

CHINA: America's Next War? page 26



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**On The Cover**

Thirty years ago, Issue Number One of Soldier of Fortune magazine hit the stands, destined during the ensuing three decades to carry weight all out of proportion to its size. First issues are now sought-after collectibles, but you can read No. 1 at [www.sofmag.com](http://www.sofmag.com)

## AMERICA AT WAR

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How Clinton Administration intelligence failures opened the gate to terrorism \_\_\_\_\_
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Photo courtesy of Staff Sergeant B.R.Bochenski



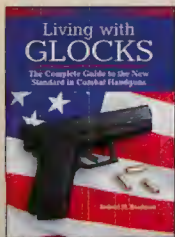
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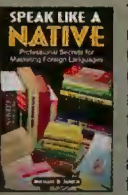
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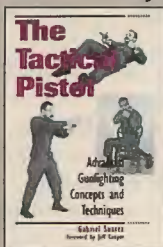


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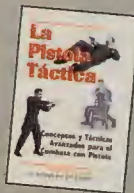
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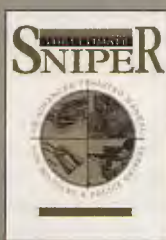
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# Command Guidance

BY LT. COL. ROBERT K. BROWN USAR (RET.)

## 30 Years of Raising Hell For Freedom!

Where did it all start? The concept for SOF, that is. I'd have to answer that more than likely it can be traced to when I was running around the Rhodesian bush with an American who was serving with the police in 1974. At some point in time, he mentioned, "Bunch of my mates are headed to Oman for a contract to fight the communist insurgency after they finish their contracts here," he said. I perked up my ears for reasons unknown, as running around in part of the world's greatest kitty litter box had no appeal whatsoever. In any case, I got the address of the Oman Defense Ministry and when I got back to the U.S. I wrote for an application. They offered me a captaincy in their military, which did not interest me but the 40 pages of info that was attached, did. I started advertising, "How To Become A Merc In The Mideast" for \$5 in Shotgun News. Soon, I started getting inquires from not only the U.S. but all over the world.

I subsequently decided there was a market for a hard-core adventure/military magazine that would have a heavy orientation toward the Vietnam conflict, as I knew that, no matter what the looney left and the mainstream media promulgated, many enlisted men and officers believed we had fought the good and right fight in 'Nam; that we and the peoples of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam were betrayed by the gutless politicians in Washington.

We've covered a lot of ground since then and, in the course of defending freedom, have lost some outstanding SOF contributors: George Bacon in Angola, Lance Motley in Burma, Bob McKenzie in Sierra Leone, Mike Echanis and Peter Bertie in Nicaragua and Almerigo Grilz in Mozambique.

We also introduced the concept of "Participatory Journalism," e.g. we would

get involved in operations against anti-communist/anti-dictatorial governments and then write about it. Boy, did that give the liberal left a case of the ass!

Let's touch on some SOF's more outstanding accomplishments:

**1975** – Participated in the last firefight of the Rhodesian war against terrorism;

**1979** – Offered \$10,000 in gold for the capture of Idi Amin;

**1980** – Brought out the first AK-74 ammo to the west, scooping the CIA; sent first training team work with Afghan freedom fighters where SOF Demolitions Editor Major John Donovan explained, "To blow up Russian tanks, you have to put the fuse in the mine!";

**1981** – SOF testifies before Senate Foreign Relations Committee on communist use of toxic agents, and SOF offers \$100,000 reward for samples of said agents;

**1982** – Expended \$300,000 and built an A-Team camp inside Communist Laos in effort to find our POW/MIAs;

**1985** – SOF offers \$1,000,000, with help of Col. Ollie North, for defection of Hind gunship from Nicaragua

**1987** – SOF offers \$25,000 reward for 1<sup>st</sup> Cuban or Nicaraguan security agent to defect during Pan-American games. Cuban government protests...ho, hum.

And so it goes...

Over the past three decades, we've trained and supported Afghan and Laotian freedom fighters, the Karens, the Contras, the Christian militia in Lebanon, the Salvadoran army, and the Croats in Bosnia. Now we're focused on the war on terror and supporting our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As I said in 1990, "We do not pretend to be neutral observers. We stand with those who fight for freedom. We will be at the sharp end." ✂

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USAR (Ret).**

**and the staff of Soldier of Fortune.**

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For your unwavering support of our troops.**

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**Thanks, Colonel Brown. Carry on!**

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## The Go-To Guys For Thirty Years

I wish Hack were here to write this note. I know how much he valued your and SOF's willingness, nay, eagerness, to take on the Perfumed Princes that dominate the Pentagon's E-ring.

For 30 years SOF has been the "go to" source for an honest and candid view of what was happening in conflicts throughout the world, especially those in the dark shadows where often SOF was the only observer.

Hack & I talked about how the mainstream media read SOF religiously, and just as carefully avoided giving SOF credit for the magazine's amazing journalistic accomplishments.

The blow-dried crowd would never deign to admit that SOF was a favorite source for story ideas, leads, and solid information, but, your readers damn sure knew!

And, while patriotism may be back in vogue in some amazing places today, the purest strain of traditional respect for our great nation and a selfless dedication to its defense has always been "front and center" at SOF.

Congratulations, old friend, from all those at SFTT who continue Hack's campaign to protect and defend America's Grunts. We are proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with SOF in this struggle!

*Semper fidelis,*  
Roger Charles, Lt. Col., USMC (Ret.)  
President, Soldiers For The Truth



## Celebrating SOF and Cold War Victories

Dear Bob:

It is difficult to believe that you will be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of your great magazine, *Soldier Of Fortune*. It seems like only yesterday I learned about your unique publication and the fact that you were printing stories about the many unconventional and low intensity conflicts that were ongoing around the world as the war in Vietnam was fading into a sad memory as the first war that the United States had ever lost.

Shortly after my early retirement from the U.S.

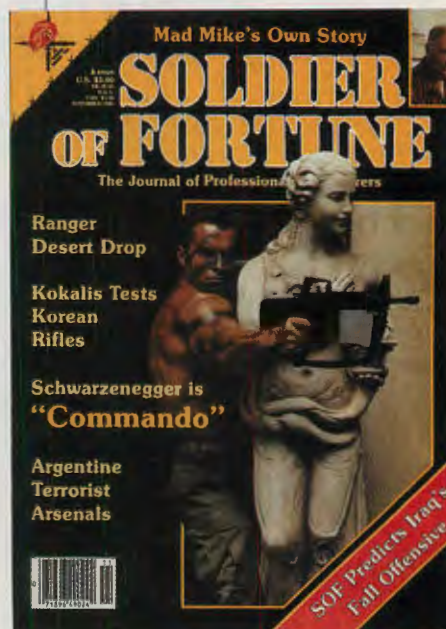


Army in 1978 as a result of my second confrontation with President Jimmy Carter, I was pleased to note that your publication took the time to investigate the circumstances surrounding my request for retirement and printed the truth rather than the stories being fed to the media that I had deliberately defied the Commander-in-Chief for political reasons.

During the 1980s when CIA was trying to recover from its emasculation by the Carter Administration, the SOF and its supporters contributed significantly to the implementation of the Reagan Doctrine by sending volunteer observers and instructors to help the Afghans in their struggle against the Soviet occupation force. In addition, you and your patriotic readers again volunteered to spend time in the jungles of El Salvador and later in Honduras to provide training, advice and moral support to the Government of El Salvador and to the Nicaraguan Contras, both fighting against Cuban supported Communists. I remain proud to have been a part of those supporting and implementing the Reagan Doctrine of providing help to the "captive nations" which ultimately caused the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

Congratulations to you, your very talented staff, and your generous supporters.

John K. Singlaub  
Major General, USA (Ret.)



## Congrats From the Past

Congratulations to SOF on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As an actor, I have especially enjoyed your behind-the-scenes coverage of action films and the detailed reporting you have provided on the military training actors must go through to make this type of film. The coverage has been accurate and exciting. SOF also is a first-

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# LETHAL STRIKES

## HOW TO INSTANTLY DESTROY A Murderous Thug or Bloodthirsty Killer With Your Bare Hands!

**KICK ASS and Take Names. Discover 13 Lightning-Fast, Heart Stopping Lethal Blows & Boa Constrictor Death Chokes for Self-Defense in Just One Evening!**

by Jason Marks

Dear Friend,

I don't want to offend anybody, but let's get real: We must always respect the law and have moral boundaries, and we should never use more than the “force necessary” to stop a violent attack.

But **Street-hardened Killers, Terrorists and Murderous Perverts** have no moral boundaries and they will stop at nothing to get what they want.

If you're about to die and “Self-Defense” becomes “Do or Die,” you may need to know **HOW TO KILL**. That's the bottom line, and most instructors are afraid to teach it. A lot of their videos are very cool, but **Lethal Strikes is the ONLY video that shows you HOW TO DESTROY A Murderous Thug in Self-Defense**. Period.

Would you like to have lethal skills so ingrained that they switch on automatically when you need them to save your life? If so, **this is going to be the most important thing you ever read:**

Violence should always be avoided if possible. *But what about when a murderer is trying to KILL YOU?* Think about it right now: If you had to kill to save your life, **could you really do it?** If your life depended on it, **would you know how?**

It's shocking to even have to consider the idea of having to kill a man with your bare hands, right? But if I didn't slam the possibility into your brain, what kind of self-defense instructor would I be?

You could be out enjoying a nice time with your family or friends - and suddenly find yourself surrounded by bloodthirsty thugs. Maybe they want to snatch your kids and “sell” them on the black market. Or, maybe they just want your cash and decide they're NOT going to let anyone identify them in a line-up.

It's sickening. But it's how the real world is. Anyone who says otherwise is in “denial.” It can happen anywhere, anytime. It's a frightening statistic that **YOU WILL BE ATTACKED**.

Wouldn't it be a sick, perverse waste of your martial arts skills NOT to understand the dynamics of real-world Lethal Strikes? **Wouldn't everything else you know be a waste if you couldn't protect yourself or your loved ones at the most crucial moment of murderous, violent criminal attack?**

In a deadly violent crisis, you won't have time to “think it over” or “get ready,” or do fancy high kicks that look great in tournaments and movies. No! You'll automatically do one of two things: 1) **Unleash a Rapid-Fire Barrage of Nerve Exploding, Brutal Lethal Strikes**, Or . . . 2) **Get carried off on a stretcher - or WORSE, in a Body Bag!**

Sadly, do you know what happens to 99.8% of the people faced with a situation like this, even experienced martial artists?... **They Completely Freeze!** Like a Deer Caught in the Headlights!

Hardened killer criminals, perverts and terrorists use brutal injury and death as a “psychological jerk-off” - they get an emotional high by invoking fear and harming innocent people.

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

The strip-mall karate schools aren't teaching this - they have rules they must observe to keep the soccer moms and sports-enthusiasts happy. The scumbag killers on the street have never stepped into a dojo - but

they **BRUTALIZE, RAPE and KILL every day!**

How do you deal with someone who can do that - and has lots of experience doing it? **HERE'S HOW:** you learn what they know - How to Brutally Crush, Maim or Kill Instantly if necessary. It's that simple.

The next time some bloodthirsty killer chooses you as his next piece of meat, if you can't do what he can do - you're dead! **Here's the good news...**

Andrew Scott teaches Law Enforcement, Military and Corporate personnel these techniques and charges thousands of bucks for it. This stuff can't be learned from a book. You must see it in action. That's why I talked him into letting me put it all in a video - **that you can watch in a single evening!**

Right now is **YOUR** chance to get these deadly secrets and **make them your own** for only \$49 bucks!

Right away you'll learn a simple method to **De-program Fear Instantly**. **FEAR is the #1 Killer**.

Listen to me: if you're afraid, if you're unfamiliar with lethal fighting, and you get attacked by a murderer, guess what - **you will be killed or severely mutilated**. I hate fear! **Fear is the #1 destroyer of all good people**. Andrew will show you how to de-program it and get it out of your life for good.

And after you absorb his NEW Video, I'm sure you'll agree with me - **It'll be the most valuable video you ever own! Period**. And I can prove it to you. Just look at *some* of the hard-hitting knowledge and skills you'll get to keep for a lifetime:

- **How to Fire a Rapid Barrage of Death Blows, Before He Knows What Hit Him!**
- How to Quickly Diminish the Enemy, Cause Massive Pain, then Deliver the Kill Shot!
- **The Suicide Gun Reversal - He Pulled the Trigger and Now He's Dead!**
- Disable Shots: How to Instantly Disable Your Attacker Without Killing Him
- **Silent Stalking - How To Take Out A Terrorist, Guard Or Sentry Before He Can Make A Peep**
- How To Turn Your Pain Into A Weapon
- **Three Lethal Ways To End A Ground Fight - Instantly (Not For The Squeamish)**
- Get Out From The Mount - 4 Ways That End in Death
- **How To Terrorize Multiple Attackers While Empty-Handed**
- Take His Knife - Then Slice Him To Ribbons!
- **3 Master Keys to making sure you score a Lethal Strike - every time.**
- What your Dojo isn't teaching, could get you killed!

**And, It Doesn't Matter How Old, Slow, Skinny or Clumsy You Are, or Even How Much You Weigh!**

Even a Skinny Nerd Can Drop A Bloodthirsty Thug Like A Sack of Potatoes With These Techniques!

What you are about to see in Lethal Strikes is so **vicious and brutal** that it will **DISTURB and ALARM** you. But at least you'll *know* it if you ever *need* it. Does that make sense? All you need to do is **just SEE it once** and it will instantly change you. It's that simple.

This is all to **YOUR ADVANTAGE**: the street killers rely on your fear and ignorance, and would never have the personal integrity to get this - they're also too cheap! But **YOU**, just by watching “Lethal Strikes,” **INSTANTLY HAVE a Tactical Advantage Over Every Criminal & Terrorist!**

**Right NOW**, when you make this course *yours*,

you'll be getting the equivalent of a Ph.D. in lethal fighting! **You'll never walk in fear again, and when you're attacked by a killer, you'll “know what to do, and how to do it.”**

You don't have to spend weeks, months or even days memorizing non-essentials and routine stuff. *Lethal Strikes* is set up in a completely organized, easy-to-learn progression.

In just an hour you can discover the “Golden Secret” of all martial arts, and you can laugh at all the smug instructors and friends who think they “know” all about fighting. Your newly acquired skills will scare them to death!

And watch how people notice you've been transformed by learning these secrets! That “something different about you” will be the calm confidence that comes from **knowing** you can handle whatever the forces of darkness throw your way. It magnetizes people. I've seen it happen to Andrew's students whenever they walk into a room full of people.

**Hurry Up! The first 50 People who Order Now receive these 3 FREE Bonuses!**

**Bonus #1:** “STREET SURVIVAL SECRETS & Mental Warfare” Audio Tape

**Bonus #2:** The “MENTAL WARFARE SECRETS” Huge Handbook

**Bonus #3:** The SHOCKING Report

“*Everything is a Weapon: Utilizing Your Environment for Lethal Strikes.*” This report is so bloody and effective, they tried to ban it!

Don't fool around and miss out. We only have 82 of these videos left, and once they're gone, *they're gone*. You can't wait on this or they'll get snapped up by someone else.

Are you cheap? For the simple price of a dinner you'll get unfair fighting secrets that could save your life! And, you'll also get knowledge and wisdom that will last you a lifetime! All for just **\$49.00** (plus \$8.00 S&H). There's no way you can beat a deal like this.

Plus, Andrew is so confident he's offering a 30-day no-hassle Money-Back Guarantee (minus S&H)

All I'm asking is that you step up, right now, and take advantage of this great offer. Is that fair?

**CALL NOW Toll-Free! 1(800)717-2675**

Use Visa or Mastercard for Fast Service!

or order online at [www.lethalstrikes.com](http://www.lethalstrikes.com)

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class magazine for the latest on weaponry and tactics... and for its support of our law-enforcement agencies, veterans and a strong national defense.

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Hollywood, Calif.

## Calling Laos Hands

I would like to contact Special Operations alumni who served in Laos, and worked with the Hmong tribal populations. Our charity, NPI, is working to help resettle more than 200 Hmong families recently relocated to NE Oklahoma and NW Arkansas (the area of our U.S. training facility). The subject Hmong population has many urgent needs, and we would like to have volunteers, to help, who are familiar with the Hmong. Please advise if you can help us contact your alumni having any prior experience in Laos. Thank you.

David A. Nuttle (email: [npiinc2000@aol.com](mailto:npiinc2000@aol.com))

Tel. 1-918-868-5710

Website: [www.needfulprovision.org](http://www.needfulprovision.org)



(P.S. I am a former GS-14 CIA Special Operations Officer, and I helped to start the Buon Enao CIDG Project (in S. Vietnam) with support from U.S. Army Special Forces.)

# The Truth About Concealed Carry...



Dear Friend,

I think you'll agree with me, in this day and age, it is smart to be armed.

Are you the kind of American who thinks that carrying a gun is a social responsibility?

Are you someone who takes protecting your family very seriously?

The USCCA is the only national organization fully dedicated to concealed carry and self-defense.

We're focused, so you don't have to wade through endless articles on hunting and reloading to get to the real issues you take seriously.

Whether you carry every day or are even just considering it, the USCCA will provide you with information and support that you won't find anywhere else!

