



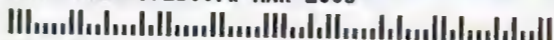
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Legion's Rapid Reaction Force page 14

Bushmaster's Carbon Rifle page 74

New Threat: Venezuela page 82

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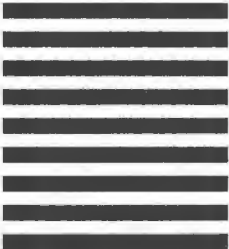
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NOVEMBER 2005 VOL. 30 NO. 11



On The Cover

Spec. Casey M. Cooper poses in front of Humvee shortly after firefight. Cooper received Bronze Star with "V" device and Purple Heart. Page 20

AMERICA AT WAR

RAVEN 42 AMBUSH by Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown USAR (Ret.) 20
FROM THE NORTHWEST TO THE MIDDLE EAST by Col. James Uhl, USA 32
TERRORISM SITREP by Dr. Martin Brass 36
HOMING IN ON THE RANGE by Cpl. Mike Escobar 38
CHOPPERS - DEATH WAITS AT A HOVER by Dr. Martin Brass 40
MH-47 RESCUE CHOPPER DOWN! by Dr. Martin Brass 45
THE THREAT FROM VENEZUELA by Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.) 82



USMC photo by Cpl. Christopher R. Rye

FEATURES

LEGIONNAIRES ON THE LZ by Richard Lucas 14
LEGIONNAIRES: A PAGE FROM HISTORY by Richard Lucas 29
SAVAGE'S LEFT-HAND TACTICAL RIFLE by Gary Paul Johnston 60
BUSHMASTER'S LIGHT by Gary Paul Johnston 74
A CRY FOR FREEDOM by Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown USAR (Ret.) 74



Photo: Richard Lucas

COLUMNS

COMMAND GUIDANCE by Mike Bengé 6
FLAK 8
BULLETIN BOARD 12
ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER 72



Gary Paul Johnston

ADVERTISEMENTS

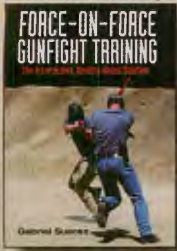
Supply Depot 55
Classifieds 56
Advertisers' Index 57



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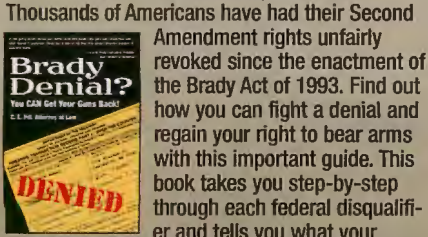


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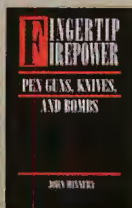
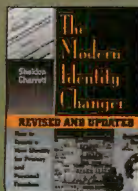
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Command Guidance

BY MIKE BENGE

Montagnards Violently Forced Back To Vietnam

Mike Bengé, who remains a dedicated friend to the Montagnards who fought with the United States in Viet Nam continually pleads their cause to the American Public and politicians. Bengé worked in Vietnam as a Foreign Service officer for eleven years, where he became closely connected with the Montagnards. For five years, he was held as a prisoner of war. After his release in 1973, he remembered his Montagnard friends and returned to work with them until the communist takeover in 1975. He is currently adviser to the Montagnard Human Rights Organization based in North Carolina.

The following are excerpts of one more effort by Bengé to keep the issue of the horrific abuse of his Montagnard friends in the public eye that appeared in the Augusta Free Press.

"Ninety-four Montagnard Christians who sought asylum in Cambodia were recently forcibly and violently returned to Vietnam, while United Nations High Commission on Refugees personnel stood by and did nothing. Cambodian

police set up roadblocks in order to block journalists and human-rights monitors from the building where UNHCR housed the Montagnards and the area where buses were waiting to take them back to Vietnam.

The Montagnards, fearing for their lives, passively sat on the floor of the UNHCR building holding hands and praying. Uniformed storm troops with AK-47 assault rifles slung over their shoulders, wielding heavy batons and high-voltage electric cattle prods, waded in among the Montagnards, indiscriminately striking and shocking men, women and children, who offered no

resistance.

Eyewitnesses reported that the Montagnards were dragged out of the facility by their arms, legs and, in several cases, by their hair with their heads striking the concrete floor. Police beat at least one woman with a baby strapped to her back, and kicked other women repeatedly in their stomachs. They beat individuals with batons and used electric

Continued on page 70

Police beat at least
one woman with a
baby strapped to
her back

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Hack, Handguns, Medals

I would like to compliment you on a great issue of SOF for September, 2005 and comment on several of the issues discussed in this particular issue, which I will list below:

1. Your coverage and commentary on Colonel Hackworth's funeral, while sad, was all too true. None of the big brass had the courage to attend his funeral. "Hack" was a soldier's soldier, and this did not go down well with many in the officer corps of the Army. However, his record and courage, both as a soldier and a civilian, speak for themselves. Colonel Hackworth talked the talk and walked the walk, unlike many of his fellow high-ranking officers. May God bless him and grant him eternal peace.

2. The second item I wanted to discuss was John Higgs' article "Only Hits Kill." Mr. Higgs wrote a great, informative article. He also touched upon something that I personally feel is imperative for the U.S. military as a whole, which is the replacement of the Beretta M9 9mm pistol. We adopted the 9mm as a sop to our NATO allies, replacing a pistol (the Colt .45 M1911) that was time and battle-proven. To add insult to injury, they replaced the American-made Colt with a foreign-made pistol (the Beretta M9), which has shown to be unreliable in arduous conditions, such as those encountered in the desert of Iraq. My thought is get rid of the Beretta and go back to the .45 caliber pistol as a sidearm. A good choice would be one of the Smith & Wesson double-action .45's. They are chambered for a combat proven cartridge, ambidextrous, reliable, cost-effective, and American Made.

3. The last item I wanted to comment on was the great article on the Cold War by Richard Kolb. As Mr. Kolb points out, many American military personnel paid the ultimate price during this period. As a veteran of the Cold War, I would encourage anyone who reads this magazine (especially Cold War vets) to write or contact their respective Congressmen and Senators to support the Bill that is currently in the House for the award of a new medal for those who served during the Cold War. You can contact the organization pushing for this legislation at www.coldwarveterans.com. If you contact your legislators, please refer to H.R. 1815, the Cold War Victory Medal. Certainly, the downfall of the Iron Curtain and the Soviet Empire deserves this recognition. Please support this bill.

Thank you for a great publication and may God bless all of our troops, wherever they may be serving, but especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Coyne



Foreign Adventure

Gentlemen...I give you great credit for the cover and story in the September 2005 issue of SOF Magazine dealing with the French Foreign Legion in Afghanistan! Although too short, the article was excellent. Now that's the kind of cover and story that brings back the old and wonderful SOF Magazine. I remember a time back in the late 1970s and early 1980s when you featured articles dealing with small foreign conflicts, actions and units from around the world...that's what a lot of folks and I want to read. At one time a person could look in the classifieds and find work... outside the country. Where did that SOF Magazine go? Did you give in to the bleeding heart liberals who seem to control

the press these days? I'm not down playing our Soldiers and Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan...but we want more! If you want to impress me on Iraq...do a story on the 278th Regimental Combat Team of the Tennessee National Guard. I have more than a few friends there as well as family. It was my old Regiment...Troop E 2/278th ACR. Anyway, how about spanning the globe and showing us something besides Iraq and Afghanistan...it's getting old. What about it guys?

SSgt John K. Thompson (Ret.)
U.S. Cavalry

Dear Sarge: Thanks for your well-thought out letter. We're doing as many Afghan/Iraq articles as we are, because we feel we're a voice for the troops as contrasted to the major media who don't give a damn or disparage their efforts. As long as we are involved in this particular war on terror, as long as we've got our young men and women in harm's way, you're going to see a preponderance of material on these heroes. Stay safe, my friend and good luck.

Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)
Editor/Publisher, Soldier of Fortune Magazine

Kudos

Bob- Kudos on the mention of your 30th anniversary in the American Rifleman (*see page 47 of this issue*). Wow! 30 years. I am sure you never expected it to last this long. Guts for sticking it out.

Ernie Smith

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Kudos and Congrats

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on SOF's 30-year anniversary! Secondly, the staff at AmericanSnipers.org wish to thank you and SOF for your support of our organization. In our two-year existence, AmericanSnipers.org has supported U.S. snipers and designated marksmen in 239 different combat platoons of the U.S. military. We could not have provided the amount of support we have been successful in providing without the help of people like you and SOF. We continue to be inundated with requests for spotting scopes, riflescopes, laser range finders, wind meters and body armor plate barriers, as our snipers continue to complete their missions, often times without the things they need to make them combat effective. We are desperately trying to fill the voids and get them properly equipped as they hunt the IED makers and planters and provide overwatch for their teammates. We are extremely proud of our brothers in the fight and they are truly the best of us. My staff and I once again look forward to seeing you at SHOT SHOW '06.

Kind regards,
Brian K. Sain, Director
AmericanSnipers.org

I Think You Missed Something?

As an avid reader of SOF for the past 20 or so years I was dumbfounded not to see any mention of the Invasion of Panama listed in the September 2005 issue under Cactus

Curtain. I hope the editors and reporters have not forgotten this altercation against purveyors of today's biggest menace: Drugs, Cartels and the people who reap the profits of its ill-gotten gains. As an Air Force medic assigned to assist the 1st SOW in caring with their wounded and having to step around the bodies of the Navy SEALs that were slaughtered at Patilla airport as I moved to assist other airmen in the fast tent, "I WILL NEVER FORGET" what they gave and what they accomplished.

Medals are great but don't forget those that gave their all.

TSgt Wayne A. Schwark USAF (Ret)

We have not forgotten, but even writers and editors sometimes do miss the elephant that is not in the room.

Project Bore Snake

Project Bore Snake, September edition Pg 13: You misspelled [sic] the website address!

It should be www.projectboresnake.org

SGT Anthony Yates, USMC (Ret)

Thanks for a good catch. Yeh, first we get deaf, lame, grumpy, and now blind!

Ha, hah: you misspelled "misspelled."

Continued on page 64

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

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



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Wish You Were Here

The Marine Corps does a very good job of preserving military traditions... and so, if this picture sent us from Iraq is any indication, does the Army.

owners, many of which they have posted on their website, www.chase-durer.com

The Blackhawk Mach 3 is a good example of Chase-Durer's passion for quality and attention to detail that allows their 2-year limited guarantee – and superb customer service is a company hallmark.

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SOF's 30th Anniversary Issue!

We've been kicking butt and taking names for 30 years... believe it or not! We're publishing a selection of outstanding articles by some of the best-known SOF authors in our December issue, which is the SOF 30th anniversary issue and 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.

M14 DCM Program To Counterbalance War Costs?

There is an intriguing movement afoot to modify and sell through the DCM – as opposed to pay contractors to cut up – surplus M14 rifles, with net proceeds going to help defray the cost of ongoing military operations. Detailed information on the proposal, and an on-line petition you can sign and forward to like-minded colleagues, will be found at: <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/M14CMP03/>

Vice Adm. James Stockdale, MOH, 81

On 23 July at the U.S. Naval Academy, a true American hero was laid to rest, where his service to country first began. As the senior POW during the Vietnam war, during a 7-1/2 year incarceration by the North Vietnamese, Stockdale displayed bravery and strength of character of the most inspiring kind – not the fleeting courage of the moment, but a rock-solid, never-give-in courage that set the highest possible example not only for his fellow inmates, but for all met at arms.

After flying 200 combat missions over North Vietnam, Adm. Stockdale was shot down and captured in September 1965. His captors and angry villagers beat him, eventually wrenching his shoulders from their sockets, shattering his leg and breaking his back.



The brutal treatment continued after he was taken to the Hanoi Hilton, as his captors knew this senior military prisoner's cooperation would ensure all POWs cooperated – but Stockdale simply would not be broken.

As Marine veteran James G. Zumwalt noted in the *Washington Times*, "Despite beatings, torture, two years in leg irons and four years in solitary confinement

in total darkness, he refused to betray his country and

Continued on page 47

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THE FUTURE IN SIGHT™

Legionnaires

The 2nd Regiment de Parachutistes Étranger (2nd REP)

Text & Photos by Richard Lucas, Archive Photos 2nd REP

The colorful history of the French Foreign Legion's 2nd REP begins with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd BEP (*Bataillon Étranger Parachutiste*), which were formed in 1948-49 to provide airborne troops for the French military efforts in Indochina (Vietnam). They were to become the spearhead intervention force of the French Army in Indochina. Extremely mobile, the Legion paratroop units participated on all fronts of the war and were continuously in action up to the final battle at Dien-Bien-Phu, which fell on 7 May 1954. This battle conclusively ended French military hopes and presence in this former colony.

In 1955 the French Foreign Legion Paratroop Battalions returned from the Far East, after six years of war against the tide of history. These units were awarded the highest honor: The red cord of the Legion of Honor was hung on their battle flags. They were sent next to Algeria, then a department (state) of France, and converted into regiments.

On 1 December 1955 the 2nd REP was formed and garrisoned at Camp Pèchaud, near Philippeville (present day Skikda).

sent into action. From the *Djebel*, the mountainous region on the Tunisian border, to the Battle of Algiers, the Legion paratroopers were sent to wherever they were needed, carrying out some of the most difficult and dangerous missions of the war.

During the Algerian conflict the French military had developed innovative airborne tactics in response to the difficult situation they faced. Algeria was a large country, divided by mountain ranges and desert areas that made land travel difficult and dangerous. The enemy they faced knew the country and was extremely mobile, attacking in one place and moving on to regroup in the more desolate areas. To cope with the situation, the French deployed helicopters on a large scale as a primary means of troop transport and rapid intervention.

After five years of fighting, a political solution was negotiated that was to end the war in Algeria and grant gradual independence to the country. The decision brought on the political crisis of 1961, which was a difficult time for the Legion and the French Army. Certain French generals in Algeria, confident that they could win the war, rejected the government peace plan. They were supported by the nearly one million French civilians living in the country, many having been born in Al-

geria, who refused to leave what they considered to be their homeland. Protests broke throughout the country and in a virtual *coup d'état* a group of Army officers attempted to set up their own "Free Algeria." They were supported by several of the combat regiments, including the 2nd REP as well as the other Legion units.

Eventually the crisis was defused, but it had been a major shock to the country. At one point the Parisian airports had been closed in fear that the rebel paratroop units would use them as a staging area for an attempt to

A New War, on "Home" Soil

By that time the Algerian conflict had already begun. Insurgent elements were determined to have an independent Algeria, while the French were equally determined to keep Algeria, which was officially a French department, thus part of France, under the French flag. Virtually from the moment they arrived in the country, the Legionnaires were



In the LZ

During the Cold War, the 1st Company was prepared for stemming the flow of Soviet armor through the Fulda Gap. Now, they specialize in MOUT and night ops. Standard weapons include the FAMAS rifle, 12-gauge shotguns and a short version of the Minimi SAW.



(above) With night ops a specialty, Legionnaires from the 1st Company make use of an eclectic assortment of weapons sights and vision gear. (right) Legionnaires from the 1st Company, 2nd REP fill a plane en route to a training jump.

overthrow the French President Charles De Gaulle, and take over the government. Following these events, the 1st REP was disbanded and the 2nd REP was reformed under new command and eventually was stationed at Bou-Sfer to provide security for the military base located there, and wait for the end of the war.

At the end of the Algerian conflict, the 2nd REP returned to France and was permanently based at Camp Raffalli, near Calvi on the French island of Corsica. Camp Raffalli is situated on the sea with the Corsican mountains behind, making it ideal terrain for diverse training. The companies each received a special assignment and the Legionnaires of the 2nd REP were trained for all types of interventions and missions. A commando group of HALO-qualified paratroopers specializing in scouting and recon missions was added to the regiment. Specialist training is a prerequisite for the REP, and the Legionnaires are frequently sent to the continent for qualifications from the various schools offered by the French Army. Training is also carried out abroad in Djibouti at the CECAP desert combat/commando training center, and in French Guyana at the French Foreign Legion Jungle Survival Center.

The 2nd REP remains one of the primary intervention units of the French Army and has been instrumental in resolving conflict situations world-wide, such as in Chad in 1969 where they faced Khadafi's Army, and in the first Gulf War to liberate Kuwait in 1991. They have also been involved in peace-keeping and humanitarian missions in Lebanon; Ga-



Continued on page 29

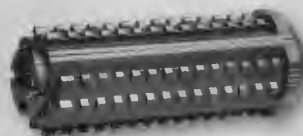
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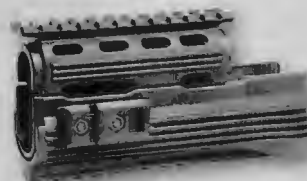
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Legionnaires: A Page From History

More than 25 years ago, 19 May 1978, one three-day battle in the city of Kolwezi, Zaire illustrated the efficacy of a small, highly trained force against numerically overwhelming odds. Cuban-supported leftist *Katangais* "Tigers" had attacked from their strongholds in Angola, driven out the local military and were running terribly amok in a mining city that held some 2,000 European technicians and their families. The invaders' hope was to destabilize the pro-western government of Mobutu Sese Seko Koba Ngbendu, president of diamond and metal-rich Zaire.

The FAZ (*Forces Armées Zairoises*) present in the city were outnumbered by the heavily armed rebel troops and abandoned the city with little or no resistance. In a few hours Kolwezi lay in rebel hands and the "Tigers" were soon out of control. General looting had broken out, and rape and other atrocities were committed by the rebel troops on the population both black and white.

President Mobutu looked to France for help. Within days a CCS (Command Company) of 116, four combat companies of 138 each, and a 36-member reconnaissance section were on their way to Solenzara, a military airbase on Corsica: three DC-8s and a Boeing 707 were waiting to take-off for Africa.

With time pressing, certain political considerations were set aside and the orders became clear and simple: "Jump into Kolwezi and secure the city." On the morning of the 19th, operation "Bonite" had begun: The first wave jumped into an unused airfield just north of the city, around three o'clock in the afternoon. Made up of three combat companies, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and a command group, within minutes more than 300 battle-ready Legion paratroops had a foothold in Kolwezi. The operation took the rebel troops completely by surprise and what resistance they could put up soon dissolved in panic as more and more Legionnaires were able to regroup and join the fight.

The 1st company commanded by Cpt. Poulet set off immedi-

ately toward the Jean XXIII Catholic high school where a large group of Europeans had gathered and were now being held captive by the rebels. They eliminated the rebels holding the school and liberated the families who had spent several days enclosed there. At the same time the 2nd company under the orders of Cpt. Dubos took control of the Gecamines Hospital after heavy

fighting with the rebels held up there. Meanwhile the 3rd company commanded by Cpt. Gausserès had secured the airport area and set up defensive positions in and around the drop zone and began sending reconnaissance units into the old part of the city.

