army officer is KIA by NPLA.

1990 **May 4 Philippines.** Olongapo. Subic Bay. 1 Marine is KIA by NPLA.

May 13 Philippines. Clark AB. 2 U.S. airmen are KIA by NPLA.

1991 **Oct 4 Korea DMZ.** Guard Post Collier. Last GIs—3rd Plt., Co. A, 1st Bn., 503rd IR, 2nd ID—are withdrawn from the 1-mile U.S. sector of the DMZ.

1994 **Dec 17 Korea DMZ.** **Last U.S. KIA of the Cold War in Asia:** Army helicopter pilot David Hilemon of Co. A, 4th Bn., 501st Avn. Regt., is shot down by NKs.

Ice Curtain

ARCTIC BORDERLANDS

1942-45 **Siberia.** WWII. Soviet anti-aircraft downs U.S. planes; others crash-land on the Kamchatka Peninsula attempting to find sanctuary. 291 American aviators are held as POWs in a Soviet prison camp at Vrevskaya, Uzbekistan. Some Americans are KIA in crashes; others die in camp.

1945 **Sep 4 Kurile Islands.** North Pacific. 15 Soviet fighters trail 2 U.S. B-24s of the 404th BS, 28th BG, 11th AF, that are on a photo recon mission.

1946 **Jun Alaska.** Fairbanks. Ladd AFB. SAC's 46th Recon Sqdrn. (later 72nd) begins flying recon missions along the Soviet Arctic rim.

1947 **Feb 24 Bering Sea.** B-29 of the 28th BS disappears: 12 crewmen die.

1949 **Aug 24 Greenland Sea.** Off Norway. USS Cochino sinks after a battery explosion: 1 man dies. USS Tusk, while offering aid, loses 6 men. Cochino was on a recon mission.

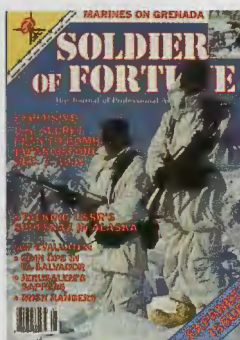
1952 **Oct 15 Siberia.** Alaska. Fairbanks. Eielson AFB. SAC launches Project 52 AFR-18. 2 modified B-47B bombers overfly the Chukotskiy Peninsula, taking photos of Soviet staging bases.

1953 **May 15 Siberia.** Off Kamchatka Peninsula. Soviet MiG-15 opens fire on a SAC WB-29 recon plane. U.S. gunners return fire. No casualties.

1955 **Apr 18 Siberia.** Off Kamchatka. 2 Soviet MiGs shoot down an RB-47E of the 4th SRS, 26th RW (based at Eielson AFB): 3 KIA.

Jun 22 Alaska. Bering Strait. 2 MiG-15s shoot down a P-2V Neptune (VP-9): 3 WIA. 4 men are burned when it crash-lands on St. Lawrence Island.

Continued on page 47



◀ **JANUARY 1989:** The American invasion of Grenada quashed Castro's hope of it becoming another Nicaragua, but Soviet incursions into Alaskan territory continued unabated and SOF sent a reporter to document it.

1956 **Mar 21-May 10 Greenland.** Thule Air Base. **Project Homerun.** 10th and 343rd SRS fly 156 overflight missions along the Soviet rim with no losses.

1959 **Feb 26 North Atlantic.** Off Canada. Sailors from the USS Roy O. Hale board a suspected Soviet spy trawler to investigate reports of tampering with transatlantic cables.

1960 **July 1 Barents Sea.** Soviet Kola Peninsula (30 mi. N.). Soviet fighter shoots down a U.S. RB-47 (55th SRW): 4 KIA + 2 POW for 208 days in Moscow's Lubyanka Prison.

1961-1991 **Alaska.** U.S. pilots intercept 307 Soviet intruders in Alaskan airspace.

1962 **Jan 12 Greenland.** Wiedemannsjord. Kronborg Glacier. P-2V Neptune (VP-5) on an ice recon mission crashes: 12 men die.

1962-1991 **Iceland.** U.S. 57th Fighter-Interceptor Sqdrn. intercepts 3,000 Soviet aircraft intrusions into Icelandic airspace: more than all other USAF units combined worldwide.

1968 **May 25 Norwegian Sea.** 200 mi. off Norway. 2 Soviet TU-Badgers harass the USS Essex. 1 Russian aircraft loses power, crashing into the sea: all 6 crewmen die.

1969 **Jan 13 Aleutians.** Shemya. RC-135 (6th SW) crashes.

Jun 5 Bering Sea. RC-135 (55th SRW) crashes (cause unknown): 19 airmen die.

Oct-Nov Barents Sea. USS Lapon tails a Soviet sub for 40 days.

1972 **Dec 19 Barents Sea.** Soviet YAKs intercept an RC-136, but mistakenly fire on their own nearby navy Badgers.

1979-86 **Barents Sea.** USS Parche completes numerous recon missions and is highly decorated.

1981 **Mar 17 Aleutians.** Shemya. RC-135 (6th SW) crashes: 6 crewmen die.

1984 **Jan North Pacific.** U.S. Third Fleet faces off against the Soviet Pacific Fleet.

1985 **Feb 25 Alaska.** Valdez. RC-135 (6th SW) crashes: 3 crewmen die. ✕

*This article was taken from the book **Cold War Clashes**, published by the VFW.*

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are using those guidelines to form a cohesive armed force which will be capable of operating together on all levels. The major problems we face here in Afghanistan are the internal threat of Muslim terrorism and narco-terrorism and threats coming from outside the country. Our goal, based on a five-year plan, is to have an Afghan National Army, which would be capable of ensuring internal security and securing the borders. Obviously this is not easy in a country coming out of 20 years of civil war, when large areas were under the anarchic rule of warlords and tribal factions and borders were virtually non-existent. Our efforts are starting to show results, but it will take time."



A steel hat? Surely you jest. New Afghan Army trainees in Bulgarian helmets get used to new uniforms, and military concepts such as line up, hurry up – and wait.

New Uniforms. New Uniformity = New Unity?

Like the receiving depot in any army, at the KMTC new enlistees line up to be issued uniforms and equipment. For many it would be the first they take off their regional tribal garb to put on western-style clothes and lace their feet, until now accustomed only to traditional Afghan sandals, into a pair of army boots. Enlistment goes on a daily basis with recruiting being carried out in all parts of the country, to ensure a certain ethnic balance in the newly formed platoons.

The press officer who took me on a guided tour of the KMTC facilities was Captain Mirtha Villareal, on deployment

from the California-based 223rd RTI (Regional Training Institute). She had been in Afghanistan for nearly a year. "The first thing we do when the recruits arrive is to get them out of their civilian clothing, which often reflects ethnic origin, and into uniform. We try to instill in them a sense of national pride, something that transcends the regional and tribal ties they are accustomed to. After that, the three month basic training program is much like that of any army: basic infantry and combat skills including rifle marksmanship, weapons maintenance, military procedure, PT, drill and ceremony training."

As we left the main KMTC compound to go out to the rifle range, we drove through an area known as the "cemetery." Here, hundreds of former-Soviet armoured vehicles and heavy weapons were piled up and left to rust away in what is now one, immense military junkyard. In the

background, the ruins of a weapons complex, once the center of Taliban military operations, added to the eerie scene.

Eclectic Ordnance, International Expertise

At the range I spoke with Major Jeff Nichols, in charge of weapons training. "We've got a fairly mixed group here. Some have never fired a gun. Others have been through years of actual combat, often on opposing sides. You can see the difference right away. The recruits are issued AK-47s because we've got to use whatever arms are avail-



With recruits running the spectrum from civilians to battle-hardened former resistance fighters, basic training starts with the basics, including rifle marksmanship.



French officers train Afghan officer candidates in strategy and tactics, drawing on a wealth of experience in counterinsurgency and small wars.

able and there are a lot of AKs floating around the country. Most of weapons we train with are Russian or East European. The uniforms come from Pakistan and the helmets from Bulgaria. So you see we're using whatever we can get."

"Otherwise, we don't have any major problems. Although the fact that we've cross-sectioned each unit to ensure an ethnic balance, at times does create a language barrier that we have to work through. Sometimes the recruits have a problem adapting to a more western life-style which they may not be used to, and we in turn have to adapt our training methods to certain particularities in the way they work."

On the way back into camp we crossed a group NCO trainees working at combat tactics with the British instructors. Later, these soldiers would be integrated into the one of the basic training platoons and upon graduation the group would be attached to one of the newly formed active duty "kandaks," a battalion-size unit of 600 to 700 soldiers. In the field, training and supervision is then carried on by special ETTs (Embedded Training Teams). Made up primarily of Army Rangers and U.S. Special Forces, the teams work with the active kandaks to hone their combat skills and to create a cohesive combat unit.