I invite you to join the USCCA, right now, and become a member of an organization that tells the truth about concealed carry.

It just might save your life.



Best regards,

*Tim Schmidt*

Tim Schmidt  
USCCA Founder

P.S. Hold on, it gets even better. We're also giving away a North American Arms Guardian. All new USCCA members are automatically entered into this drawing! Give us a call or go to our secure website and join today.

P.P.S. One more thing, check out our website ([www.uscca.us](http://www.uscca.us)) for the best membership deals.

Don't miss out on our...

## Limited Time Gun Give-Away

Please see [www.uscca.us](http://www.uscca.us) for details.

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- "Members Only" Quarterly Report

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# Bulletin Board

## SOF Goes North

If the object of Gun Control is "hitting your target" some 30 shooters have gun control well within their sights. July in Alberta brought the likes of Robert K Brown of SOF; Vietnam veteran, well-known small-arms instructor and gun scribe Chuck Taylor; and Green Beret "Dutch" Verschoor to the Genesee Range, 45 minutes west of Edmonton for the annual event "Recondo Week."

Students from as far away as Texas and Arizona practiced shooting, survival techniques and parachuting. Thousands of dollars of gifts and prizes were donated by local firearms and outfitting merchants, as well as by well-known manufacturers such as Blackhawk, Maxpedition and Remington. Organizer Tyrall Cale said, "the event was incredible, a complete success!"

Highlights of the week included a banquet where Robert K. Brown received awards commemorating *Soldier of Fortune's* 30th years of fighting for freedom

Shown here is part of the Recondo Team (standing, left to right) Darius Cieszynski, Chuck Taylor, Lt. Col. Dutch Verschoor, and kneeling, A.I.C. Tyrall Cale.



For more information on The Canadian Recondo Group and their activities, check out [www.huphotoworld.com/recondo](http://www.huphotoworld.com/recondo)

## SOF On The Web

Check out the new, improved and expanded SOF website! Go to [www.sofmag.com](http://www.sofmag.com) to surf SOF's updated web site, featuring more and better links, more and better info, more and better merchandise and the complete Vol. 1 Issue 1 from 30 years ago!

And while you're there, click on the link to the Soldiers For The Truth – a very worthwhile site dedicated to the best interests of our men and women in uniform.

## Twin Towers Steel for Navy's New York

In tribute to victims of the 9-11 attack on New York City, the Navy is using 10 tons of steel from the World Trade Center in the construction of a new *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock, the *USS New York*, scheduled to be commissioned in 2008.

New York City firefighter Bill Butler called it a "great testament to the strong will of the people who died that day." Butler, who was in the North Tower when it collapsed, said the New York Fire Department supports U.S. troops.

## 2006 North American Sniper Championship

The 2006 NASC has been scheduled for March 6-9, 2006 at Camp Shelby, (Hattiesburg) MS.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Tactical Officers Association, the NASC brings in police and military sniper teams from around the world. The membership in the MTOA is limited to Mississippi peace officers who serve in tactical operations or training, federal officers stationed in Mississippi who are similarly assigned, and active members of the U.S. armed forces who are members of a tactical operations and training unit.

For more information on the MTOA or the NASC, go to <http://www.mtoa.us/faq.htm>

## Armor 4 Troops Foundation

Founded by Col. Robert E. Ledee, USMC, Armor 4 Troops Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 charity devoted to sending our front line troops additional armor, equipment and comfort items. The "kits" they send are addressed to a specific soldier, male and female, on the front lines of combat. This worthwhile outfit sends supplemental equipment such as under armor, anti-ballistic sun glasses, multi tools, boots and boot liners among other items, and currently 92% of all proceeds of their various fundraisers go to the troops. So far they have sent more than 3,000 sets of life-saving glasses and equipment. Go to their web site for more information, [www.armor4troops.org](http://www.armor4troops.org)

Or contact J.D. Carpanzano at: Armor 4 Troops Foundation, Dept. SOF, 1110 Reids Ferry Rd. Buckhead, GA 30625, phone: 404 392-2145 .

## Friends of the Field Fighters

John Farnam advises that the current POC/address to which troop supplies can be sent is:

CWO2 J.R. [SOFMAG] Newton  
MWSS 372 Eng Co, HE Ops  
Unit 42020  
FPO/AP 96426-2020

(S/Sgt Burchfield ended up in another area and was unable to distribute the goodies. CWO2 Newton has volunteered to do the job, and he is currently in place and ready to go.)

List of needed items includes:

- Knee pads: Contact KP Industries at [www.kpindustries.com](http://www.kpindustries.com) or phone Chuck Knox: 760-599-9882. Best ones are KneePro Tactical Ultraflex II in tan.
- Oakley Pilot Tactical Gloves: Contact Ed Howell at [dhowell@oakley.com](mailto:dhowell@oakley.com). Tell him that CWO3 Phil Ross referred you. You'll get a discount.
- Hatch Desert Tan Nomex Flight gloves: available at [www.attackopgear.com](http://www.attackopgear.com).
- Always needed: fly swatters and rolls of sticky fly paper (you know how troops hate to swat bugs with a rolled-up copy of SOF).
- Life-saving tools: Cold Steel, Emerson knives, fixed and folding; Hoppe's, Outer's Remington dry lube; Boresnakes in .223 and 9mm; Beretta OEM 92F

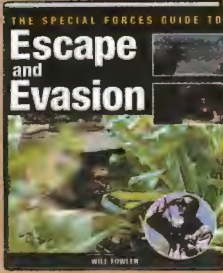
# WHO COVERS THE BACK-UP MAN?

When you're the go-to guy for military information, come to us.

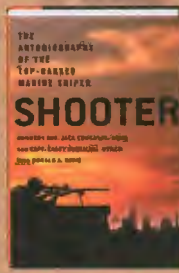


SEALs don't refer to their theaters of operation by the name of the country. They simply say they're "down range." This book takes you down range to blow the lid off some of the critical missions recently conducted by our number-one commandos.

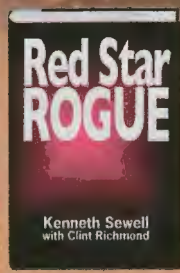
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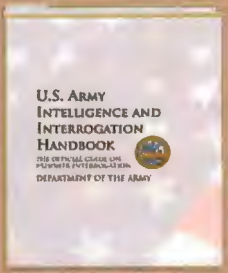
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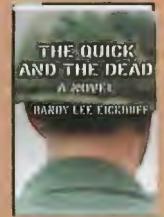
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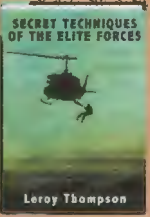
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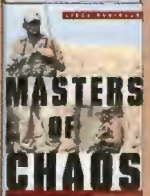
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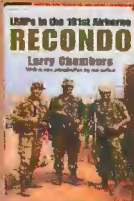
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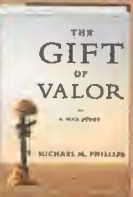
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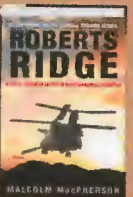
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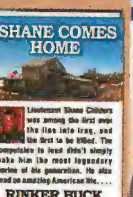
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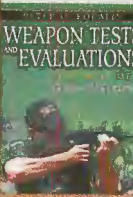
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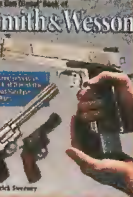
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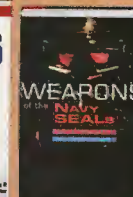
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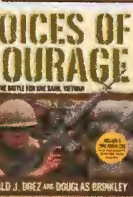
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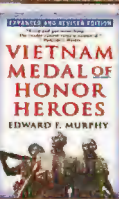
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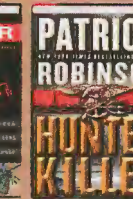
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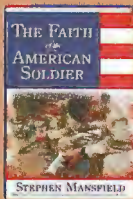
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normal-capacity magazines; Leatherman Wave and Crunch multi-tools; Gerber multi-tools; Surefire flashlights; LED "soft" lights (Map lights); Air fresheners; Sunscreen; pre-moistened towellettes.

## Access your DD214 On-Line

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members to access their DD-214 online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of their DD-214 for employment purposes. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the on-line web site, as well.

## One Old Quote

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man." – Cesare Beccaria (On Crimes and Punishment, quoted by Thomas Jefferson in The Commonplace Book, 298-316.)

## New Quote #1:

Having missed masters of the language such as Adlai Ste-

venson and Winston Churchill since their passing, we were pleased to have John Bolton confirmed as Ambassador. Bolton was visiting the Russell Senate Office Building bidding farewell to supporters during his confirmation, when he chanced to meet Senators Kennedy and Clinton walking abreast with Senator Schumer a couple paces behind. As Bolton politely stepped aside, Senator Schumer remarked, "We never make way for fools!"

Smiling from behind snowy mustache, Bolton rejoined, "I always do."

## New Quote #2

The Today show's Matt Lauer was interviewing troops at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, when he asked about the state of morale. After a couple responses that morale was good – evidently not the answer he was fishing for – Lauer said, "Don't get me wrong, I think you're probably [sic] telling the truth, but there might be a lot of people at home wondering how that could be possible with the conditions you're facing and with the insurgent attacks you're facing... what would you say to those people who are doubtful that morale could be that high?"

Capt. Sherman Powell responded, "Well, sir, I'd tell you, if I got my news from the newspapers also I'd be pretty depressed as well... For those of us who have actually had a chance to get out and meet the Iraqi Army and Iraqi police and go on patrols with them, we are very satisfied with the way things are going here and we are confident that if we are allowed to finish the job we started we'll be very proud of it and our country will be proud of us for doing it!" ✕





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# The Ambush

Some Operations Just Go Perfectly

Text and Photos by  
Jim Morris

The 25th of March 1964: There were 13 of us in the three-quarter-ton truck, myself included. I was the only American. We stopped for lunch at a big Jarai Montagnard village on Route 7.

Cowboy asked me to go with him to the house of a friend of his. This longhouse, like all the others, was a split-bamboo and thatch building set off the ground about 5 feet by large upright logs called *t'meh*. The floor extended in front of the longhouse proper to make a porch, against which a notched log leaned for stairs. Cowboy scooted up it with ease. I lumbered after him in considerably less agile fashion.

The lady of the house asked us inside and I ducked under the door. The effect inside was very pleasant. The light filtered softly from the windows and through the bamboo walls. The room was not cluttered. A few woven baskets and gourds hung on the walls. There was a square raised section in the middle of the floor that served as a fireplace, the smoke rising to the roof and slowly working its way out of the thatch.

The lady of the house gave us a friendly smile and offered us the floor to sit on. I leaned my AR-15 up in a corner and threw all my gear down beside it. Then I sat cross-legged on the floor. The split bamboo was resilient and pleasant to sit on.

## Cowboy Hat and Wraparound Shades

Cowboy leaned his stuff up in the opposite corner and sat down too. He put his cowboy hat and wraparound shades on the floor beside him.

"Where's your friend?" I asked him.

"He work in fields now. Come back soon."

I started to ask if he was planting or what. Then I realized that Cowboy probably wouldn't know. He had been a soldier since he was twelve and probably hadn't worked a rice field in his life.

Perhaps warrior would be a better term than soldier for Cowboy. He had never been a member of a recognized

We walked down the trail, looking for a better ambush site.

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army. His loyalties were to two things: money and personal friendship. I believed that personal friendship took precedence over money. I never had cause to change that belief.

He had commanded a Special Forces Strike Force Battalion for a year until he found out that being an interpreter paid roughly three times what a Battalion Commander got. He had been an interpreter for a year and a half. Cowboy was 22 years old.

He dived down into his pack and brought up a couple of cans of C's and pulled his canteen out of the carrier. "Let's eat," he said. I got out two small C-ration cans, sliced ham and bread, and the little C-ration can opener. For reasons nobody now on active duty can remember it is called a P-38. The C-rations and a couple of gulps of water made a pretty fair meal.

While we were eating, a little boy, about two, came in the door. He was wearing four bracelets on his left arm, and an anklet on each leg, an earring, and a Hopalong Cassidy T-shirt.

I said, "Hi, kid!"

He ran and grabbed his mother's skirts, looking back over his shoulder in apprehension. I guess he'd never seen anybody that big and blond before.

I rooted around in my pack and came up with a can of cookies and cocoa. I got up and opened the can and tried to give it to the kid. He grabbed his mother's skirts again and buried his head in her legs. I gave her two of the cookies and took one for myself. She smiled at me and gave one of the cookies to the kid. He took it and ran off, unsmiling.

### Cookies and Cocoa

I took the little envelope of cocoa and threw it back into my pack. Then I bent back the lid of the can and turned the edges under in a three-way fold, so it can be used as a cup without cutting your fingers on the edges. I gave it to the lady of the house and she smiled and nodded thanks. Later she would probably weave a wicker holder for it and throw away the lid altogether.

I always feel like some kind of condescending jackass giving my castoffs to the Yards. But they take the gift as it is intended. They have marvelous dignity and never beg, but offer the hospitality of their homes, their food and their rice wine.

I went back over and sat down. "What time you think we ought to leave?" I asked Cowboy. I was beginning to think his friend wasn't going to show up.

"Bout four," he replied.

It was one-thirty. "Okay, listen," I said. "I'm going to flake out for a while." I'd been up late the night before, writing some kind of screwy report.

I awakened about three-thirty. Cowboy's friend had returned. He had changed into formal attire to meet the *Capitaine*. He was wearing a loincloth and an old U.S. Army olive-drab dress blouse. I suppose it had been lend-lease to the French and from there to one of the Montagnard battalions.

"*Bonjour Monsieur*," I said, which almost exhausted my command of the language.

### Sugar, Water and Vomit

He cut loose a tremendous stream of guttural French, which Cowboy interpreted to mean that he wanted me to join him in some rice wine. My mind skittered desperately at the prospect, but I assented. It would have been discourteous to do otherwise.

He brought the jug and sat it on the floor. Then he took out a long straw. We did not drink through the straw, but he siphoned off the *ou* into a couple of old *Biere La Rue* bottles.

The stuff tastes like a combination of sugar, water, and vomit. I tried to chug it down at a gulp, not breathing during the process. I couldn't kill it at once, but had to try again. Then I belched and smiled approval.

Naturally he offered more, but I informed him through Cowboy that I had a delicate stomach condition and could not continue.

Then rather more forcefully than was necessary I said, "Let's get started, Cowboy."

His grin was like a baby wolf's. He got up and put on his wraparound shades and his cowboy hat sat down low on his nose. Then he took out that greatest of all Southeast Asian status symbols, a Salem cigarette, and lit it. He held the filter in his teeth, James Dean fashion.

### Faces Calm, Eyes Ready

Once he got his image intact we walked out into the sunlight and went down the notched log.

The squad was good, handpicked without regard to rank or unit. Their faces were calm and their eyes were ready.

"Cowboy," I said, "how did you explain these soldiers to the village?"

"I tell them we go hunting."

I looked at Big Stoop with his front teeth out and his thirty-caliber machine-gun in his arms. "With that?"

"Oh! They know the soldier must



A Montagnard trooper crosses a stream, moving to contact.

take what gun he have."

It seemed a poor cover to me, but the Montagnards are not used to questioning things. "Okay, let's go."

We went out the bamboo gate and past the long spiked fence, the defensive positions, punji stakes and watch-towers. We turned left to head back toward the rice fields.

Moving through the fields we automatically took up a kind of loose diamond formation, although we still carried our weapons slung. Once across the field we moved into the woods and waited. I un-slung my rifle and leaned against a tree. Most of the others did likewise. We faced outward into the trees, weapons ready. I lit a cigarette. After we had waited about 10 minutes I asked, "Any idea how soon he come?"

"Maybe 10 more minute. He must wait so nobody know we go same."

"Uh huh."

Another cigarette later Cowboy's friend came across the fields carrying a Jarai ax for protective coloration. Once he was in the trees we grinned and shook hands all around again. Then the



*It was not good country for ambushes. There was little concealment and no cover.*



*We wound through the jungle, single file.*  
Photo: Larry Dring Collection

point man moved out, then Cowboy's friend, Cowboy, me and the rest of the squad.

The way was fairly rough and for the first kilometer. I felt it. I had been in camp too long. After that it was fine.

The woods were open and green and the light was golden. We crossed a fair-sized stream, jumping from rock to rock, trying to keep our feet dry. I missed the last rock, slipped, and my right leg went in the water up to the knee, making me feel like a graceless fool in front of the Yards. That sort of thing never happened to John Wayne.

### The Longest Day

Once, we showed *The Longest Day* at the camp. We didn't have a Cinema-scope lens so everything was pretty narrow, but the Yards didn't seem to mind. Cowboy drove out in his old three-quarter-ton truck with his wife and little girl and a few in-laws. About halfway through the picture he turned to me and said, "This John Wayne, he is paratrooper, he is cowboy, he is pilot. What he really do?"

I tried to explain what an actor was, but he didn't grasp the concept. I guess he thought all those flicks were documentaries.

Thinking about something else makes walking go easier. After we had gone about two kilometers, Cowboy's friend, the agent, pointed at the ground and I went up to look. There was a small trail, a path really. It was covered with fine, gray gravel and wound along a slight rise through the luminous green wood. It looked like the path I had imagined Hansel and Gretel taking when I was a kid, pretty in the daytime, but dark and scary at night.