The next day, the 29th of May at dawn, the second assault wave, including the 4th combat company, a communications and command unit, a mortar section, and a reconnaissance group, jumped into Kolwezi. Meeting heavy resistance, the Legionnaires were engaged in combat, at times extremely violent, throughout most of the day. As they advanced toward the city center, they came upon scenes of horror, mass killings, rapes and mutilations. In the days to come, images of these atrocities would appear in the international press, shocking the entire world.

At the end of the second day Kolwezi was almost entirely under control of the 2nd REP. The following day the last pockets of rebel resistance were eliminated and the city was completely secured. The Legionnaires began

to assemble the Europeans who had survived the carnage and began preparations for evacuation.

Operation "Bonite" had lasted just a little over three days, during which the 2nd REP had been engaged in nearly continuous combat. The final outcome was impressive by any standards and reflects the professionalism and high degree of training of the 2nd REP: two hundred and fifty rebels were killed, nearly a thousand weapons, a dozen vehicles, artillery, mortars, and heavy machine guns were recovered. The Legion losses were five killed and twenty wounded. — R.L. ✕



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RAVEN 42

Ambush

“When we first started taking fire, I just looked to the right and saw seven or eight guys shooting back at us — muzzle flashes... I shot one guy. I saw him fall.”

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, ABC News



Troopers from the 617th Military Police Company, Richmond, KY, following an awards ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq, 16 June 2005. From left to right: Spec Jesse Ordunez; Sgt. Dustin Morris; Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester; Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Commander, Multinational Corps Iraq; Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein; Spc. Casey Cooper and Spc. Jason Mike. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

Kentucky National Guard Kicks Ass, Takes Names

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

AFTER ACTION REPORT: Raven 42 Shines as They Decimate Terrorists in Salman Pak, Iraq

Though this firefight was mentioned on television news shows, and in the print news media, the story of this Military Police Squad who kicked some serious terrorist ass has yet to be told in the detail it so richly deserves. SOF has the pleasure of presenting the first draft of the entire after action report of this shoot out in print and has taken the liberty of inserting in appropriate places, quotes from some of the participants. The Brigade S-2 authored this. The quotes are extracted from an article in the Washington Post. Although the Post and SOF agree on very few subjects, SOF gives credit where credit is due and notes that the author, Steve Fainaru, did a hell of a job of reporting and richly deserves “two thumbs up.”

On Sunday afternoon, 20 March 2000, in a nasty, dry section of scrubland called Salman Pak, on the south-eastern outskirts of Baghdad, 40 to 50 heavily armed Iraqi insurgents attacked a convoy of 30 civilian tractor trailer trucks that were moving supplies for the coalition forces, along an Alternate Supply Route (ASR).

These tractor trailers, driven by third country nationals (primarily Turks), were escorted by three armored Hummers from the Corps Support Command (COSCOM) which provides supply, military police, medical and other support to combat units.

When the insurgents attacked, one of the Hummers was in their kill zone and the three soldiers aboard were immediately wounded, as their Hummer started taking heavy machinegun and RPG fire.

Along with them, three of the truck drivers were killed, and six were wounded. The enemy attacked from a farmer's barren field next to the road, with a tree line perpendicular to the ASR, two dry irrigation ditches forming a rough L-shaped trench line, and a house standing off the dirt road. After three minutes of sustained fire, a squad of enemy moved forward toward the disabled and immobile trucks. Each of the terrorists carried handcuffs and was looking to take hostages for ransom or worse; to take those three wounded U.S. soldiers for more internet beheadings.

About this time, three armored Hummers that formed the MP Squad under the call sign Raven 42, 617th MP Co, Kentucky National Guard, assigned to the 503rd MP Bn (Fort Bragg), 18th MP Bde, arrived on the scene like the

Specialist Ashley Pullen was awarded a Bronze Star with (V) device for her bravery on 20 March 2005.
Photo: Kentucky Army National Guard



fire with .50 machineguns and Mk19 grenade launchers. The Hummers roared across the front of the terrorists kill zone, between the enemy and the trucks, drawing heavy fire from the terrorists.

The MPs crossed the kill zone and then started to turn up an access road at a right angle to the ASR and next to the field full of enemy fighters. As they did so, Cooper saw a RPG hurtling toward his Humvee. "I saw a black dot, he recalled. "All I could say was 'Oh, crap!'"The round exploded above the rear passenger's side window. As the Humvee fishtailed, Cooper thudded down into the cab. Nein reached back and shook him. "Coop, are you OK?" He screamed. Cooper was bloody and motionless. Believing he was dead, I began to climb up on top of him to get up on the weapon," Nein said. Cooper suddenly bolted upright.

"I'm OK, I'm OK," he yelled and climbed back into the gun turret. Sgt Morris made the turn to open fire with the Ma Deuce. Incredibly, the vehicle continued to function, as AK-47 and RPD rounds smashed into the grill and oil started spurting onto the windshield, which smeared over the bulletproof glass. Nein and Cooper's vehicle stopped a couple of hundred yards down the side road.

The second Humvee, driven by Spec. Ashley Pullen and with Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester in the passenger seat screeched to an abrupt halt some 50 yards behind. The last vehicle halted just after the turn. Spec. Jason Mike a huge former Jacksonville University fullback, and the medic, were stunned by the number of terrorists he saw blasting way from a ditch along side the ASR as well has from an orchard and a ditch running alongside the side road.

The three armored Humvees had now flanked the enemy positions and opened up with devastating fire from their .50's and SAW's (Squad Automatic Weapon). In front of them was a line of seven sedans – Opels, BMWs and Ca-

cavalry. The squad had been shadowing the convoy from a distance behind the last truck, when the convoy trucks stopped and became backed up from the initial attack. Some of the trucks were already burning.

Spec. Casey Cooper, in the gunner's hatch of the first Humvee, yelled, "They're taking fire, Go! Go!" Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, in the passenger seat, ordered Sgt. Dustin Morris to drive between the ambush and the stalled tractor trailers. Morris zipped through a space between two tractor trailers and the three Humvees sped up, paralleled the convoy up the shoulder of the road, and into a hail of small arms and RPG fire. "Flank 'em down the road," Nein yelled.

They arrived on the scene just as a squad of about 10 terrorists had moved forward across the farmer's field and were about 20 meters from the road. The MP squad opened



The gunner on the second Hummer drove his vehicle forward on two flat tires 100 meters to a better firing position when the vehicle died, spraying oil everywhere.
Photo: Kentucky Army National Guard

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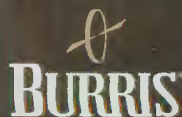
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Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester faces camera in front of huge number of weapons captured during the intense firefight. Photo: Kentucky Army National Guard (inset) Sgt. Hester is the first female to receive a Silver Star since World War II U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

prices, with their doors and trunks open. A single two-story house was off to their left rear.

Simultaneously, the third Humvee's driver, Spec. Bryan Mack, and team leader Sgt. Joe Rivera bailed out their doors to fight, while their gunner, Spec. William Hayes, continued firing from the turret of the Hummer, which was parked near the heaviest concentration of the enemy. Within a few minutes three of the four Humvee's troopers fell to heavy return machinegun fire. Sgt. Rivera was hit as well as Spec. Mack, who took a round in the left shoulder. Rounds were sizzling in from two directions from only a couple of insurgents but it was enough fire to pin the MPs down. Haynes, in the gun turret, took a round in the left hand, falling screaming back into the Hummer.

Mike, the only functioning trooper from the 3rd Hummer, "out Ramboed Rambo." But this was no phony Hollywood bullshit. He hoisted an M249 onto the Hummer's trunk, firing it with his right hand into the main trench line. With his left, he squeezed off bursts from his M4 at the terrorist on top of the 10-foot berm. He continued blazing away, one gun after the other, until Hayes got his hand bandaged and got back into the fight.

The squad's medic, Spec. Jason Mike, from Radcliff, Kentucky, dismounted from third vehicle, and joined by the first vehicle's driver, Sgt. Morris, who sprinted back to join him, implemented combat life-saving techniques to treat the three wounded MPs. (Both are Combat Life Saving Trained [CLST] which means they have received significant training over and above basic medical training).

Sgt. Nein jumped out of his riddled Hummer with his M4 carbine and two hand grenades, and grabbed Sgt. Hester who had also exited her vehicle. In both cases they walked directly into the gunfire. Below them, in the trench along the

road, four goblins were popping bursts at the squad and then ducking behind a berm. The two of them rolled over the 10-foot berm into the trench. "We've got to go in there," Sgt. Nein muttered.

Spaced a few yards apart, they popped around to fire sporadic bursts from their AK's. "I could see the bullets kicking up the dried dirt," he remembered. "We went through there foot by foot," said Sgt. Hester. "We'd stop every couple of meters or so... I'd be firing over his shoulder." They tossed grenades as they went. Hester lobbed a grenade and hugged the side of the trench. One terrorist continued to fire until Nein tossed him a grenade. The firing stopped. As Hester and Nein struggled out of the trench, bodies littered the orchard and trenches.

The .50 and SAW flanking fire had torn apart the 10 terrorists in the lead trench line.

Meanwhile, the medic, Mike and Morris who were treating the three wounded on the ground at the rear Hummer, came under sniper fire from the farmer's house. Each of them grabbed an AT-4 rocket launcher from the Hummer and nearly simultaneously fired the rockets into the house, vaporizing the shooter and the house. The two then worked their way up the trench line, throwing grenades, firing grenades from the launcher, and firing their M4s.

Sgt. Hester, low on ammo, ran back to her squad leader's vehicle, and because this squad is well trained to implement the unit's SOP, she knew exactly where to look to find the ammo with out even looking.

As she turned to move back to the trench line, the gunner in two saw a terrorist jump from behind one of the cars and start firing on the sergeant. He pulled his 9mm, because the .50 was pointed in the other direction, and snapped off

Continued on page 28

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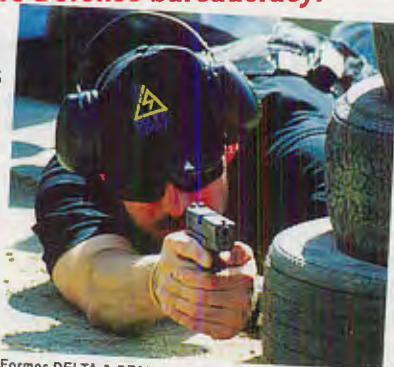
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If you are finally ready to become **100% certain** you've done all you can to protect your home and family from any assault from any type of criminal scum... and quite being a walking target for the robbers, rapists and psychopaths prowling your streets...

Then this will be the Most Important Message You Ever Get!

Here is what it's all about: this message is going to outrage some very important (and very dangerous) people.... **People who would very much like to see me go away and never again mention the words "Delta/Seal Training Camp" ever again!** You see, my company, TRS, put together a series of elite combat courses that were hosted by actual Navy SEAL and U.S Army DELTA veteran trainers (*with real life combat experience*) ... who, for 4 incredibly intense days, shared *everything* they knew about close-quarters weapons and unarmed combat. And they shared it all with *civilians* like you... the **ONLY** time in the history of the U.S.A military that this kind of high-level training was revealed to *anyone* not already *inside* the Special Forces!

These training camps will never be held again! They cost \$3750 just to attend... and everyone who came *raved* about what they learned and came away with. The camps were the *most complete* training in "elite level: military hand to hand and firearm expertise ever offered to **anyone** outside the Special

Forces. It was a **dream come true** for anyone who ever wanted to learn (*and master*) the **inside secrets of brutally-efficient hand to hand combat and expert-level handgun training**...the kind of knowledge that will make even the *craziest* street fighter think three times before trying to take you on... and, if he *does* come after you, he will suddenly (and painfully) realize...

He's Made A Very Serious Mistake!

We went way out on a limb to offer these camps... and we made a lot of people *very* angry.

And now it's over. These amazing camps will *never, ever* be held again. (We were **banished from 5 of the country's major gun ranges** at the last minute, under *very mysterious* circumstances, before finding the courageous California range we finally held these camps at.) Now, even that opportunity is *gone forever*...

Slammed Shut by Outside Forces We Simply Cannot Fight Anymore!

That means you can *never* attend a DELTA/SEAL training camp like this yourself- even if you have the \$3750 each attendee paid just to get in... plus the *hundreds of dollars* in airfare... plus hotel costs... vacation time off... food... and equipment. By even conservative measures, *most* attendees shelled out over **\$5000** to come. Yet, even at that outrageous price, they considered it the *bargain of a lifetime*. **Four days of intense, personal training** in combat-tested hand-to-hand fighting tactics... plus the *complete mastery* of "elite military level" handgun

shooting skills. Taught by the *most respected trainers* on the planet actual combat veterans from the ranks of the Navy SEALs and the U.S. Army DELTA Special Forces!

But you can experience the **same training** through a hyper intense video package of *actual minute-to-minute training* at the camps and, even better, the price is a mere *fraction* of what everyone else had to pay! **Not even a significant percentage of the cost... less, even, than what the attendees used up in 9mm and .45 bullets during a single day** of these adrenaline-charged camps!

You read that right- these tapes are available to **you** for that amount to *spare change* compared to the outrageous costs the attendees had to shell out! No matter how you look at this... it's the *greatest bargain* you'll ever come across... for what will instantly become...

The Most Important Fighting Skills Of Your Life!

Just like the attendees, you are going to witness the *highest level* of training instruction, direct from the best teachers in the world. In fact, because of the **advantages** of better camera angles, a professional editing, up close shots of whispered advice, and your ability to *rewind* and go over any point until you "get it" ... **you have and even better opportunity to learn than many of the attendees did!** Just by studying these sophisticated, "executive-level" training sessions, you will learn:

⇒ **Incredibly effective fighting techniques you can master overnight**...skills that give you the *devastating ability* to instantly take down even a steroid enraged

street punk twice your size!

- ⇒ **Simply defense strategies** for arming your family and loved ones with the skills, know how and awareness to *avoid 90% of the crime that ruin other people's lives* (carjacking, rape, assault) ... and to reverse any attack so you come out the **winner and never the victim!**
- ⇒ Expert "elite military level" handgun shooting skills that will instantly put you among the most respected "weapons savvy" people on the planet!
- ⇒ And what's so great about this training you'll see is, it's all "packaged" to be learned fast (overnight, really)... even if you've never trained in anything before! In fact...
- ⇒ **You don't need any previous training or skills at all** most the attendees had no military experience no gun handling and no self defense training before coming to these camps!
- ⇒ **You don't need to be in good shape** (or any kind of shape at all) this was *not* a boot camp based on survival skills! In fact, many of the attendees were "desk jockey" types, including executives from **Fortune 500 corporations** (aged 50 and over) ... and others were young students *from every walk of life* and occupation imaginable!

In fact, all you really need to get the most from these training tapes is the simple desire to change your life, quickly... to *stop walking in fear*, and instead, give yourself (and your loved ones) the **immediate, totally devastating skills** necessary to control *every potentially violent situation* you could ever encounter in this increasingly dangerous world!

And the best part is, **you'll learn it all very fast** because you have the *very best trainers in the world* right there, teaching you in the hottest training available anywhere! This high level of training is most *impossible to comprehend* with out witnessing it for yourself. Its all given and overseen by **Tom Carter and Frank Cucci...**

Without Doubt, The Most Respected "One-Two" Team in THE Country FOR THIS "Real Combat" Training!

Tom Carter spent 17 years in active service, first in the **Green Berets**, and then as an "Alpha "One" team leader with the elite **DELTA Special Forces**. (*He was one of just 5 men to complete the required selection course-95 others couldn't hack it!*) He and his men were in some of the **heaviest firefights** (against Russian trained Cuban Storm troopers) of the **Grenada** invasion five of the six Black Hawk choppers carrying them were too shot up to fly again! In **Haiti**, protecting **President Aristide...** in **Peru**, Tom was *handpicked* to help their Navy go after the notorious **Shining Path** terrorists (*the bloodiest butchers* of this century) ... private ops in **Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Ecuador and South Africa...** he has been written up in magazines on 3 continents (in-

cluding **Newsweek**)... his corporate clients include **Solomon Bros. World Trade Center** headquarters in New York, plus various **U.S. Senators** and ambassadors overseas (as security supervisor) Serious stuff.

This illustrated the **astonishingly high level of instruction** you get these tapes.

Frank Cucci has an equally interesting history. For 12 years he was on of the **top Navy SEALs** a member of the "elite of the elite" **SEAL Team Six** (which has had about a *dozen* books and movies dedicated to them, where he saw mortal combat. These are the "**first in, last out**" soldiers in any action... and they very "unusual" freedom in how they do their jobs in the field because of the *spectacular* success in "black bag" operations. Frank was the **creator and Chief Instructor of the Naval Special Warfare Unarmed Combat Course...** and the techniques he brought the **SEALS...**

Have Been Used In Every Recent U.S. War And Engagement!

Frank is a nice guy... but when it comes to hand to hand combat he's absolutely the *last* man you'd want to come across. He teaches incredibly effective (*and brutally vicious*) fighting secrets that come from his training in **Jeet Kune Do** (where he studied with the famous **Dan Inosanto, Bruce Lee's** training partner) and the respected Thai boxing master **Surachai Sirisute**. Frank is a professional who knows how to impart serious training secrets **FAST!**

Just *watching* these videos will literally **transform** you... because once you've witnessed the **inside secrets and tricks and special training** that can be yours (and so easily); you will be a *different man*. The kind of man who can hush a room just by walking in... with a **sense of calm confidence and centered power** that shines like a searchlight in your eyes.

Here's a "taste" of what you'll learn:

- Incredible "military tricks" that can make you from absolute rookie to a **master** of the handgun in just a few short hours!
- **Insider fighting secrets** that *only the* most elite soldiers who have faced *real* combat could ever share with you!
- How to handle a weapon *better* under **overwhelming stress** than most people can in calm serenity of an empty firing range!
- **The 8 huge mistakes almost all men make with firearms...** and how to handle *your* weapon like and expert overnight! (Even if you've never picked up a gun before in your life)
- Where to strike you're opponent to **end any fight instantly**, no matter how big he is or how surprised you are by the attack!
- **The 12 "tactical" survival rules you must know** to win an armed encounter with any attacker including the horrendous "Hollywood" *mistakes most people make* that get them seriously hurt or killed! (Some of the most "normal tendencies" you have are 100% wrong!)