Back at KTCM headquarters I had the chance to meet with Col. Robert Jones, U.S. Army, who is commanding the training center. "Working here, we've had to adapt to the situation. Most of the weapons available are of Russian or Chinese fabrication, weapons that the U.S. troops aren't particularly familiar with. So we rely on technical assistance from countries that have experience in

the various types of weaponry. Light-artillery and mortar instructions is carried out by an instruction unit from the Mongolian Army, who are familiar with both the Russian and Chinese versions of the 82mm Mortar. Crew training and maintenance of the T-62 Russian tanks is done by a team from Rumania, who have used those tanks for years.

Trained by the Big Three

"As far as the bulk of the training goes, I don't know who made the decision, but there is a certain logic behind it. Our soldiers (the Americans) can, without a doubt, handle basic training and get a unit into fighting shape. The British have long been known for the quality of their NCOs and can certainly take care of that end of the program. As for the French who are forming the officer corps, I have to say that they've had a lot of experience in counter-insurgency. Maybe more than any of us. Beginning with the tactics they used in Indochina, which, by the way, we studied at the Academy, on to their experience in Algeria. That experience is invaluable in a situation like the one we face here today.

"Also the French have their 'Gendarmerie,' an army corps which is essentially used as a police force. [The 'Gendarmes' could be seen as an equivalent of the State Police in America, but on a national level, or similar to the RCMP in Canada.] This concept of well trained army units engaged in activities normally carried out by the police could be the answer to a lot of the problems we face in Afghanistan today.

"At what point will the ANA be fully functional and able to take over internal

Continued on page 80



(top) Donning what may well be the first pair of lace-up footwear he has ever had, young Afghan National Army recruit tries some U.S. GI boots on for size. (bottom) New garb, new gear, new regimentation, new training and a new National army with a new purpose. Recruit depots are the same the world over: the FNGs have a lot to get used to.

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In the course of testing various products in conjunction with the 2001 SOF hunt, Mike Peck volunteered to sleep in 15-below weather in Wiggy's Single Person Bivi Shelter. When used in conjunction with any Wiggy's bag (in this case Peck borrowed Col. Brown's Ultima Thule bag), the Bivi adds another 20 degrees of warmth to the bag. Noted Brown at the time, "Anyone who is considering purchasing serious winter outdoor gear is a damn fool if they don't get a Wiggy's catalog." Now, the catalog has even more. Photo: SOF Staff

Text and Photos
by Nick Odin

SOF Tests a Bag You Can Live In – By Living In It

Sleeping on the ground is as basic to soldiering as cleaning a rifle. In years past, most of us gripped it up and made do with whatever we were issued. In my case it was an M1949 duck down mummy bag, usually without the heavy lace-on OD cotton cover. I survived a winter in Korea, got out of the Army, and carried the M1949 bag as a poor college student mountaineering in Montana and later doing field work in Wyoming.

If it rained or snowed I snapped a poncho around the bag; When it got colder I added a wool Army blanket or poncho liner. Eventually I saved enough money to buy a good commercial goose down bag. Life improved.

Returning to service, I used a poncho and liner for summer patrolling. But for winter, the 3-pound civilian mummy bag was both lighter and warmer than anything the Army issued at the time. It stayed in my rucksack until spring. I was on a mountain-oriented SFODA; most of the guys had good civilian bags since almost everyone was into mountaineering and backcountry skiing.

Too Much for a Good Thing

When the Extreme Cold Weather Sleeping Bag (NSN 8465-01-033-8057) was issued in the 1980s, most of us rejected it because it was just too big. The darn thing weighed over 10 pounds, filled an entire large ALICE ruck, and wasn't a lot warmer than the M1949. This bag was clearly intended for guys who rode to the war in trucks rather than jumping or humping in.

But that ECWS boat anchor was a synthetic insulation bag, and it worked better wet than our down bags. Sometimes you get wet in war. No fun shivering through the night in a cold bag. We began to grudgingly admit this synthetic insulation might be useful. Some of the guys found room for the ECWS bag; others bought lighter civilian fiberfill bags. After a couple of years I bought a supposedly decent civilian synthetic-fill bag. It was bulky, hard to stuff, and not real warm, but it did not get damp like a down bag. Unfortunately after a year it retained maybe half of its original loft.

I went back to my down bag. For really cold winter conditions, I added a vapor barrier, which kept the down a lot drier. A lot of people dislike vapor barriers because they feel clammy, but VBs don't bother me. I stuck with this system through a lot of winter bivouacs, as a mountaineering instructor and backcountry skier. I prefer snow shelters; Winter tenting sucks because of condensation. But sometimes I had to tent it. This meant (ideally) leaving the bag in the sun long enough to dry out, but this was not always possible.

In the early 90s the Army's Natick Labs – this is the outfit that recently had the brilliant idea of sending its civilian engineers to the field with soldiers, so they might actually

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- www.usariem.army.mil/depcold/leader.htm

Temperature Range Sleep System (FTRSS)

experience the environment they were designing for – came up with a spec for a new high-speed fartsack, the Modular Sleeping Bag System or MSBS.

The MSBS (MSB in USMC) was an improvement on the old ECWS bag since it integrated a lightweight “patrol” overbag with an inner “intermediate cold” bag. Alone, the OD patrol bag was good to 35+, and the intermediate bag was supposed to be good to -5 according to the Army. Zipped together and mated with a waterproof-breathable (e.g. ‘Gore-Tex®’) bivi bag, the MSBS was supposed to work to -30F.

Opinions varied on MSBS effectiveness; Some people just sleep colder than others. It was a heavy and bulky system, especially with the bivy sack. But the idea was good in that the individual operator could select components to match his mission. Unfortunately the



Well-tailored traditional mummy hood closes snugly around shoulders and head.



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MSBS bags, insulated with 1st-generation Polarguard™ (a brand name for a popular fiberfill synthetic insulation) lost loft rapidly when compressed. This was a problem.

The Man With a Plan

Enter our Colorado hero, Jerry Wigutow, AKA Wiggy. Wiggy had been working with insulated clothing since the early 60s. By the 1980s he was a guru with 20-plus years of industry experience. An Army vet and hunter, it was natural for Jerry to get interested in making better sleeping bags and outdoor gear. Fortunately for us, he was also more interested in military sales than competing in the over-hyped and fashion-conscious tree-hugger market.

Jerry engineered a way of laminating continuous filament fiberfill insulation to nylon taffeta base sheets, creating in effect a rugged and lightweight synthetic blanket, far warmer than any Army wool blanket. He called his invention Lamilit® to emphasize its key traits.

With this functional laminated "building block" material, Wiggy could now produce sleeping bags that were simpler and lighter than conventional bags. In the days of down, bags needed to be constructed of complex over-



Inner YKK #10 zippers fastening Ultra Lite mummy bag to Patrol overbag are visible. (Inset) FTRSS foot area is especially well constructed. Did not need booties to keep feet warm.

lapping tubes or baffled chambers to avoid cold spots due to shifting down. Manufacturers of the first synthetic bags – and most current manufacturers – continued this process, chopping up their fiberfill and sewing it into similar chambers.

Not Wiggy. He could take his light and lofty laminated blankets and in effect fold and sew a zipper onto them

almost as if he were adding a zipper to a wool army blanket. Gross simplification, but you get the idea – no more cutting and sewing bunches of separate baffle tubes into a complex 3-D construction. When you look at a Wiggy's bag the first time, it almost looks too simple – hardly any stitching.

But the more stitching ya got, the
Continued on page 58

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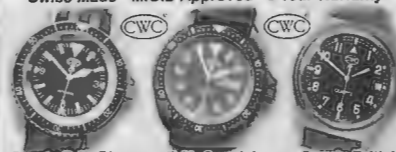


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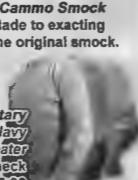
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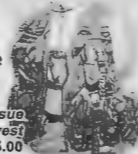


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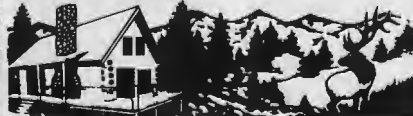
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WIGGY'S • Continued from page 54

more seams ya gotta worry about coming apart later. Plus at each of those baffles, the insulation is interrupted, if only briefly. Minute cold spots form in complicated bags, no matter how well the bag is designed. Not so with a Wiggy's bag – the blanket construction principle means continuous and uniform loft.

Cost savings in labor means the bags can be made right here in Colorado USA, where Jerry can make sure everything is done exactly to his high standards. Design change? Jerry can implement it on his production floor an hour after he sketches the new idea. Your money goes into paying conscientious workers in Grand Junction instead of sweatshop labor in Shanghai.

The Proof Test

So much for history and theory. How well does it work? I slept on the ground in a Wiggy's bag most of January and February 2005, at 10,000 feet in the Colorado mountains. For three weeks before I got this bag, from Christmas to mid-January, I slept in my old down bag, with vapor barrier, in a 3-season tent – not enough snow to build a de-

cent shelter where I was camped.

Sleeping in a tent in the winter sucks. You get condensation, and even with the VB liner a down bag gets damp. I could not dry it very often, and I although I slept OK (I've probably spent half my adult life sleeping on the ground, much of it in High Country) there were some chilly nights when temps hit the 10-below-zero range.