"He says every day, almost, one squad VC come by here."

"They come by day or by night?" I asked.

"Sometimes day, sometimes night."

"Does he see them?"

"Sometimes. Sometimes they make greeting."

I thought that was jolly.

### Very Little Cover

"This is not a good place for ambush," Cowboy said.

"True. Let's get back away from the trail and walk along until we find a good place." Cowboy nodded and gave instructions to the squad in Jarai. It sounded like a bad coughing fit.

Keeping the same order, we set off through the woods, moving parallel to the trail. The country was not good for

ambushes. There was no commanding terrain. There was very little cover but there was tall grass and some trees to hide behind. Finally we found a place that was less ridiculous than the rest and set up.

Cowboy asked if I wanted to position the squad. "You are captain. I must do as you order."

"You've set this thing up. As far as I'm concerned you're running the show. If I see something I don't like I'll let you know and we'll work it out." Then I asked how he planned to set up.

"AR's on flanks. Machine gun in middle. All spread out with maybe five meter between each and get cover."

### Bad Trouble

Aside from the automatic rifles and the machine gun, every man in the squad had either a Grease Gun or an M2 carbine, all automatic weapons. Cowboy and I had AR-15's. An AR-15 looks like a cross between a Buck Rogers ray gun and a king cobra. It is six pounds plus of sudden death. It was a hell of a lot of firepower for 13 men. We could take on anything up to a VC platoon with ease. Anything bigger than that was bad trouble.

I suggested to Cowboy that he put a one-man outpost out behind us so we wouldn't have any unexpected callers coming in from that way. He agreed.

Cowboy placed each man in position behind the best cover he could find. We were pretty well concealed by some tall grass. I chose a spot by a V-fork tree about 15 feet from the trail and sat down cross-legged.

I took off my patrol harness and put it on the ground in front of me, then I opened the ammo pouches, took a magazine out of both of them and laid them where they could be reached easily. There were two magazines taped together in a U on the weapon itself, and eight more from the pouches, two hundred rounds in all. Then I unsnapped the snaps on the canteen carrier to avoid making the noise later in the night. The canteen itself was wrapped in a wool sock and would make no metallic noise against its cup when taken out.

Everything was ready. It was 1730 hours. I opened a can of peaches with the P-38 and ate them with a dirty plastic spoon from my shirt pocket. By then it was getting dark. I rammed the can into the ground, olive drab side up, so the bright metal of its inside would not show, then turned the selector switch to full automatic and lay the weapon beside me.



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## You Want a Cigarette

You have to sit perfectly still and make no noise. None. So immediately you want a cigarette. You have to cough. Your throat starts to tickle and your nose itches. Your back aches, then your legs, then your shoulders, then your neck. When you do not react to this, but continue to sit still, the mind casts about for thoughts to amuse itself and pass the hours.

The moon rose to our front. I started to shake uncontrollably. It was not cold and I was not afraid. It was a flat rush of adrenalin and the sudden knowledge that the ambush would go. I have had the same feeling since, and it has failed, and sometimes I have not had it and scored. But this was the first time and I was sure. Then the shaking passed and my mind was coldly detached.

My aching shoulders were hunkered for a long wait. I did not expect to see anything until 0300 the next morning. The moon was high now and full and gold in the blue-black sky with the clouds turning to silver. The breeze rose and then died and the black silhouettes of armed men were passing quickly, quietly down the trail.

We were all firing. One faded from my sights. Tracers from the thirty-caliber weapons were ricocheting so high I thought the Cong were sending up flares. I fired up one magazine and then another. I kept firing. We all did. I wanted nothing to live out there. I felt nothing, neither elation nor horror, just the cold, astringent calm.

I fired up five magazines before I stopped. Then everybody stopped and I called out, "Cowboy, let's check out the stiffs."

"Yes sir."

## Cut Down Running

We got up and moved onto the trail. The bodies were lying to the left, to the right, cut down running. There were six bodies in all. Three had moved through and got away before we opened up. Later we learned that another died in a village the following morning.

I moved from one dark shape to the other, making sure they were dead. I fired a round into the ground by each

man to see if he would move. None did. Cowboy moved beside me, covering.

When I moved up on the last one, he raised up, his arms extended, eyes wide. He had no weapon. I said, "Good, we got a pris\_\_"

Cowboy stitched him up the middle with his AR-15. He didn't even twitch.

"Goddamn it," I said. "We could have got some good information from that guy."

"Sorry," said Cowboy. "I get, you know, excited."

Nothing to do but shrug it off. I said, "Get their weapons and packs and we'll move out."



*Captain Morris watches the jungle from the open door of a C47.*  
Photo: A-424

Cowboy was looking fearfully down the trail. "Maybe better we just get weapons. Must move fast now."

That sounded okay. When we got a report that the weapons had been picked up, I said, "We'll come back for the packs tomorrow." Cowboy didn't say anything, just moved. He really wanted to get out of there.

We cut straight cross-country through the brush and the creek, moving quietly and taking no known trail. We were back in the village by ten o'clock and the villagers loaned us a half-completed longhouse with a roof on it to sleep in.

## Never Satisfied

I hadn't brought a poncho because I had expected to be all night in an ambush position and didn't want to be comfortable and go to sleep.

I flaked out on the bamboo floor with the Yards, but it got cold pretty fast and I couldn't sleep. One of the Yards had a spare poncho in the truck. He offered it to me. I declined. He insisted. I rolled up in it and wished for a pillow. Never satisfied.

The next morning we hired some villagers to go with us to carry back the Cong's packs and equipment.

The bodies still lay across the trail in their black shortie pajamas and their black sandals made from old truck-tire treads. Rigor mortis had set in and the ants were marching in straight lines across their bodies. They were so stiff we had to cut most of the equipment off.

I wanted to take the stiffs back with the rest of the gear. I figured it would make quite a stir when we kicked them out in front of the Ops Shack. Cowboy pointed out that there was hardly room for 13 men, all those packs and six stiffs in the back of a three-quarter-ton truck. Besides it might make some of the boys a little twitchy. I said okay and we left the stiffs on the trail.

Back at the village we gave each of the porters 20 piasters apiece, which is about twenty cents, and Cowboy slipped his buddy, the agent, one thousand in small, old bills when nobody was looking. Then we thanked everybody, shook hands, exchanged smiles, said *Bonjour* and *Merci* a few times, jumped in the truck and drove

off.

There was no rush. We stopped for a beer in Cheo Reo and still made it to camp by noon. ☒

*Jim Morris is a former Special Forces officer and longtime SOF correspondent. This was his first story in a national magazine. His books in print include War Story (available through Paladin Press), Fighting Men, and The Devil's Secret Name (both from St. Martin's). His novel, Above and Beyond is in print from [real-warstories.com](http://real-warstories.com)*

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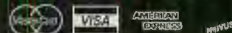
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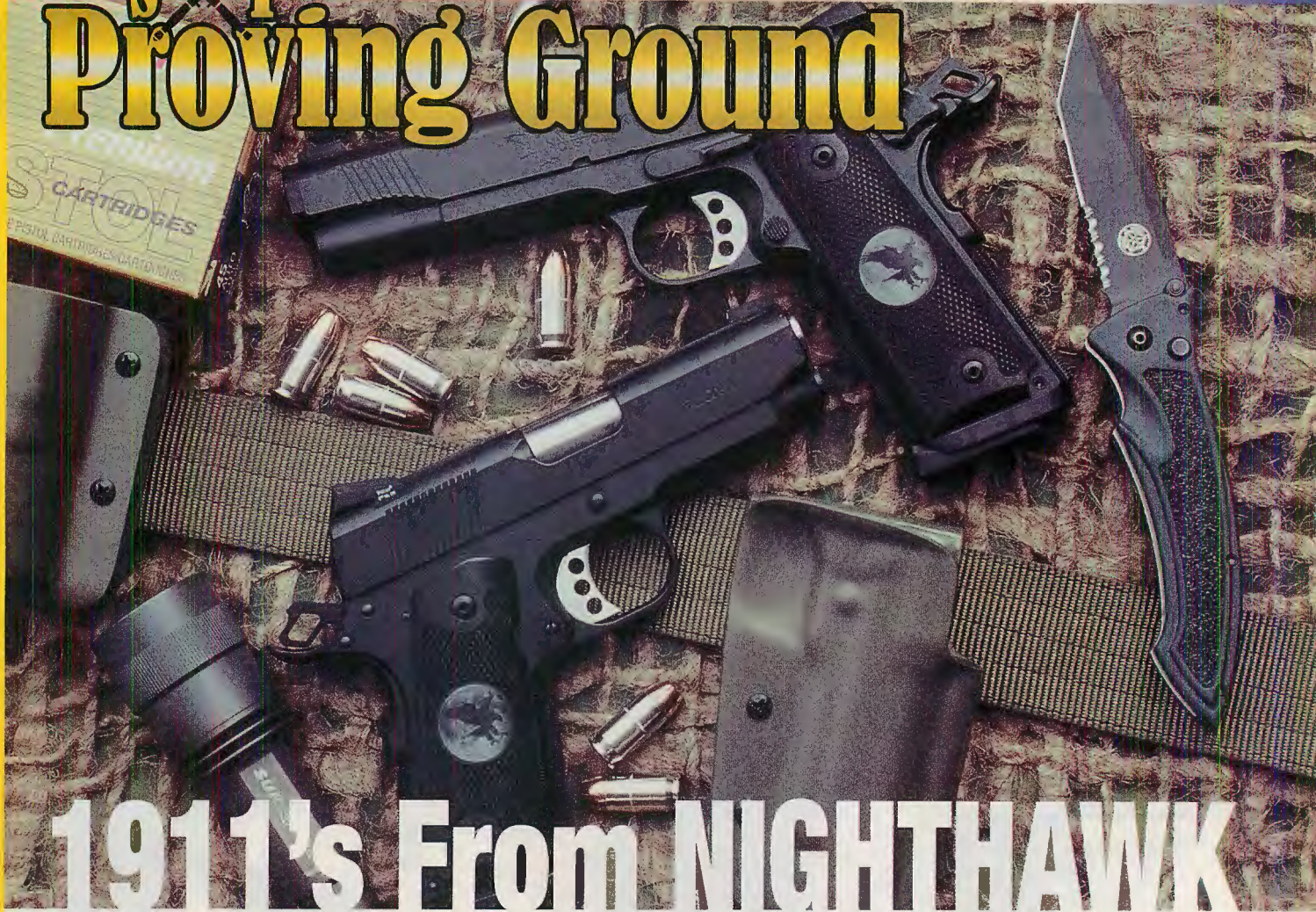
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# S&F Proving Ground



## 1911's From NIGHTHAWK

### Investment Quality – Duty Reliable

Text and Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

*(above)* Ready for duty with the military or law enforcement, or for personal protection, Nighthawk's 1911 PREDATOR and TALON IV pistols are top-of-the-line in every way.

It was nearly a century ago that Moses Browning gave the world what is arguably the finest fighting pistol ever, the Model of 1911. Now copied by more companies than can be counted on both hands, the 1911 is not only equaled, but also improved by a number of modern makers.

With the original Model of 1911 the old saying, "you get what you pay for," was true, and all the originals represented great value for the money. With the quality of some 1911 pistols made today, the equally old saying, "let the buyer beware," sometimes comes into play. While 1911-style pistols retailing for only a few hundred dollars will shoot for a while, one that you can bet your life on will cost several times that amount. Still, a new enthusiast of the 1911 has to start somewhere, but beware, as the 1911 journey may take you farther than you anticipated. It's like the commercial that said,

"Bet'cha can't eat just one."

Having started my 1911 journey 50 years ago with a World War I Colt, I have been fortunate to have owned and used more 1911's than the years that have followed, not to mention the scores of 1911 pistols I have tested and evaluated during that time. The 1911 innovations that have come along – or come and gone – are more than I would try to count, with many of them being interesting junk.

The unsuspecting buyer can easily overload his or her 1911 with useless gimmicks, some of which may have merit for competition, but less so in the real world. Being frequently asked about the myriad of add-ons, my answer is to keep the pistol simple, but utilitarian.

A new company that makes only 1911 style pistols understands perfectly what it takes to produce a state-of-the-art 1911 pis-



*Unless otherwise specified, all Nighthawk 1911's come with full-length recoil spring guide rods, and these are required in the Predator and TALON IV models.*

tol, and while this company turns out some elegant examples of the breed, the 1911's it produces for serious business are the subject here.

The company in question is called Nighthawk Custom and it houses some of the best 1911 specialists in America. Offering an impressive array of custom-grade 1911 pistols, Nighthawk literally has something for everyone. For me, that something consists of a pistol I would carry for survival.

Having just had an in-depth look at two of Nighthawk's .45 ACP 1911-style pistols, I can say in no uncertain terms that I'm impressed. One of these pistols was a full-size gun and the other was a compact the size of a Colt Officer's ACP.

Appropriately called the Predator, the full-size pistol is actually full-size plus, as the barrel is 5-1/8" long instead of the usual 5". The compact model is called the Talon IV. Both sample pistols were finished in an attractive matte black Perma Kote, which Nighthawk's Craig Gholson tells me is four times as durable as polymer finishes, and costs four times as much. Let's take a closer look.

Starting at the muzzle, the Predator comes with a Nighthawk proprietary match grade barrel, but uses no barrel bushing. Instead the muzzle locates directly into the front of the slide when in battery and has an integral flange at



*This close-up illustrates the fine checkering on the front strap of the TALON IV along with its 11-degree muzzle crown.*

the front, which mates against the slide. Thus, the slide both pulls and pushes the barrel into battery. The enlarged portion of the barrel near the muzzle is also totally unique from any similar design, in order to provide an ideal lock-up. A full-length recoil spring guide system is standard and required, as is the precise hand fit of slide, barrel and frame. Just behind the muzzle, a Novak Night Sight is dovetailed in the slide, and on both sides of the slide are forward cocking-grooves.

Looking rearward, one finds a lowered and flared ejection port and an internal, high-performance extractor. On the right side of the slide is engraved the word, PREDATOR, and on the rear of the slide is a genuine Novak LoMount Tritium Rear Sight. In addition to the finest internal components available, are the extended thumb safety, "beavertail" humped grip safety, and a flat, checkered mainspring housing with mag-well extension.

A set of Nighthawk Custom Alumagrips compliments a 30-lines-per-inch (LPI) checkered front strap for a sure gripping surface when the chips are down. Also standard is an 8-round ACT-MAG magazine with extended base. A fine carry/bevel job completes the package with

all sharp edges invisibly removed, as only a master gunsmith can do. As with Colt's return to the production of Series 70 1911 pistols, and all 1911's made for the military, there is no firing pin safety in Nighthawk's pistols.

In describing the Nighthawk TALON IV, I can sum it up by saying that this compact .45 ACP has all the above features, except the following: The TALON IV has no barrel flange, no front cocking grooves, no magazine-well extension, and it uses a 6-round ACT-MAG magazine. It also has a deep 11-degree crown on the muzzle.

As with the Colt Officer's ACP compact pistol, the Nighthawk TALON IV uses a conical barrel, enlarged at the muzzle. However, unlike the Officer's ACP, the TALON IV uses no barrel bushing, but instead the barrel locates directly against the inside of the front of the slide when in battery.

An interesting aside is that the late Charles C. Kelsey, of Devel Corp., and the late Irv Stone, Sr., of BAR-STO Precision, invented the conical barrel system with no bushing used by Kelsey in the Devel Socius, a compact 1911 that preceded the Colt Officer's ACP. Kelsey recalled that when Colt decided to bring out the Officer's ACP a Colt engineer called him and asked if the bushing-less conical barrel was patented. Kelsey told him that it was "Patent Pending" and Colt subsequently introduced the Officer's ACP with a conical barrel AND a bushing.

In fact, no patent had been applied for the Devel/BAR-STO no-bushing conical barrel and no document ever indicated that it was. Kelsey loved to tell

*Continued on page 55*



*The TALON IV is right at home in this Kydex holster from Blade-Tech and Instructor Belt from Wilderness Tactical Products.*



# The Shooter

**During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Gunnery Sergeant Jack Coughlin Recorded 36 Kills... 13 Of Them In One 24 Hour Period.**

By Gunnery Sgt. Jack Coughlin, USMC



Marines of the 3/4 Battalion, nicknamed "The Bull," attack Ad Diwaniyah. Lt. Col. Bryan McCoy fired up his troops prior to launching the offensive by telling them this was going to be a one-sided, eye gouging, kick-in-the-nuts, bullet-in-the-ear, smash-mouth, Marine-style brawl. Photo courtesy of Staff Sergeant B.R. Bochenki



**A sniper** usually sees the face of his target. Although that target may be a thousand yards away, with the scope on my rifle it is as if I can reach out and touch him with my fingertips. While targets look like human beings, they remain targets, and there is no personal attachment whatsoever. Feeling a personal kinship of any sort risks having second thoughts. So it came as a shock when I met someone whom I had shot not once, but twice, and had seen him fall. Normally, that would mean that particular target was very dead. However, that was not the case with my friend Achmed, the only man I ever shot who lived through the experience.