- **The one "basic" mistake even some cops and soldiers make** (despite their expensive training) *that erases their training advantage* in a street fight! (You'll *never* fall victim to yourself!)
- Why a simple change in your "**mindset**" will mean the difference between being a victim... and being *safe!*
- **How to handle pepper spray!** (A great tool that even the most deadly soldiers now consider *an important part of their self defense package*- but you **must** know how to hand it correctly!)
- **Single takedown moves that require no strength whatsoever!** (*Perfect* to teach your kids and wife... or to use when you're hurt or attacked by bigger men!)
- **How to immediately win a fight** if you find yourself on the ground on your back with a *bigger opponent* on top of you!
- Why untrained shooters often pick the wrong targets 100% of the time
- How to cancel out the **7 most common ways** criminals surprise families *inside their own homes!*
- The 2 "warrior-tested" combat secrets of winning a fight every time!
- **How to unleash the "animal secret" within you** that can turn *around* any situation where you are horribly outnumbered and surprised! (A 40lb. *Wolverine* uses this secret to drive off whole wolf packs from their *own* kill!)
- **The fastest way for even a gentle, never in trouble man to instantly bring up the necessary aggressive response to attack!** (This secret is often all *you need* to force back assault, since most criminals are *not prepared* for expert, aggressive counter measures!)
- **How to control the shakes and super-hot adrenaline dump that occurs during tense, violent situations!** (You'll be *cool, smooth and effective* no matter how confusing things get... just *he opposite* how most men react!)
- How to finish a complicated situation with clever (yet simple) pain compliance tactics that will guarantee you have complete control over your opponent!
Plus, how to fight (and win) *barehanded* against clubs and knives, how to choose **the right gun for you...** how to teach you wife and kids the **basics of self defense** (So they will never be surprised by and attacker) and *more*.

So much more, it would take **ma dozen more pages** just to outline it all!

What you getting this package is **7 complete videotapes** over **9 solid hours** of *intense training and insight into real combat skill you can learn quickly!* These tapes were painstakingly edited down from **over 245 hours of raw footage...** so what you get is **ONLY** "down and dirty" important stuff. All the meat, all the secrets, and all the "**hot**" info is there for you in a, easy to watch (and master) format.

And you get *everything* the attendees received, too-*nothing has been held back*. In

addition to the 7 video tapes, you also get the same **Manual of Self Defense Tactics** the attendees got. This heavy manual is packed with information and details on home security, gun safety, secrets of effective shooting, tips on handling attackers, **everything**. Corporations have **paid over \$800 a piece** for this manual (the exact one you will receive)...and its *not available anywhere else in the world for any price!*

And the best part is...it is all yours...

For A Ridiculous Fraction Of What Everyone Else Had To Pay!

So here's what you need to do now: Call my office right away at **1-800-899-8153** (Ask for Dept. DS-57). Tell whomever answers you want to get your copy of the "**Boot Camp Video Package**" sent to you immediately. You can use your credit card. The cost for this amazing package is **just \$177**, plus \$12 shipping and handling (it's a huge package!). Once we get your order, your package will be rushed out to you by return mail—all 7 videos (or 5 DVD's), plus the Tactics manual, *everything*.

That **outrageously-low** price is going to send *shock waves* through the country when word of it finally leaks out! (Its *less than 6%* of the total costs nearly all the attendees had to pay to come to the camps—you aren't even paying what the attendees shot up in shells in a *single day of training!* **Their hotel bills alone were higher than that!**)

Your satisfaction is 100% Guaranteed. If, after examining these videos for a full 6 months, you aren't happy... simply return them... and I will refund every penny of your purchase price. No questions asked. This is the most generous guarantee ever offered for this kind of elite level training. You risk absolutely nothing.

My friend, if you are even **remotely** interested in learning the honest secrets of hand to hand combat and handgun shooting— as taught by and for the **Special Forces**— then this deal is the **absolute bargain of our life**. Corporations like the big oil companies and financial giants in New York pay *thousands of dollars* in fees to Tom and Frank for their advice...but even for all that money, those executives and big-wigs *don't even begin to see the detailed secrets and inside stuff you will get with these videos!*

You need to call **RIGHT NOW!** As soon as word leaks out that we are selling these tapes...

The Same "Powers That Be" Who Shut Down The Training Camps Will Attempt To Halt These Videos!

The DELTA/SEAL Training Camps are now history. I don't want to go into the details, but the end was a messy affair. Even though *every single police officer* who visited the camps (and there were many) *liked* what they saw... even though *every news media person* who came by raved about the quality of the training (and discovered there was nothing even remotely "strange" about the corporate execs and business owners and

students and blue collar people who attended)... even though the *government agencies* who investigated found *nothing illegal* or even "quasi-legal" going on... even though there were no rednecks, no skinheads, no neo-Nazi's, no one with wild eyes to be seen anywhere... *despite* all this...

We Still Were Stopped Cold!

I would *love* to tell you there is another camp coming up soon you could attend personally... but there isn't. *They are never going to be held again*. Not for \$3,750...not for a *million dollars*.

I would also like to tell you to relax about getting these tapes. But that would be wrong, too. **I absolutely cannot guarantee a set of tapes will be here for you tomorrow!** Too much has happened that has ruined my faith in the "future". If you want these tapes...

You Must Act Right Now...Today

I'm *serious*. The money, really, is *irrelevant*. (The manual you get alone is worth twice the purchase price of the entire video package). What you pay for these tapes doesn't even amount too much more than a few lessons at local karate club... or a new handgun... or a couple of hot nights out on the town. **Yet, what you get is worth so much more.** The *confidence*. The *skills* to repel attacks, and *win confrontations in seconds*. The *sudden lack of fear* you will feel just going out on the streets... and the *incredible feelings of safety* you can offer your family and loved ones.

But you must order right now—while the opportunity to get these amazing tapes *still exists*. And while you are "hot" with the knowledge that *truly-your life is about to*

change in fantastic ways...as soon as a few short days from now!

The number, again, is **1-800-899-8153**.

Order right now.

Sincerely,


Russ Horine

P.S. one more thing— *it's important*. I thought you might like to see what the people who attended these camps had to say about the experience. Here's some of their comments:

"The best money I ever spent. The training and skills I learned are invaluable!" **John Heltsley**.

"Now I have a greater sense of self-confidence." **Rick Chase**

"It was an incredible experience to pick the brains of some of the best guys in the world." **Mark Johnson**—

"My investment was paid back a thousand fold." **Chad Mars**

"There was an incredible amount of knowledge and skill imparted to us in a short period of time". **Patrick O. Harper**—

"I now have a tremendous ability and self confidence in the use of a firearm." **Richard Sands**

"I was skeptical at first. Every expectation I had was by far exceeded. Thanks! **Brady Patrick**—

"Just the confidence of knowing that your trained by the very best, most knowledgeable soldiers in the world makes this camp mandatory for anyone who's serious about protecting himself and his family!" **Briant Tennant**



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YES! I can clearly see that getting this is a unique opportunity to learn (and *master*) incredibly intense skills for self-protection (and the protection of my loved ones)... taught to me by hard-nosed combat veterans from the ranks of the **Navy SEALs and U.S. Army DELTA Special Forces!** I realize that my chance to have and *own* the tapes of these famous training camps is truly a *once-in-a-lifetime bargain*... I also realize this rare opportunity may be **taken away at any time** — just as the Training Camps were closed down forever! Therefore, please rush my package to me by return mail — all 9-plus hours of videotape or DVD's (my choice in indicated below), plus the Training Manual (all of it unavailable anywhere else, at any price)! Here's how I wish to pay:

Please send everything to me on DVD or VHS

I prefer to pay with my credit card;

Enclosed is my Check or Money Order (payable to TRS) for \$189 (\$177 + \$12 S/H).

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Sgt. Dustin Morris poses behind Humvee windshield that defeated two direct hits from the terrorists. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp

five rounds, dropping him.

A lone goblin with an RPG launcher on his shoulder peered from behind a tree and prepared to fire on the three Hummers and was killed with a single well-aimed shot to the head by Nien. Zeroing the dot of her Aim Point on the middle of the chest of a RPG gunner, she said, "I just put that little dot on him and squeezed the trigger," and down he went. She shifted her Aim Point to another terrorist and dropped him also. "Before that first one, it was almost like it wasn't real," she remembered, "Now it was for real." Hester claims four killed by aimed M4 shots.

Sgt. Ordunez on the second Humvee, previously knocked out from a hit by the RPG, swung his .50 around and, realizing that the line of vehicles represented a hazard and possible get-away for the bad guys, started pumping rounds into the engine blocks of the escape vehicles until his field of fire was blocked. He realized that his Hummer was still running despite the RPG hit, and dropped down from his weapon, into the drivers seat and moved the vehicle forward on two flat tires about 100 meters into a better firing position. Just then, the vehicle died, oil spraying everywhere. He again opened up with his .50 and continued blasting the remaining seven get-away cars. The gunfire died down and a second squad of MP's barreled onto the scene, dismounted and helped the two giving first aid to the wounded at the third Hummer. Two minutes later three other squads from the 617th arrived, along with the CO, and the field was secured.

Those seven Americans (with the

three wounded) killed 24 heavily armed terrorists, wounded 6 (two later died), and captured one unwounded, who feigned injury to escape the fight, during the 45-minute engagement. They seized 22 AK-47s, six RPG launchers with 16 rockets, 13 RPK machineguns, three PKM machineguns, 40 hand grenades, 123 fully loaded 30-rd AK magazines, 52 empty mags, and 10 belts of 2500 rounds of PK ammo.

Of the seven members of Raven 42 who walked away, two are Caucasian women, the rest men - one is Mexican-American, the medic is African-American, and the other two are Caucasian - the great American melting pot.

They believed even before this fight that their NCOs were the best in the Army, and that they have the best squad in the Army. The medic, Jason Mike, who fired the AT-4, said he remembered how from the week before when his squad leader forced him to train on it, though he didn't think as a medic he would ever use one. He said he chose to use it in that moment to protect the three wounded on the ground in front of him, once they came under fire from the farmer house. The day before this mission, they took the new RFI bandoliers that were recently issued, and experimented with mounting them in their vehicles. Once they figured out how, they pre-loaded a second basic load of ammo into magazines, put them into the bandoliers, and mounted them in their vehicles - the same exact way in every vehicle - load plans enforced and checked by leaders!

Their only complaints in the After Action Report were the lack of stopping

power of the 9mm; the .50 incendiary rounds they are issued in lieu of ball ammo (shortage of ball in the inventory) didn't have the penetrating power needed to pierce the walls of the building; and that everyone in the squad was not CLS trained

Lt. Gen. John Vines, the U.S.W. ground commander in Iraq, told the troops from Raven 42 that while there is much talk on TV of sports stars, "My heroes don't play in the NBA and the U.S. Open. They're standing in front of me today. These are American heroes." Right on!

The 9mm round was a terrible decision for the Army to make. The 9mm pistol replaced the .45 caliber pistol just as I was leaving the Army. Believe me, one round from a .45 would have done more than wound the enemy soldier. Special Forces, Seals, Rangers, etc, and all those who engage in CQB (Close Quarters Battle) are being issued or buying their own .45s. There is an old adage:

"Never go to a gun fight with a handgun that uses ammo that doesn't start with a 4." ☞

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bon, and Rwanda and as blue-helmet troops under U.N. mandate in Bosnia, Kosovo, Cambodia, etc. Most recently they have seen action in Afghanistan and the Ivory Coast.

Colonel Maurin, present commander of the regiment, sees the RFP as a combat-ready force, capable of putting together the necessary means to carry out a mission, within 24 hours, anywhere in the world. "We have the training and the experience to set up a major military operation with all the necessary material and men you need. You can't succeed with missions like Kolwezi or the Ivory Coast with just a couple hundred men. You have to get a substantial force on the ground with all the necessary logistics and equipment. Which, in itself, is a major undertaking. And it has to be done in an extremely short time. The 2nd REP is trained and ready for any such intervention."

The 2nd REP Combat Companies

1st Company: During the Cold War period, with the potential of ground fighting in Europe linked to the possibility of a Soviet armored attack, the 1st Company of the REP was specialized in anti-tank combat. Since the end of the Cold War, the company has adapted to the present-day situation, with emphasis placed on urban combat and night operations.

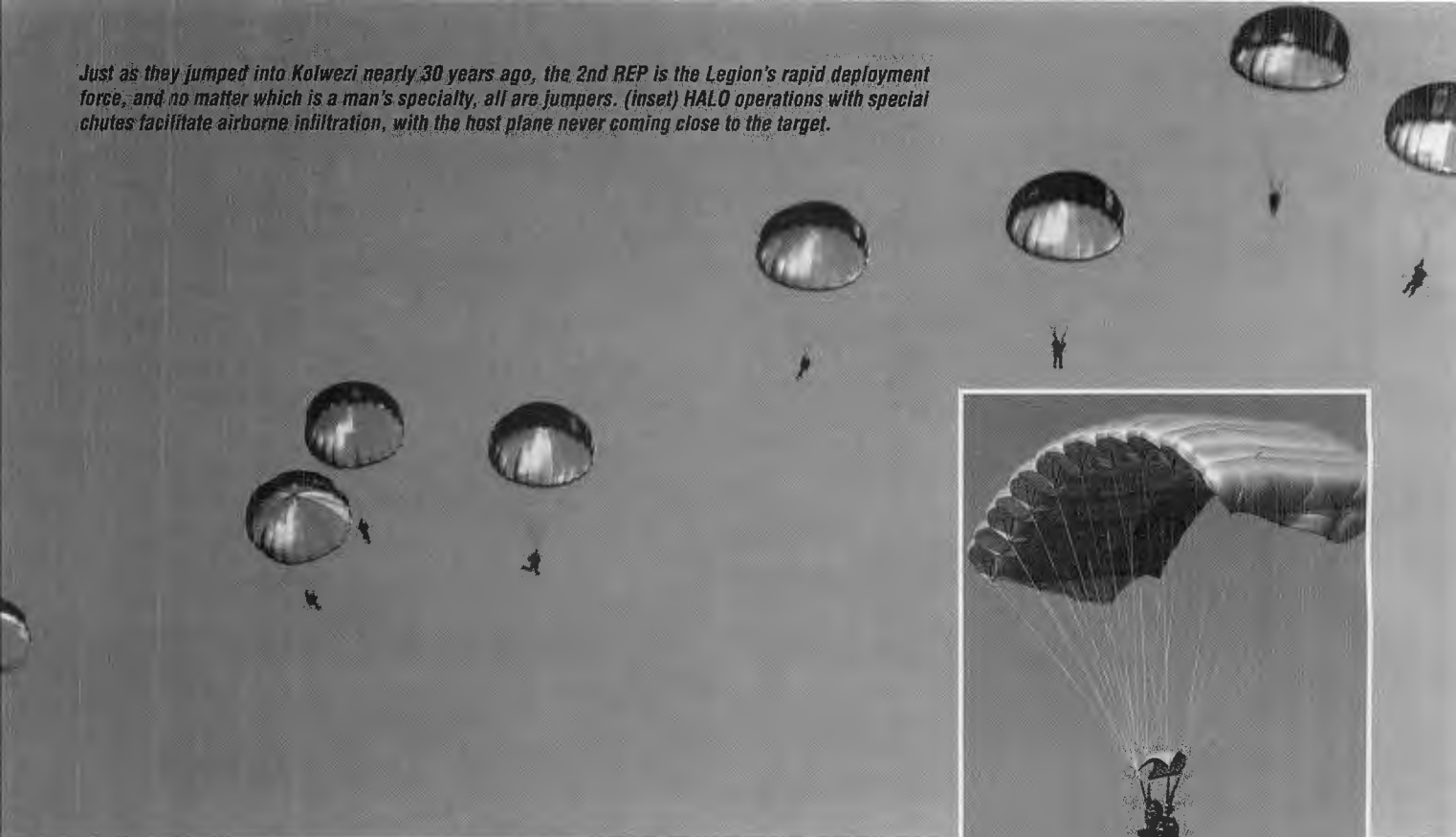
Each member of the 1st company combat teams is equipped with a microphone and headset and, during night operations, light-intensifying night-vision optics. Their FAMAS assault rifles, standard arm of the French Army, have red-dot scopes and laser target-indicators. The company also carries combat shotguns with folding stocks and each intervention group carries a Minimi cal. 5.56 compact machinegun – all weapons well suited for combat in urban areas. A special urban-warfare facility at Frasselli, in the south of the island, is used by the company for training purposes.

2nd Company: The Legionnaires of the 2nd company specialize in winter warfare and combat in extreme conditions. The company is trained to operate in mountainous terrain, and the men are qualified in Alpine techniques, with all being competent skiers. Their training center is at the chalet at Vergio in the heart of the Corsican mountains.

Parachute in, climb in, hoist your fellow operator in – whatever it takes to get at the bad guys in urban terrain, the specialists of 2nd REP's 1st Company do it all.



Just as they jumped into Kolwezi nearly 30 years ago, the 2nd REP is the Legion's rapid deployment force, and no matter which is a man's specialty, all are jumpers. (inset) HALO operations with special chutes facilitate airborne infiltration, with the host plane never coming close to the target.



From their mountain base the Legionnaires train in all aspects of mountain warfare: rope work and knots, rappelling, climbing techniques, etc. – all the skills necessary for movement and survival in winter mountain conditions. In addition, they are trained in snow jumps and rappelling from helicopters in mountainous terrain.

3rd Company: The third company is the amphibious operations arm of the 2nd REP. Using various means to reach their objectives – motorized rafts, combat kayaks, or simply swimming, as

well as water parachute jumps and water drops from low flying helicopters – these Legionnaires train for all types of waterborne missions. The company has an amphibious training facility situated on the Bay of Calvi not far from the main base, Camp Raffalli. The Legionnaires of the company are scuba, UDT and motorized-watercraft qualified. An interesting aspect of their operations is the use of war kayaks: Equipped with a GPS system and watertight compartments to carry weapons and explosives, the light craft are used for infiltration of water ways and

harbors for combat and reconnaissance missions. The company often trains with the French navy, deploying from surface vessels and submarines, and is used for security during the regiment's amphibious training exercises.

4th Company: The "Snipers and Destroyers" of the 4th company are specialists in sabotage missions and harassment action behind enemy lines. The company receives training in the use of both conventional and improvised explosives in the destruction of bridges, communications nets, transport centers etc. The 4th is also the home of the regiment's sniper units. Working in two man teams – a spotter and the sniper equipped with the French army standard issue (7.62 cal.) FRF-2 precision rifle or the .50 McMillan sniper rifle – they are expert in camouflage and infiltration.

The CEA (*Compagnie d'Eclairage et Appui*): The CEA, the reconnaissance and support company of the regiment, is composed of five combat groups specializing in heavy weapons, and a group of HALO-qualified commandos trained

Continued on page 31

The "snipers and destroyers" of the 2nd REP's 4th Company use the standard French FRF2 precision rifle, augmented as the mission requires by American-made McMillan or Barrett .50 BMG rifles.





Combat kayaks carry these 3rd Company Legionnaires — the 2nd REP's amphibious arm — discreetly to riparian zones. (inset) They can be launched from surface ship or sub.



Continued from page 30

for research, reconnaissance and path-finding missions. The heavy weapons units include two Milan anti-tank sections, a MANPADS anti-aircraft section and a mortar platoon.