The Wiggys's bag made life better. I slept outside on clear nights to escape my damp tent and slept warm, at just-below-zero to single-digit temps. In the tent, the bag still got damp, but with the synthetic insulation – and Wiggy's process of coating Lamelite fibers with silicone to repel water – I stayed warm. During a warm spell, when nighttime temps climbed above the teens, I zipped off the patrol overbag and just used the Ultra Lite mummy. Not as toasty-warm but I slept comfortably.

Jerry designed the bag I slept in to satisfy U.S. Marine Corps and NAVSPECWAR (SEALs) requirements for a lightweight 4-season sleeping system capable of handling winter temps to at least -20. He calls it the Flexible Tem-

Continued on page 62

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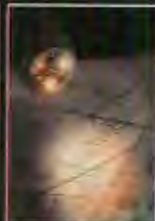
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Firearms and Iraq

If you consider that there have been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the last 22 months, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000.

The rate in Washington D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000. That means that you are 25% more likely to be shot and killed in our Nation's Capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion: We should immediately pull out of Washington, D.C.

Iraqi Truth Project

Here's a website worth your perusal if you are looking for something to balance the evening "news:" www.iraqi-truthproject.com.

VFW Debuts Talk Radio Show

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Kansas City 710KCMO launched a new Sunday afternoon radio talk show July 4th weekend.

VFW's *The National Defense*, which will be broadcast from Kansas City and is available live online at <http://www.710KCMO.com>, premiered Sunday, 3 July, 1400 hours Central Time. The inaugural show featured VFW National Commander John Furgess and noted author Andrew Carroll, whose book *War Letters* became a bestseller and subject of a PBS documentary. Also scheduled on a regular basis will be controversial guests who are unique in their fields.

According to Jerry Newberry, VFW communications director, the hour-long show would likely never have happened if the VFW's national commander had not become involved. "Mr. Furgess, who has been on live radio numerous times, knew how powerful and influential talk radio can be," said Newberry. "He was really enthused about us exploring our broadcasting options and encouraged us to explore every opportunity available so we could expand our supporting audience and educate others about our programs and services.

Newberry also praised the radio station for their willingness to partner with the VFW to help raise awareness of veterans' issues. We are excited about

COLD WAR Recognition Certificate

Some 22 million former and current service members and DoD civilians may be qualified to apply for certificates honoring them for their role in winning the Cold War.

Applicants must present proof of service. Persons are eligible for the recognition certificate if they have military or civilian service with the War, Navy, or Defense Departments between 2 September 1945, and 26 December 1991.

Military or civilian personnel requesting the award must certify that they served honorably and faithfully at any period during the Cold War, and requests must have official documents verifying their service (DD Form 214, WD AGO Form 53-55, Oath of Office – Military Personnel, or Letter of Appointment. Qualifying civilian service also can be proved with a Standard Form 50, Standard Form 2809, an award certificate with employee's name/name of service or agency/dates, or retirement forms with the employee's name/service or agency/dates.)

The Total Army Personnel Command is the executive agent for the recognition project.

A telephone help line is available at (703) 275-6279.

Those qualifying for the certificates can apply via fax to 1-800-723-9262.

working with KCMO because of their dedication to the American spirit," said Newberry, who will host the program. KCMO-AM, a Fox News and Talk Radio affiliate, has more than 4 million people within its listening area, and provides streaming audio on the Internet. Brainstorm Media is producing *The National Defense*.

To listen online, go to www.710KCMO.com and complete the registration form.

Viewers may also email their questions to vfw@710KCMO.com. To find out more about the VFW, go to <http://www.vfw.org>.

Insurgency?

According to a new study, more than 40% of the suicide bombers dispatched by terror leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to attack Iraqis and U.S. troops hailed from Saudi Arabia. Only 9% of the bombers were Iraqis, said the report by the SITE Institute, a counter-terror group.

The analysis bolsters the Bush administration's claims that the Iraqi borders are porous and foreign fanatical jihadists have been infiltrating almost at will, making Iraq a lightning rod. The Institute cited a recently discovered "Martyrs' List" that Zarqawi posted on the revealed that 45 of the dead extremists, or 42%, came from Saudi Arabia, said Rita Katz, SITE director.

Many other bombers were Syrian, Kuwaiti, Palestinian, Afghani, Libyan

and even French, while only 10 of the attackers, or 9%, were native Iraqis.

Katz noted, "What we see here is there are a lot of people who appear to be quite well educated leaving universities, good jobs and families to go to Iraq to fight the jihad."

"It means there is huge support for Zarqawi and al Qaeda among the younger generation — particularly in Saudi Arabia — who are going to Iraq not to liberate Iraq, but to engage in the battle between the mujahedeen and the crusaders. This is in Iraq now. But it could be somewhere else tomorrow."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari spoke to the U.N. Security Council, where he charged Syria was a "main transit route" for the guerrillas, demanding that Syria do more to stop foreign terrorists from crossing into Iraq.

Knowledge is Power

The Moslem extremist bombing in London reminds us that terrorism is virtually impossible to snuff out in a free society. It behooves everyone do what we can to be prepared and to help.

These web sites will give you a running jump at a web search for good information on what you can do to help:

<http://www.ready.gov/>
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_589_,00.html
<http://www.mipt.org/What-You-Can-Do.asp>

Second Chance Recall

Second Chance Body Armor, the country's largest supplier of bullet-resistant vests to law enforcement agencies is urging users to replace vests containing the fiber Zylon, as they may not function as designed. The company sent notices to police agencies nationwide. Affected are about 58,000 Tri-Flex vests and an additional 40,000 Ultima and Ultimax vests with Performance Pacs, according to a company release.

New research shows that vests made even partially with Zylon "may fail to perform and result in serious injury or death," the company release said. Second Chance, based in Central Lake, Mich., is undergoing reorganization in federal bankruptcy court after being targeted in numerous lawsuits claiming its vests made with Zylon are defective.

The company said it would ask the court to devise a procedure for vest owners to make claims arising from the latest warnings.

"While Second Chance has not received any reports of field failures of the products in question, we felt it was our obligation to report these new research findings immediately," said Matt Davis, vice president of sales and marketing. "The safety and well-being of all the officers who wear our body armor is of primary importance to Second Chance, and we strongly encourage all officers to replace ballistic vests that contain Zylon as quickly as possible."

Second Chance began making vests with Zylon in 1998, saying it was lighter and

more comfortable than other fibers such as the Kevlar used when Second Chance pioneered the bullet-resistant vest industry. The company announced in 2003 it had concerns about the durability of Zylon vests and recalled more than 130,000 of them that had been made entirely from Zylon. The latest notice pertains to vests containing a mixture of Zylon and other materials. Lawsuits against Second Chance have been filed in at least 11 states, and federal and state investigations have been started. Seven lawsuits have been filed by state governments. Zylon fiber is manufactured by the Japanese company Toyobo, who was also targeted in numerous lawsuits. ✕

sniper teams and folding knives (preferably auto-openers) among other things. Any help you could provide would be greatly appreciated. My email and address are listed below.

Thank you for your support and keep fighting the good fight.

Sincerely,
michael.gene.alvis@us.army.mil

We are forwarding your request to www.AmericanSnipers.org (see above) whose mission is to help out troopers like yourself. Stay safe.

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

Editor/Publisher
 Soldier of Fortune Magazine



Thanks for All the Years

I've been a reader and one time subscriber (soon to be again in the near future) since your magazine first hit the stands 30 years ago. As a nine-year veteran, and Vietnam vet also, and having worn a badge for a number of years since then, your magazine has been helpful and informative during those years. Every once in awhile I used to see people I knew in your pages but as the years pass that is a rare thing these days.

My deepest thanks for the support you exhibit our troops in the present war on terror. For the first time in my life, I wish I were 20 years old again. And also I just learned of Col. Hackworth's passing. A true warrior has gone from us.

Thanks again for the fine work you've produced over the years.

Sincerely,
 Rick Holbert
 AIRBORNE SIR

Supporting the Troops: Our honor so to do.

CamelBak Correction

Dear SOF,

Your August, 2005 issue had a great article describing the important work Brain Sain and the American Snipers team perform on behalf of the U.S. military sniper community. As you know, CamelBak Products, LLC is a proud corporate supporter of American Snipers and we applaud the work these folks do to keep our soldiers safe and properly equipped while overseas.

However, I have one clarification. Our company spells its name with only one 'C'...CamelBak. Our website is www.CamelBak.com.

If SOF readers decide to support our military snipers by donating the number-one requested hydration system, we want to make sure they can easily find CamelBak Products and ask for them by name at retailers and base exchanges.

As a long time supporter of SOF, thanks for bringing this organization's hard work to the attention of your readership.

Regards,
 Penn Way
 CamelBak Products, LLC
 Hydrate or Die

Strategy Page: A Good Read

You guys are doing an outstanding job like always. I am a US ARMY E-5 vet (grunt) from Panama 1989. I would like to see a story from time to time about what our Army grunts and snipers are doing. I have many friends in both the Army and Marines. And contact info for items they also could use. Growing old sucks. I'm 41 and I want to be there with my friends and their sons. But my recall status grows lower every year I age.