April 1 was the twelfth day of the war as we launched our attack on Ad Diwaniyah, a town of about 250,000 on the central Iraqi plain. We left the cloverleaf shortly after daylight, with tanks in the lead and two companies of infantry fanning out in support. Despite all of the noise we made, we still caught the Iraqis by surprise. Some of the enemy soldiers were still resting among the date palm groves in snug holes in which they had placed rugs and carpeting. Others were having breakfast in their mud huts, and we would later find warm food and cups of tea still on tables, with canteens and helmets and weapons nearby. Just because our predecessors in the area, the 5<sup>th</sup> Marines, had not gone in after them, they thought they were safe from us, too. Big mistake.

When our tanks came highballing down the road, an Iraqi lookout jumped from his observation post and ran like hell to warn his friends, but a flash of machine gun fire cut him down after just a few steps. In minutes, our artillery went psycho and rained explosives on the enemy positions. Tank cannons, TOW missiles, heavy machine guns, and that most lethal weapon of all, the Marine infantryman, joined the fight, and gunfire lit the dark, hazy sky of the early morning. The Marines tore through bunkers, trench lines, and palm trees and shot any Iraqi soldier who tried to resist. As usual, the *fedayeen* ran away before things got heavy.

I was again atop my truck, and after five minutes of scoping out the mud huts on the outskirts of the city, I spotted an enemy rifleman fighting from a foxhole exactly 286 meters to the south. Easy shot, so I smoke-checked him, *bam*, and he was dead, his body twitching for a few more moments while his internal

systems shut down. I noted the time, 07:47, on a green page of my sniper's log and got back to work. The place was as noisy as a steel mill; rocket-propelled grenades whooshed through the morning air and detonated on impact, and our tanks answered with volleys from their main guns, heavy rounds that moved at a mile per second and seemed to lift the earth where they struck.

### Professionals Shoot Early and Often

My second kill of the day was nothing less than a quick-draw showdown. We were taking Ad Diwaniyah block by block against bitter opposition, and Corporal Orlando Fuentes, nicknamed the Panda, drove us deeper into the urban area, bringing our Humvee to a halt near a group of Marines who were advancing through a cluster of huts. An Iraqi soldier suddenly appeared from between two buildings right beside the road, his weapon at the ready with the butt stock to his shoulder and the barrel pointed slightly down. I had just gotten out of the truck and was in the same basic position. This was no faraway target but a man standing only about seventy-five yards away, point-blank range for my sniper rifle. He hesitated for a moment, perhaps startled by all of the Marines in the area, and then, too late, his eyes locked on mine. That brief flicker of uncertainty cost him his life. I killed him before he could get off a shot. In such situations, only an amateur would dawdle. Professionals shoot.

As the front line advanced, the Panda moved us cautiously forward another few hundred yards to a bridge that curved to the right, arching over another road that led into the dark heart of the besieged town. Our guys were already fighting at the other end of the span, and I was to help control this end and block any flanking movement.

I went back onto our Humvee and anchored myself into the now-familiar solid prone shooting position to get a better look at a group of scruffy mud and cinder-block buildings that lined an area studded with palm trees. I slowly glassed the rooftops, doorways, windows, and alleys, the four places where death likes to hide in towns and cities.

### Achmed the Fortunate

Suddenly, three targets wearing green uniforms and carrying AK-47 rifles broke from cover and ran full speed from right to left. These were straight-up soldiers, and I kept my scope on them as palm trees danced through my field of vision, blocking my view.

The Bear did a laser range-check on the buildings where the men were heading: about 470 yards. A mirage shimmered from right to left, telling me that a slight wind was moving across the battlefield, and I fine-tuned an adjustment to compensate.

I had kept the crosshairs on them while dialing the scope, and when one paused at the corner of a building, at two minutes before ten o'clock in the morning, I put my crosshairs on his chest and squeezed the trigger. Targets rarely remain still in combat, however, and he

moved at the last moment, spoiling a perfect shot. Instead of a center-mass hit, my bullet went through his throat, and the impact catapulted him back into the street.

Then came Achmed. I had just jacked another round into the chamber and was continuing to scan the area when he dashed from cover, running away but still carrying his rifle. Since I have no compunction about shooting a man in the back, I instantly fired and put a bullet in him. Somehow, perhaps just with forward momentum, he kept running, so I shot him again, and this time he went down and rolled out of view.

"I can't believe I missed," I told Panda.

"You didn't miss the second time, boss. I saw him go down," the Bear confirmed.

We were taking a break when a rogue RPG round whooshed overhead, which was enough to convince Officer Bob that the headquarters was under attack. I yelled for him to calm down, but his frenzy startled one of the Amtrac machine gunners, who opened up with a full automatic burst and killed a nearby donkey. I scrambled to get things back in order, and J-Matt Baker, the battalion XO, gave the donkey's bewildered owner some rations as payment.

## The Bus

Lieutenant Casey Kuhlman, our linebacker-sized platoon leader, and I went forward again, and I found two of my snipers, Corporal Mark Evin and Sergeant Dino Moreno, standing alongside Master Sergeant Bob Johnson from Bravo Tanks, studying the wrecked hulk of a civilian bus about a half mile to the northwest. Smoke wafted from the blown-out windows.

"Somebody's over there, boss," Evin told me. "Been getting some occasional fire. Maybe they're in the bus."

Top Johnson figured three Marine snipers were more than enough to handle whoever was in the bus, so he went back to his tanks, leaving us with succinct instruction: "Kill 'em."



The author, on the right, engages target with his M40A1 sniper rifle with Pachmayr recoil pad, McMillan fiberglass and epoxy stock, modified Winchester Model 70 trigger guard, Remington 700 receiver and Atkinson heavy barrel with 10-power Unertl scope. Photo courtesy Gunnery Sergeant R.P. Simpson

actly 817 yards, more than eight football fields away.

"Mark, I sad softly to Evin, "I think I have a movement in the bus, in the left third of the target zone."

Evin swung his powerful scope around and responded, "I see the bus."

"Third of the way down, from back to front, left side, fifth seat, window side."

"I see it."

"Does he have a weapon?" I asked for confirmation that I wasn't looking at a civilian.

"Sure does."

"What's the wind?"

"Three minutes left."

"Elevation?"

"Eight plus one." The conversation was brief, automatic, emotionless, professional. Moreno kept watch on the surrounding area, undistracted by our discovery.

I fine-tuned my scope to match Evin's numbers. "OK. I'll hold an inch above center chest."

"Roger. On scope," Mark confirmed, holding his spotting scope steady on the bus. My spotter had the target.

"On target," I said. I exhaled some breath and tightened on the trigger. I had this sucker as sure as if we were on the practice range. He was as good as dead anyway, for he might somehow live through a meeting with one sniper, but not two, and never three.

"Fire when ready," Mark said.

My rifle barked and my shoulder took the recoil.

"Hit, center chest, target down," Evin reported when the soldier was staggered by the big bullet and fell out of sight. Mark did not lower his scope. "Good shot, boss."

"Good windage," I told him. "Dead on." That was as high a compliment as one pro would give another. There were no high-fives or end zone celebrations, for we were professionals. We had done what we had been trained

Continued on page 79



Author right and Platoon Leader Lt. Casey Kuhlman pose outside Ba'ath Party compound in Al Budayr. Photo courtesy Gunnery Sergeant R.P. Simpson

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# CHINA

## America's Next War?, Part One

By Bill Gertz

**"We may be seeing in China the first true fascist society on the model of Nazi Germany, where you have this incredible resource base in a commercial economy with strong nationalism, which the military was able to reach into and ramp up incredible production," a senior defense official said.**

*China's new Airborne Combat Vehicle in an exercise. The vehicle significantly boosts the combat capability of Chinese airborne troops and can be airdropped using multiple parachutes. Its deployment shows Beijing's new interest in building up power projection capabilities.*

China's communist rulers are engaged in a major military buildup that includes an array of new weapons and tactics that pose a threat to the United States and its interests abroad.

U.S. defense and intelligence officials say the buildup is taking place faster than past intelligence estimates say and have prompted new fears that Beijing will attack Taiwan in the next two years and draw the United States into a new world war.

Despite economic reforms that have led to prosperity for those living on China's coast, China's communist system is foundering as its leaders continue to hold on to the Marxist-Leninist system and refuse to initiate complementary democratic reforms. The combination of growing prosperity for China's people and a rigid dictatorial system that shows no sign of offering greater democratic freedom points in one troubling direction: Beijing will be forced to go to war with Taiwan, which will embroil it in a conflict with the United

States, which has vowed to defend Taiwan against a Chinese attack.

The China weapons buildup includes many new types of high-technology arms, including warships, submarines, missiles and a maneuverable warhead designed to defeat U.S. missile defenses.

The Pentagon's latest report to Congress on China's military power, made public in July, reveals for the first time that the Chinese nuclear arsenal is growing and that China can now hit virtually the entire United States with nuclear missiles.

The growing Chinese nuclear threat was highlighted in July by a senior People's Liberation Army general who publicly threatened to use nuclear arms against the United States in a conflict over the Taiwan Strait.

"If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition onto the target zone on China's territory, I think



(left) Landing ship Type 072-II (Yuting-Class) Large Landing Ship (No. 913) off-loading an armored personnel carrier during recent joint Chinese-Russian exercises on China's Shandong Peninsula. (below) A PLAAF Su-27 firing weapons

we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," said Maj. Gen. Zhu Chenghu, who spoke to reporters for the *Financial Times* and the *Asian Wall Street Journal*.

The comments were the most explicit statement of strategic intent by a Chinese military official since 1995, when another officer, Gen. Xiong Guangkai, implicitly threatened to use nuclear arms against Los Angeles if the United States intervened in a Taiwan conflict.

### **Gen. Zhu**

"If the Americans are determined to interfere [in a Taiwan conflict] we will be determined to respond," said Gen. Zhu, head of China's National Defense University.

"We Chinese will prepare ourselves for the destruction of all of the cities east of Xian [in central China]. Of course the Americans will have to be prepared that hundreds ... of cities will be destroyed by the Chinese."

Gen. Zhu said his comments were personal remarks and not official policy, and that he did not believe China and the United States will go to war.

However, other Chinese officials did not repudiate the general's statements, prompting the Pentagon to assess that Zhu's comments were calculated to send a political message to the United States.

"These comments are a signal to all of Asia that China does not fear U.S. forces," said a Pentagon official, adding that the general may have inadvertently disclosed elements of a Chinese war plan.

Despite the threat, the Bush administration response was muted. The Defense Department and Pacific Command, which would be in charge of any future China conflict, were silent.

The only response came from the State Department, where a spokesman called the remarks "highly irresponsible." "We



*Two PLAAF Russian-made Su-27s. China has imported large numbers of Su-27s from Russia and is purchasing more advanced Su-30s.*

hope that these are not the views of the Chinese government,” State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters. “The United States is not a threat to China. We have a broad and deep relationship in which we try to work closely with the Chinese government on a variety of issues, and I think that the remarks from that one individual are unfortunate.”

A former Chinese diplomat who broke with the communist government in May said Zhu’s comments are part of a secret Chinese strategy and that Beijing’s leaders are building up nuclear forces as a direct response to U.S. power.

China’s strategy calls for “proactive defense,” and senior Chinese Communist Party leaders think that building nuclear arms is the key to countering U.S. power in Asia and other parts of the world, said Chen Yonglin, the diplomat who defected to Australia.

According to Chen, the comments by Gen. Zhu show that China’s leaders are prepared to launch “a pre-emptive attack on the country considered a huge threat to China.”

Chen said the number of Chinese nuclear warheads is a closely guarded secret. Asked about Pentagon estimates that China has 20 nuclear warheads that can reach almost all of the United States, Chen said, “We don’t know the exact number.”

“Everything about nuclear weapons is held by a very limited number of people,” he said. “Even sometime vice ministers may not know because it is strictly controlled by the general staff and central party leaders.”

The Pentagon report to Congress warned that China is “qualitatively and quantitatively improving its strategic mis-

sile force.”

“It is fielding more survivable missiles capable of targeting India, Russia, virtually all of the United States and the Asia-Pacific theatre as far south as Australia and New Zealand,” the report said.

Chen said China’s nuclear arms are developed and built in secret under the direction of a company known as the Nuclear Energy Company. The company builds both civilian nuclear-power stations and warheads for missiles and bombers. “It sounds like a nongovernment company, but it is totally top secret,” he said.

Chen, who had access to the secretive Chinese leadership discussions and documents, said that in internal talks among Party leaders, military commanders often urged going to war against Taiwan, a self-governing island – also known as the Republic of China – that broke with the mainland in 1949. He said military commanders advocate the use of force as soon as possible.

### **Immediate Strategy, Long Term Goals**

Chen noted that China’s long-term strategy is directed exclusively at countering the United States, both in Asia and in the rest of the world. The Chinese view the United States as their main enemy and are building up their armed forces for a future confrontation. The buildup is being carried out in secret so as not to alarm the United States, he said.

China’s long-term strategy toward the United States was outlined by the late communist leader Deng Xiaoping in the phrase “hide our capabilities; bide our time,” Chen said. “That means don’t draw any attention of the Western world – and especially the United States, to what China is doing,” Chen said. He also noted that China’s leaders fear the current U.S. policy of engagement with China will shift to one of “containing” China.


China’s leaders fear containment, which could disrupt China’s development. “If the policy of the United States changes to containment, there will be no Olympic Games, there will be no business and there will be no peaceful rise,” he said.

According to the Pentagon report, Chinese military leaders “have expressed the view that control of Taiwan would enable the [People’s Liberation Army’s] Navy to move its maritime defensive perimeter further seaward and improve Beijing’s ability to influence regional sea lines of communication.”

For the first time since the report was produced in 2000, the Pentagon presented several assessments showing China may not evolve as a peaceful international power. China’s growing nationalism, an expanding military that proliferates arms to rogue states and a government that is still adapting to stronger roles give it the potential to be a threatening power. “In the future, as China’s military power grows, China’s leaders may be tempted to resort to force or coercion more quickly to press diplomatic advantage, advance security interests, or resolve disputes,” the report said.

Reflecting differences within the intelligence and policy communities over the China threat, the report also noted that the U.S. intelligence community estimates it will take China until 2010 to be ready to confront a medium-sized power.

Pentagon realists stated in the report that China’s true military power is not known. Chinese military secrecy has resulted in “incomplete data” about its arms, the report said. For example, U.S. intelligence agencies were taken by surprise by China’s development of the Yuan class of attack submarine that has new underwater propulsion capabilities.



death..



"The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is modernizing its forces, emphasizing preparations to fight and win short-duration, high-intensity conflicts along China's periphery," the report said. In addition to attacking U.S. forces that might intervene in a Taiwan conflict, "over the long term, if current trends persist, PLA capabilities could pose a credible threat to other modern militaries operating in the region," the report said, noting that the pace of the buildup has accelerated since the 1990s. The report also said that Chinese defense spending is thought to be two or three times higher than official figures, and could be as high as \$90 billion.

Key elements of the Chinese arms buildup outlined in the report include:

- Deployment of between 650 and 730 mobile, short-range CSS-6 and CSS-7 missiles opposite Taiwan and the addition of 100 missiles per year.
- Plans to use its ballistic missiles to conduct "anti-access/sea-denial missions" against U.S. and other warships.
- Development of three new types of long-range missiles, and a new medium-range missile, giving Beijing "missiles capable of striking targets across the globe, including in the United States."
- Importation of Israeli-made Harpy and Russian-made anti-radiation missiles.

In addition to its arms buildup, China also is strengthening alliances with the aim of pushing the United States out of Asia and areas where it expects to compete with the United States for energy resources, such as the Middle East, Russian Far East, North Africa and Southeast Asia.

### War is Peace

China held a series of unprecedented war games with Russia in August, the first time it had joined Chinese military forces in military exercises. The China-Russia war games were dubbed "Peace Mission 2005" and were supposed to be a counterterrorism exercise. However, the scenarios played out by Russian and Chinese forces including anti-submarine

warfare operations and an airborne and amphibious assault landing – scenarios that follow Beijing's plans for a Taiwan assault.

"For the Chinese and the Russians, this is a message to the United States," one U.S. official said. "They want to see our bases in Central Asia and presence in Asia cut back."

The fact that the United States was not invited to observe the war games is a sign of the anti-U.S. nature of the exercises, said several officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Defense officials from India, Iran, Pakistan and Mongolia were present in China to observe the exercises.

Because China defines terrorism as including "separatists," U.S. intelligence officials think the exercises are directed at Taiwan, which Beijing views as a breakaway province, and the United States, which has vowed to protect Taiwan from mainland attack.

Most alarming to Pentagon analysts was Russia's use of long-range strategic bombers, that fired conventional air-launched cruise missiles. The use of nuclear-capable bombers was another troubling indicator that Beijing is preparing for conflict with the United States and that it hopes to rely on Russian strategic nuclear forces in a future conflict.

What is also a cause for alarm is the fact that so little is known about China's nuclear forces and its strategy for employing nuclear arms, such as when China would use weapons and where they are stored.

Once derided as a "junkyard army," incapable of standing up to modern U.S. military forces, China's forces have grown rapidly in the past three years, leading many military and defense officials to an inescapable conclusion: China is preparing rapidly for war.