The Para-Commandos are a select group of Legionnaires who are by far the most highly qualified combat soldiers in the regiment. They have all received instructor-level commando training at Mount Louis, the French commando training center, and have been through the HALO course at the airborne training school at Pau, in the Pyrenees. The

commandos of the unit continue intensive training throughout the year, and receive specialized technical training in diverse skills such as communications, photography, weapons and explosives, medical aid, escape and evasion and survival in hostile territory. Adept in free-fall parachuting, jumping from high altitude they can cover several miles before making a precision landing using GPS guidance. ✂

Photojournalist Richard Lucas is a frequent contributor to SOF.

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From the Northwest to the Middle East



Correspondent at work in Camp Fallujah, Iraq: Spartan conditions, but the medical care for our wounded was "world class."

Army Anesthesiologist Treats Marines at Navy Installation in Desert

Story and Photos by Col. James R. Uhl, USA

I served as an individual augmentee to the Navy Surgical Company at Camp Fallujah in support of 1st & 5th Regiments of 1st Marine Division. Since I was the only Anesthesiologist in Fallujah (the Navy Anesthesiologist got injured and MedEvac'd out of theater) and they needed someone in a big hurry, I volunteered. I was "locked down" on Camp Fallujah by the Navy – no opportunity to ever get outside the wire except when I deployed and redeployed. My impressions mostly have to do with medical care of wounded Marines and a small number of Army/Navy personnel, and my absolute respect for Marine Corps leadership and esprit de corps.

Probably not too much I could say that would be original. Surprisingly (since I was there pulling their chestnuts out of the fire) the Navy treated me very poorly while I was deployed there: Admin weenies jerked me around a lot. However, the honor

and privilege of taking care of those amazing young Marines made the Navy BS sufferable. I bonded with the Marines right off and from then on things got much better. I got to the range with Marine EOD, and fired up some captured ammo. I got invited for a tank ride but couldn't ever coordinate with the armor guys for a time when they or I were not "busy."

I met Lt.Gen. Conway, CG IMEF, on a personal basis a couple of times...a very impressive leader! Yelled "HOOAH"

in the mess hall when I saw him on CNN after his change of command "telling it like it is" about pulling out of Fallujah in April just hours before takedown mission was accomplished.

The medical care our wounded troops receive is really world class. All the (Navy) medical personnel I worked with were excellent and totally dedicated to the mission: That's borne out by the low percentage of wounded who are dying in this conflict,



Hmmm, you think a fellow who first enlisted as an E1 more than 40 years ago and has more than 20 years active would be a good re-up prospect?

New DVD puts you front row and center stage at a new 2 1/2-day Target-Focus Training workshop...

"How To Survive The Most Critical 5 Seconds Of Your Life"



"For me, a veteran of the martial arts and a medical professional [Target-Focus Training] was just as spectacular. I heard explanations that would befit a trauma specialist and learned principles that most martial arts masters save for their advanced black belts. Without cloaking techniques in mysticism, without diluting the realities of combat in a sporting format and without sacrificing safety for realism, Larkin and his men delivered an uncompromising course on the intelligent and responsible use of violence."

Mark Cheng, L.Ac.

Columnist & Contributing Editor, Black Belt Magazine
Director/Sifu: Chung Hua Institute, Los Angeles, CA

I imagine yourself face to face with:

- 3 hoodlums circling your car,
- A 6-inch blade of steel pressed against your throat,
- A gun barrel to your head, or
- 2 guys who've just broken into your home...

If you can't handle any of these situations...

- Without freezing,
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"Violence Is Rarely The Answer. But When It Is... It's The Only Answer."

Tim Larkin, creator, Target-Focus Training

different memorized techniques. Face it, you're smart enough to know that since violence is random you can't begin to practice for everything that 'might' possibly happen to you. That's why this system is based on a handful of easily mastered **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES** that you instantly apply to any type of violent assault.

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down to around 10% compared to upwards of 20% in Desert Storm and Vietnam, and many of the wounds we saw were horrific. The medical care and the MedEvac system are awesome!

However, the constant bombardment by CNN and even Fox News with negative images of Iraqi events and politics definitely is having a negative effect on our troops, especially the young trigger pullers and cannon cockers. Senior (Marine Corps) officers do a great job of providing positive leadership to their troops but it is difficult to counter the absolutely constant flow of depressing anti-war, anti-American crap coming off the big screen TVs in the mess halls.

I have more than 20 years active duty and crossed the 40th anniversary of my first enlistment as an E1 in August 2004, while I was in Fallujah. At 58 years old, I am not worried about offending the politically correct. If there is anything I could do to lift my brothers and sisters still in Iraq or to strengthen opposition to those who are dismantling our Bill of Rights and our Nation, it would be my pleasure. ✂

Col. James R. Uhl is the Staff Anesthesiologist at Bremerton Naval Hospital.



Col. Uhl (in Army desert tri-color) with his Leatherneck buds in Marine desert cammies in front of Bravo Surgical Company.

Not many diversions available at Camp Fallujah, so Col. Uhl checks out captured ordnance with Marine EOD. (inset) A far cry from fog-bound Bremerton, Camp Fallujah features nearly 130 degrees in the shade... but you'd better bring your own shade.



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By Dr. Martin Brass


AMERICA AT WAR


 **1. JAPAN** ANTI-MISSILE system, to defend against attack by North Korea, given top priority. *SP*

 **2. PHILIPPINES** TWO BOMBS detonated in port city killed 26 — Jemaah Islamiah or Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups suspected. U.S. BACKED OPERATIVES disrupt a series of JI and MILF “cadetship terrorist training programs” for Indonesians and other foreigners.

 **3. INDONESIA** TSUNAMI RELIEF FUNDS become “primary source” of income for al Qaeda, according to terrorist experts.

 **4. UNITED STATES** AL QAEDA LIFTING municipal and state website information on local energy infrastructures, water reservoirs, dams, highly enriched uranium storage sites, nuclear gas facilities, and emergency fire and rescue response procedures, according to the Department of Transportation’s Office of Intelligence and Security. FBI reports unexplained surveillances being conducted at infrastructure-related sites. FIVE EGYPTIAN suspects with maps of NY subway system and video of NY landmarks arrested by the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Newark. OSAMA tried to purchase massive amount of cocaine, spike it with poison and sell it to thousands of Americans in 2003. NY POST DID 9-11 HAVE TO HAPPEN? Able Danger intel unit of SpecOps identified 9-11 hijacker Mohamed Atta, but Clinton Administration stopped them three times from giving intel to the FBI.

 **5. VENEZUELA** CHAVEZ denies U.S. charges that he is purchasing 100,000 Kalashnikovs and helicopters from Russia to aid Colombian FARC terrorist group. *AF*

 **6. PERU** 2001 TERRORISM CONVICTION upheld against American Lori Berenson by Inter American Court of Human Rights. More than a dozen heavily armed MRTA guerrillas sublet part of house she rented. Recent marriage to former MRTA militant she met in prison may have helped seal her fate. Her defense: MRTA was a revolutionary movement against tyranny. Berenson, to be released in 2015, may have been used as example to prove tough stance against terrorism.

7. UNITED KINGDOM **CRACKDOWN ON TERRORIST SUSPECTS** after subway and bus bombing. Ten foreigners called "threat to national security" arrested and denied bail, facing deportation. Deportation of troublemaking clerics threatened. **SUBWAY BOMBERS** used bombs made with common ingredients such as hydrogen peroxide, citric acid, and heat tablets, stored in ordinary refrigerators and detonated with cell phones.

8. LIBYA **TYRANT KHADAFI SENTENCED NURSES** to death, accusing them of infecting children in hospital with AIDS. Spanish Prime Minister pressures Khadafi to release the nurses. Five Bulgarian nurses, arrested in 1999, tortured and raped into confessions, await November appeal.

9. TURKEY **SPEEDBOAT EXPLOSION** planned against Israeli cruise ships fails when terrorist arrested for plots. Turkish al Qaeda militant suspected of 2003 attacks against Israeli and British targets. Turkish security forces report deaths of five Kurd insurgents 23 July in Sirnak Province. Ten PKK died the previous week. Government claims right to infiltrate Iraq to quell PKK activities. *SP*

10. EGYPT **NINETY DEAD** and 200 injured in three terrorist bombings that ripped apart a hotel and coffee shop in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik; 70 suspects arrested.

11. IRAQ **MUNITIONS CACHE** found, including 2,000 surface-to-surface rockets, 3,000 mortar rounds, 500 artillery shells and 150 crates of ammo for heavy machine guns. *SP*
U.S. TROOPS CAPTURE al Qaeda terror cell leader Ammar Abu Bara in cordon-and search op in Mosul.

12. UZBEKISTAN **GOODBYE NOTE** delivered to the U.S. embassy in Tashkent gives the United States 180 days to withdraw its forces from the strategic field; 800 service members deployed there.

13. IRAN **WINNER IN WAR ON TERRORISM?** Iranian enemy, the ultra-Orthodox Sunni Taliban, ousted in Afghanistan. **SADDAM**, Iranian nemesis, has been ousted. **IRAQI** new government will probably be run by the Shia, Iranian ally. *StrategicPage*

14. AFGHANISTAN **TALIBAN** targets religious leaders allied with Karzai government, killing more than 100.

* **15. SOMALIA** **PIRATES** who held UN aid and relief ship hostage for six weeks agree to release the 10-man crew and ship.

16. NEPAL **CHILDREN TORTURED**, killed, raped, abducted and recruited for military activities by both sides of conflict, according to Amnesty International. Hundreds died from bombs and improvised explosive devices and thousands of children have become refugees. Security forces have killed children they suspect of involvement with the Maoists, while the Maoists have abducted and killed the children of security forces.

Homing In On The

Story and Photos by Cpl. Mike Escobar

FAST Marines Keep Anti-Terrorism Capabilities Sharp and Ready

A Marine prepares to fire his M14 DMR sniper rifle during a battle sight zero exercise.



◀ Lance Cpl. Brian M. Cloonan, right, and Lance Cpl. William Black, left, run back to the firing line after checking their targets.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Range

CAMP BAHARIA, Iraq — Atrophy is defined as “a wasting away, deterioration, or diminution of something due to lack of use.” It’s a condition Marines in Iraq won’t experience.

Lance Cpl. Brian M. Cloonan, who by trade is a designated marksman, finds himself deployed to Fallujah to provide security for military convoys.

“As designated marksmen, our mission (normally) is

to support security operations,” explained the 20-year-old member of 2nd Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company, Marine Corps Security Force Battalion. “If our platoon were to make a hit on a building, we’d be off someplace making sure nobody gets in or out who’s not supposed to.”

The Chino Hills, Calif. native, further added that FAST Marines act as an anti-terrorism quick reaction force, and are among the first troops to respond to certain international crises.

Marines from 2nd FAST Company were some of the first boots on the ground during Operation Secure Tomorrow, when a task force of Chilean, French, Canadian and American troops helped bring about security and stability to Haiti after former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted Feb. 29.

“It was a platoon from our company that went down to Haiti and secured the embassy,” Cloonan explained.

However, due to the current nature of operations in Iraq, he and fellow designated marksmen are accomplishing missions different from their usual designated marksman tasks.

“Here, we’re doing a lot of convoy security,” the 2003 Ruben S. Ayala High School graduate explained. “Right now, we’re attached to (Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group). We’re all just going out on convoys as drivers, gunners ... basically whatever they need us to do.”

As they perform these new tasks, Cloonan’s unit still maintains proficiency in their old ones.

Members of 2nd FAST Company practiced firing their M-14 DMR sniper rifles and adjusting their sights aboard 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment’s range.

“We’re getting a warm weather (battle sight) zero for our rifles,” Cloonan stated. “Last time we BZOed these weapons, it was 30 degrees outside.”

Marines BZO their weapons to ensure their rounds hit where they aim. Differences in breathing patterns, eyesight, and climate affect how the rounds impact the target, so troops fire several shot groups and observe where the rounds impact after each string of fire.

According to Cloonan, a round strikes lower on a target during cold weather firing.

This range also allowed the FAST Marines a chance to re-familiarize themselves with their rifles to maintain their marksmanship skills.

Operational requirements could change at a moment’s notice in the ever-changing world of insurgent warfare, so Marines like Cloonan must keep their skills sharpened to razor-edge perfection. ✕



▶ Lance Cpl. Brian M. Cloonan prepares to aim in on his target as Lance Cpl. William Black observes downrange.

CHOPPERS: DEATH IN A HOVER

Are Today's High-Tech, High-Cost Helicopters Tough Enough For Battle?

By Dr. Martin Brass

Deadliest Day of The Iraqi War for the U.S. Military

On 26 January this year, the U.S. military suffered the highest number of combat losses in Iraq since the beginning of the war.

Thirty Marines and a sailor died in a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crash near Rutbah in the Al Anbar Province, 220 miles west of Baghdad, while conducting security and stabilization operations, according to the U.S. Navy. The 100 ft. long cargo and troop carrier, the Marine's heavy lift transport helicopter, crashed in severe weather conditions.

"It's (a sandstorm) just like running into an ambush, except this ambush is from Mother Nature. And Mother Nature does not discriminate whether you're in Iraq or you're in Arizona," retired Marine pilot Fred McCorkle told the *Honolulu Advertiser*. "If one of these sandstorms comes up just all of a sudden, there's nothing you can do about it."

That same day, six other troopers died in combat, bringing the death toll to 37, making it the bloodiest for the U.S. military since an explosion ripped through a gun turret on the Battleship Iowa in the Caribbean in April 1989, killing 47 sailors, AP reports.



Over 3,000 helicopters were lost during the Vietnam conflict. Here, publisher Brown rides astride a "Loach" or "Cayuse" prior to a recon when he was S-2, 2/18th, 3rd Bde, 1st Div, 1969, Vietnam.

Flags Fly at Half Mast Over Hawaii

"I have the clippings about the crash last January. It was a devastating blow to our platoon. We lost 26 members of our platoon the day that the chopper crashed in the sandstorm that killed 31 Marines," said Corporal Travis, of the platoon assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

"I knew a lot of those guys that died in the helicopter crash. We lost so many members of our platoon in one day in that helicopter crash in Iraq," Corporal Brad, stationed at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay, remembered his fallen comrades. Note: in last month's issue, we covered the role of Corporals Travis and Brad's platoon in the November 2004 Battle of Fallujah.

The death of the Kaneohe Marines and a Pearl Harbor sailor killed in the crash was the deadliest day for Hawaii since WWII, according to the *Hawaiian Star Bulletin*.

Fatal November

More than 36 helicopters crashed from the beginning of the Iraqi war until 1 May of this year, according to AP. I was able to confirm that those figures were accurate approximates through government sources. Several crashes have been reported since. Most were downed by enemy fire.

The first weeks of November 2003 proved to be the deadliest for the U.S. military since the begin-

Al Asad, Iraq (Nov. 5, 2004) — A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, assigned to the "Sea Horses" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron Two Six Five (HMM-265), flies near the Iraqi/Syrian Border. The CH-53E transported Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to conduct a site survey of an Iraqi National Guard border fort. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Christopher R. Rye



ning of the Iraqi invasion: 39 U.S. military personnel died in three helicopters shot down by Iraqi insurgents.

On 3 November 2003 16 U.S. soldiers died and 20 were wounded when insurgents hit the Chinook CH-47 with a Russian made SA-7 shoulder-fired missile. The troops were being transported to the airport for leave.

A few days later, on 7 November, a Black Hawk was shot down near Tikrit. All six soldiers on board were killed.

Then on 15 November, two Black Hawk helicopters collided in Mosul, Iraq, when one was hit by a rocket-propelled-grenade (RPG). Seventeen members of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) were killed. One of the helicopters was transporting a quick reaction force and the other helicopter was on a transport mission.

Helos disappear in the Valleys of Afghanistan

As of 1 July 2005, 214 U.S. military personnel had died in Afghanistan from all causes. According to the Department of Defense archives, approximately one fourth of those died in helicopter downings.

The two calamities with the largest number of fatalities follow.

On 6 April 2005, an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter conducting a re-supply and transport mission in southern Afghanistan crashed near a brick factory during a severe wind storm. The 18 crewmembers and passengers, including one marine and three employees of Halliburton civilian contract-

ing company, died.

A MH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down by an enemy-fired rocket-propelled grenade on 28 June. None of the 16 servicemen that were being transported over the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan as part of Operation Red Wing in Kunar province survived. (See account on p.45)

Helos — Lethal But Vital

The high incidence of choppers down and the number of service personnel that have died in a single catastrophe has always made their use controversial.

In addition to the devastating crash of 26 January and the rash of enemy-downed helicopters in November 2003 in Iraq, a previous incident that occurred four days into the invasion of Iraq, triggered an outburst of condemnation.

Major Robert M. Cassidy describes the disaster and resulting uproar concerning the use of helicopters en masse in the march to Baghdad in the *Military Review* in 2001.

“The most glaring and disquieting Iraqi employment of asymmetric techniques occurred during the approach to Baghdad on 23 March 2003. Highly dispersed small Iraqi units set ambushes, using a cell phone and observer network in the cities south of Baghdad. These ambushes damaged a number of AH-64s that were conducting a corps-level, deep-shaping attack against Republican Guard divisions surrounding Baghdad.

“The Iraqi enemy never presented a massed target for AH-64 attacks and quickly dispersed into the cities rather than remain in conventional and predictable defensive battle positions. During this Iraqi ambush, small-arms and anti-aircraft



(left) Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Dyck, small arms repair specialist from La Crosse, WI (center) Pfc. Joey W. Schuetz, ground safety manager from Salem, NE (right) Sgt. Ernesto Gonzalez Jr., ammunition technician from San Diego, CA. These Marines were part of a small security contingent guarding a CH-46E Sea Knight with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, MAG-16, and the crash site investigation team passengers. The team was investigating the cause of the recent crash of a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 (reinforced), 11th Marine Expeditionary Force. **U.S. Marine Corps photos (left & center by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte, right by Cpl. Christopher R. Rye)**

fire damaged more than 90 percent of a U.S. regiment's helicopters, and one helicopter crew was captured. The damage to one attack helicopter battalion's aircraft was so severe that the battalion did not see any major action for the rest of the war.

"Not long after the fall of Baghdad, and before coalition forces had finished subduing a host of NCF in northern Iraq, the media began to report that the days of the Apache Longbow were numbered. These negative media comments echoed the death knell of deep-attack

shaping operations and postulated that the Apache was obsolescent. This opinion seemed to be based on one highly visible but unsuccessful large-scale deep attack. Actually, the Apache had proven its worth and effectiveness during the first Persian Gulf War and the war in Afghanistan. Hoping to gain an advantage in the zero-sum defense appropriations game, self-proclaimed attack helicopter and air-power experts said it was time to eliminate the Apache and supplant its ground support role with the U.S. Air Force's A-10 Warthog. Others

argued that the Apache was designed for a deep-attack role in the context of a conventional war between organized, combined-arms formations. Therefore, adversaries who embraced asymmetric approaches saw the Apache as a dinosaur, just another Cold War relic.