Thanks for keeping us up to date on more than body counts as the local media seems only interested in. A story on why our troops keep going back would be a good eye opener for the American people. I'm unsure if you know of this site, but the video of "how to wash a hand grenade" always makes me laugh when I get down: <http://www.strategypage.com/gallery/default.asp>

Lee Weaver

General Anthony Wayne

I have been an SOF reader for 26 years. I was surprised to see the article about Little Turtle. He is one of

Continued on page 68

perature Range Sleep System (FTRSS). Utilizing a modular approach similar to the MSBS, but with superior components and no heavy bivvy bag, the FTRSS lets you zip a 2 ½ Lamilite patrol overbag (+35 rating) onto any Wiggy's mummy bag for serious winter capability.

The FTRSS I used in the Colorado mountains (the USMC model) combines Wiggy's 4-pound Ultra Lite bag (+20F rating) with overbag to give a -20 capability. The SEALs needed additional capability for Arctic operations so they specified Wiggy's Super Lite 0-degree bags plus overbag for a -40 rating, designating the system NSN 8465-01-395-4094. Army SPECOPS troops order what they need individually; Wiggy's gives priority to military orders. He's sold more to the military and individual warriors since 1986, making the FTRSS the most widely purchased sleeping system in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Options

You can specify OD and/or black for both overbag and mummy inner bag, or normal civilian colors (blue and purple). Jerry's rescue bag (with ten webbing carry handles, IV and catheter flaps) comes in international orange. If you crash in Alaska this is what the rescue bird will probably drop to you. He also makes a fireman-yellow Lamilite-insulated hypothermia and flotation suit.

Like any fiberfill bag, it takes work to compress the FTRSS into a ruck-size stuff sack. Down is still the hands-down winner on compressibility. But with a good stuff sack – I like the kind with straps around the circumference of the sack as well as on the top flap – it can be done. Takes some determination. Definitely more compressible than the old Extreme Cold bags.

Want to go really compact? Wiggy's will vacuum pack and shrink-wrap their bags for aviation and survival kit use. This

SUMMARY

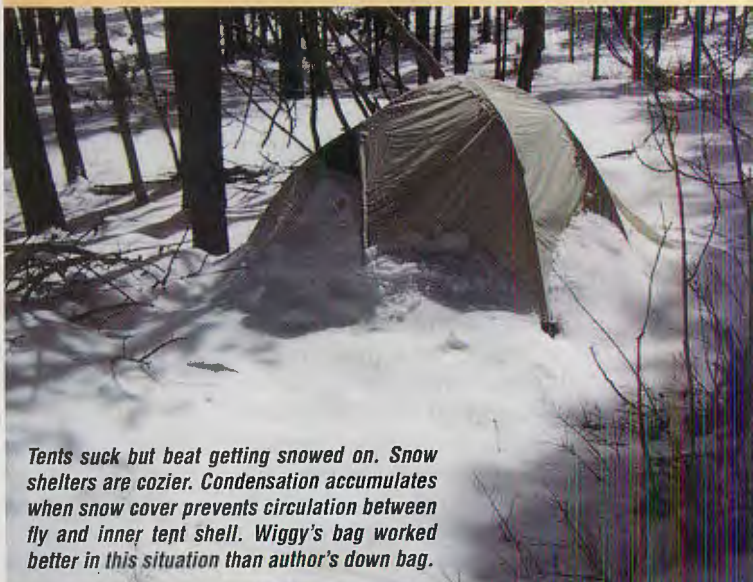
- Rugged and innovative modular sleeping system combining 20-degree mummy bag with lightweight overbag for flexible 4-season capabilities in continental U.S. Well suited for military applications.
- Two zip-together components (No. 10 YKK zippers):
 - (1) Ultra Lite mummy inner bag, regular size: 4 pounds. Long or wide sizes: 4.5 lbs.
 - (2) Patrol overbag, regular size: 2 ½ pounds. Long or wide sizes: 3 lbs.
- Synthetic insulation (high-loft continuous fiber, silicone coated for added water repellency) laminated in a proprietary process to nylon base material, eliminating need for much complex sewing.
- Winter tested during six weeks of continuous use in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, January and February 2005.
- Olive drab and black as tested. Other colors available.
- Quality construction. Lifetime warranty. Machine washable. Total system weight: regular: 6.5 pounds, long and/or wide sizes: 7-7.5 lbs. Custom sizes available.
- Compression size: approximately 10" x 10" x 18" for entire system.
- Catalog price: \$310.

PEO SOLDIER AND THE RAPID FIELDING INITIATIVE

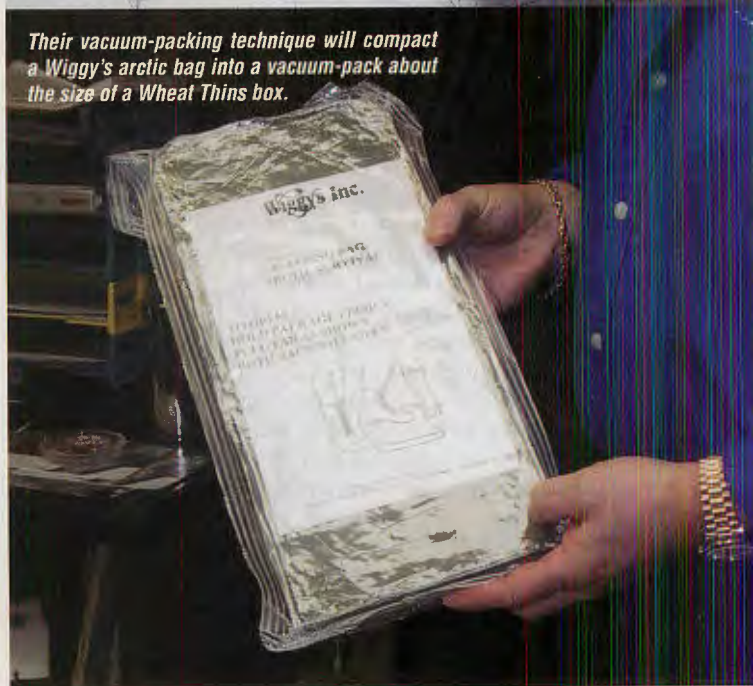
The Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) is a U.S. Army program run by a skunk-works type operation known as Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO Soldier). PEO Soldier's mission is to bring state-of-the-art gear and mission-appropriate weapons to soldiers, faster and more cost-efficiently than normal military bureaucracy has worked in the past.

Among other things, PEO Soldier is working with Picatinny arsenal to bring the M107 .50 Caliber Long Range Sniper Rifle (AKA Barrett light .50) to U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, other than just Special Operations Forces (SOF).

PEO Soldier is trying to reduce the need for soldiers to spend their own money to buy the best available equipment. There is a good chance PEO Soldier, through the RFI, will field a new sleeping system based on the FTRSS in the near future



Tents suck but beat getting snowed on. Snow shelters are cozier. Condensation accumulates when snow cover prevents circulation between fly and inner tent shell. Wiggy's bag worked better in this situation than author's down bag.



Their vacuum-packing technique will compact a Wiggy's arctic bag into a vacuum-pack about the size of a Wheat Thins box.

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requires Velcro closures instead of the normal No. 10 YKK zippers (too beefy). At Wiggy's Grand Junction factory, I watched a technician pack an Arctic-rated Ultima Thule bag (5.1 lb, -20F) into a package about the size of a box of Wheat Thins. Once opened, Jerry says the bag regains about 90% of its loft immediately and after some shaking out all the loft returns. Impressive.

Need more? Jerry is bringing a rugged line of Australian packs and expedition tents to the USA. Want decadent comfort? Try Wiggy's ground pad, which uses fiberfill instead of foam for padding and insulation. Jerry is designing an expanding line of outdoors gear. Order his catalog or check out his website (www.wiggys.com). You can find Lamilite mukluks, overboots, bomb-proof gloves and shooting mittens, a true waterproof bivy bag, Lamilite parkas – including one in the Army's new USMC-style digital camo, ready for the Afghan winter. Start your Christmas wish-list now. ☒

Nick Odin is a former U.S. Army Special Forces NCO and winter survival instructor.

WHY NO GORE-TEX™ OPTION?

So-called waterproof-breathable fabrics (Gore-Tex® is the best known) are both popular and controversial. While not truly waterproof, these micro-porous fabrics are highly water and wind-resistant -- although these characteristics degrade rapidly when the polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) laminate gets dirty. I consider this to be a problem for military use.

Breathability is subjective: What one person considers clammy will be comfortable to another. Some people won't go outdoors without Gore-Tex; others consider it over-hyped. In fairness, the 1st-generation Gore-Tex was less effective than the latest such materials.

Jerry Wigutow is not a fan of Gore-Tex and similar products. He's in good company: Yves Chouinard, Patagonia founder and climbing equipment inventor, also refused to use PTFE materials in his products.