"There's a growing consensus that at some point in the mid-to-late '90s, there was a fundamental shift in the sophistication, breadth and re-sorting of Chinese defense planning," said Richard Lawless, a senior China-policy maker in the Pentagon. "And what we're seeing now is a manifestation of that change in the number of new systems that are being

*Continued on page 78*



PLA Airborne troops conduct a drop from an IL-76 transport during recent exercises with Russia. China is buying 40 new IL-76s, a sign that it is boosting its power projection capabilities to be able to conduct operations beyond Taiwan.

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# Why We Lost In 'Nam

**Five-Tour Vietnam Vet Interviews  
VC and NVA Commanders**

By Col. David Hackworth  
Photos Courtesy DoD



Reprinted from SOF,  
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## WHY WE LOST IN 'NAM

In July of 1993, SOF correspondent Col. David Hackworth returned to the Vietnam battlefields where he had served five tours, to interview his former adversaries. He found them cordial and candid – and their analysis of their victory revealing.

It's as if the Vietnam War didn't happen. A serious post mortem of the war has not been conducted: The military school systems, ignoring the lessons of Vietnam, virtually stopped teaching counterinsurgency for two decades.

Pursuing the adage, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," I went back to Vietnam and spent three weeks talking to former enemy soldiers from Four-Star General Tran Van Tra, to Private Nguyen Van An, to see how they saw the war, to sort out the true skinny and to pass this knowledge onto the troops, past, present and future.

These conversations reinforced what I had learned during five tours with infantry in Vietnam and had written about in the 1968 *Vietnam Primer*, which was based on my own experience and the interviews I had in 1967.

During my return trip I rented a car, hired an interpreter and drove to My Tho, a major city in the Mekong Delta, where I met retired Brigadier General Bay Cao. Cao fought from 1945 to 1975, rising from a guerrilla soldier to vice commanding officer of Military Region 8, an AO in the delta about the size of Rhode Island. I spent two years hunting in his AO as an adviser to the South Vietnamese army and as a commander of U.S. conventional and Special Forces deployed along the Cambodian border.

I found Bay Cao to be a shy and unassuming man. He lives in a peasant's hut without running water or electricity on the outskirts of the city, unlike the northern fat

cats who now live in the same Saigon villas once occupied by corrupt South Vietnamese generals. Cao is 74 years old, but still walks soldier-straight, looks you dead in the eye and has a wonderful sense of humor. He's a real nationalist believer in the cause of the revolution and a true patriot. Cao welcomed me with open arms and chuckled when I told him about my background.

He said that in 1969 he barely escaped a Hardcore Battalion ambush: He was moving by sampan in daylight and was less than 300 yards from one of my ambushes when "local people warned me [of the ambush] by beating on the water with paddles." That's how war goes: We could have talked earlier under far different circumstances.

## Bright Lies

Cao repeatedly stressed that in guerrilla warfare it is essential the guerrilla have the people on their side because the people provide food, intelligence, recruits and labor. He emphasized the Mao dictum that people are to the guerrilla what water is to a fish: Remove the water and the fish dies. He said that one of Gen. William C. Westmoreland's (the initial U.S. military commander in Vietnam and the war's primary architect) biggest mistakes was to abandon the South Vietnamese people by fighting his big-battle war in the hinterland

and along the borders of Laos and Cambodia. He smiled and said, "Westmoreland took the Viet Cong bait. The strategy Westmoreland used was written in Hanoi." When asked about Westmoreland's 1967 claim that "We are prevailing," Bay Cao said that was a "big laugh," and a "bright lie."

After the three-division Operation Attleboro in 1967, a much-acclaimed U.S. victory Bay Cao saw as a U.S. defeat, he was certain that the VC could win on the battlefield. Of the Tet Offensive one year later, Cao said, "We knew that we had won on your home front, too. The Tet campaign broke the U.S. public's fighting spirit." He was right. After Tet, the U.S. started pulling out of Vietnam under the covering myth of the "Vietnamization Program," a shell game that allowed U.S. forces to cut and run and turned the war back over to an "improved" South Vietnamese military machine. About the same time Cao saw light at the end of the tunnel that his side could win, I had reached the same conclusion.

Bay Cao said, "Our first step against the U.S. was to get experience [how the U.S. fought]. Our second step was to develop tactics to counter

your mobility and machines, and the final step was to wear you down. We were patient. We were prepared to fight a long and protracted war. You were not. We studied your tactics, monitored your radios. Americans talked much on radio. Too much. Give us much intelligence. We even knew when your B-52 bombing attacks would come. ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) spies tell us. We have spies everywhere. Spies are the most important soldier in war."

He continued: "We always knew your plans. You told us. First come your helicopters. Then your air strikes and then your troops. Our aim was not to stand and fight, but to run away, unless we thought we could win tactically or, as in Tet, we could win a great psychological victory."



Troops from 1st Battalion, 4th Marines sweep through elephant grass during operation near LZ Robin-Hill, June 1968. When Charlie couldn't hide in the grass, he would hide among the populace, and U.S. strategy played right into his hands.

Next, I visited Cai Be District where my Hardcore Battalion had spent a number of months conducting operations in the muddy delta rice paddies, trying to avoid nasty wall-to-wall booby traps while tracking down “the Cong.” Ironically, almost where my command bunker was at a fire base named “Danger,” I located retired VC Colonel Le Nguc Diep, who commanded the 261 B Main Force Battalion. The 261 B was a tough unit my battalion had come up against a bunch of times.

Diep had commanded this unit for four years and another infantry battalion later for two more years before he became a regimental commander. He was an old pro, and when he checked out of the net he had 45 years of almost nonstop combat — 30 years mainly in the delta against the French, South Vietnamese and Americans, and 15 years in Cambodia fighting the Khmer Rouge — under his pistol belt.

### U.S. Taught VC Tactics

He said, “The U.S. taught us tactics and we won the war. Our school was the battlefield. Few of your commanders stay long enough to understand how to fight.” He emphasized that Americans were too dependent on their machines and firepower, and they did not understand the importance of the people side of war.

It was in My Hiep village near Cai Be where I met former Captain Vo Van Dut. Dut had spent eight years as a VC soldier, and when the war ended he was a company commander in the 261 A Main Force Battalion. My battalion had been belly-to-belly with the 261 A Battalion during a number of stiff fights, and it turned out that he respected my unit as much as I respected his. As we walked over an old killing field, I told Dut that the ground and conditions in the delta, as in most of Vietnam, favored his side and that we were like fish out of water.

He laughed and said, “Yes, your army acted like the British fish during your own war for independence. America lost here because its commanders didn’t understand the people’s cause, the terrain or the nature of the war.” Dut’s view mirrored mine. The U.S. military in Vietnam had hit the Vietnamese with more mortar and artillery shells and three times the bomb tonnage than were used against both Japan and Germany in all of World War II. Westmoreland, a former artillery man, believed firepower and technology would do the trick and that his strategy of attrition — the same stratagem used in the Civil War — would wear the enemy down. This technique had done the job in all of our other wars, why not Vietnam, went his thinking.

While in My Hiep, I also met Col. Le Lam and Col. Dang Viet Mai. Lam and Mai had almost 15 years as battalion commanders between them. The average U.S. battalion and brigade commander in Vietnam served a six-month tour. Lam and Mai were like pro football team coaches playing the ulti-



*Marine engineers sweep road ahead of USMC tank as it advances toward Khe Sanh, April 1968. More than 60% of U.S. casualties in Vietnam were from mines and boobytraps, yet even today little training is conducted to deal with the threat.*

mate Super Bowl season after season, while U.S. commanders, in comparison, were pink-cheeked math teachers filling in for our pro coaches who were killed by careerism. To become a general, the players punched a six-month battalion command ticket — and America lost the game.

Mai, Lam, a dozen other former VC soldiers and I visited old battlefields and discussed tactics, techniques and operations

with the enthusiasm of young leaders at infantry school. There didn’t seem to be any bitterness or anger. They didn’t hate me, nor I them. We accepted that back then we were soldiers just following orders. I asked Mai and Lam about the VC/NVA tactic of “hugging the belt.” They said this technique was developed during the war with the French and was designed to fight at close range to avoid French — and later enormous amounts of U.S. — firepower. Most of our fights in Vietnam centered around breaking the hug, pulling back the wounded and then pummeling the entrenched enemy. This scene was played again and again throughout the war and almost always at its end a U.S. general declared we had won. The World War II standard of who held the ground at the end of the fight was used to claim victory.

But in Vietnam, real estate had no value. The real objective was not turf, but people’s allegiance. I asked Lam how his people could take the punishment U.S. firepower laid on them throughout the war. He replied, “We tried always to fight when on defensive from strong bunkers, deep trenches and prepared positions. Your bombs and rockets were not effective unless make direct hit.” Our bombs, rockets and shells obviously made one hell of a lot of direct hits: Three million Vietnamese died during the war.

During the war, Pentagon brass believed the Vietnam conflict was purely military, not political, and that firepower and technological superiority would break the will of opposition leaders like Lam and Mai. General Giap, the commander of the North Vietnamese army said, “In war there are the two factors — human beings and weapons. Ultimately, though, human beings are the decisive factor.” Our brass didn’t understand this. They were too busy re-fighting World War II. Generals have a history of fighting tomorrow’s war with yesterday’s strategy and tactics. Nor did the American war leaders at the top understand what made the tough, resourceful and idealistic VC and NVA tick, or how corrupt, spiritless, and third-rate the army of South Vietnam was.

Ironically, those of us in the trenches understood Giap’s “human factor.” Most grunts held the Vietnamese opponent in the highest esteem. He was an underdog fighting a giant who never gave up and never asked for quarter. In a word, he was a stud with one hell of a lot of fire in his belly. On the other hand, the average grunt hated our ARVN allies. We’d seen them “search and avoid” too often, while making the motions of fighting a war.

*Continued on page 38*

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By Dr. Martin Brass

## AMERICA AT WAR

### 1. SOUTH KOREA

**NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NIS)** warns that arrested al-Qaeda leader disclosed that U.S. and Australia are top al-Qaeda targets. Korea on high alert against possible terror attacks when it hosts the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in November. Nearly 4,000 Korean troops join Coalition in Iraq.

### 2. INDONESIA **MOBILE**

**TERRORIST** bomb-training camps that teach how to build nine types of bombs using eight recipes, raided. Documents confiscated revealing Abu Sayyaf involvement with Islamic terrorists. Christian schoolteachers kidnapped. *Strategypage*

### 3. AUSTRALIA **ARMY**

**ISSUES F88** Steyr 5.56mm rifle with Off-Axis Viewing Device (OAVD) that allows troops to shoot at targets without exposing the head and upper torso. Sight allows trooper to view target with mirrors, around corners and over walls at 50 degrees to the axis of the sight.

### 4. UNITED STATES **CHINESE**

**CYBERESPIONAGE RING** "Titan Rain" penetrates secure computers at military bases, DoD and aerospace plants. Hackers zip up critical files and transmit to China via way stations in South Korea, Hong Kong or Taiwan: Electronic fingerprints are wiped out. Titan Rain could shut down or take over U.S. military networks for malicious activity, according to DoD. U.S. Rogue computer geek, Shawn Carpenter, who was spying for FBI, was fired, but FBI kept its distance, claiming it was investigating him when he was providing info. Spying on foreign computers is illegal in the United States. **THE COURT AWARDS RANCHER's** property to trespassing **ILLEGAL ALIENS** who claimed they were pistol-whipped. Accused denied abusing the illegals. **CERBERUS 360** sonar swimmer-detection systems used to detect threats up to 800 meters.

### 5. HONDURAS **MARA**

**SALVATRUCHA (MS-13)** Salvadorian leader Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, al-Qaeda cell leader with a \$5 million bounty on his head, spotted in Honduras meeting with MS-13 chiefs. **AL-QAEDA-MS-13-U.S. CONNECTION:** The murderous alien, drug, and weapons smuggling ring is suspected of running major smuggling center in Matamoros, Mexico, just south of Brownsville, Texas. al-Qaeda gives MS-13 quarter of a million dollars to smuggle "high value al-Qaeda operatives across the border."

*Washington Times*

**6. RUSSIA** **WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION** purchased by Chechen terrorist groups. The Federal Security service warns that terrorists were planning to target military nuclear arsenals and biological-weapons stashes. Chechen insurgents plotted to hijack nuclear submarine, and conduct surveillance of the military installations. *Newsmax*

**7. UNITED KINGDOM** **120-MAN** 1st Battalion PARA unit deployed to Baghdad or other Sunni triangle danger spots. **SARIN ATTACK** on Parliament foiled by Scotland Yard, by decoding emails on terror suspects' computers in Britain and Pakistan.

**8. FRANCE** **JUDGE** Jean-Louis Bruguiere told *Financial Times* that al-Qaeda is planning attacks on Tokyo, Singapore and Sydney financial districts to destabilize the region.

**9. SERBIA** **TERRORIST FUGITIVE** arrested. Moroccan Abdelmajid Bouchar suspected of Madrid bombings that killed 200. Officials fear that Balkans have become transit route for terrorists, human-and-drug traffickers.

**10. ALGERIA** **ISLAMIC TERRORISTS** fight government that launched large-scale manhunt for Salafi Movement operatives. Helicopter gunship attack kills 10 insurgents.

**11. LIBYA** **ISLAMIC** Terrorists fight government security forces. Khaddafi wants to eliminate radicals that threaten his regime.

**12. IRAQ** **SADDAM HUSSEIN** trial begins. More than 90% of Iraqis want death to the tyrant.

**13. AFGHANISTAN** **UNMANNED CIA SPY DRONE** reveals near-killing of Osama Bin Laden at a training camp near Khost in eastern Afghanistan in 1999. *Sunday Times* CIA was not allowed to assassinate the al-Qaeda chief. Evidence of three missed golden opportunities is disclosed. **WHITE HOUSE** and CIA could not agree as to the legality of an assassination.

**14. SAUDI ARABIA** **AL-QAEDA CHIEF** and 15 terrorists killed in gun battles with police. Cowardly terrorists used women and children as human shields.

**15. NEPAL** **MAOIST REBELS** on busses, jeeps and motorcycles torched two banks, a post office, a POL pump and inevitably the police station, and looted the armory in Bihar, besides ransacking the house of two supporters of the MP. Indian officials speculate that Maoist rebels want India to retaliate so that they convert the war between Maoists and India to win sympathy in Nepal.

**16. NIGERIA** **IBO TRIBES** in the wealthy oil region call for independence. **ISLAMIC** law implemented in the north.

**17. COLOMBIA** **FARC** vs. **PARAMILITARY** firefight kills 17. FARC turns to economic terrorism, hitting transmission towers and taking out electricity.



## Know Thyself

From 1965 to 1973, U.S. units made the same mistakes again and again, frequently on the same ground. The average CO had never read the words of the ancient Chinese military philosopher, Sun-tzu, who wrote: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

I did not find one former VC leader I interviewed who hadn't studied Sun-tzu backwards and forwards. Bay Cao, at 74, could recite complete passages from Sun-tzu's writings. None knew who Karl von Clausewitz was. Yet every top American military leader who bopped through Fort Benning had cut his teeth on this German thinker who codified the principles of conventional warfare: different strokes for different folks.

But what worked well for conventional troops on the plains of Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries didn't work at all in a hit-and-run jungle war against an irregular force in the 1960s and 1970s. The VC were not stuck to European rules of war written by an aristocratic staff officer.

The Vietnamese had their own winning principles of war that they forged in the heat of battle. Throughout the war, the insurgents played the tune and U.S. forces danced. They had the initiative. The VC's goal was to fight only on their terms, their time, their terrain and the ground of their choosing. When they got trapped and couldn't hightail it, they just kept low and fought like hell.

"How could you stand up against a super power that could fire more artillery rounds in one battle than your side used in one year?" I asked. Mai responded, "At first your helicopters and aircraft hard to fight. They go fast. Much rocket, bomb and artillery fire scare our fighters. But we learn. We set ambushes. We know you run out of aircraft and bombs before we run out of spirit," Lam said. "Yes, we were weaker materially, but our spirit and will were stronger than yours. Our war was just, yours was not. Your infantry soldiers knew this, as did the American people."