"The armchair experts were wrong. After 23 March 2003, Army attack aviation adapted tactics to counter the asymmetric threat. With close air support (CAS) A-10 attacks, Apache helicopters conducted effective armed reconnaissance and close shaping mis-

UH-60 BLACK HAWK

The UH-60 Black Hawk is a utility tactical transport helicopter that replaces the UH-1 "Huey". The versatile Black Hawk has enhanced the overall mobility of The Army, due to dramatic improvements in troop capacity and cargo lift capability, and will serve as The Army's utility helicopter in the Objective Force. On the asymmetric battlefield, it provides the commander the agility to get to the fight quicker and to mass effects throughout the battlespace across the full spectrum of conflict. An entire 11-person, fully-equipped infantry squad can be lifted in a single Black Hawk, transported faster than in predecessor systems, in most weather conditions. The Black Hawk can reposition a 105 mm Howitzer, its crew of six, and lift up to 30 rounds of ammunition in a single lift. The aircraft's critical components and systems are armored or redundant, and its airframe is designed to progressively crush on impact to protect the crew and passengers.

	UH-60A	UH-60L
Introduction	1979	
Crew:	4 (2 pilots; 2 crew chiefs)	
Max gross weight:	20,250 lbs	22,000 lbs,
Cruise speed:	139 kt	150 kt
Endurance:	2.3 hrs	2.1 hrs
Max range:	320 nm	306 nm
External load:	8000 lbs	9000 lbs
Internal load:	2640 lbs (or 11 combat-equipped troops)	
Armament:	Two 7.62mm machine guns	

DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Vernell Hall, U.S. Army



OH-58D KIOWA WARRIOR

A single engine, four-bladed helicopter with advanced visionics, navigation, communication, and weapons and cockpit integration systems. The mast-mounted sight (MMS) houses a thermal imaging system, low-light television, laser rangefinder/designator, and an optical boresight system. These systems enable the Kiowa Warrior to operate by day and night and allow target acquisition and engagement at stand-off ranges and in adverse weather conditions. The Kiowa Warrior's highly accurate navigation system provides precise target location that can be sent digitally to other aircraft or artillery via its advanced digital communications system. Battlefield imagery can be transmitted to provide near-real-time situational awareness to command and control elements. The Laser Designator can provide autonomous designation for the Laser HELLFIRE or remote designation for other laser-guided precision weapons.

Introduction:	1991
Crew:	2
Max gross weight:	5,500 lbs (armed)
Max cruise speed:	128 mph
Empty weight:	3,289 lbs
Height:	12 ft, 10.6 in
Width:	6 ft, 5.4 in
Length:	33 ft, 4 in
Rotor diameter:	35 ft
Range:	299 miles (sea level, no weapons, 10% reserve)
Ceiling:	19,000 ft
Armament:	Air-to-air Stinger (ATAS) (2 round launcher); .50 caliber machine gun (500 rounds); HYDRA 70 (2.75 in) rockets (7-shot pod); HELLFIRE missiles (2-round launcher)



Photo: www.army.mil



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sions that were integrated with ground maneuver to defeat Republican Guard divisions surrounding Baghdad. After Iraq's organized formations dissolved, Iraqi Ba'ath party guerrillas confronted effective and lethal small AH-64 armed weapons teams integrated with ground scouts and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) sensors," Cassidy wrote.

A Chopper Jock Assesses the Helo

"The helicopter is an indispensable tool for the military," Lt. Col. Scott Blaney (Ret.) said in an interview. "It is absolutely the one and only method of moving troops around rapidly in today's asymmetric battle space. It has the advantage of surprise, mobility, and shock effect that allows for ground to air coordination and support.

"The Black Hawk helicopter is essential for medivac'ing the wounded (thousands of lives have been saved by Medivac crews in Iraq and Afghanistan) and escorting VIPs. The U.S. helicopters and crews have a night capability that gives American troops the advantage over most of the world's armed forces," Lt. Col. Blaney said.

Lt. Col. Blaney speaks from his extensive combat experience. He flew OH-58A Scout helicopters in Vietnam, and UH-60s and AH-64s in Desert Storm. He is qualified to fly the UH-1s, OH-58s, OH-6s, AH-1s, Apaches and Black Hawks.

"But the helo is fallible, vulnerable to enemy fire, and is subject to mechanical failure, especially in the harsh desert and high altitude environments. Good maintenance is the key to success in these harsh environments," he said.

I asked him about the 26 January helicopter crash in the sandstorm.

Pilots constantly assess their environment which primarily consists of crew, machine, enemy, and weather. If the weather turns bad and pilot elects to continue in adverse weather relying on visual cues instead of flight instruments then he is running the risk of hitting something like man-made objects or the ground. Scud-running is dangerous business but sometimes it is necessary. It always boils down to pilot error when there is a controlled flight into ground (CFIG). The sandstorm was a major contributing factor."



Army Maj. Ladda "Tammy" Duckworth of the Illinois Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment, narrates the "Salute to Fallen Asian Pacific Islander Heroes." during the Defense Department's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon and military awards ceremony in Arlington, Va., 2 June. An Army Black Hawk helicopter pilot, Duckworth suffered the loss of both legs when a rocket-propelled grenade penetrated her helicopter beneath her feet and exploded at her knees in Iraq. Photo by Rudi Williams

AH-64 APACHE/ LONGBOW

The AH-64 Apache is The Army's heavy division/corps attack helicopter. The AH-64D Longbow remanufacture effort incorporates a millimeter wave



Photo: www.army.mil

fire control radar (FCR), radar frequency interferometer (RFI), fire-and-forget radar-guided HELLFIRE missile and cockpit management and digitization enhancements. The combination of the FCR, RFI, and the advanced navigation and avionics suite of the aircraft provide increased situational awareness, lethality and survivability.

Introduction:	1984
Crew:	2 (pilot and co-pilot/gunner)
Max Gross Weight:	16,600 lbs
Combat mission speed:	167 mph
Combat range:	300 miles
Combat endurance:	2.5 hours
Length:	49 ft 5 in
Armament:	HELLFIRE missiles, 2.75" rockets and 30mm chain gun

CH-53 SEA STALLION

The CH-53D was ordered in the early 1960s to satisfy a Marine Corps requirement for a heavy lift helicopter. It has since been replaced in the heavy lift mission by the CH-53E Super Stallion. All Marine Corps CH-53D helicopters are currently assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The CH-53D, along with the CH-46E, is slated for replacement by the MV-22 Osprey.



Photo: www.navy.mil

Introduction:	1966
Crew:	Two pilots, one aircrewman
Weight:	21 tons (max gross)
Speed:	184 mph
Length:	Fuselage: 67.5 ft Rotors turning: 88 ft 3 in
Height:	24 feet 11 inches
Range:	578 nautical miles; 886 nautical miles ferry range
Ceiling:	12,450 feet
Load:	37 troops or 24 litter patients plus four attendants or 8,000 pounds cargo
Armament:	None

CH-46 SEA KNIGHT

The H-46 "Sea Knight" helicopter is one of the largest helicopters in the US Navy inventory. This venerable aircraft's primary mission areas in the Navy (as the H-46D) include Combat Logistics Support and Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP), Search and Rescue, and Special Operations. As a Marine Corps platform, the H-46E is used primarily during cargo and troop transport.

Introduction:	1987
Crew:	4: pilot, copilot, crew chief and mechanic
Weight:	24,300 lbs (max gross)
Speed:	166.75 mph
Thrust:	1,770 horsepower
Length:	84 ft 4 in (with rotors spread)
Height:	16 ft 8 in
Range:	132 nautical miles for land assault missions
Ceiling:	10,000 feet plus
Payload:	Combat: up to 22 troops and two aerial gunners
Cargo:	5,000 pounds



Photo: www.navy.mil

MH-47 RESCUE CHOPPER DOWN!

This year has been the deadliest for the U.S. military in Afghanistan since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. A total of 34 military personnel were killed in two separate helicopter crashes, making 67 the total number of deaths as of mid August this year. 221 U.S. military personnel have died since 2001 in Afghanistan.

The first accident in April of this year was attributed to a sand storm: 18 servicemen conducting a re-supply

and transport mission went down near a brick factory in their MH-47 Chinook helicopter. There were no survivors.

The second deadly crash was no accident. It is a tale of courage, loyalty, heroism and enormous tragedy.

The following story is pulled together from various SOF sources and from DOD archives. It is by no means complete and it is rough, but it attempts to maintain the originality of the U.S. servicemen's words as they paid tribute to those who died trying to save their brothers.

On 28 June, a four man SEAL reconnaissance team was hunting Taliban operatives and assessing routes that terrorists use to infiltrate from Pakistan.

"The targeting information would be used to direct U.S. and Afghan forces to interdict and destroy those enemy forces: 25-50 insurgents spotted the SEALs and opened fire with Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs), mortars and small arms," according to one serviceman who had served in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban who are still alive and fighting in Afghanistan are very good combatants," he wrote. "Unlike Iraq Arabs, they are not suicidal and they use good small unit tactics."

"The team set up a 360 degree defense and called in Hornet Nest [troops in contact] for backup to their operational base. The command and control headquarters for U.S. Forces in Afghanistan moved a Predator unmanned drone over the battle location. The predator located the SEALs by their locator beacon and the inferred camera system of the drone.

"The headquarters could see that the TEAM was encircled by bad guys and that the enemy was too close to the SEALs to use Air Force close air support. A weather front was rapidly coming into the area and the SEAL Commander asked permission to launch his quick reaction force to go rescue his men. The commander of the Task Force 160th (the Night



Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, board CH-47 Chinook helicopters on the Orgun-E Fire Base in Afghanistan. The soldiers were heading back to their home base of Fort Drum, N.Y., at the end of a nine-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The same helicopters brought in replacement soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division, deployed from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. This photo appeared on www.army.mil

Stalkers SpecOps air wing) agreed to fly the mission. The Night Stalkers specialize in high-risk insertion and extraction at night.

"It was not night fall yet and the command hesitated because sending the special operation birds into the area in the light was very risky. The Generals watched a screen that was giving a live feed of the fire fight."

"Time Was Running Out"

"The SEALs were surrounded with no

way to escape and a weather front was moving in. Time for the trapped SEALs was running out.

"Two Chinook helicopters, large aircraft that could fly as fast as 170 knots were deployed. The aircraft entered the mountains flying at 50 feet above the ground with 16 men aboard. All four SEALs were still alive and fighting an unbelievable battle. As the lead bird approached the landing zone they started to slow down to an air speed of below 100 Knots.

"Another group of Taliban, not engaged in the initial firefight but in the area saw the aircraft and open fire with small arms and RPG's. An RPG hit the lead aircraft, but the aviator kept the bird in the air.

"They were in the mountains; therefore there was no clear place to land. He flew for about a mile and saw a ledge that he could try to put the bird down on. The MH-47 landed on the ledge hard. The hard landing and the palpitations of the rotors were too much for the small landing zone and weak ground. The aircraft rolled off of the ledge on to its side and down the mountain into the valley below.

"The U.S. military has recovered the bodies of the aircrew and passengers aboard a MH-47 Chinook helicopter that was reported shot down by insurgents in eastern Afghanistan 28 28 June," the Defense Department announced.

"We have recovered all 16 bodies of those servicemen who were onboard," Marine Lt. Gen. James Conway, the Joint Staff's operations director said. DOD officials confirmed that the aircraft was downed by enemy fire.

"Witnesses reported that an enemy-fired rocket-propelled grenade had struck the helicopter," Conway said.

They Fought Fiercely to the End

"The other aircraft could not land in the hot landing zone

Continued on page 81

"We as American soldiers cannot leave our people on the battlefield. Every Airman, Marine, Sailor, Coast Guardsmen and Soldier has to know that when you go down range and things go wrong, keep fighting and help will come," a grieving soldier said.



(left) Hawaiian Governor Linda Lingle speaks at a memorial service at the Hawaii State Capitol, March 7, 2005. The service was held to honor the 27 Marines and one sailor from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment who died in a helicopter crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq, 26 Jan. 2005. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth

"Familiarity with your aircraft and knowing its limitations is essential. You need to be able to plan and you cannot overtax your aircraft. In Afghanistan, the terrain presents enormous physical limitations for travel by vehicle. But the air in the mountains is thin and as the helicopters might have to fly up to 14,000 feet, the crews of the various helicopters need to know where they can and can't go. The pilot has to stay inside of the performance envelope. You can't repeal the laws of physics," Lt. Col. Blaney said.

"But pilots get in situations where they are forced to pick the lesser of two

evils. The mission dictates they need to get there in a hurry. The mission can be fatal if they go into the landing zones that have not been carefully scouted.. The recon is essential and there are numerous means to conduct it, such as the use of scout ships, UAV's, satellite or other joint assets such as AC-130 gunship if available.

"Take Shahikot Valley, Afghanistan, for example, where the Taliban had worked for years. They knew the terrain and all the possible landing zones. They had prepared positions to provide devastating .51 caliber and mortar fire into the suitable Landing Zones. They went to school on the Russians in the 1980s. In that area the Taliban knew every rock, nook and cranny. The pilots should expect that every Landing Zone is hot and be ready to execute alternative plans," Lt. Col. Blaney said.

Helos – A Potential Death Trap – From Vietnam to Iraq

The helicopter was used extensively in the jungles of Vietnam and was often the only alternative.

"Over 3,000 helicopters were shot down in the Vietnam war. They were used for transportation for carrying troops and supplies, for medivac-ing casualties, as aerial artillery, to engage enemy troops, trucks and equipment and provide fire support for troops on the ground," Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, Publisher of *SOF*, who was with Special Forces and the First Division in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969, said.

"Wayne F. Geer, Warrant Officer, who was in Viet Nam from 1965 to 1968 survived at least 10 of those shoot downs," his brother, Galen Geer, longtime *SOF* contributor, outdoor editor, responsible for bringing the first AK-74 ammo from Afghanistan, said.

"He was shot down three times be-

AH-1W SUPER COBRA

The AH-1W provides close-in fire support, fire-support coordination, and assault-fire suppression to the landing force during amphibious assaults and subsequent operations ashore. The aircraft is equipped with a 20mm M197 gun in a nose turret and can carry 2.75" and 5.0" rockets, Hellfire and TOW anti-armor missiles, Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, and Sidearm anti-radiation missiles. The Corps has fitted a Night Targeting System into all of its Super Cobras. That system entails a FLIR, low-light TV, Laser Designator/Range Finder, and an autotrack system installed in the existing M-65 TOW missile sighting system.

Fuselage Length: 45 feet, 5 inches.
Overall Length: 58 feet.
Height: 13 feet, 7 inches.
Max Gross Weight: 14,750 pounds.
Speed: 190 knots.
Range: 256 nautical miles.
Crew: one pilot, one copilot/gunner.



CH-47 CHINOOK

The venerable twin-engine, tandem rotor Chinook helicopter has undergone numerous upgrades since the first CH-47A model was delivered to the Army for use in Vietnam. Beginning in 1982 and ending in 1994, all CH-47A, B and C models were upgraded to the CH-47D version, which remains the U.S. Army standard and features composite rotor blades, an improved electrical system, modularized hydraulics, triple cargo hooks, avionics and communication improvements, and more powerful engines that can handle a 19,500 lb load – nearly twice the Chinook's original lift capacity. An upgrade program exists to remanufacture 300 of the current fleet of 425 CH-47D's to the CH-47F standard. The MH-47E is the Special Forces variant of the Chinook and will be remanufactured to the MH-47G.



Introduction: 1962
Minimum crew: 3 (pilot, co-pilot, and flight engineer)
Max gross weight: 50,000 lbs
Max speed: 184 mph
Troop capacity: 36 (incl. crew)
Litter capacity: 24

V-22 OSPREY

The V-22 Osprey is the first aircraft designed from the ground up to meet the needs of all four U.S. armed services. The aircraft can transport Marine Corps assault troops and cargo using its medium lift and vertical takeoff and landing capabilities. It meets U.S. Navy requirements for combat search and rescue, fleet logistics support, and special warfare support.

The V-22 is a tiltrotor aircraft, taking off and landing like a helicopter, but, once airborne, its engine nacelles can be rotated to convert the aircraft to a turboprop airplane capable of high-speed, high-altitude flight.

It can carry 24 combat troops, or up to 20,000 pounds of internal or external cargo, at twice the speed of a helicopter. It includes cross-coupled transmissions so either engine can power the rotors if one engine fails.

The rotors can fold and the wing rotate so the aircraft can be stored aboard an aircraft carrier.



fellow prisoners. When the North Vietnamese planned to use Adm. Stockdale in a propaganda film, he grabbed a wooden stool, repeatedly smashing it into his face to disfigure himself and prevent the enemy from using him as an unwilling tool to criticize his country. He paid a high price for his defiant act, serving two years in leg irons. When interrogators later threatened to torture his fellow prisoners if he did not cooperate, Adm. Stockdale – left alone in the interrogation room – removed a picture of Ho Chi Minh from the wall, broke the glass and used the shards to slash his wrists. Passing out in his own blood, he preferred to take his life rather than subject his subordinates to additional torture. As his MOH citation states, his captors became ‘convinced of his indomitable spirit.’ Torture of all POWs then abated.”

Readers can go to <http://www.washingtontimes.com/commentary/20050730-102312-9149r.htm> for a more detailed story. The Times also noted there is a movement to have Stockdale’s legacy memorialized by having a future ship named in his honor. If you think this is a good

idea, as do we, contact:

PEO Ships
Building 197, Room 3W3990
1333 Issac Hull Avenue, SE
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20376-2101
(Attn: Ms. Alicia Aadnesen)

The FAA Just Doing Their Job

The following is credited to an email newsletter published by the British publication Airfinance Journal. We will resist the compulsion to editorialize. What could anyone possibly say?

Before deploying from Savannah, Georgia to Iraq by chartered airliner, troops of the 48th Brigade Combat Team, a National Guard unit, had to go through the same security checks as any other passengers. Lt. Col. John King, CO of the 48th, told his 280 fellow soldiers that FAA anti-hijacking regulations require passengers to surrender pocket knives, nose hair scissors and cigarette lighters.

“If you have any of those things,” he said, almost apologetically, “put them in this box now.” The troops were, however, allowed to keep hold of their assault rifles, body armor, helmets, pistols, bayonets and combat shotguns.

Don't Laugh: They Save Lives

We recently read a letter from a Leatherneck’s mom, recounting how her son’s squad in Iraq received a CARE package intended for a female Marine. After the usual banter and barter, they made good use of such things as lotion and lip balm, and flew the size 20 ladies’ drawers from their HumVee antenna. And, as appropriate for female Marines, the CARE packages had tampons. Heading out for a mission, one of his buds needed Chap Stick and lotion for the trip, so he grabbed a bunch of items from his package as they took off, and as luck would have it he grabbed the tampons too. At first they were only good for the amusement of his buds, teasing him about “not forgetting his feminine hygiene products.”