Gore-Tex appeared as a sleeping bag shell option in the 1980s. It appealed to minimalist climbers and backpackers (like me) who wanted some degree of water-resistance but were unwilling to pack a tent or bivy shelter. I bought a 2nd-generation Gore-Tex shelled down bag to lessen my vulnerability to rain and snow. Since I usually camped in relatively dry country it worked for me. I would not try it in Alaska or Oregon. Gore-Tex has its limitations, but with the vulnerability of down to moisture I could justify it.

What my Gore-Tex shell does not do well is pass moisture out of the bag; the PTFE membrane doesn't work well when separated from body heat by the down insulation. In my experience PTFE fabrics work better as a lightweight athletic wind and water-resistant shell, worn close to the body, than as cold-weather expedition gear.

With Wiggy's Lamilite, it becomes a moot point. In light snow or rain, the bag will still keep you reasonably warm. In a downpour you need real shelter; even a waterproof shell will not keep a sleeping bag dry in such conditions. So Jerry is correct in not offering a Gore-Tex option. – N.O.

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by Frank Sherrill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bonner Cummings
Yosemite, CA

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

CPT Judd D. Mahfouz - Infantry

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



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

Dear Matt,

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

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

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

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

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SOF0305

HELL IS EMPTY

Story and Photos by "White Devil"

A Day In the Life of a Security Contractor

"Hell is empty, the Devils are all here."

— William Shakespeare

Although we have some of the best trained ex-Special Forces, Rangers, Marines and other pros working as security contractors to the U.S. government in Iraq, the threats we face are overwhelming at times, no matter the level of experience. Death, destruction and chaos are the norm in one of the most dangerous jobs in the world.

On a typical day, there is a constant threat of being shot, blown up, captured and or beheaded. A good day is when there has been no loss of life or injuries.

Security Operators are armed with their choice of weapons and equipment. The most common weapon of choice is the M4, for its impeccable accuracy and reliability. Security Operators also carry a secondary weapon such as an MP-5, AK47, and or a 12 gauge shotgun. Each is equipped with a sidearm, most commonly a Glock, and a host of other goodies such as fragmentation grenades, AT4's, flash bangs, C-4,

star clusters and the occasional Dragunov sniper rifle. The vehicles are armed with crew-served weapons such as a PK, RPK, and M240G. We also carry heavier guns such as Russian Dashikas, and the Russian equivalent of the Mark-19 belt-fed grenade launcher. OpSec considerations preclude us from



From improvised gun tub in back of company vehicle, author is ready to return fire with a Russian AGS-17 automatic grenade launcher.



Security teams must be capable, experienced — and well armed. Weapons of choice depend on the mission, but usually include one or more long arms, and a handgun. These contractors are armed with government issue M-4's, MP-5's and Glocks with high mags. Additional equipment include: Black Hawk tactical vests, leg holsters and tac sling for weapons; Cold Steel knives; Wiley-X ballistic glasses; Hatch gloves; 511 Tactical BDUE bottoms; Underarmor shirt, Spec Ops gear bag, Magnum and Oakley Delta boots. Commo and body armor is classified.



Author takes time to schmooze the real clients in Iraq – the kids whose tomorrow the good guys are fighting for.

discussing the level of armor for the vehicles, body armor and communications equipment.

Once the mission begins the, Team Leader (TL) or MC (Mission Commander) takes total control of the team no matter who may be on the mission, if it is military or a civilian, who is to accompany us on the mission. We have taken high-ranking military officers on missions where I'm certain they questioned many of our decisions in the beginning.

Once a mission is assigned, the team will go through a pre-mission checklist assigned by the team leader. Only certain team members will be briefed on the mission. Not all team members will have complete knowledge of the mission due



to security considerations. Once the mission is started it will go through its phases. Each mission will have different phases depending on the type, destination and area of the mission. During the mission things can change in an instant because of Intel received while en route. Each team knows beyond a doubt that the situation can change very quickly and without explanation.

The adrenaline sky-rockets and alertness and trained reflexes peak at the beginning of any mission. Teams are responsible for cargo or a client, and must identify themselves to the military.

Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED's) — cars packed with up to 2000 pounds of explosives — are everywhere, whether broken down on the side of the road or targeting our convoys. Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) are concocted with everything imaginable, such as C-4, TNT, salvaged warheads or missiles. These can be buried in the road or in debris at the side of the road. We have seen IEDs make holes in the road big enough to park a car in. Other threats such as land mines, rocket-propelled grenades, suicide bombers, and all sorts of small arms ambushes are commonplace.

Thugs in moving vehicles throw grenades at our vehicles. A barrage of small arms fire follows the grenade in an ambush situation.

Other threats are bridges, overpasses, crowded streets and diversionary ambushes. Insurgents create a diversionary ambush to distract operators' attention while other attackers launch a major ambush from the front or opposite side.

Our targets are known and identified enemy targets. If we complete the mission without injury or death to team members the mission is considered a success. We are all brothers and a very tight-knit family. We are truly our brother's keepers and I personally thank God every day for our safe return and ask for yet another safe mission the next day. ☒



During Boer War, Winston Churchill noted that few things were as exhilarating as being shot at without effect. Here author kneels by 4x4 pocked with grenade fragments.



Armed with MP5, operator pulls security duty with Army convoy.

The mainstream media has been even worse. The New York Times' Chris Hedges described those serving in today's military as "poor kids from Mississippi or Alabama or Texas [who could] not get a decent job or health insurance." CNN's Eason Jordan claimed that U.S. troops in Iraq had killed journalists after having them "arrested and tortured." And for months, the press beat the Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo stories like rented mules.

Now, add to these insults new injury from the old left. Last week in Washington, the Center for American Progress hosted what they called the Campus Progress National Student Conference. Bill Clinton was there. So was my former media colleague Paul Begala. Other attendees included former Clinton chief-of-staff John Podesta, Congressman Barney Frank and a handful of conservative students from the Campus Leadership Program and Young America's Foundation. One of them kindly brought me one of the "publications" handed out to participants — an anti-military, anti-American screed entitled "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste: A Guide to the Demilitarization of America's Youth and Students."

The editors of this "enlightened" journal claim that the "glorification of the military ignores the fact that most positive change in the United States has come from people standing up to the government, big corporations, and other forms of organized violence and crime." It then offers tips on how to protest all things military.

The highly successful Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program is attacked in a spread entitled, "JROTC: What the Hell Is It? And, What Does It Want?" The conspiracy theorists who crafted the piece breathlessly suggest, "Young people in the hood are targeted because their lives are not valued by the U.S. Government."

Another article claims that "the \$600+ billion the U.S. spends each year on maintaining a huge war-making machine cuts into the things that really matter to young people — education, the environment, the arts. Our schools are thrown open to military recruiters while the money needed to buy books, maintain buildings, and pay teachers is dwindling."

In rhetoric reminiscent of the '60s,

the authors claim that our military is "about sacrificing what makes us human for the powers of force and violence ... We hold that the strength of a democracy comes from its free and democratic institutions, not its capacity for violence." Another piece blasts requirements in the "No Child Left Behind Act" that schools accepting federal education funding must allow military recruiters the same access they grant to business and college recruiters. The writer then cynically asks: "Could it be in the military's best interests to keep schools underfunded and keep college financial aid to a minimum?"

A piece extolling an anti-ROTC "sit-in" at the University of Puerto Rico includes praise for Iraqis who are "resisting occupation" and ends with a clarion call from the past: "We must fight the insanity of war from every angle. This requires ending all ROTC programs and their recruitment activities on our college campuses."

For those of us old enough to remember what it was like to come back from a war that we had won on the battlefield but lost on our college campuses and in the corridors of power, all of this sounds ominously familiar. Back in the '60s this kind of rhetoric helped to alienate America's citizen-soldiers from the citizens they served.

Current reenlistment rates indicate that those who are serving today — and those who are volunteering to serve tomorrow — still believe that this country is worth defending. Thankfully, in this war where every American is a terrorist target, there are still enough bright, tough, young Americans willing to stand up and fight. ✕

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.

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

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the most militarily talented Indians in history. He soundly thumped Harman in 1790 and in 1791, Arthur St. Clair General Anthony Wayne would build a fort on the battle site he aptly called Fort Recovery, presently Fort Recovery, Ohio. The soldiers re-buried more than 700 skulls. Most estimates of casualties are in the range of 700 killed and 250 wounded — this is about 68% of the U.S. Army killed or wounded in a single day, because at the time St. Clair's forces were pretty much the entire U.S. Army.

This is a battle more historians need to appreciate and as the author noted, the worst defeat of the U.S. military of the Indian Wars. When Anthony Wayne took command in 1792, he headed to what is now Beaver County, Pennsylvania and built a huge fortified cantonment called Legion Ville where he literally whipped the army into shape. This is a site that contains 17 military graves and if I fail in my effort to save this site it is slated to become a General Motors dealership. Kind of makes me want to puke when I see, "An American Revolution." Wayne had his artillery custom-built, he modified his muskets so the soldiers could load on the run and his rifles were standardized and mass-manufactured. He taught Indian tactics, individual marksmanship, mounted and dismounted patrols and his favorite, the bayonet.