Lam was right, with 1993 perfect 20/20 hindsight. But in 1965, when LBJ first stuck us in the Southeast Asian quagmire, Vietnam was a powerful new Cold War drug: easy to start, hard to stop. Our politicians got the monkey on our back and by the time they woke up and realized it was a bad, un-winnable



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Then-Maj. Hackworth (left) with Lt. John D. Howard (center) and Capt. Don Chapman (right) of 327th Parachute Infantry, Vietnam, take a break 7 February 1966. Photo: Author's Collection

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12 x 56 - Item no. 512 Weight: 41 oz  
 Field of view: 385 feet @ 1000 yards  
 Eye relief: 22 mm  
 Also available in...7x50 - Item No. 570



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15 x 80 - Item no. 416 (with compass) Weight: 58 oz  
 Field of view: 216 feet @ 1000 yards Eye relief: 13 mm



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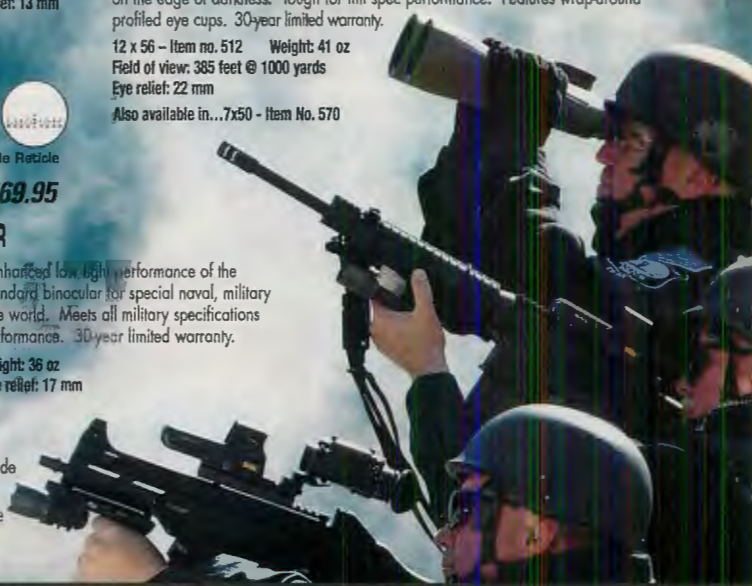
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war, the monkey had become King Kong and we were hooked big time.

During 30 years of war, using spirit, cunning and determination, the Vietnamese light infantry force whipped three great military powers: the Japanese, the French and, in the end, the United States. Lam explained, "Why we fight hard and never give up is because to the Vietnamese people nothing is more precious than our freedom and independence. It was worth dying for."

When the last U.S. combat unit pulled out of Vietnam and turned the war over to the Saigon generals, two years later, that army collapsed like a tin shack on the beach after being struck by an NVA hurricane. "Vietnamization" predictably failed to stand up to NVA pressure. The South Vietnamese came totally unglued when U.S. air support was withdrawn. The NVA and VC ate the ARVN's lunch in fight after fight, until the final 1975 campaign affirmed that the misadventure was at last over.

Since the fall of Saigon, the U.S. military has stuck its head in the sand and denied the whole Vietnam experience. This sets the stage for disaster. Future wars will not include tank brigades charging across the desert, but in the long haul will be low-intensity fights with irregular forces. Since the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, we do not have a New World Order, but rather a New World Disorder, with irregular warfare such as we are seeing in the Balkans, Somalia and Peru becoming once more the main event. It is imperative that our forces be ready for such counterinsurgency campaigns.

In January 1990, retired Lieutenant General Hank Emerson ("The Gunfighter") and I were invited by Pacific Command to brief commanders and staff

on our counterinsurgency experiences. Both Emerson and I were amazed at how our top USMC and Army leaders there had forgotten the lessons of Vietnam. We explained simple tactics and techniques that were common in Vietnam, and this knowledge was received as if it was the first sermon from the mount. It was like reinventing the wheel.

Emerson and I feel that the American experience in Vietnam has been disregarded, written off, or perhaps totally lost. Ironically, this is exactly what U.S. leaders did with the French experience in Indochina.

My observations of light infantry units such as the 82nd Airborne Division during Desert Shield/Storm, the USMC and U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division units in Somalia, or tagging along with grunts from the 7th and 25th Light Divisions during training exercises, have convinced me that many of our light infantry leaders down at the bottom and Army brass up at the top suffer from that common Army disease: CRS (Can't Remember Shit) concerning the bitter, down-and-dirty lessons of Vietnam.

### Doing It By The [Wrong] Book

A few years ago I accompanied a 25th Division rifle company during a counterinsurgency exercise. In the final phase, the company launched a determined attack on a bunker-line held by the "enemy." I asked the skipper later, "What are you doing attacking a fixed position in a counterinsurgency environment?"

"It's how the problem is written, sir," was his reply. The bright young captain was doing his Fort Benning "find 'em, fix 'em, fight 'em and destroy 'em" thing, which was what was required to

take Berlin, but which fills body bags in an unconventional war.

Attacking bunkers in Vietnam was responsible for the lion's share of the names on the Wall. Throughout the war, from the 173rd Airborne Brigade's wild assaults in 1965 against machine gun bunkers in War Zone C to the 101st Airborne Division's insane 1969 assault against fortified positions on Hamburger Hill, "Hey diddle, diddle, right up the middle" was the name of the game. Rifle companies bled and bled many times over the years, taking fortified objectives, which they were frequently lured into attacking. This lack of intelligent tactics played right into the enemy's hands.

Throughout the war, the enemy acted and we reacted on their turf, at their time, to their beat. You can't win a football game — or a war — by reacting or using the wrong tactics. ✕

*A professional soldier whose 25 year career spanned from North Africa in WWII, through Korea, to five tours in Vietnam, the late Col. David Hackworth was America's most decorated living soldier. He was a frequent, controversial, and valued contributor to the pages of SOF.*



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He was contracted by the government in the late 80's. During that time, he developed the only **600 hour Lethal Combat Subject Matter Expert Certification course #K431-0096** for the **United States NavSpecWarCom**, a.k.a. Navy SEAL Teams, (use the Truth and Information Act to validate this fact). The official establishment of this course was a **Historic Event** for the NavSpecWarCom's best warriors! Jerry's achievement has not been duplicated by any one or group since!

In the mid 90's Jerry Peterson tasked, Blake Peterson, to develop a law enforcement program. The result was **Positive Assertive Control Tactics/Dynamic Response Training @ (P.A.C.T./D.R.T. @)** for law enforcement, that was **POST** approved by the state of Nevada course #0051601. This proved that SCARS could be reconstructed to a less than lethal application for US Law Enforcement.

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Further, the Petersons have personally taught the ARMY'S NCOIC finest at the **JFK Training Center**, AIR FORCE Elite **COMMANDOES**, US Navy Special Boat Units, US Navy SEAL Teams and of course the FBI has the highly regarded SCARS system in their tactical library.

After 9/11 they were contracted by the **US Treasury Department's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)** in Roswell, New Mexico. The purpose was to develop advanced **lethal tactics** for securing aircraft in support of US Air Marshals.

SCARS and the Petersons have been well acclaimed in **Forbes Magazine**, **Maxim**, **Men's Health**, **Black Belt**, and of course **SOF**.

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**But in short, you will be able to reduce your live 3-day training cost by \$3,200! That means you will only pay \$1800 where others have paid \$5000 and up!**

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# We Brake For Elk Or Bad Guys



## SOF Tests ArmaLite's AR-30 Bolt Gun

Text and Photos by John Higgs

"We were looking to build a general-purpose rifle. We didn't plan on it being a sub minute of angle rifle, but that's what it turned out to be," ArmaLite President Mark Westrom told me. It was the last day of SOF's combined product review and elk hunt in NW Colorado and we were putting his company's AR-30 bolt-action rifle through its paces. SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown and I had been joined by SWAT Magazine publisher Rich Lucibella, Patrick Smith, owner of Kifaru (Manufacturer of excellent tents and backpacks for civilians and military), and of course Mark Westrom, President of ArmaLite, Inc.

The downside of being the unofficial photographer for the trip was that I had to work while the other members of the party had fun shooting. The good thing was that I had time to really examine the AR-30 while it was being fired. The first thing that I noticed is the spartan appearance. Not a square inch of blued steel or glossy wood anywhere. The entire rifle is finished in black manganese phosphate on the steel parts, while the aluminum parts are anodized in black. But there is a certain attraction in the rifle's clean lines, and in shooting such a streamlined hunting machine. The rifle is comprised of two basic groups: A stock, and a barreled action. The stock itself is no more than a skeletal assembly of aluminum forend, AR-15 style grip, cheek pad, and butt pad. The barreled action is mated to the stock by what ArmaLite calls a machine rest style V-block interface. The engagement of the octagonal receiver with a V-shaped channel in the forend allows for the action to be securely bedded, and also to return to exactly the same place each time the stock and barreled action are separated and reassembled. The buttstock is designed for heavy calibers. It makes the rifle very comfortable to shoot. The AR-30 is not a scaled down version of the AR-50 (ArmaLite's .50 caliber bolt action). The principles of construction, such

(above) ArmaLite AR-30 in .338 Lapua Magnum with muzzle brake which drastically reduces recoil, although noise is increased for anyone standing on either side of the shooter.

as the V-Block bedding are the same, but there are differences in the details.

The 26-inch barrel is Chrome Moly, with six grooves, and a right-hand 1:10 inch twist. The bolt action, which incorporates a bolt with dual front locking lugs, is very sturdy and able to withstand the high pressures associated with magnum calibers. The incorporation of a detachable, single-stack magazine requires less metal to be removed when machining the magazine well than would be the case with a double-stack magazine. A narrow magazine well allows for a stronger, stiffer action that does not flex, which contributes to better accuracy. The short bolt handle is designed for hunting applications and needs to be worked firmly to open or close the bolt, particularly in magnum calibers like .338 Lapua for which one of our two test rifles was chambered. The safety is located on the right rear of the receiver. A pull to the rear engages the safety, and a push forward takes the safety off. The trigger is a conventional single-stage design. I didn't measure the weight required to release it, but it felt light and crisp with minimal take up.

An optional scope mount, available from ArmaLite, attaches to the action with four socket head screws and is specially designed to handle the heavy recoil of magnum loads. The octagonal-form receiver is drilled and slotted for a Mil-spec scope rail.

The underside of the forend has a groove machined into it to accept a small piece of metal called an Adapter. A sling swivel stud can be screwed into the Adapter, and then a Harris or similar bipod can be attached to the swivel stud.

One of our two test rifles came with an impressive muzzle brake, based on the AR-50 design. This is optional for non-magnum calibers, but is required for the .338 Lapua. By way of openings angled back toward the shooter, the muzzle

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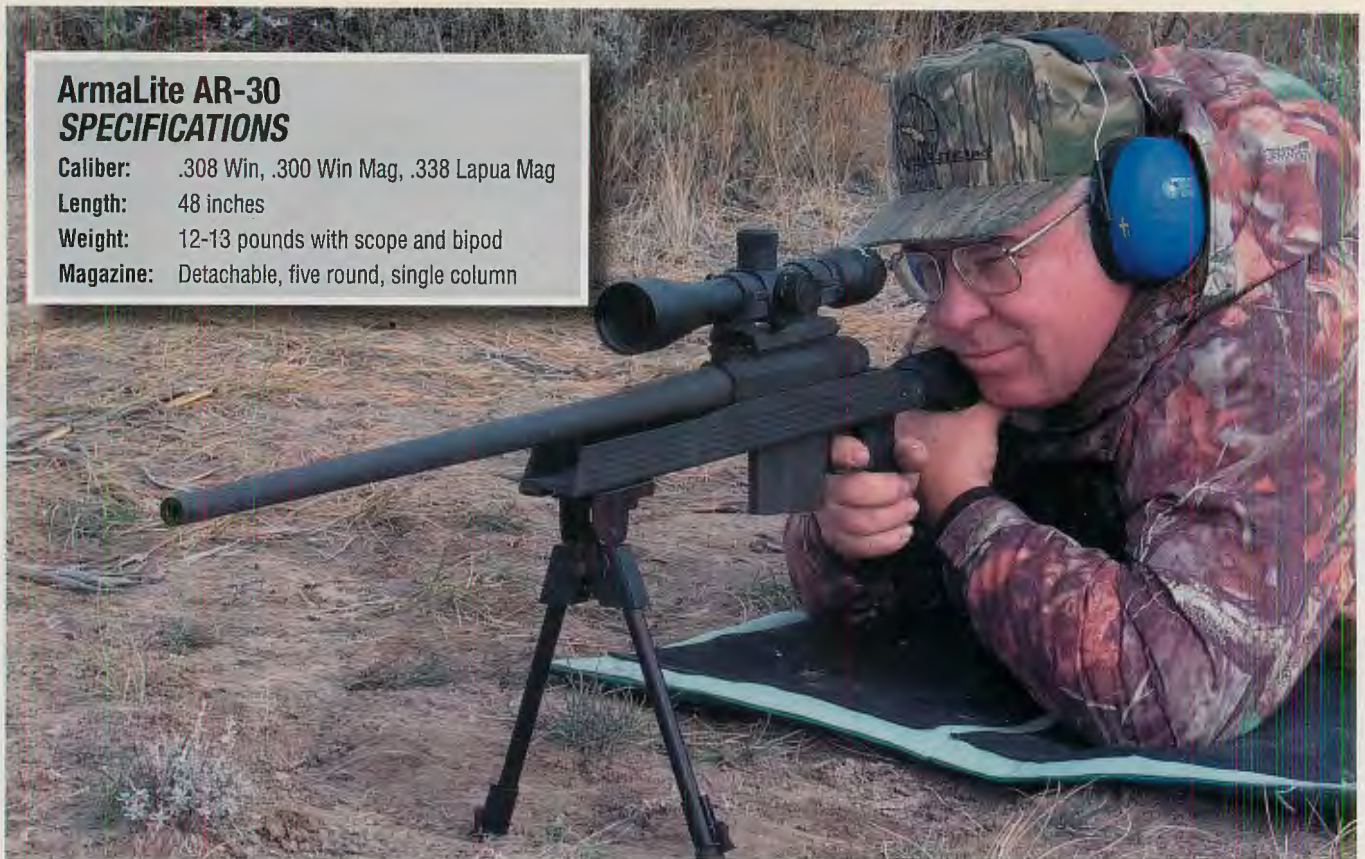
## ArmaLite AR-30 SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** .308 Win, .300 Win Mag, .338 Lapua Mag

**Length:** 48 inches

**Weight:** 12-13 pounds with scope and bipod

**Magazine:** Detachable, five round, single column



brake routes some of the gases used to push the bullet down the barrel, in the opposite direction of the rifle's recoil. In so doing, it neutralizes a lot of the force that pushes the rifle into the shoulder of the shooter. Translation: Shooting from a prone position, I could have shot that rifle all day without any pain. The other AR-30 was chambered in 7.62NATO/308Win, a very popular cartridge among hunters, match shooters and

snipers, but not powerful enough to mandate a muzzle brake on a 13-pound rifle. All agreed that both rifles were very accurate, and fun to shoot.

The .300 Win Mag and .338 Lapua cartridges have excellent reputations in North America and Africa for taking down game up to 600 pounds at 300 – 400 yards. The AR-30, weighing in at around 13 pounds with scope and bi-

*(above) No point in owning the company if you cannot shoot the products. ArmaLite President Mark Westrom shoots the AR-30 in .308Win sans muzzle brake. (below) A seven inch diameter bullseye at 200 yards served as a good target. Everyone who shot the AR-30 kept all hits in the black. Some groups were under two inches.*

pod may not be the best rifle to carry long distances, but it is certainly capable of accurate bullet placement in any of the three calibers, if the shooter does their part. With its tactical black finish and bipod, it's sure to get snapped up by some police departments and SpecOps units looking for something less than a .50 BMG sniper rifle. ☒

### Contact Info

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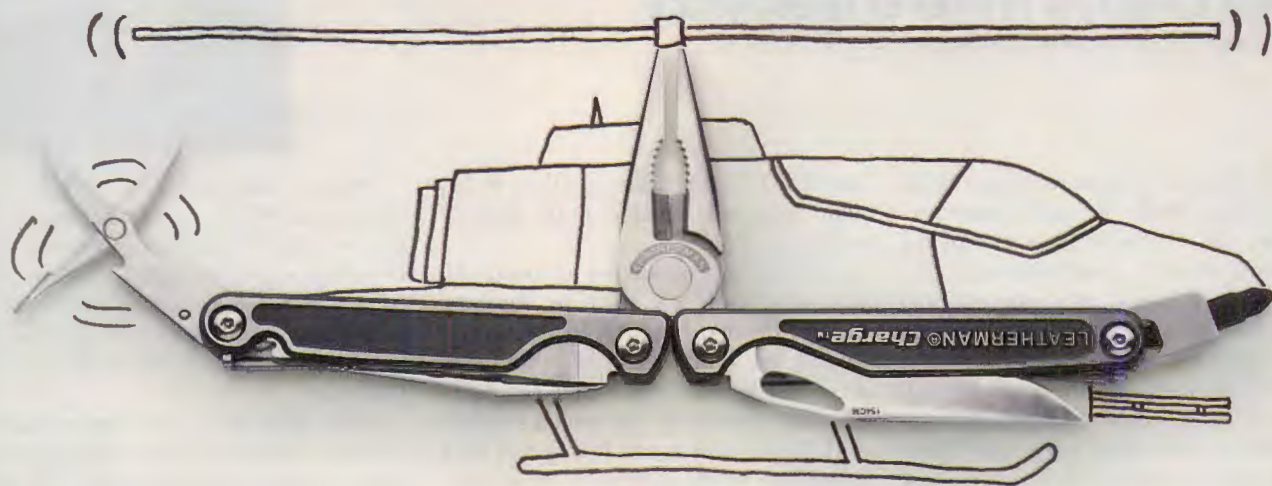
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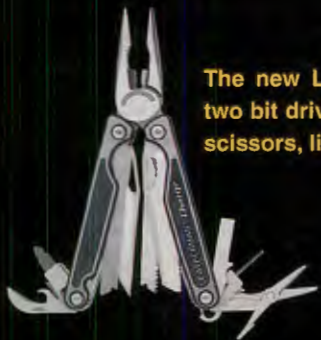
*John Higgs is an NRA and Colorado POST certified Firearms Instructor and a graduate of Yavapai, Gunsite, and DTI firearms training schools. He is a frequent contributor to Soldier of Fortune.*



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# The Clinton Legacy Comes Home To Roost

## It Was Largely A Matter of Intelligence

By John Weisman



Bill Clinton is right to worry about his legacy. He'll be disappointed to see he's not remembered as one of the twentieth century presidents who presided over a period of unprecedented economic growth and federal deficit reduction.