But when they ran into an ambush and a fellow Marine was shot – the wound was clean, but it was deep – they were unable to get the bleeding stopped. So they used one of the tampons, which staunched the bleeding until the troop got better medical attention. Later, the surgeon told them, “You guys saved his life. If you hadn’t stopped that bleeding he would have bled to death.” Now the men in the squad each carries one, and two are kept in the first aid kit. Those cotton pickin’ Marines are pretty clever, huh?

Bushnell® Buys Michael's® of Oregon

Bushnell Performance Optics, a world leader in sports optics, announced it has entered into an agreement to acquire Michael's of Oregon, a leading manufacturer of outdoor, hunting, and shooting accessories. “This should be a seamless transition and we do not expect any disruption to

NRA Recognizes Soldier Of Fortune Magazine

At the April Annual Meeting of Members in Houston, NRA members present passed a resolution honoring *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine on that publication’s 30th Anniversary. The members recognized



SOF for its support of those fighting against terror; servicemen and -women; Vietnam veterans; the Right to Keep and Bear Arms; the election of pro-gun political leaders and defeat of anti-gun politicians; and originating the Three Gun Match shooting competition.

Printed in American Rifleman magazine.

Continued on page 68

fore breakfast one Friday the 13th in either 1966 or 1967, as the story goes. They wanted him to fly a fourth mission. He said, 'no, I think I'm done for the day.' Galen said.

"Wayne holds a Silver Star for valor, a Bronze Star for valor, and three Distinguished Flying Crosses, among other flying awards. He flew one of the first combat missions of a Cobra in Vietnam. He became somewhat of a legend, infamous for some of the stunts he pulled, according to those I spoke that served with him," Galen added.

Four new rules need to be adopted since helicopter assault tactics have remained almost unchanged since Vietnam, according to military strategist Carlton Meyer, of g2mil.com as of 2001.

We use his presentation as a springboard for a discussion of lessons learned since Vietnam.

First Rule: Perform Foot Reconnaissance



The Arabian Gulf (27 Mar. 2003) — A CH-53E Super Stallion rests on the flight deck of USS Kearsarge (LHD 5) after going through another sand storm. Kearsarge is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the multi-national coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and end the regime of Saddam Hussein. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Kenny Swartout

"The tactic of boldly landing in enemy territory without ground reconnaissance often proved deadly in Vietnam, where basic infantry weapons downed thousands of helicopters. Modern armies now have shoulder fired anti-aircraft missiles and guided anti-tank weaponry that can blast helicopters as they land. Landings will prove disastrous if aerial reconnaissance fails to detect larger anti-aircraft systems," Meyer writes.

"Meyer is right about Vietnam. Theoretically that is good advice, but you don't have to do it on foot," Blaney said. "There are other means of reconnaissance, including satellite, unmanned Ariel Vehicles, Scout Ships. The key is communications."

Second Rule: Don't Land at Night

The 26 January crash that killed 31 occurred at 0230. Other deadly night crashes, including one that killed 17 soldiers when a ten-ton Chinook helo was shot down and burst into flames 16

November 2004 in Iraq.

"Night operations are more difficult and dangerous. The idea of sending dozens of helicopters into an unknown Landing Zone at night is foolish...it is easy to locate and target helicopters in the night sky. The noise tells gunners where to look and the dark outline of helicopters stand out, even on a moonless night. The fear caused by bright tracers, flares and explosions is amplified at night, and even the most modern night vision goggles do not allow pilots to see small obstructions in the Landing Zone," Meyer warns.

Lt. Col. Blaney disagrees in some respects.

"Today, we own the night skies."

"We have spent billions of dollars on night vision technology for the crews and helicopters, including Apaches (AH-64A) and Longbow, Black Hawks (UH-60s and MH-60s), Chinooks (CH-47s and MH-47s), and other helicopters.

"We have trained ordinary line pilots and qualified them for night flying and target acquisition and highly qualified night vision device crews," he said. "There are times when even the best of crews and equipment fall victim to brown-out in the desert where the helicopter is engulfed in a cloud of dust and sand and the pilots lose spatial orientation, get vertigo and loose control of their aircraft. It is the primary hazard of night landing in the desert, but our crews train for brown-outs and try their best to avoid the conditions that create the brown-outs," Lt. Col. Blaney said.

Third Rule: Don't Announce the Landing Zone

"Armies develop routines which are often announced. Unnecessary air and artillery strikes at possible enemy positions alert nearby enemy units that a landing is in progress, and the rising smoke provides a target mark for enemy artillerymen to determine the location of the landing zone," Meyer writes.

"That's right, but sometimes that's impossible," Lt. Col. Blaney said. "In valleys, it is hard not to announce the Landing Zone because the terrain and enemy may force you to fly as high as possible. Sometimes you might find the Taliban higher up on the mountain than a helo can fly because of the cargo load and thin air. The Taliban can look down from their hideouts and see the Landing Zones and radio ahead to the ambushers. Lots of Landing Zones are pre-registered. We often infiltrate specially trained troops to scout the landing zone

Continued on page 51

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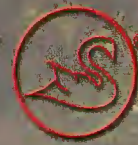
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AIR ASSAULT FIRST MISSION OF OPERATION VIGILANCE

Operation Vigilance will also include humanitarian aid drops in several Afghan villages.

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen, Combined Task Force Thunder Public Affairs Office

WARDAK PROVINCE, Afghanistan, 18 April 2005 — As the sun peeked over the mountains early on the morning of April 15, three CH-47 Chinook helicopters packed with U.S. and Afghan soldiers sped toward their target in Wardak province.

When the helicopters landed, the soldiers raced out the back ramps. While the Afghan National Army soldiers formed a perimeter around the compound, U.S. soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment from the Virginia Army National Guard searched for three men suspected of having ties to the Taliban.

The men were not home at the time, and thus evaded capture. However, the soldiers were able to locate and confiscate some weapons, and they gained valuable intelligence during questioning of others.

The air assault mission was the first mission of Operation Vigilance. The operation was expected to last several days and included humanitarian aid drops in several villages, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Blake Ortner, commander of 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment.

"The objective this morning was we were going after three targeted individuals that we were trying to kill or capture," Ortner said. "From here on

out, we'll have some additional targeted operations, but also a lot of patrolling and other operations within Wardak to set conditions for the future."

Due to the large amount of snow this past winter and the bad road conditions, the mission was delayed several times, Ortner said.

"This was essentially an operation we wanted to kick off to disrupt any of the spring attacks that may be going on up here," Ortner said. "We seem to have a larger threat up in Wardak than we do in other areas, so we wanted to kind of preempt some of that."

The mission came nine days after a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in Ghazni, killing all 18 people aboard. Many of the soldiers who took part in the Operation Vigilance mission are based at Forward Operating Base Ghazni, which is just a few miles from the crash site, and participated in the recovery

effort of the crashed helicopter.

U.S. Army Spc. Robert Mumaw, an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, said the crash weighed on many of the soldiers' minds.

"We saw that first-hand, so that was probably the biggest worry, not going in and doing the actual mission," he said.

Mumaw, a native of Woodstock, Va., said once he hit the ground, those worries disappeared and he was able to focus on the mission at hand.

"The entry went well, it went quick," Mumaw said. "We put the females in one room, segregated the males, and had the female MP search the females."



Mumaw said they found 17 to 20 rocket-propelled grenades, about 200 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, a few AK47s and a few grenades. Additionally, they found large amounts of cash on the women.

Wardak province is located southwest of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. Because of its proximity to the capital along with the fact that Ring Road - Afghanistan's lone major highway that connects several of the country's biggest cities - passes through the eastern part of the province, Ortner said a Coalition

presence in the province is important.

In the past, the Coalition has not had a significant presence in the province, Ortner said, but that's something he's working to change.

"Our big intent was to get up here and really get a feel for the area," he said. "We wanted to get a lot of patrols out to a lot of villages and try to build confidence in the people."

For Mumaw and his fellow infantrymen, the operation was a chance to get their boots muddy.

Coming into the deployment last year, many soldiers from the battalion didn't really know what to expect coming here. Some of them have found themselves pulling guard duty in towers at Bagram Airfield.

"Infantry just ain't used to getting stuck in towers," he said. "This is what we're supposed to do." ❧

and eliminate the enemy before the aircraft use the landing zone.

"Remember the most recent incident in Afghanistan?" he asked.

"In that incident, the helicopter that was transporting relief forces as part of the Operation Red Wing, an operation in Kunar Province had to fly high into the mountains," he said. "Four SEALs got pinned down. Taliban militants hiding out and operating in the region

were expecting relief forces to rescue the SEALs. They knew the area and successfully ambushed the relief ship.

"Regarding announcing the Landing Zones, The old Vietnam-era Hueys (UH-1 and AH-1S) were awfully noisy because of their two bladed systems and square cut rotor blade tips. The current crop of U.S. Army aircraft have four blades and the tip vortexes are greatly reduced by the swept rotor blade tips and are now much quieter."

Fourth Rule: Land With Small Armored Vehicles

"During the Vietnam war, the U.S. military suffered thousands of casualties as helicopter-landed infantrymen were pinned down by machine gun and rifle fire. The U.S. military has fielded large helicopters capable of carrying small armored vehicles internally, but has never purchased them," Meyer writes.

"The German military recognized this need several years ago and developed the armored "Weisel" which carries a machine gun and TOW anti-tank system or 120mm mortar. Two Weisels can be carried inside Germany's old CH-53D helicopters to provide instant heavy firepower in support of landings.

"Heavy lift helicopters can sling load various armored vehicles but the drag limits the helicopter to a slow and steady 50 knots, making it an easy target in transit and cutting its range in half. It also takes several precious minutes for the crew to un-sling and start up the vehicle...The U.S. military desperately needs small armored vehicles which can be carried inside Army CH-47s and Marine Corps CH-53Es," Meyer concludes.

Lt. Col Blaney agrees in principle about having overwhelming firepower

available in the Landing Zone/objective to protect the air assault aircraft.

He recommends that each air-ground mission have three main components when available, the scout element, the attack/close air support element and the assault element. All three elements are essential. But the most critical aspect of any air-ground operations is the intelligence preparation of the battle space.

"The more we know about the enemy and plan for his early demise, the less chance he will have of screwing up a perfectly good air-ground operation," he said.

Upgrades and Retirement of Choppers

Because of the large number of helicopter crashes, whether due to mechanical failures, storms, or enemy fire, the military is constantly seeking safer and more technically advanced aircraft.

A few developments are worth noting.

In 2001, the U.S. Army approved an upgrade program design for 1,500 Black Hawks to UH-60M standard. The first flight of the UH60M took place in September 2003. Entry into service is expected shortly, according to Army-technology.com.

The aging 1960s Vietnam era Kiowa Warrior OH-58D was to be replaced by the controversial RAH-66 Comanche. That seemingly endless project proved to be entirely too expensive and was terminated.

The biggest development in the upgrade of Army helicopters was just announced. The 1960s era Kiowa Warrior OH-58D Reconnaissance aircraft is going to be replaced with the Bell Helicopter ARH, a militarized version of the 407 single engine light helicopter. Bell has been granted a \$2.2 billion contract to deliver 368 helicopters between 2006 and 2013. Each aircraft will cost an estimated \$6-9 million each.

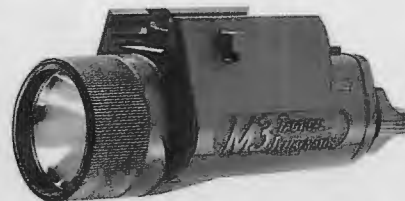
The next generation of recon helicopters is projected to be robotic, since recon helicopters have the highest incident of accident and combat death rates. ✕

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

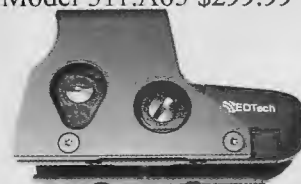
"He was shot down three times before breakfast ... They wanted him to fly a fourth mission. He said, 'no, I think I'm done for the day.'"

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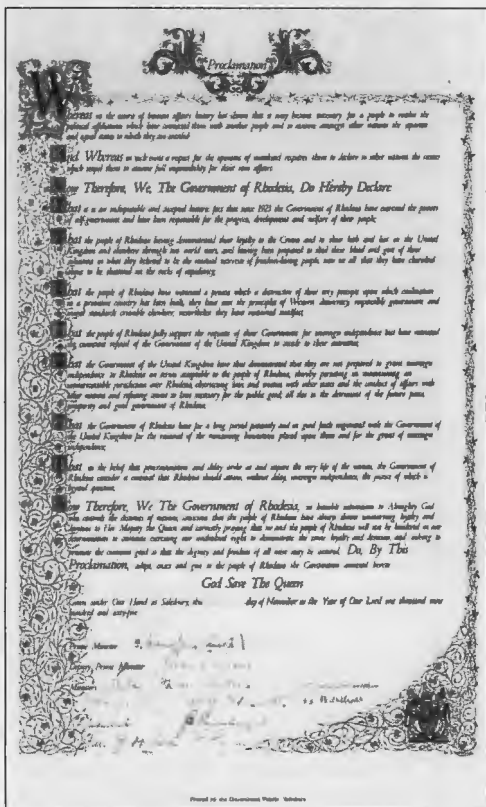
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A Cry For Freedom

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith greets supporters in London circa 1965.



Eleven November, 2005 is the date of one of those anniversaries that should be remembered as a call to freedom in the face of incredible odds but, unfortunately, it will not be. To do so would not be “politically correct”. In fact, what occurred that date in 1965 was a unique case of a relatively small group of self-reliant, ornery, in-your-face individuals that were determined to establish an independent nation, by breaking away from the British Crown which was trying to tell the Rhodesians how to run their affairs. Their struggle was much like that of another independent-minded group back in 1776, but this time, they took on not only the British Crown, but most of the entire world. They were the Rhodesians, who 40 years ago, promulgated their “Unilateral Declaration of Independence.”

From 1974 to 1980, SOF was involved on the periphery of the Rhodesian struggle against terrorism, primarily from a journalistic perspective, at a time when mercs smuggled guns and pulled a few triggers, though not with much effect. Therefore, since we fought against what Rhodesia became, we felt it was appropriate to celebrate the Rhodesian’s impertinence and guts. Thus, we decided to reach for the heights of “politically in-correctness,” and reprint the entire UDI document. *Robert K. Brown* ➤

Unilateral Declaration of Independence

11th November 1965

Whereas in the course of human affairs history has shown that it may become necessary for a people to resolve the political affiliations which have connected them with another people and to assume amongst other nations the separate and equal status to which they are entitled:

And whereas in such event a respect for the opinions of mankind requires them to declare to other nations the causes which impel them to assume full responsibility for their own affairs:

Now therefore, we, the Government of Rhodesia, do hereby declare:

That it is an indisputable and accepted historic fact that since 1923 the Government of Rhodesia have exercised the powers of self-government and have been responsible for the progress, development and welfare of their people;

That the people of Rhodesia having demonstrated their loyalty to the Crown and to their kith and kin in the United Kingdom and elsewhere through two world wars, and having been prepared to shed their blood and give of their substance in what they believed to be the mutual interests of freedom-loving people, now see all that they have cherished about to be shattered on the rocks of expediency;

That the people of Rhodesia have witnessed a process which is destructive of those very precepts upon which civilization in a primitive country has been built, they have seen the principles of Western democracy, responsible government and moral standards crumble elsewhere, nevertheless they have remained steadfast;

That the people of Rhodesia fully support the requests of their government for sovereign independence but have witnessed the consistent refusal of the Government of the United Kingdom to accede to their entreaties;

That the government of the United Kingdom have thus demonstrated that they are not prepared to grant sovereign independence to Rhodesia on terms acceptable to the people of Rhodesia, thereby persisting in maintaining an unwarrantable jurisdiction over Rhodesia, obstructing laws and treaties with other states and the conduct of affairs with other nations and refusing assent to laws necessary for the public good, all this to the detriment of the future peace, prosperity and good government of Rhodesia;

That the Government of Rhodesia have for a long period patiently and in good faith negotiated with the Government of the United Kingdom for the removal of the remaining limitations placed upon them and for the grant of sovereign independence;

That in the belief that procrastination and delay strike at and injure the very life of the nation, the Government of Rhodesia consider it essential that Rhodesia should attain, without delay, sovereign independence, the justice of which is beyond question;

Now therefore, we the Government of Rhodesia, in humble submission to Almighty God who controls the destinies of nations, conscious that the people of Rhodesia have always shown unswerving loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen and earnestly praying that we and the people of Rhodesia will not be hindered in our determination to continue exercising our undoubted right to demonstrate the same loyalty and devotion, and seeking to promote the common good so that the dignity and freedom of all men may be assured, do, by this proclamation, adopt enact and give to the people of Rhodesia the constitution annexed hereto;

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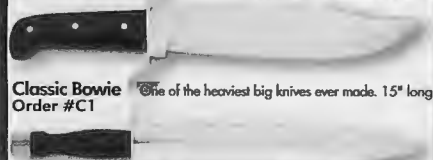
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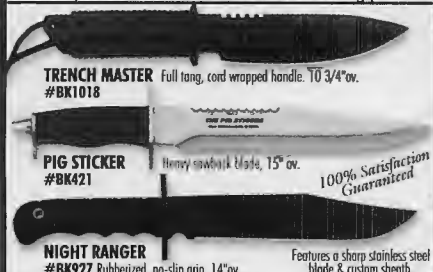
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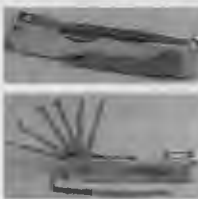


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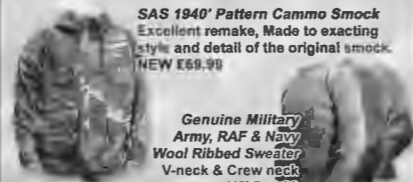
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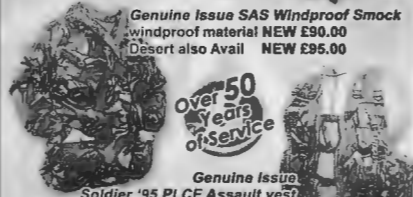
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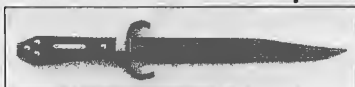
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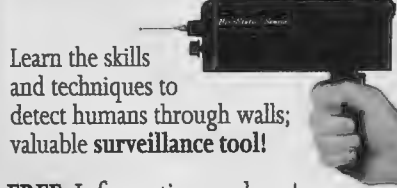
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ARMS	49	Command Arms	17	Hurley & Whittington	33	Paladin Press	5	TCI	C2
Barrett Rifles	10	Cove Shoe Co.	19	Inter-American Security	55	Ratchet Belt Co.	55	Texas Tactical Supply	51
Best Made Designs	69	Dark Ops Knives	3	Jim Morris	51	Real War Stories	77	Wiggy's	53
Black Ink Design	81	Detonics	77	Kel Tec	67	R.M. Equipment	78	Wiley-X	43
Burris Optics	23	DPMS	55	Kifaru	67	Silverman's	55	Wilson Tactical	66
Bushmaster	71	Doublestar	64	Laser Devices	71	Southern Ordnance	28	7.62 Design	79
Bushrag	78	EO Tech	49	Matt Furey	65	Specter Gear	80		
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Savage's Left-Handed Tactical Rifle

For use in a static position, Johnston found the Savage Tactical LE AccuTrigger Rifle easy to use, as well as to load from the left side.