Wayne sent flankers on the march 1 mile in front and rear to 1/2-1 miles on the flanks. During the day the troops stopped at 1400 hours and fortified, earning him the name "The Chief who never sleeps." Wayne admired and respected the Indian warrior and studied their tactics, which he in turn taught his men. He taught them to fire a well-aimed volley and close rapidly to use the bayonet. By studying his enemy and having a healthy respect for them, Wayne was able to exploit crucial weaknesses and soundly defeat them. The "Blacksnake," "the Tornado," "Mad Anthony," was anything but mad and he conducted one of the most brilliant and bloodless campaigns in American history.

Total casualties on both sides were approximately 100 killed. Little Turtle's decision to not fight the "Blacksnake" was just another example of his leadership and history proved him right.

Sincerely,
Patrick Riley
<http://www.legionville.com> ✕

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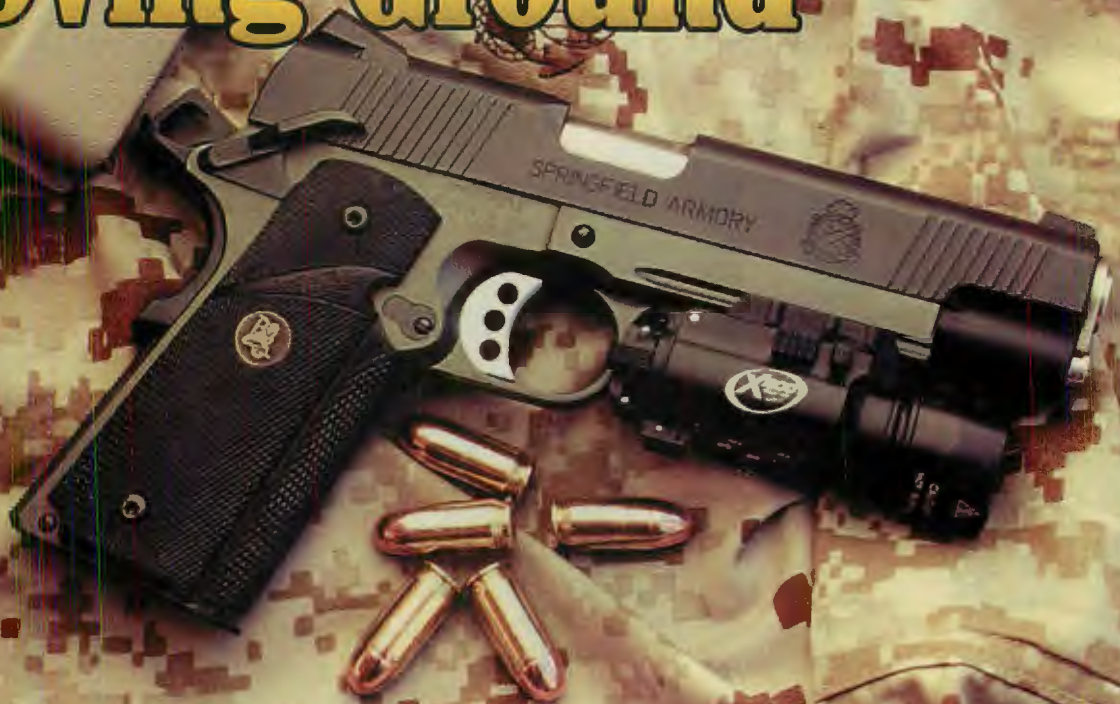
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S&F Proving Ground



Springfield's MC Operator Pistol

From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Springfield Armory

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

It should come as no surprise that John Moses Browning's Model of 1911 pistol made a big hit with almost everyone who tried it when it was introduced almost a century ago. Not the least of the potential customers was the United States Marine Corps who, like the Army, still had the taste of the Philippine Insurrection in their mouths from (guess who?) Moslem Terrorists!

The .45 caliber revolvers retained, or put back into service then, proved what all the old-timers and everyone else on the ground already knew, that a .45 caliber handgun gets the job done! That was only the beginning.

Along with all other U.S. Armed Services, the USMC adopted the Model of 1911 in preparation for its involvement in the "War to End All Wars." The good guys won that one, but we were back in the mix only 23 years later and things hadn't changed much. We started World War II with pretty much the same complement of small arms as we had ended up with after WW I, and the Model of 1911 pistol was right there with them. However, with a moderate facelift, it became the Model of 1911A1.

The Model of 1911A1 pistol continued with the U.S. Military, not only through WW II, but also during the Korean War and, more than a decade later, the Vietnam War. In fact, although no new Model of 1911A1 pistols had been purchased by the U.S. Military since 1945, this magnificent sidearm remained in service with the United States Marine Corps until

1985, seventy-four (74) years after its initial adoption!

In that year (1985) for purely political reasons, the Model of 1911 was replaced throughout the U.S. Military by the Beretta 92 (nicknamed the P9 by the Military). This pistol is chambered for the 9x19mm NATO cartridge using a full metal jacket (FMJ) bullet that is arguably only marginally superior to the .38 caliber cartridge adopted during the Philippine Insurrection.

While most of the USMC was (like the rest of our military) stuck with the P9, the group of Marines and Sailors known as the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) who later added the designation Special Operations Capable, or MEU (SOC) quietly said the deal was off! For combat duty, MEU



(above) Springfield's .45 ACP MC Operator is a 21st Century Model 1911 pistol designed to meet the requirements of the United States Marine Corps' most elite fighters. It is seen here with SureFire's X200 Tactical Pistol Light. (left) Best carried cocked and locked, the MC Operator comes with genuine Novak LoMount Sights.

(SOC) continued to issue the Model of 1911A1 pistol in .45 ACP. While a FMJ bullet is also standard issue in the .45 ACP, it is almost twice as heavy as the FMJ 9mm.

Gun Gleaning

Taking the best of the left-over GI 1911 pistols last made in 1945, USMC armorers at Quantico upgraded them to MEU (SOC)'s specifications. An evolutionary program, the upgrading included the following: A match quality 5" barrel, Novak LoMount Sights, lowered and flared ejection port, heavy recoil spring, standard recoil spring guide, trigger job, ambidextrous thumb safety, "beavertail" grip safety, checkered flat mainspring housing with lanyard loop, beveled magazine well, Wilson Combat eight-round magazine and Pachmayr wrap-around grips (many of the "wrap-around's" were removed by operators).

Another feature added to many of MEU (SOC)'s 1911s was a SureFire 610 Classic Tactical Light, originally designed by SureFire's John Matthews and Bob Weber, Armorer for the LAPD SWAT Team, now Safariland's body-armor guru. In recent years the Dawson Rail has been installed on MEU (SOC) 1911 frames for a proprietary SureFire Light. This system is also used on the Interim Close Quarter Battle (ICQB) Kimber 1911 pistol adopted by the USMC's MCSOCOM Detachment 1 (Det-1), the "tip of the spear" of MEU (SOC)'s new integration with the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

Speaking of the ICQB, it is exactly that, because while Quantico would like to continue furnishing 1911 pistols to MEU (SOC), it simply can't keep up due to additional demands from the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT). Thus, the search is on for a commercial source for a CQB pistol for MEU (SOC), and the USMC is taking a hard look at the contenders. It is also of interest that there was a whining from within the firearms industry by those who don't make a 1911-style pistol. Although this list is ever shrinking, to satisfy them, the USMC opened the CQB competition to other types of .45 ACP caliber pistols. However, after some deliberation, MEU (SOC) operators insisted on 1911-style pistols *only!*

Many Contenders, Few Designs

The number of companies that manufacture and will submit 1911 style pistols for MEU (SOC) consideration probably includes two-dozen or more, but serious contenders may amount to less than half that number. One of the companies that has jumped on the bandwagon is Springfield Armory, of Geneseo, Illinois.

For some time, Springfield has sold 1911 pistols to the USMC for both test and evaluation and use. The latest is

News Flash

Just before we went to print, Springfield notified me that it had received a contract from the USMC for an additional 150 Model 1911 pistols for MEU (SOC) through a sole-source purchase. Pursuant to Firearms Requisition (FAR) 5.101 (A) (1) one hundred fifty Springfield 1911 Pistols are to be furnished to MEU (SOC). Based on the Springfield Pro (the model adopted by the FBI) the pistol will have the following features:

- Integral Frame Rail made to M1913 specifications.
- Hand-fitted slide/barrel/frame.
- Nowlin Match barrel.
- Novak LoMount Night Sights.
- Standard recoil spring system.
- Lowered and flared ejection port.
- Ambidextrous, extended thumb safety.
- Extended "beavertail" grip safety.
- Checkered flat mainspring housing.
- Lanyard loop.
- Aluminum, adjustable trigger.
- Carry/bevel exterior.
- Pachmayr Wrap-Around Grips.
- MilSpec, Parkerized finish.
- Wilson 8-round magazine.