Because instead, Bill Clinton will be remembered as a weak-kneed commander in chief who, time after time, chose not to take decisive action against America's enemies. He will be remembered as the president who, for reasons unknown and unfathomable, was psychologically incapable of making the sorts of tough decisions great leaders must make, and who, because of this character flaw placed the United States in mortal danger from evil, intractable, and ruthless enemies.

Bill Clinton's eight years in office will be remembered as a time when our military and intelligence capabilities deteriorated precipitously. Military training and procurement suffered under his secretaries of defense. Funding for intelligence programs was drastically cut because his directors of central intelligence didn't fight hard enough for their agencies and budgets. Clinton will be remembered as the president whose national security appointees too often dithered instead of acted and who, when they did act, acted with the sort of timidity and tentativeness that encouraged and emboldened our adversaries. From Somalia, to Kosovo; from the bombings in Saudi Arabia, to al-Qa'ida's strikes on our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, to the attack on the USS Cole, Bill Clinton...just...let...it...happen.

History will show that by the end of his eight years in office, the world's no-goodniks perceived the United States not as the world's only remaining superpower, but as a paper tiger vulnerable to external pressure and terrorism. Indeed, the Clinton administration was so poll-driven that it can be argued with some success that virtually every major

national security decision taken in his eight years was decided on the basis of public opinion.

Clinton put off taking action in Africa—and millions died in Rwanda. He put off taking action in the former Yugoslavia—and tens of thousands were massacred in a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. He took a soft line with North Korea, and Pyongyang took advantage of his gullibility by secretly pressing on with its nuclear weapons programs. Worst of all, Clinton refused to consider taking proactive measures against terrorists because he saw transnational terrorism as a law-enforcement problem. And in doing so Bill Clinton allowed Iranian-sponsored terrorists like Imad Mugnyiah and radical Islamists like Usama bin Laden virtual free reign to engage in long-term planning for operations against the West in general, and United States in specific.

History will also show that as president, Bill Clinton appointed the two worst directors of central intelligence in the history of the United States, John M. Deutch and George J. Tenet. On Bill Clinton's watch, CIA suffered not only a hemorrhage of experienced case officers, a near-fatal degradation of its counterintelligence capabilities, and its worst covert-action defeat since the Bay of Pigs, but the Agency's ability to recruit and run spies virtually disappeared. Why? Because under Deutch's asset-assessment guidelines CIA case officers were forbidden, under pain of termination, to recruit as agents anyone connected to human rights violations, criminal activity, or unsavory behavior with arbitrary guidelines.

That's only a part of it. On Bill Clinton's watch, our intelligence agencies' language capabilities deteriorated to an unacceptable level. This became apparent only after 9/11, when America discovered the FBI, CIA, and NSA had so few capable linguists that some critical intelligence intercepts languished for months before being translated.

Indeed, only now, more than four years after 9/11, are we beginning to discover how ineffectual, pathetic, and bungling a president Bill Clinton was from the national security perspective; how many opportunities he and his administration squandered in the war on terrorism.

More than once, the Clinton administration squandered the chance to cut short Usama bin Laden's life. By the mid-1990s, CIA understood that bin Laden was more than a mere financier of terrorism. As CIA paramilitary contract employee Billy Waugh notes in his book "Hunting the Jackal," bin Laden had been living openly in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum since the early 1990s. To Waugh, bin Laden was a legitimate target because he'd shipped weapons to Somalia, where they had been used to kill Americans in Mogadishu.

Waugh writes that he proposed killing bin Laden. The plan was simple: "two vehicles, two men, one weapon.... One 10-cent bullet and [bin Laden] would have been dropped on K-town's dusty streets...and left to rot like the dog that he is." But nothing happened. Waugh's suggestion never even went up the chain of command. "Permissions to kill," Waugh writes, "were taboo in the outfit" Instead, CIA was "forced to adhere to the sanctimonious legal counsel and the do-gooders at the Agency."

In July, 1996, it was learned that Imad Mugnyiah, the Lebanese-based, Iran-supported terrorist who was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans, including 241 U.S. Marines and U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem, was a passenger aboard the Kuwaiti-flagged freighter *Ibn Tafil*. A joint U.S. Marine/SEAL snatch operation was put together. But at the last minute, the Clinton White House ordered the special operations units that had Mugnyiah in their sights to stand down. The reason: the assault team could not prove beforehand that they knew with 100

*Continued on page 74*



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Theo Van Gogh Photo: Netherlands Government



# Holland's Immigration Time Bomb

**After Holding Back the North Sea For Centuries, the Dutch Have Let In An Uncontrolled Flood of Immigrants That May Be Their Undoing**

By Dr. Martin Brass

The tall, rugged former French Foreign Legionnaire, a Dutch citizen, served many years in the French Foreign Legion in Djibouti. He served on peacekeeping missions with the Dutch army in the Middle East, in Lebanon and in the Sinai desert. He returned to Africa to serve on operations in Chad. Later, he was a merc in Croatia and Bosnia.

"I craved adventure as a lad. *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* was my guide," the strapping Dutchman said with a commanding voice as he paced in Robert K. Brown's office.

SOF's office in Boulder, Colorado was on his list of tourist attractions during his three-week visit to the United States this year.

For two days he warned us of how his country with its lax, liberal immigration policy that doesn't force immigrants to assimilate, has become a time bomb.

## **A Former Legionnaire Finds Conflict at Home**

He's currently serving as private security in his native Holland, where the Dutch are fed up with a government that has allowed them to become the victims of uncontrolled immigration. Assassinations and violent public revenge have erupted in a country known for carrying its open-mindedness to a fault.

The last time I was covering a trial at the International Court of Justice in Holland, I was struck with the deterioration of the urban centers. The famous red light district that has accepted legalized prostitution for decades was even seedier, public centers were dirtier, and homeless people obviously on the too-available-and-uncontrolled drugs were much more obvious. So was the presence of foreigners. And the topic of the pubs and coffee shops was the rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

The latest bout of citizen violence erupted in November,

2004 after a 26-year old Dutch-Moroccan Muslim fanatic killed Theo Van Gogh, the prominent Dutch filmmaker, newspaper columnist, and relative of the famous painter.

Van Gogh was stabbed and shot repeatedly as he was on a bicycle, by a crazed bearded man dressed in traditional Moroccan *jalaba*.

"The killer arrived by bicycle and shot Van Gogh. He fell backward on the bicycle path and just lay there. The shooter stayed next to him and waited. Waited to make sure he was dead," a witness told Dutch Radio.

He stuck a note in the bloody, dying man's chest. The four-page pamphlet warned Somali-born Alyaan Hirsi Ali, a member of the Dutch Parliament, member of the conservative Liberal Party (VVK), that she was next.

## **An Islamic Anti-Islamic Zealot**

"Beware Madame," the pamphlet stated. "As a soldier of evil, you are doing the work of the enemies of Islam." The letter warned Hirsi Ali that her punishment would be so severe that she would beg for death.

Hirsi Ali revels in the attention that her rabid anti-Islam rhetoric creates, according to the Legionnaire.

She had been forced to have female circumcision as a child in Mogadishu, Somalia. At 18, her Koran teacher beat her brutally, fracturing her skull. She was engaged to a Canadian cousin she had never met, against her fervent objections. On the way to Canada, she escaped in Berlin and caught a train to Amsterdam where she was given political asylum. There she became the voice of the downtrodden Islamic woman.

Her obsessive outspokenness made her the second most popular Dutch person in 2003, despite calls from Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to have her removed from the Parliament.

Hirsi Ali's work at women's shelters fed her outrage and



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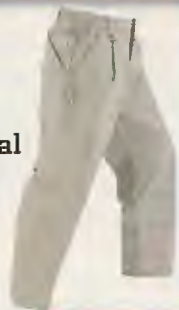
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anger as she focused on the sexual abuse of Muslim women.

"It happens regularly—the incest, the beatings, the abortions," she said. "Girls commit suicide. But no one says anything. And social workers are sworn to professional secrecy," Hirsi Ali said. She claims that 60 percent of abortions performed in Holland are on Muslim women, according to a *de Spiegel* account.

Hirsi Ali wrote a television film "Submission," directed and produced by Van Gogh. The fictional film portrayed a Muslim woman forced into a violent marriage, repeatedly raped by

a relative and punished for "adultery." The portrayal of the nude woman under a see through veil incensed segments of the Muslim population.

Nude women with Koran verses painted on their bodies to portray the oppression of Muslim women created a greater outrage.

Hirsi Ali fled to the United States on a military aircraft eight days after Van Gogh's murder. She is now under 24 hour security back in Holland. That day, Dutch police arrested two Islamic men who had papers documenting a New Years Day assassination attempt against her.

## "Instrument of God"

Van Gogh's assassin, who was arrested in a gunfight with the police as he fled the scene of Van Gogh's murder, appeared eight months later in an Amsterdam court clutching his Koran.

His plan to die a martyr had failed miserably.

Court transcripts recorded his admission. "I knew what I was doing, and I succeeded. I swear to God, if there were a death penalty, I would be begging for it."

## Spirit is Out of the Bottle

"Maybe the spirit is out of the bottle," the Legionnaire told us. "Open immigration has gone too far. Although there are large hostile immigrant communities, the Dutchmen could not speak out. We became wimps so they treated us like wimps.

"We were able to fight the commies on the eastern front. The extremism that drove 25,000 Dutchmen to fight with the Germans is now sleeping. Our famous tolerance could turn to dramatic intolerance. Next time you might have a mosque burned with people in it. If we complained about immigration—it was fascist, it was Nazi, you couldn't say 'maybe they should adapt', you couldn't say that statistics showed that criminals numbers included many Moroccans," the Legionnaire said.

"Just the word 'Moroccan' would become a swear word. Don't forget, some who carried out 9-11 were Moroccans. The guys who bombed Madrid were Moroccans.


"The violent crowd was so angry when Theo Van Gogh was killed. And he wasn't even popular. He was a provocateur. He wanted to be a bad boy," the Legionnaire said.

"One of his outrageous statements went something like 'there is a strange smell of caramel hanging over the city. They must be cremating Jews with diabetes,' he wrote in his column. He insulted everybody. He was a little like a village idiot. He was talking so much garbage all the time that you did not really listen to him.

"But when he got killed, thousands of people came to the city center of Amsterdam. There was a tremendous outcry. Demonstrators were shouting, banging on pots and pans, because the aggression had to go somewhere. The deafening riots were broadcast everywhere. For ten minutes the organizers told the crowds that they could make as


*Continued on page 62*

# Freedom to Choose








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that story and it and other fascinating details will appear in a new book I am working on detailing the history of Devel, but back to Nighthawk Custom:

Both the Predator and TALON IV pistols were of the highest quality with a silky smooth operation, and as good a barrel/slide/frame fit as I've seen. Trigger letoff proved to be about ideal from a factory pistol, breaking crisply at about 3.5 pounds. Accuracy from the Predator averaged about 1.5 inches for me at 25 yards hand-held off the bench, and the TALON IV came in a close second at just under 2 inches. Both guns were right at home in my Blade-Tech holsters on Wilderness Instructor Belts.

### Druthers



Although either of these Nighthawk 1911 pistols come ready for duty, I would prefer a carry pistol without a magazine-well extension and without a full-length guide rod. For me, the extension adds unnecessary length to the butt, as well as weight even though it makes speed reloading a simple matter. While the Predator can be had without the extension, both guns must use full-length recoil spring guide rod systems. This is because they have no barrel bushings, which are required for use with a conventional recoil spring system. I prefer a conventional recoil spring plug for quick and easy field stripping, and eye protection should always be worn during takedown.

To accomplish takedown, the recoil spring system must first be made captive by inserting a small pin through a hole in the guide rod while compressing the recoil spring, as seen in the accompanying photo. While I won't go into detail on how this is accomplished, suffice to say that it cannot be done in the field. On the other hand, such disassembly is almost never required in an emergency, and I repeat that this is merely my personal preference. Additionally, Nighthawk Custom offers other models that can be had with a conventional recoil spring system, as well as most other options. Perhaps Nighthawk's best buy is their ENFORCER, a full size, full-house custom 1911 with conventional barrel at \$1,849.95.

Suggested retail on the Predator is \$2,619.95 and \$2,199.95 for the TALON IV and all Nighthawk pistols come with a 10% discount to military and law enforcement personnel. For in-

*Continued on page 68*



*(top)* Here the Predator's unique flanged barrel is seen along with its recoil spring guide held captive with a cross pin, for removal from the slide group. *Eye protection is a must when field stripping any firearm. (middle)* Johnston gave Nighthawk's Predator (seen here) and TALON IV high marks in all regards. *(bottom)* Field stripping The Nighthawk TALON IV is simple once the recoil spring group is held together with a cross pin as shown. Other than this cross pin, no tools are required for takedown.

# Supply Depot

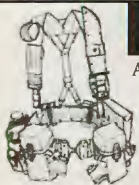
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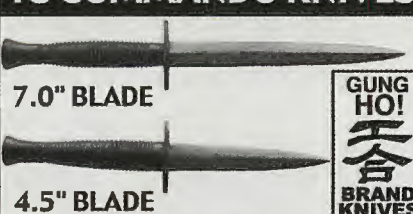
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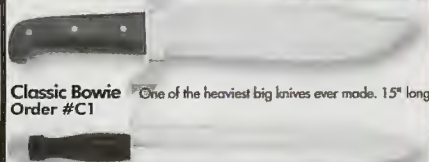
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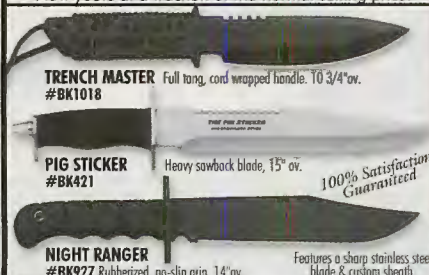
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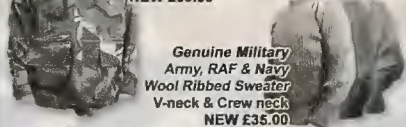


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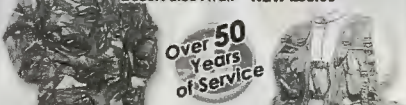
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**Mark Cheng, L.Ac.**

Columnist & Contributing Editor, Black Belt Magazine  
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**Tim Larkin, creator, Target-Focus Training**

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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a SureFire WeaponLight. The hand is wearing a metal watch. The light is illuminated, casting a bright glow. The background is dark and appears to be a combat environment with some equipment visible.

Dear SureFire,

My team was ambushed south of Fallujah. We were badly outnumbered and engaged by machine guns, mortar, and rocket propelled grenades.

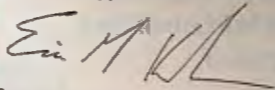
Two RPG's hit us, one of which impacted a foot from my head, breaking my arm, blowing out both eardrums and dislocating my elbow. My M4 carbine, with a SureFire WeaponLight, was blown out of my hands. We fought for an hour and a half before being medevaced.

When I got back my gear I was amazed to find that my SureFire still worked. It was the only piece of my equipment that survived, including the ruined M4 it was mounted on.

I served in Afghanistan and several tours in Iraq. SureFire has passed the test of combat.

Thanks for making one hell of a product.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Kocher".

E. Kocher

Sgt. E. Kocher  
USMC



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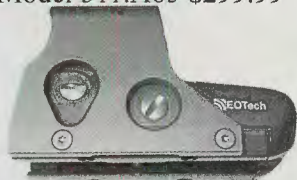
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much noise as they can.

"Now, after the killing of Van Gogh, dozens of small unorganized minor attacks against mosques erupted. Police and vigilante committees had to guard the mosques from angry people who threatened to burn the mosques down. Those who did and were caught got severe, disproportionate sentences. A few schools were burned down," the Legionnaire said.

"The Government wants us to believe that the burning of the mosques had impact on Dutch society. All the Dutch I know want to burn the next Islamic school down. I don't think the Dutch society is outraged at the burning of the mosques," he said.

"I can't imagine what they would do if the terrorists carried out attacks like they did in London or Madrid," the Dutchman, who had trained to smell and feel violence, said with intensity.

### A Different Type of Dyke Bursts

Three officers conducting counter terrorism raids were injured when a suspect threw a hand grenade out of the house as the officers stormed it.

"One of the guys that threw a grenade

at the police is the son of an American serviceman who converted to Islam," said the Legionnaire.

Several blocks were cordoned off in The Hague, the normally peaceful home to the International Court of International Justice. Police in riot gear, fire engines, ambulances and SWAT teams blocked off the Holland Spoor train station.

Six suspects including Mohammed Bouyeri, Van Gogh's killer were in custody.

Police tightened security in response to the burning of a dozen churches and mosques in the Netherlands.