New left-handed Model 110 Tactical Rifle might be just the ticket!

Text and Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

Long recognized as being ahead of its time, Savage's Model 110 action was revolutionary when first introduced, and it still is. Made of the finest materials, the Model 110 action is one of the strongest in the industry, and it also has one of the fastest lock-times going. Lock-time is the time it takes for the striker to fall after the trigger is pulled, and it equates directly to accuracy.

Differing from virtually all other commercial rifles in the world, the Model 110's barrel is secured to the receiver in a unique manner: After being pre-chambered, the barrel is screwed into the receiver with a headspace gauge already in place and it is turned in against the closed bolt and gauge for perfect headspace. A heavy-duty lock nut on the barrel is then

turned in against the receiver and tightened using a special wrench. The result is a trued barrel-receiver alignment that is totally secure.

Proving itself as one of the most accurate out-of-the-box bolt-action rifles available, the Savage 110 has made a name for itself, from bench-rest shooting to long-range hunting. Another reason for its excellent accuracy is the fine button rifling used in the Model 110's barrel. After being precision bored, the barrel blank is secured in the rifling fixture and the bore is lubricated with special grease. The long button shank is then inserted and, after being secured to the puller, the button is pulled through the bore, cold forming the rifling lands and grooves under terrific pressure. The result is a match-



The Savage Model 110 LE Tactical AccuTrigger rifle has always produced great accuracy, but the new left-handed version may be just the thing — for right-handed operators.



Mounted on a Harris Bipod, the Savage Model 110 LE is equipped with the 10x42mm Tactical Scope from Valdada IOR.

grade, mirror-finished rifled bore.

Several years ago, Savage introduced its Model 110 LE Tactical rifle in .308 Winchester caliber. Using a synthetic stock, this rifle has a blind magazine-well for extra strength, and a heavy barrel. The first such rifle I tested years ago produced sub-minute of angle groups right out of the box. Later on, Savage added its oversized round bolt handle, and its now-famous pillar bedding system to the Model 110 LE Tactical and other models.

AccuTrigger®

More recently, Savage introduced its now famous AccuTrigger. Another revolutionary Savage innovation, the AccuTrigger has the following features:

- Infinitely adjustable.
- Trigger pull between 1.5 lbs. and 6 lbs.
- Capable of being adjusted by the user.
- Completely safe with no danger of accidental discharge even at the lowest setting.
- Crisp release with no creep.



Savage's AccuTrigger can be adjusted from a minimum of 1.5 lbs. to a maximum of 6 pounds after simply removing the rifle from the stock, with no need to take it to a gunsmith. Simply rotate the return spring with the tool that is supplied

with the rifle. The trigger cannot be adjusted below 1.5 lbs.

As safe as a trigger gets, AccuTrigger cannot accidentally let off from being jarred or dropped, when properly adjusted. This is because AccuTrigger is designed with an integrated AccuRelease that must first be completely depressed before pressing the trigger: This is because the AccuRelease blocks the sear until depressed.

Using a center-mounted trigger safety, the AccuTrigger cannot be pulled until the trigger finger depresses this AccuRelease safety, but the operator cannot even detect that the safety is present. All that is felt is the finger against the actual trigger after the AccuRelease has already been depressed. As set by the factory, the AccuTrigger breaks at a clean 3 pounds.

Having previously tested Savage's LE Tactical Rifle with AccuTrigger for SOF, I found it easy to use and adjust. After removing the rifle from the stock, I used the special tool furnished to adjust the trigger. This tool turns the trigger return spring either clockwise or counterclockwise to change the tension instead of the engagement. It's simple and reliable, and I had no trouble shooting sub-minute of angle groups with .308 Match ammunition.

A Left Handed Version

Recently, Savage offered its Model 110 LE Tactical rifle in a left-handed action for left-handed operators, but this system has equal merit for right-handed shooters. This is a rifle that will usually be deployed from a static position, that is, it will be used from a rest or a bipod and will seldom move from that point until a crisis has ended. Now think about a right-handed shooter using a left-handed bolt.

Instead of having to take the strong hand off the rifle to work the bolt, a right-handed operator can leave the rifle on the shoulder with the right hand in place and work the bolt with the left hand. He can even load the rifle with the left hand, just as easily as with the right hand – maybe ever easier. I've used other custom precision rifles set up this way, so I know it works, and I decided to try the left-handed Savage for myself.

Valdada Tactical Scope

The sample left-handed Savage came with a two-piece M1913 style scope base on which I mounted a Valdada IOR 10x42mm Tactical Sniper Scope, using Valdada 30mm rings.



This scope has 1/4 MOA adjustments and a side focus. I also used the new Strap-on Ambidextrous Cheek Comb (SACC) Pad from R.J.R. Enterprises to provide a good cheek weld. The SACC Pad comes in two heights and many colors and camo patterns to satisfy any mission. The SACC Pad will fit all bolt rifles and many semi-autos.



In addition to 1/4 MOA adjustments, the Valdada 10x42mm Tactical Scope comes with the highly desirable side focus.

Using the left-handed Savage M110 Tactical LE from a Harris bipod, I found I could manipulate the bolt just as quickly as a right-handed bolt and I could also load easier by seeing what I was doing without moving the rifle from my shoulder. Accuracy of this rifle equaled that of other Savage M110s I have tested.

If you're a left-handed precision shooter who is thinking that a right-handed bolt might work for you, you're probably correct. Either way whether you're a right-handed shooter who prefers a conventional M110 Tactical LE, or decide to go with a left-handed version, the Savage Model 110 Tactical LE with AccuTrigger has to be rated a "best buy."

If you or your agency is in the market for a high quality precision rifle that will perform as well as rifles costing four times as much, check out the Savage AccuTrigger. In addition to the Model 110 LE, AccuTrigger was available on all Savage Varmint and heavy barrel long-range rifles beginning in January 2003. For information, contact Savage Arms, Inc., Dept. SOF, 118 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT 06078; phone: 800-235-1821 or www.savagearms.com ☒

Specifications:	Savage Left-Handed Model 110 LE Tactical
Caliber:	.308 Winchester
Velocity:	2800 fps
Operation:	Turnbolt repeater
Barrel Length:	24 inches
Overall Length:	43 inches
Weight:	9 pounds
Feed Device:	4-shot integral box magazine
Safety:	Positive tang safety and AccuRelease trigger safety
Sights:	None. Drilled and tapped for scope base
Stock:	Matte black synthetic
Finish:	Matte blue
Price:	\$684.00 (sug. retail)

Other Contacts:

Harris Engineering, Inc.

999 Broadway, Dept. SOF • Barlow, KY42024
270-334-3633

R.J.R. Enterprises

74 Tyconnell Ave., Dept. SOF • Massapequa Park, NY 11762
516-798-5146 • www.snoopssurvivalstore.com

Valdada IOR Optics

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R.J.R.'s SACC Pad attaches to most rifles to provide a comfortable cheekpiece and comes in a variety of colors, camo patterns and sizes.

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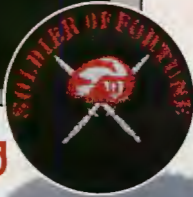
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Toys for Troopers

At RPG Blog, we've undertaken a new and extremely worthwhile project: Games For GIs. We've started gathering both new and (gently) used games and gaming materials for care packages to go to deployed military gamers and their units in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other forward areas around the globe.

We are compiling a list of our Armed Forces gamers and their units from friends and family. It's our mission to provide a nice care package full of

books, dice, games, and other goodies to everyone on our list. To do this, we need help, both from individuals and companies in the gaming realm. Whether it's just few books, dice, minis, trading cards, or a game, you'll have done your part to make an unpleasant place a little brighter for some truly wonderful people.

If I may speak in terms of personal experience for a minute, I myself was deployed overseas, away from my loved ones last year, and one of the things that made it all bearable was the nightly

RPG we started up. I'm trying to bring that same "safety valve" to folks over there right now.


We are currently at an address where we can ship all care packages through military means free of charge. If you'd like to find out more making a contribution or volunteering, or if you'd like a copy of our needs list, I may be contacted at zacharythefirst@hotmail.com.

Additionally, if you have a friend or loved one you'd like added to our care package list, contact us, and we'd be happy to do so. Thank you for your time, compassion, and generosity.

The address and central distribution point to send your contributions is:

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Don't settle for "out of the box" options on your next rifle. DoubleStar gives you the freedom to choose so you can build the rifle of your dreams at the price of a production rifle.

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The Star DS-4 is the semi-auto version of the M-4 Carbine the U.S. military elite units use in Afghanistan and Iraq. Chosen for its lighter weight and smaller package, the DS-4 is a favorite of law enforcement and security personnel.
16" match barrel, DS-4 handguards.
Rifle with A-2 or flat-top upper \$799.95
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2. DSC STAR-15 RIFLE
The Star-15 is the same design carried by millions of soldiers around the free world. This is the basic rifle with a 20" 1 in 9" twist match barrel, A-2 buttstock and A-2 handguards.
Rifle with A-2 or flat-top upper \$774.95
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
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Only Hits Kill

I can't believe the Army wants to limit the kill range for snipers using the modified M16 to 600 YARDS! They can't use the M14 or M1 because production has been long dead, so why not buy some 7.62 sniper weapon from the European or Russian arsenal? Why, I bet some American company would gear up to give what the U.S. Government needs for its warriors! As it now stands, Army doctrine says snipers will use the 600-yard capable

M16 for snipers? We've just limited ourselves to one half of the sniper envelope!

Paul Edmondson
USAF retired

Paul: I understand where you are coming from. I would suggest the Army figures its relatively new "Designated Marksmanship Program," which has one trooper in each squad armed with a scoped M14, is the tool that will be used to engage targets out to 800-900 meters. The Army is, as I understand, refurbishing M14's that have been in storage. Thanks for your interest.

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

Hack's Funeral

I was saddened to hear of Hack's passing -- a real hero. It reminded me of



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

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

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

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

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

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

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

What I discovered shocked me from head to toe!

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

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

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

Who is Combat Conditioning for?

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

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

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

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

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

Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!

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

Time is not the issue!



Matt Furey

won a national collegiate wrestling title in 1985 and a world shuai-chiao kung fu championship in 1997. Furey has a knack for taking the average and ordinary person and transforming him with his powerful programs. Furey was inducted into the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and spends much time each year traveling throughout the world, searching for the very best information available to his world-wide audience. His website, www.mattfurey.com, is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

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

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

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

New Results from Forgotten Exercises

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

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

Puts You into the Old Clothes You Dream of Wearing Again!

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

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

12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!

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

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

Here's How to Order

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

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

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a good friend's distant passing, Johnny "Rubber" Weber. He was a good friend and past armor soldier in 'nam. He succumbed to the big C too, our belief is that it was due in most part to Agent Orange as well. He turned me on to SOF and I have been a reader off and on for many years – now more than ever, and my sub form is on its way. The last time I saw Rubber we made a pact that who ever didn't pass first would drink a shot of Jack at the other's grave site anytime we were in town. I think it's time I have one with Rubber in honor of him, Hack and all our brave soldiers.

Please print more info on our brave soldiers overseas. We need to know of these deeds of uncommon valor.

W. Nolte

Goodies for the Good Guys

I just returned from a Hockey Tournament, probably the greatest inline tournament in the country and while in Florida, I heard people complaining how hot it was and muggy it was as they drank a beer or glass of soda with ice. My first thought was, here it is in the 90s and we have soldiers dying in 140+ heat with 50-60 lbs of gear on and we have the nerve to bitch about the heat. I don't know maybe I think of these things because I was there once or I was a soldier in Iraq before, or because I lived in Central America for over three years

as a soldier, but I think we all should remember this about our soldiers and pass it on to other people.

Imagine if every person in America had their child send a soldier a 50-cent bag of candy, a \$1.50 container of drink mix, a pack of hard candy in an envelope (a few bucks to buy and send). Maybe if America would do this through their children our soldiers wouldn't feel like they are forgotten.

I am a big supporter of the Infantry and grunts, but sometimes we forget about the people like the medics and the doctors, although they might have a little better conditions, it isn't always. Here is a letter from a doctor over in Iraq, let's see if we can generate maybe some Kool-aid or some Gatoraide, maybe some hard candy or a TV dinner with a shelf life (as, Dinty Moore, or "Lunchables") – it doesn't take much if enough people help out.

Thanks for your help,
Martin Larson
2331 East Lily Lake Road
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www.troopsupport.cjb

More Goodies

We have two separate aid stations, one at the Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora and one at Patrol Base Razor in Samarra (120mi north of Baghdad), supporting a large armor/infantry task force. While, personally, I am from U.S. Southern Command in Miami, the unit is from Fort Stewart. We only get three meals a week at Razor, aside from MRE's, but do have electricity – microwaveable food would be great. We don't have any other cooking capability, except a crude fire pit. An extra mesh/wire grill to use for cooking would be great. The medics have seen a lot—we have had a lot of trauma casualties here, and would love DVD's and computer games to decompress. Since we do not have running water at Razor, handiwipes are needed. My medics would probably welcome any kind of candy. Glasses/goggle defogger would also be good, since our goggles frequently fog up if we're on a convoy. Anything else you think a soldier might want is welcome. These guys have been through a lot, and they deserve the world. Thanks!

LTC James J. England
HHC, 3-69 Armor (Medics)
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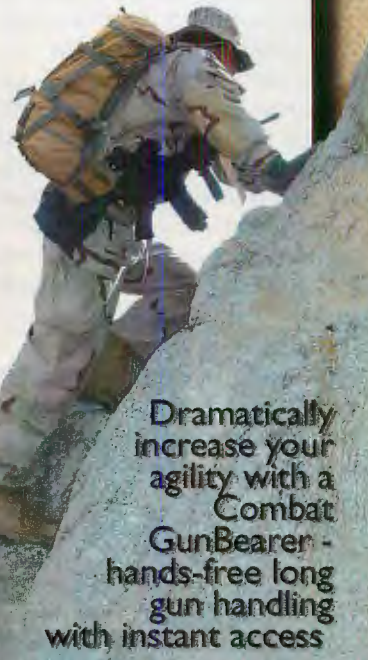
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Barrel length	18"
Magazine	10 or M-16 (optional)

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the service both companies provide their customers," noted Joe Messner, honcho at Bushnell. "The similar culture of these two companies, along with their leadership positions in the marketplace, make for a perfect match," said Dennis Pixton, President and CEO of Michael's of Oregon.

"The addition of outdoor accessories to the existing Bushnell product platforms of sports optics, outdoor technology and premium eyewear broadens the scope of our company and allows us to better serve more of our customers' needs," said Messner. "With the acquisition of Michael's, Bushnell will introduce a new corporate name, 'Bushnell Outdoor Products.'"

Headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, Bushnell is a leading supplier of high quality sports optics including binoculars, telescopes, riflescopes, laser rangefinders, night vision, ski goggles, sunglasses and safety glasses marketed under the Bushnell, Tasco, Bollé, and Serengeti brand names. Michael's of Oregon is a leading manufacturer of hunting, shooting, and law enforcement accessories. Headquartered in Oregon City, Oregon, the company also has offices in Meridian, Idaho, and New Ulm, Minnesota. Under the brand names Uncle Mike's, Uncle Mike's Law Enforcement, Butler Creek, Hoppe's, Stoney Point and Blackwater Gear, Michael's of Oregon manufactures and distributes holsters, slings, swivels, gun cases, belts, gun cleaning products and other hunting, shooting, military and law enforcement gear.



The 1st F/A-22 to be stationed at Langley AFB cruises over the Eastern Seaboard in the company of an F-15 escort. Photo: USAF

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Continued on page 78

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prods to inflict shock.

It is unknown if the troops were Vietnamese or Cambodian, but an eyewitness said they heard commands being given in Vietnamese.

When the Montagnards first arrived in Cambodia, they had been misled by agents within the camp and were told the only way UNHCR would let them stay is if when interviewed they must say the reason they fled Vietnam was they belonged to the Dega church and were being persecuted because they wanted their ancestral land back.

The Vietnamese communists have banned the Dega church, claiming that it isn't a true religion because it mixes land issues with religion and is a separatist-political movement. These misinformed Montagnards were then rejected because they didn't fit UNHCR's perceived criteria.

Many of this group had fled their villages in the Central Highlands in Vietnam after a communist crack-down on a passive prayer vigil last Easter weekend that soon became violent when Vietnamese police and troops waded into the praying Montagnards and indiscriminately began clubbing men, women and children.

Reportedly, scores of Montagnards were killed, and hundreds beaten, some senseless, with shovels and clubs with nails in them, resulting in serious injuries. Many fled into the jungle, and an unknown number died of starvation and disease in an attempt to gain sanctuary in Cambodia.

Many more were captured and killed or sent to gulags in Vietnam. Crossing the Cambodian border and seeking asylum in Cambodia is considered a crime by the Vietnamese communists and is punishable by prison sentences up to 15 years.

One boy fleeing to Cambodia with his father got separated from him and caught by the Vietnamese. He was taken to a police station and tortured for several days in an attempt to get him to reveal the names of those who were helping the Montagnards cross into Cambodia – something he did not know. He was later released and escaped to Cambodia and was able to rejoin his father.

It is estimated that one-half of the adult male population were killed fighting for the Americans. Without them, there would be scores more American names on that somber black wall - the Vietnam Memorial. ✕

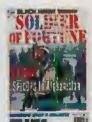
An estimated one-half of the adult male population were killed fighting for the Americans.

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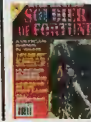
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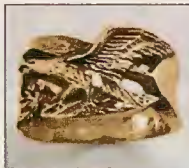
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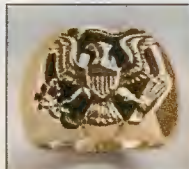
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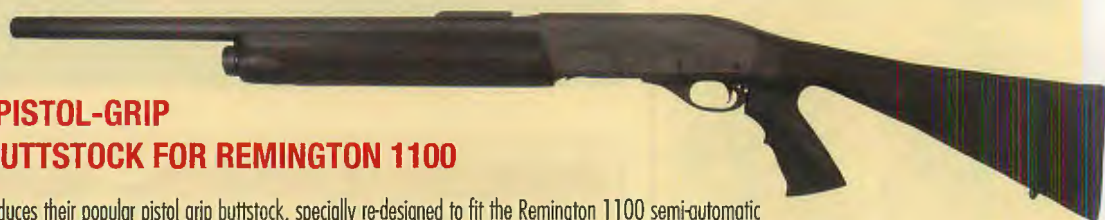


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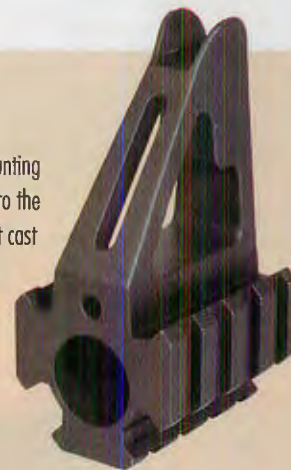
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Bushmaster's Light

Gary Paul Johnston Tests Two ARs Light in Weight, Not in Performance

Text and Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

For the past couple of years I've made no bones about my preference for lightweight AR-15 style carbines. For the vast majority of roles I see no purpose in the "heavy barrel" carbine, as it negates the very concept of the carbine. Furthermore, a heavy barrel adds more leverage to the barrel against the alloy receiver to which it is attached, and a lightweight barrel is just as accurate as a heavy barrel of equal quality. Enter Bushmaster's SuperLight.