Special markings on the pistol are yet to be determined and there is no information on what tactical light will be selected. Could this become MEU (SOC)'s CQB Pistol? Stay tuned!

what Springfield calls the MC Operator. Built with most of the features MEU (SOC) specifies, this pistol comes with a match-quality stainless-steel barrel and bushing, genuine Novak LoMount Sights, front cocking serrations, lowered/flared ejection port, "commander" style hammer, tuned trigger, ambidextrous extended thumb safety, "beavertail" grip safety with hump, checkered flat mainspring housing, beveled magazine well and Pachmayr grips. The MC Operator also comes with a couple of other things MEU (SOC) should find to its liking, a frame that is finished in a tough molecular OD green and an integral frame rail.

Made to M1913 specifications, Springfield's frame rail is an integral part of the initial forging. It adds weight, but it also adds a great deal of strength.

It will also accept



(left) The Springfield MC Operator functioned to perfection and proved quite accurate. (above) With its slide locked to the rear, the MC Operator's full-length recoil spring guide is seen. Johnston would replace this with a standard system. So would the Marines.





Although the MC Operator was able to be field stripped without a bushing wrench, that tool would make it easier, due to its full-length guide rod.

virtually all pistol tactical lights including the new SureFire X200; a compact LED tactical light made of aircraft grade alloy with a total run time of 3 hours on two lithium batteries. Safariland makes an excellent 6400 series holster that will accommodate the pistol with the X200 mounted.

I recently received a sample MC Operator from Springfield. A striking pistol to look at, it is equally as impressive on close inspection. With a superb fit, the MC Operator is also extremely smooth in operation with a good, crisp trigger to boot. All exterior surfaces have been de-horned, or melted, and the gun points naturally for me.

In going over my sample MC Operator, I found the omission of two features specified by MEW (SOC) for its CQB pistol. Rather than a standard recoil spring guide, my sample

pistol has a full-length stainless steel guide rod. In addition, its mainspring housing is without a lanyard loop. Whether this is because my sample was meant as a commercial version of what was sold to the USMC is unknown, but both features are easily changed out.

Although I prefer a lanyard loop on my pistol, I have no use for a full-length guide rod. As far as I'm concerned, the full-length recoil spring guide rod in a 1911 pistol is a weight-adding competition hype perpetuated by gun writers, and has no place in the real world, and I think that 1911 pistols that come with them should also come with a hacksaw. However, if you prefer such a device, it certainly won't hurt to use it, especially in competition where weight isn't a problem.

In addition to the above, the only other thing I would change about the MC Operator is the MEU (SOC) requirement for the Pachmayr grips. I would replace these with the outstanding Gunner Grips insisted on by MCSOCOM's Det-1. Made of super strong G-10, Gunner Grips are CNC machined with little indentations leaving small points between them. While the surface resembles that of a golf ball, it has far more purchase and has helped me shoot par for over a year. Gunner Grips come in Det-1's Coyote brown, black and OD green, and are available from the Simonich Knives and Strider Knives.

Trigger Time

As with the many Springfield 1911's I've tested over the years and own, the MC Operator performed every bit as good as my own SA Operator, one of the first original long-rails made. Every facet of the new model worked flawlessly, including the thumb safety and trigger, and no malfunctions occurred during several hundred rounds fired by others and

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Johnston replaced the Pachmayr grips with the USMC's Gunner Grips adopted by MGSOCOM's Det-1. These are the best combat grips Johnston has used.

myself who couldn't wait to shoot it.

Ammunition tested included Winchester GI 230 gr. ball, Wolf 230 gr. FMJ, Black Hills 185 gr. JHP, Cor-Bon 165 gr. Pow'R ball, Hornady 185 gr. JHP and Federal 230 gr. Hydra Shock. Accuracy at 25 yards from the bench ran from 1.87" to 3.59" with an overall average of 2.61", but then I did all the accuracy tests, and a better shooter probably could have gotten better groups.

No one knows who will be among the winners of the several MEU (SOC) contracts for the new CQB Pistol. For more information, contact Springfield Armory, Inc., Dept. SOF, 420 West Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; phone: 800-860-6866 (springfieldarmory.com) ☒

Other Contacts:

Dawson Precision, Inc.
3585 CR 272, S-300, Dept. SOF • Leander, TX 78641
(competitions shooters.com)

Novak Design
P.O. Box 4045, Dept. SOF • Parkersburg, WV 26104
304-485-9295 (novaksights.com)

Safariland
3120 E. Mission Blvd., Dept. SOF • Ontario, CA 91761
800-347-1200 (holsters.com)

Simonich Knives, LLC
P.O. Box 278, Dept. SOF • Clancy, MT 59634
406-933-9151 (simonichknives.com)

Strider Knives, Inc.
120 N. Pacific St., Ste. L7, Dept. SOF
San Marcos, CA 92069
760-471-8275 (striderknives.com)

SureFire, LLC
18300 Mt. Baldy Cir., Dept. SOF
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
800-828-8809 (surefire.com)

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Brad on day two of the attack on Falluja enjoying a soda atop a roof in the industrial area.

area with four, five or six man patrols. We would find a good place on a rooftop, establish security in a section and stand watch with a machine gun. Someone was always awake.

"We would storm 30 houses in the course of a day. The Platoon we were with from Alpha Company cleared three hundred houses.

"At that point any weapons we found we were taking the bolt out to make it useless. They could not buy a bolt. We found a cache every few days.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

"There were sporadic fire fights all along. A few days after pushing north, we were unloading on a rooftop right across the street. We started opening

up on the second story just to confuse the insurgents as the Marines stormed the house. One of the Marines that first penetrated was Platoon Scout Sgt. Rafael Peralta. He took rifle fire in the face as he entered the door. An insurgent threw a fragmentation grenade into the room where the Marines were trying to hide. Peralta grabbed the grenade and held it close so the other Marines could escape. He saved a lot of lives. He's up for a Medal of Honor.

"Some got minor injuries. The guys that got injured ran out of the house. There were no corpsmen, so I left Travis on the rooftop and got the wounded inside the house and started administering first aid. The corpsmen arrived a few minutes later and the wounded

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Brad posing in the attack position shortly before the city was stormed.

were medevacked. When they were retrieving Sgt Peralta's body, they went to a house that had been cleared to find the guys. They found two insurgents in a house hiding in the kitchen. They took them out.

"We were in city until 26th of January. We pulled out to the north. They split up the battalion. Then we went to a small town called Hit. We got mortared every time we went into the city," Brad said.

Get the Hell Out of Dodge

"Brad and I were outside the city of Hit, riding in an amtrack with Marines of Alpha Company. We all dismounted near an overpass and we ran up the hill to get eyes on the city, and the other two in our team went up the other side of the overpass. Immediately the company began taking mortar rounds.

"We had just arrived at the top of the hill by the overpass and you couldn't

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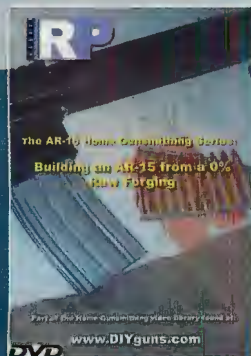
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even hear the incoming of the mortar round until it detonated to our rear. Had we waited another second or two, that mortar round would have done it for us. It went off just maybe a foot or two down the backside of the hill, so the shrapnel barely missed us.

"My spotter, Brad, asked, 'what the hell was that?' I said, 'Dude, that was a mortar'. Another landed to the front, just on the other side of the hill. Now keep in mind, this hill is long and narrow just wide enough for the railroad tracks. The company had no cover and had to run for it. The tracks were trying to get the hell out of Dodge. It was a mess!

"By the grace of God, somehow, no one was hurt. As the mortaring continued, you can hear the sound of the round launch, and you hope its not coming for you. I've got to hand it to those ass holes, their mortar fire was pretty accurate that day. Bad situation—a lot of civilians," Travis said.

"We did security for election day, but I was back at camp with a sniper team up there. Only one person voted in the whole town of Hit. That was discouraging. But the next morning we were watching CNN and realized that 4-

8 million had voted. That made us feel a lot better after all that work," Brad said.

"We pulled out of Hit the first or second of February, ten days later we went back to Kuwait for almost a month," Travis said.

"Don't make us into heroes," Brad said. "We weren't heroes, we just did our job. The guys that died, they were the heroes." ✕

Ninety U.S. troops made the ultimate sacrifice in the battle of Fallujah. Over 1500 insurgents were killed.

Dr. Martin Brass is an international lawyer and longtime SOF contributor.