An AR-15 style carbine, the secret of Bushmaster SuperLight's success is its barrel, which is the exact profile of the original AR-15/M16 barrel used during the Vietnam War Era. The only difference is that the Bushmaster carbine barrel is four inches shorter than that original, making it lighter yet.

After ordering a Bushmaster SuperLight Carbine in 2004, I used it during Gunsite's 5-day .223

(above) Johnston found the Carbon 15 easy to operate from a variety of positions. (below) Made using receivers of carbon fiber, Bushmaster's new .223 Carbon 15 carbine is strong, but lightweight.



Class where I fired just over 1,400 rounds. By the fourth day my attitude toward my carbine was better than a number of others who had brought carbines with heavy barrels. What's more, using a pre-production Trijicon Tri-Power Reflex Sight, I shot as good as anyone in the school, exercises out to 300 yards. So much for the accuracy question.

In addition to the intrinsic advantages of the lightweight carbine, is the fact that more accessories can be mounted on the gun with the result that the total weight will still be less than if a standard-weight carbine were used. Such accessories may include lights, lasers, optics, vertical foregrips and etc.

Some years ago, an AR-15 style carbine was introduced by its original developers, which used upper and lower receivers made of carbon fiber. Called the Carbon-15, the gun is remarkably light in weight.

Integral with its upper receiver is a raised, ventilated platform, which houses an M16A2 rear sight. On the top of the platform is an M1913 rail, and this is the main reason the platform was raised higher than the standard flattop. The idea behind the raised rail is to provide a mounting surface that better positions an optic, without compromising a good cheekweld, or requiring extra-high scope rings.

Finished in basic matte black, the carbon-fiber receivers are not finished at all, but merely display the natural blackness and texture of the material. In addition to being very light weight, carbon fiber is also quite tough, but it also has other qualities. Carbon fiber has a natural lubricity and a natural resistance to heat. In fact, carbon fiber will conduct almost no heat at all, a quality that makes it very attractive to firearms designers.

As originally designed, the Carbon 15 used a fluted stainless-steel barrel of match quality, a unique oval-shaped handguard and an abbreviated buttstock. Upon testing a sample of the gun, I found it very accurate and reliable, but I was of the opinion that it would be more suitable if equipped with more conventional features and furniture.

In late 2003, Bushmaster Firearms bought the Carbon 15 and debuted a new version of the gun at the 2004 SHOT Show. Except for its upper receiver, which remained virtually unchanged, the new Carbon 15 was fitted with an M4 style barrel, standard round 2-piece handguards and a post-ban fixed carbine stock. Since this was essentially the gun I would have liked to have seen produced, I requested a sample, which I received some time later.

Like the original Carbon 15, the unchanged receiver retains the raised rail and rear sight, ambidextrous selector markings and unique case deflector, and has no forward assist or provision for a dust cover. The receivers also have a number of other unique production features including an integral (solid) trigger guard.

Finding the receiver rail close enough to MilStd 1913 specifications to accept an A.R.M.S. #17 ThrowLever, I mounted an Aimpoint Comp ML2 on it, using this system without a spacer/riser. As such, I found the height of the optic satisfactory (if not perfect) for a cheek weld. I also mounted an Eotech Reflex Sight on the rail and this sight was also satisfactory.

The Carbon 15's lower receiver came with a standard AR-15A2 pistol grip, but will also accept pistol grips from Worldwide Ordnance, First SAMCO, Hogue, TangoDown and the ERGO Grip from Falcon Industries. In addition, any AR-15 magazine can be used in the gun and internal parts appear to be standard as well.

Trigger Pulling

Although the trigger



Here the Bushmaster new Carbon 15 (top) is seen along side the company's SuperLight .223 carbine.

on the sample M4 style Carbon 15 was typical of GI trigger letoff, I found the carbine to handle quite well, if slightly front heavy, in running some fast shooting drills at close-to-medium range. Slightly stiff at first, the bolt group required some breaking in by shooting, but all other functions worked

as normal. Accuracy from the sample Carbon 15 was very good, with the carbine producing 3-shot groups of about 2 inches at 100 yards with match quality .223 caliber ammunition using an Aimpoint Comp Sight.

In evaluating this new Carbon 15 variant, I liked it much better than earlier versions I had tested, but I thought it could be even further improved. While the M4 style Carbon 15 weighs in at only 5.6 pounds, the goal should



Having a raised rail platform, the Carbon 15 has no forward assist, and differs from a standard AR-style receiver in other details, but is otherwise interchangeable.



(top) Built on standard MilStd alloy receivers, Bushmaster's SuperLight Carbine mounts optics low on its flattop rail. (middle) With its integral raised platform, the Carbon 15 mounts optics slightly higher. A flattop Carbon 15 will be available in mid-2005. (bottom) The Bushmaster Carbon 15 field strips without the need for tools, just like any AR-style carbine.

be the lightest weight possible. I would therefore like to see the carbon fiber receiver technology combined with Bushmaster's SuperLight barrel. After all, the M4 barrel on a "civilian" carbine is merely for style, and the SuperLight barrel should reduce the weight to roughly just 5 pounds. Whether or not Bushmaster decides to offer such a combination as standard, the company has already assembled several of these guns at customers' request, but there is more.

Another suggestion I made was to offer the carbon-fiber upper receiver in a flattop version with a MilStd 1913 rail instead of, or in addition to, the current version with its raised platform and integral A2 rear sight. As you read this, such a flattop model is available. As with all other such flattops, this one would require mounting a rear sight on the rail, such as the A.R.M.S. #40-L, if open sights were desired.

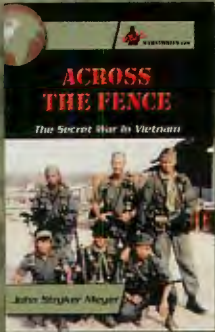
A standard flattop also means that all of the many mounting systems designed around this type of receiver are available for the Carbon 15 version, making mounting solutions a simple matter. Since this type of carbine is especially useful as a patrol carbine, personal protection and pest control weapon, lightweight optics will normally be the order of the day. Such sights include offerings by Aimpoint, C-More, Eotech, J-P Enterprises (J-Point), Leupold (CQ/T), Meprolight, Trijicon and Zeiss.

Two new sight systems require special mention here and they are Aimpoint's Comp M3 with 3X Magnifier and Leupold's new 1.5-5X30mm Mid-Range/Tactical. Of the highest quality, Aimpoint's 3X Magnifier mounts behind the Comp M3 with its new 2 MOA red dot, and is quick detachable in order to use the Comp M3 by itself. The 3X Magnifier can also be mounted in the even newer Quick-Flip mount for instant switching back and forth between magnification and the Comp M3 alone. The Quick-Flip is now available from Mounting Solutions Plus and is a real piece of gear!

In terms of variable optics for use from close to medium ranges out to 300 yards or so, Leupold's new 1.5-5X30mm MRT is outstanding. Lightweight and rugged, this beautiful optic comes with the same illuminated reticle system used on the 3.5-9X MR/T, which is the commercial version of the Special Forces' TS30-A2 Sniper Scope. Any of the above optics will be right at home on Bushmaster's new Carbon 15 flattop.

Continued on page 79

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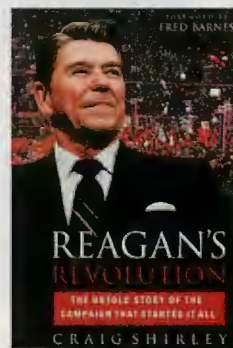


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Craig Shirley is the president of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs, a prestigious conservative public relations agency located just outside of Washington, DC.

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USMC Scope Contract

Premiere Reticles, Winchester, VA, is being awarded a \$15,000,000 firm-fixed-priced, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract for Scout Sniper Day Scopes to replace the aging and failing Unertl sniper scopes currently used by Marine snipers. The initial purchase will be 575 scopes at \$1,749 each for a total initial delivery order of \$1,006,250. The government may purchase up to a maximum of 7500 scopes on this contract over the five-year period the contract is in effect. Work will be performed in Winchester (75%) and Germany (25%), and is expected to be completed by 2010. This contract was competitively procured; the Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, is the contracting activity.

ings, and notes, "Despite President Pervez Musharraf's much-publicized claim to have changed Pakistan's direction by uprooting its network of extremists, an investigation into the activities of outlawed militant groups and their leaders reveals that most of them are back in business." It may be found at: www.asiaint.com/arl/arl6666.asp

The second report that might be of interest is a Special Bulletin sent out in the immediate aftermath of the bombings by Courcy's Intelligence Service. The bulletin attempts to draw together the key points raised by the bombings and might be of interest to those of you who do not already receive this service. To download this special bulletin, click on:

<http://www.courcyint.com/csb/CSB6674.asp>

Freedom Fighters to Farmers, Via Contra Café

After the war in Nicaragua, the primary veteran's benefit allocated to the Contra freedom fighters – those that survived – was an acre or two of land they could call their own. And on it, many of them grow some of the best coffee in the world – without chemicals or pesticides. Go to www.Contracafe.com and get the full story on an outfit that brings these grower's coffee to market, gives them a better price for it than that vaunted "fair trade" coffee brands, and then turns 50% of the company profit back to them for development projects – all the while bringing to market some of the best "Yuppie" coffee there is. Whole bean only, roasted when they get your order. No decaf. No bull. Check out their site, then check out their coffee.



Scumbag Report

Vandals in Ohio tore American flags out of the yard of a dead soldier's family the day after his funeral, then set a car on fire. Army Pfc. Tim Hines died July 14 of complications of injuries he suffered in a roadside bombing in Baghdad. His funeral was on a Friday, and on Saturday someone pulled the flags out of the family's yard, stuffed them under a family car in the driveway and set them afire. The car was destroyed. Authorities offered a \$5,000 reward for tips.

A police spokesman said authorities hope "that anyone stupid enough to do something like this will be stupid enough to talk about it and someone else will come forward."

Neighbors bought the family new flags. "I went by later that morning, Saturday morning, and there must have been 200 flags that had been brought in and reposed," the police chief said. ☒

In the Wake of the London Bombings

For intelligence perspective, here are a couple on-line reports that may be of interest to readers. The first, entitled, "Pakistan's militants back in business" was published before the July 7 bomb-

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and was called back," the serviceman wrote. "There was not enough time to try to secure the area because the weather front moved in and night fell. The SEALs kept fighting and used the cover of darkness to crawl out of the initial enemy lines. The SEALs were engaged again and had a running gun battle for over two hours. The SEAL that survived was knocked unconscious by a mortar round and found that he was alone when he woke up. Two of his team members were dead close by, and the last team member was missing.

"They had dropped all non-essential gear during their escape therefore all contact with them was lost," he wrote.

The media went wild with circulating rumors that the missing SEALs had been beheaded.

Trail of Blood

"The four man team from SDV 1 in Hawaii was hit and surrounded 360 at night. A SEAL was shot and the medic was working on him when the RPG hit and blew him, the medic, down a ravine," another source forwarded another version of the catastrophe as told by a SEAL.

"When he woke up he was alone and had shrapnel and bullet wounds. He began to E&E (escape and evade) as the Taliban were looking for him. He literally ran for four days as the Taliban pursued by following his blood trail. When he stopped at a lake to drink, he was found by a friendly and taken to his village. The Taliban hit the village but the villagers defended and lost 4 men

in the fight.

"The SEAL and some of the village fighters took off for another village where there was a cell phone. They made it and called for an extraction. In the meantime the Taliban were using a cell phone in another village to call in a sitrep. This was intercepted and we dropped a bomb on the signal. DEV GRP Red Cell was deployed and extracted the wounded SEAL from the village.

"And that's how the rescue went down," the source said.

The shepherd who sheltered the SEAL is now in the United States, according to the source.

The bodies of the two SEALs who died in action were finally found 4 July.

The remains of the final missing sailor were recovered during a combat-search-and-rescue operation 10 July in Kunar province.

"The location and disposition of the SEAL's remains indicate he died while fighting off enemy terrorists on or about 28 June," a coalition spokesman said. Officials said there was no evidence to support a statement from a purported Taliban spokesman that the sailor had been beheaded by Taliban members.

"We as American soldiers cannot leave our people on the battlefield. Every Airman, Marine, Sailor, Coast Guardsmen and Soldier has to know that when you go down range and things go wrong, keep fighting and help will come," a grieving soldier said. ✕

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



Soldiers establish a security perimeter after exiting a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a Quick Reaction Force exercise at the East River Range near Bagram, Afghanistan, on 10 June 2005. The soldiers are from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment of the Texas Army National Guard. DoD photo by Spc. Harold Fields, U.S. Army.

Under The Radar

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Our beloved mainstream media are complaining that President Bush is spending too much time at the “Western White House” in Crawford, Texas. Their stories about his “vacation” make it seem as if he’s not doing a whole lot. But a closer look reveals that the president is working hard — the Fourth Estate just doesn’t bother to cover what he’s really doing.

For example, last week, the president’s meeting with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe attracted little notice from the masters of the media. Colombia, locked in a drug-funded civil war, now stretching into its 41st year — has lost nearly a quarter of a million people to the conflict since 1964. The pro-American Uribe — a strong ally of this president — is committed to ending the scourge of illegal narcotics which is fueling terrorism in the region — and beyond. But he needs help.

“The great enemy of Colombian democracy is terrorism,” Uribe said in Crawford. He praised the Bush administration and the American people for their assistance, which he described as “exemplary.” While observing that Colombia has “made progress, and we are winning,” he also cautioned that “we have not won yet.”

One of the reasons Colombia has not won yet is because the narco-terrorists who are doling out the mayhem and murder in Colombia are finding refuge in Venezuela, with whom Colombia shares a 1,300 mile border. The near-dictatorial regime of Hugo Chavez in Caracas has granted the guerrillas a safe haven to launch attacks against Colombia. This, coupled with last month’s launch of the new Chavez propaganda channel called Telesur, has caused growing concern in Bogota and other democratic capitals in the region. Telesur, it should be noted, is a “joint project” of the socialist governments of Venezuela, Cuba, Uruguay and Argentina.

When Chavez is not competing with Al Gore in launching new television networks, he is busy increasing his military troop strength and making unprecedented purchases of arms. On his shopping list: MI-24 attack helicopters, 100,000 AK-47 assault rifles from Russia, coastal gun boats and a fleet of troop transport aircraft. The purchases have caused great concern in both Bogota and Washington and may have emboldened Chavez to step up his rhetorical assault on the U.S.

This week at the 16th World Festival of Students and Youth, dubbed “Against Imperialism and War,” the Venezuelan strong-man called the U.S. the “most savage, cruel and murderous empire that has existed in the history of the world.” Later in his lengthy diatribe, Chavez expressed his support for Iran’s new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying he expects to continue strengthening relations and that Venezuela, like Iran, is a country that has been “attacked” for many years by “the hand of imperialism.”

After telling the 15,000 young people assembled at Venezuela’s Central Military Headquarters that “socialism is the only path,” Mr. Chavez told the students their collective goal should be to “save a world threatened by the voracity of U.S. imperialism.” According to the new Telesur Network, the students “celebrated by waving flags, dancing in traditional dress and wearing berets commemorating Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara.”

Though the whole scene was reminiscent of Fidel Castro’s finest moments, not everyone is laughing at Chavez’s flair for the dramatic. U.S. defense experts note that the Venezuelan

military hardware spending spree is largely funded with petro-dollars and that at \$60-plus per barrel, there is no shortage of cash in Caracas. At the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters, there seems to be little amusement in the Chavez regime’s new-found affection for communist China and Iran. And in Managua, supporters of Nicaraguan democracy and free enterprise are deeply concerned for the support — political and financial — that the Venezuelan tyrant is providing to Daniel Ortega.

The Chavez “Bolivarian Revolution” has become a confusing stew pot of rhetoric and repression. He has alienated his main trading partners; transformed a once professional diplomatic service into a socialist cheering squad; and has purged political dissidents while providing material support for terrorists. His threats to slow or cease oil exports to the U.S. may seem hollow to some, but others remind us that Venezuela produces more than 16 percent of the crude oil we consume. A quick trip to the gas pump — and the prospect of a cold winter — should suffice to focus the attention.

Come November, the press may look back at the Bush-Urbe meeting in Crawford and the cemented U.S.-Colombian partnership as their lost opportunity to document an important milestone in U.S.-South American relations. By then the western hemisphere’s leaders will be gathered for the Summit of the Americas in Buenos Aires. The Argentine summit will be a great opportunity for the Bush administration to enlist serious help from our South American neighbors in the war on terror and the administration’s passage last month of the Central American Free Trade Act (CAFTA).

How important is this platform for western hemisphere cooperation? Important enough that the secretary of state has shaken up her starting roster for Latin American foreign policy. Ever since Sept. 11, U.S. diplomatic efforts south of the Rio Grande have been eclipsed by events in the Middle East and Southwest Asia. Petty tyrants like Chavez have capitalized on our inattention, fomenting discontent, abusing human rights and creating uncertainty about American resolve. Hopefully that will change with the arrival of Tom Shannon, a close colleague of Secretary Rice from her days on the National Security Council staff at the White House. It’s high time that our own hemisphere was back on the radar screen. ✕

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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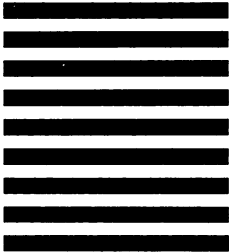
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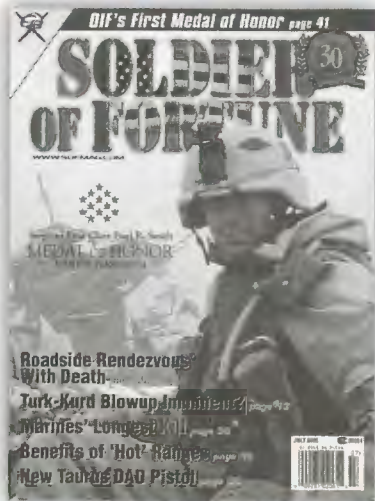
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