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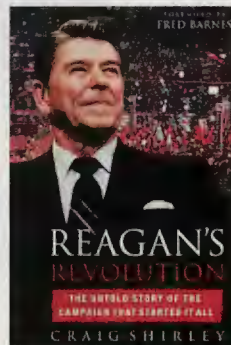
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It may be common knowledge that Ronald Reagan's presidency (1980-1988) was a key turning point in world history and in American politics. However Craig Shirley's new book *Reagan's Revolution: The Untold Story of the Campaign that Started it All* [Nelson Current, January 2005] reveals the secrets behind Reagan's first run for the presidency in 1976 — the campaign that unified and saved a dying Republican Party and launched the modern-day conservative movement. *Reagan's Revolution* is the first book to examine in detail Ronald Reagan's cam-



paign for the presidency in 1976 against incumbent president Gerald Ford; shedding light on the only undocumented chapter in the political legacy of one of the most beloved and revered presidents in American history. Historically significant and brilliantly written, *Reagan's Revolution* captures an overlooked, undocumented part of Ronald Reagan's political career. The book provides an inside look at the players, the politics, and never before published events that shaped the campaign of 1976 and beyond.

"Superbly written and meticulously researched, this is an important book that fills in some historical gaps of the election that would be the harbinger of the modern Republican Party of Ronald Reagan who would carry it to heights few could have imagined at that time."

— Senator Zell Miller (D-GA)

Craig Shirley is the president of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs, a prestigious conservative public relations agency located just outside of Washington, DC.

For more information about the book and author, please visit
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and border security, it's hard to say. At this moment we've put about 15,000 soldiers and officers through the school and on to active duty. This is the core group we are now working with. We are enlarging operations and by 2008 we hope to have an active armed force of about 70,000. Some say that it may not be sufficient in view of the problems they will be faced with, but we won't know until the time comes. At the moment, we're certainly making progress and I think that will continue. But the

situation is complex, with a lot of factors coming into play. The economy has to be developed and the political system needs to function. From what I've seen the Afghans are tired of war and are willing to work to bring stability to their country. I would think that the primary reason we are here is to help them in reaching that goal." ✕

A frequent contributor to SOF, American Richard Lucas is based in Europe and often reports on European military activity.

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ica's finest," as his wife and three sons and a crowd of over 100 well-wishers looked on.

Major Presto received his DFC at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico Marine Base, Virginia, a month later with his wife Eileen and Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.) looking on. Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Driscoll, the former CO of HMM-268, pinned the DFC on Presto's chest.

After graduating in June, Presto joined HMX-1, the helicopter squadron that flies Marine One when President George W. Bush is aboard.



Colonel Goodman, Air Station Commanding Officer at Camp Pendleton with Sgt. Maj. Chin watching as Goodman presents DFC to Espinoza. Photo: USMC

Captain Espinoza, who deployed to Iraq last year as the forward air controller for the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, is currently the safety officer for Headquarters Squadron, which is based at Camp Pendleton. Captain Chris Graham is currently deployed, as is HM2 Michael Burnette. Cpl. Joe Morales is undergoing Army flight training. Sgt. Oakenson is still with HMM-268.

Captain David Roen, who flew with Major Presto, is also with the "Red Dragons." So are Sgt. DiMartino and Cpl. Hoenes, who was promoted to sergeant a few months ago. HMC Thomas J. Barry, the Navy corpsman, is no longer with the squadron.

Roen, DiMartino, Oakenson and Hoenes returned from Iraq in March 2005 after their second deployment to the war zone. ✕

A frequent contributor to SOF, Dale B. Cooper was an embedded reporter with 1/5 Marines in their assault on Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

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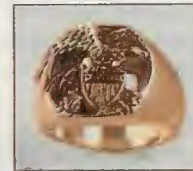
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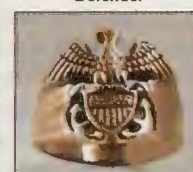
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Death Wish

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

MANILA, Philippines — My Fox News producers and I have just returned from documenting an atrocity. While we were at the scene of the crime interviewing eyewitnesses, a copy of this week's Time magazine was placed in my hotel room.

Our day was devoted to detailing the horrific treatment meted out to more than 75,000 Allied prisoners of war in the Philippines between 1942 and 1945. The day ended with an American "news" magazine's "sometimes shocking" classified account of how captured terrorists are treated at Guantanamo. A day that began with the Bataan Death March ended with a death wish.

Since we have been in Manila, 14 Filipinos have died at the hands of Abu Sayyaf Islamic terrorists. The murders hardly made the news in the United States. In that same timeframe, five American soldiers and more than two dozen civilians were killed by terrorists in Iraq.

In much of our media, the Iraqi butchery was offered as further proof that bringing democracy to Baghdad is a futile endeavor. Absent from U.S. reporting about the atrocities in Iraq and the Philippines is the fact that the architects of the attacks cared neither about how many non-combatants were killed, nor whether the perpetrators themselves survived. Yet, according to "experts" interviewed by Time magazine, the techniques used by the U.S. military to interrogate terrorists detained at Guantanamo are an "outrage on personal dignity."

The real outrage isn't the affront to the "dignity" of suicide terrorists being interrogated and kept alive against their will by our military at Guantanamo; the greater offense is our mainstream media's lack of context for what transpires there — and the apparent disregard for the consequences of such revelations during a time of war.

The right of the American media to publish classified military information — such as that in Time magazine's "exclusive" account from Guantanamo — is well established. During World War II, the Chicago Tribune divulged that the Battle of Midway had been won thanks to the code-breakers at Station Hypo in Hawaii. Though Americans fighting for their lives in the Pacific theater died because the Japanese immediately changed their JN-25 naval code, no one was ever prosecuted for revealing the secret.

Nor will anyone at Time magazine be arrested for publishing classified data on U.S. military interrogation techniques at Guantanamo. But there should be no doubt that the material detailed in the periodical is now being incorporated in the next editions of training manuals used to indoctrinate members of the Taliban, Al Qaeda, Abu Sayyaf, Hezbollah, the Muslim Brotherhood, et al. That begs a broader question about the whole controversy surrounding the Guantanamo detention facility: Does our so-called mainstream media have a "death wish"?

Much of the information contained in this week's Time magazine was apparently extrapolated from a classified "interrogation log" prepared by those observing and questioning "Detainee 063" — Mohammed al-Qahtani — a Saudi member of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda organization. Though the authors of the report quote an unnamed Pentagon source saying that the illegally disclosed document was "never meant to leave Gitmo," they don't say why — or clarify the rationale for its "secret" classification.

The reason for these omissions is simple: The publication reveals interrogation techniques that our enemies will now use against us, making it more difficult to extract valuable intelligence

from terrorists in the future. In substance and consequence, this week's Time magazine is little different from the 1942 "code-breakers" report in the Chicago Tribune.

Though the right of news organizations to "break" this kind of "news" is well protected by our Constitution's First Amendment, the motive for doing so is suspect. A careful reading of this week's story — now repeated in numerous outlets — reveals that "Detainee 063" is subjected to treatment that is barely harsher than a military boot camp: standing for prolonged periods, isolation, removal of clothing, forced shaving of facial hair, playing on "individual phobias" (such as barking dogs), "mild, non-injurious physical contact such as grabbing, poking in the chest with the finger and light pushing."

His interrogation cell has pictures of Sept. 11 victims, American flags and red lights. He has to stand for the playing of the U.S. national anthem. He is subjected to "Invasion of Space by a Female." And when he refuses to drink the water he is routinely offered and becomes severely dehydrated, his handlers take him to a hospital facility, where medical personnel administer fluids intravenously. Time magazine describes all of this as a "glimpse into the darker reaches of intelligence gathering."

Darker reaches? The "log" was classified so that our well-trained and very dedicated adversaries wouldn't know how to beat the interrogation "system" when captured. Time claims that their story reveals how U.S. military personnel "specialize in extracting information by almost any means." But the truth is, the means used are remarkably humane.

In response to the furor created by the al-Qahtani story, Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) observed: "The guy ... is going to dine tomorrow on lemon fish with two types of vegetables, two types of fruit, and then he will be afforded his taxpayer-funded Quran, taxpayer-funded prayer beads and oil so he can pray, presumably, to kill more Americans."

Though the editors are unlikely to acknowledge it, Time magazine's much-ballyhooed story has far less to do with human rights than it does with domestic politics. The authors even admit that "the case of Detainee 063 is sure to add fire to the debate about the use of American power in the age of terrorism." Fire indeed. One should be careful what one wishes for. ✕

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.

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

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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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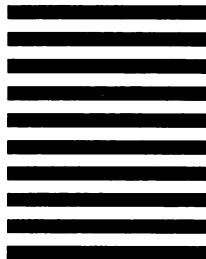
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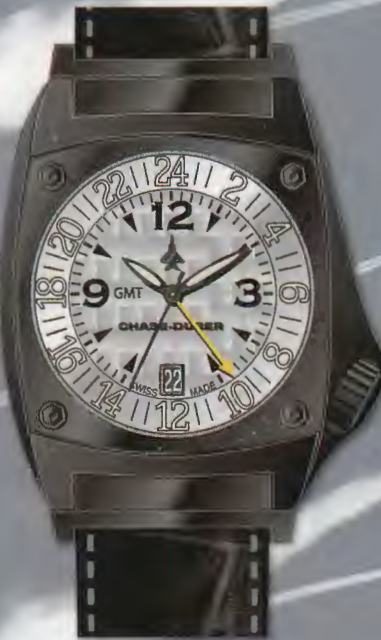
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