An Islamic elementary school was set on fire. The arsonist scribbled "Theo Rest in Peace" on the building.

A bomb exploded in the Eindhoven school. Attacks against Muslim targets were carried out in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Breda and Huizen.

"I want to emphasize that the underlying motive of the angry Dutchmen is not racism, but concern of what is happening to our country and its values. Dutch society is changing immensely fast. People get wary of immigrants because some immigrant communities are

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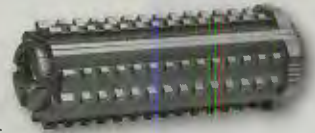
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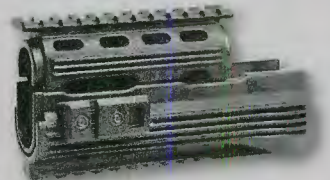
## X6 Aviation Grade Aluminum Handguard Set (6 Rails)

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## AK-47 Replacement Handguard Set (LHV-47SET)

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very closed. *They don't want to assimilate and are rejecting our society.*

"Other Moslems that have always been well behaved and become members of society might become victims."

An Islamic spokesperson, Miranda Husain agrees, but she holds the European governments responsible for not monitoring radical behavior on both sides. "Mr. Van Gogh offended Muslims the world over because he took something sacred from their religion and exploited it to enhance his vision of cinematic symbolism," she wrote in the *Daily Times*. "Instead of Europe's Muslims being brought into the fold to challenge and undermine radical extremism, they will find themselves fighting the battle alone. Not only will they be under attack from their host nations' governments who often see them as upholding views inimical to the foundations of democracy, they will also be under fire from the radicals who have hijacked their religion for their own ends," she wrote.

## The Four Largest Dutch Cities to be Majority Muslim

Nearly one million Muslims live in Holland, making up six percent of the

*Continued on page 70*

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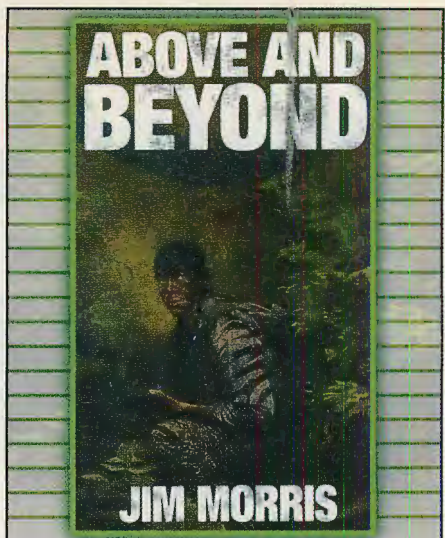
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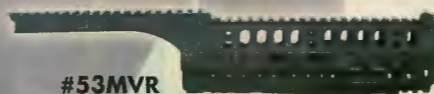
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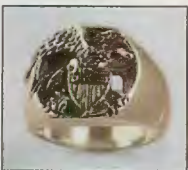
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population, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). Turkish and Moroccan Muslims represent two thirds of the total number of Islamic people living in the Netherlands. There are 350,000 Turkish Muslims in the Netherlands, and 300,000 Moroccans.

Half of the Muslims are Dutch citizens. There are over 30 Islamic schools in the country and about 400 mosques, which receive guidance from Turkey and Morocco, according to PBS.

Non-Dutch are expected to outnumber the native Dutch in Holland's four major cities in the near future, if they have not currently. Amsterdam is home to over 13 percent of Islamic population, more than 11 percent live in The Hague and more than 10 percent in Rotterdam.

### Old Mild Europe, Void of Values

"Holland is a white European society that has been traditionally Christian and shared the same background. That has been changed drastically since WWII. We invite all these Moslems to come here, even through the period of time that the government was paying for the Dutch to go to South Africa," the Legionnaire told us.

"People no longer identify themselves with Europe's values. Europe is old and tired and no longer a role model. Who wants to fight for old mild Europe, void of values?"

"At present there are two Crusades—the U.S. and Islam. Both crusades have appeal to young people. Europe has no role in this. They only follow the U.S. leader reluctantly. This hesitant behavior makes them not attractive to immigrants. Look at the spirit of Israel. There is always war, but still thousands of young people go there every year to fight for a country they never saw.

"We have lived with the ghosts of WWII. We have been forced to live with so much guilt for what happened to the Jews that our country felt it had to go overboard with its permissiveness with other ethnic groups and it has backfired.

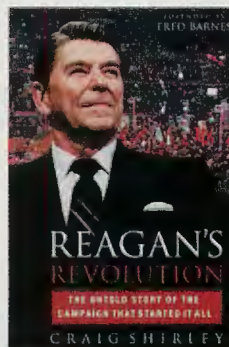
"It is scary to imagine what can happen next," he said, anxiously. ✕

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

**NEXT: When government and secret service become infiltrated with radicals.**

## "Reagan's Revolution" Captures Missing Chapter of Presidential History

It may be common knowledge that Ronald Reagan's presidency (1980-1988) was a key turning point in world history and in American politics. However Craig Shirley's new book *Reagan's Revolution: The Untold Story of the Campaign the Started it All* [Nelson Current, January 2005] reveals the secrets behind Reagan's first run for the presidency in 1976



— the campaign that unified and saved a dying Republican Party and launched the modern-day conservative movement. *Reagan's Revolution* is the first book to examine in detail Ronald Reagan's cam-

paign for the presidency in 1976 against incumbent president Gerald Ford; shedding light on the only undocumented chapter in the political legacy of one of the most beloved and revered presidents in American history.

Historically significant and brilliantly written, Reagan's Revolution captures an overlooked, undocumented part of Ronald Reagan's political career. The book provides an inside look at the players, the politics, and never before published events that shaped the campaign of 1976 and beyond.

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

— Senator Zell Miller (D-GA)

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

For more information about the book and author, please visit

www.reagansrevolution.com



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

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

**By Matt Furey**

**Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**It's for** those who have trained their whole lives on weights. **It's for** athletes, martial artists and the military.

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

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

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

### **Time is not the issue!**



### **Matt Furey**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Revision Eyewear Ltd., developers of purpose-built eyewear for the military worldwide, will now make available the Sawfly Military Eyewear System for law enforcement agencies and SWAT teams throughout the United States. The Sawfly eyewear system was specifically designed to meet the demanding requirements of soldiers in extreme environmental conditions, as well as protecting them from high-velocity impacts. Law enforcement tactical officers also face intense situations where the likelihood of an exchange of fire or physical combat is high. The Sawfly eyewear system provides LEO's an unsurpassed fit and comfort with maximum ventilation in an unrestricted field of view. The Sawfly features interchangeable one-piece high-impact polycarbonate lenses with 100% UV-A/B/C protection in "clear" for nocturnal or indoor use, and "solar" to reduce outdoor glare, and "high-contrast" for crisp definition in low-light situations. The Sawfly eyewear system, compatible with helmets and night vision gear, is available in two sizes and can be customized for prescription lenses.



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SigTac®, the SIGARMS® Tactical Apparel Company, uncovers their Black Concealed Carry Coat. With the help of law enforcement, military officers and Special Ops, SigTac has tailored this garment to offer professional performance, on and off duty. The new SigTac Black Conceal Carry Coat is a strategic addition to the SigTac tactical line. Made of 100% heavyweight cotton canvas and set off with a smooth Nubuck leather collar, this coat is sturdy and stylish — a perfect fit for everyday wear. Lined with warm 300-gram anti-pile fleece, and lightly garment washed, comfort and easy movement will never be an issue. For added protection, the SigTac Concealed Carry Coat features ambidextrous internal pistol pockets for concealed carry of even large framed pistols such as the P220 or the GSR® 1911. The SigTac Concealed Carry Coat is available through local firearms dealers or online at SIGARMS.com and comes in Black (and also Tobacco Brown) in sizes Small to XXXL.

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## SPEC-OPS BRAND OVER-ARMOR VEST

Spec-Ops Brand has introduced the OVER-ARMOR™ Vest for the Interceptor Body Armor System, the latest innovation in its line of pioneering, high-performance tactical nylon gear for military, law enforcement and other demanding applications. Spec-Ops Brand developed OVER-ARMOR in response to direct feedback from U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, who wanted to maximize "on-body cargo" carrying capacity. They also needed to be able to quickly and easily remove the carried load from their body armor. Spec-Ops Brand used the feedback to create a load-bearing vest that simply slips on over standard body armor systems and can be removed just as easily. Four simple adjustment points allow the OVER-ARMOR Vest to fit over all existing U.S. Military body armor systems. In addition, its unique wrap-around design increases cargo capacity, offering 50% more mounting space than conventional systems and enabling troops to better balance the load. OVER-ARMOR's 1000 D. Corduro fabric is available in three camo patterns, Tan, Coyote Brown and the Army's new Universal Camouflage Pattern. It has large hook-and-loop frontal panels to accommodate name rank and insignia, as well as numerous "Grid-Lock" loops to offer maximum flexibility in attaching pouches and mission-specific gear. The vest, backed by Spec-Ops Brand's unique lifetime guarantee, is stitched with high tenacity nylon thread and webbing, and has a YKK #10 "self-healing" coil zipper. Redundant stitching and bar-tack reinforcements provide extra durability. Weapons mounting points using welded Drings ensure secure weapons attachment and instant access.



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Walker's Game Ear is pleased to announce the new addition of Walker's Disposable Foam Ear Plugs (DFPs) to its line of hearing-protection and sound-amplification products. These new plugs are designed to offer shooters a convenient and affordable way to protect their hearing while participating in the shooting sports. The Walker's DFPs can be worn not only during shooting activities but also any time there is a danger of exposure to loud noises such as using a lawn mower or a chainsaw. Walker's Game Ear Inc. is an official hearing protection and sound amplification company for the National Rifle Association and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Because of the partnership with these two organizations, Walker's DFPs are offered in two color styles - NRA orange and NWTFF yellow. Each package comes with two plugs per pack and includes the organization logo and membership information on the packaging. A portion of all proceeds goes directly back to each of these organizations.



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## LASER SHOT LE-PRO TRAINING SIMULATOR

Laser Shot, Inc., a leader in firearms simulation training for the military and law enforcement, has developed a compact and portable training simulation system, the Laser Shot LE-Pro. Because of the rising cost of ammunition, limited availability of firing ranges and limited training programs, the military and law enforcement communities have utilized firearms training with pre-programmed scenarios. Most of the systems available were costly and cumbersome with high maintenance, and offered limited training programs. Laser Shot's LE Pro is a high quality, upgradeable system, consisting of a dry-fire laser insert used in conjunction with video courseware, a Windows XP Laptop Computer, a video projector and amplified multimedia speakers. Video is displayed on a Cinefold screen. Laser Shot Laser Simulation packages all come with durable Pelican cases. Laser Shot LE-Pro Training Simulators train officers in judgment, tactics, combat skills and marksmanship in a series of rapidly evolving situations in hostile environments. Formulated on departmental policies and procedures as well as federal, state and local laws and court rulings, officers are trained in use-of-force, in a safe and controlled environment.

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## NIGHTHAWK GLOBAL RESPONSE PISTOL



Nighthawk Custom, manufacturers of American-made, finely handcrafted custom 1911-style pistols, is proud to announce a new edition to their line - the Global Response Pistol or GRP. The GRP, designed for serious professionals, has all the classic features of the traditional 1911 you know and love, and then some. Novak's new Extreme Duty Adjustable Night Sights, famous for their low mount profile, are standard on the GRP, providing micrometer adjustment for elevation and drift adjustment for windage. Other features of the GRP include: mainspring housing with integrated lanyard loop, match grade barrel and bushing, beveled magazine-well, match-grade lightweight trigger, and a 25 lpi checkered front strap. The GRP is finished in Perma-Kote™, a ceramic-base finish with rust inhibiting qualities that stands up to abusive and extreme environments. Crimson Trace laser grips come standard with all Nighthawk GRP's and are sighted in to point-of-aim at 25 yards.

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percent certainly Mugnyiah was aboard the freighter. By setting the bar so high, Clinton guaranteed that the operation could not fail—simply because it would not be mounted in the first place. This pattern of risk aversion was repeated many times over the Clinton administration's eight years in office.

Part of the problem lay in Clinton's personnel choices. As secretary of state in his first administration, Clinton chose Warren Christopher, an old Washington hand who had been deputy secretary of state under Jimmy Carter. It was Christopher who, during a pre-Desert One briefing in 1980, had actually demanded to know why Colonel Charlie Beckwith's Delta Force personnel couldn't just shoot the Iranian hostage takers in the arm, rather than double-tap them in the head. Christopher's ultradiplomatic timidity filtered pervasively through the administration.

In his second administration, Clinton chose as SECSTATE Madeleine Albright, who made no progress in stopping the mullahs from moving forward on their secret nuclear weapons program. Albright, who was popular in the press for what came to be known as her

'diplomacy by brooch' (she's even writing a book on the subject these days), either totally ignored, or chose not to pass to Clinton the 1996 State Department analysis that Usama bin Laden's move to Afghanistan would give the rogue Saudi a more effective haven than Khartoum. Indeed, the memo accurately noted Afghanistan's remoteness and inaccessibility would enable bin Laden to expand his Salafist, radical brand of Islam well beyond the Middle East.

Things were no better at the Justice Department. As Attorney General, Clinton had chosen Janet Reno, who seemed to be more concerned with criminals' rights than victims' rights. One of Reno's deputies, Jamie S. Gorelick, wrote new rules for the way America's law enforcement community dealt with its intelligence community. Those rules constructed a tall, thick, insurmountable wall between the two communities insuring, as it turned out, that information sharing would become virtually impossible.

On Reno's watch, the FBI's counterterrorism capabilities languished. Indeed, special agents who pursued terrorism cases were subject to inter-

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nal sanctions and political pressure. On Reno's watch, FBI director Louis Freeh did virtually nothing to bring the Bureau's IT capabilities into the twenty-first century. Even today, the FBI's ability to mine huge amounts of data does not exist, and its ability to share information horizontally office to office, or division to division is also virtually nonexistent. The root causes for both these deficiencies lie directly at Bill Clinton's feet.

By late 1998, after the August al-Qa'ida bombing of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the Clinton administration had amassed enough intelligence to know that Usama bin Laden intended to strike within the United States. Indeed, Bin Laden had the previous February issued a *fatwa* authorizing and promoting attacks on U.S. civilians and military personnel anywhere in the world.

What did the Clinton administration do about bin Laden? It did...*nothing*. It spun its wheels. It made noise. It blustered. It even launched the occasional missile. But in reality, it did nothing.

The evidence? According to a 2002 joint congressional inquiry on the roots of 9/11, "In December 1998, [Director of Central Intelligence] George Tenet provided written guidance to his deputies at the CIA, declaring in effect, 'war' with bin Laden. DCI Tenet wrote: 'We must now enter a new phase in our effort against bin Laden. We are at war. I want no resources spared in this effort, either inside CIA or the community...'"

But the inquiry's conclusion is devastating to Tenet—and his commander-in-chief, Clinton. "There was," it says, "no massive shift in budget or reassignment of personnel to counterterrorism until after September 11, 2001."

Indeed, the more we learn—from the revelations of Able Danger to the findings from new congressional investigations, we are discovering that Bill Clinton and those around him gave bin Laden pass after pass after pass. And that is why, in spite of all Clinton's defenders and despite all his own efforts to spin history, Bill Clinton will ultimately be remembered as the guy who let bin Laden happen. ☒

*The opinions expressed by the author are his own and do not represent the views of SOF.*

John Weisman's latest book, *Direct Action*, will be released as a mass-market paperback in the spring of 2006.

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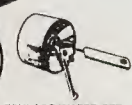
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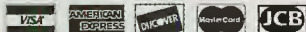


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CHINA... • Continued from page 30

deployed, the sophistication of those systems and the interoperability of the systems."

China's economy has been growing at a rate of at least 10 percent for each of the past 10 years, providing the country's military with the needed funds for modernization. The combination of a vibrant centralized economy, growing military and increasingly fervent nationalism has transformed China into what many defense officials view as a fascist state.

"We may be seeing in China the first true fascist society on the model of Nazi Germany, where you have this incredible resource base in a commercial economy with strong nationalism, which the military was able to reach into and ramp up incredible production," a senior defense official said.

The past two years of military development by China is what set off the alarm bells within the corridors of the Pentagon, specifically the numbers of weapons that have been purchased or built on relatively short timetables, including new troop- and weapon-carrying ships and submarines.

And it is not only the hardware. The release of an official Chinese government white paper on defense made public in December called the situation on the Taiwan Strait "grim" and said the country's military could "crush" Taiwan. Then earlier this year Beijing passed what has become known as the anti-secession law, a unilateral measure that upset the fragile political status quo across the Taiwan Strait. The law gives Chinese leaders a legal basis they previously did not have to conduct a military attack on Taiwan.

The war fears come despite the fact that China is hosting the Olympic Games in 2008 and, therefore, some officials say, would be reluctant to invoke the international condemnation that a military attack on Taiwan would cause. ☒

Bill Gertz is a defense and national security reporter for The Washington Times and author of *Treachery: How America's Friends and Foes Are Secretly Arming Our Enemies* (Three Rivers Press, \$14.95).

Having covered what the Chinese military itself says it is going to do with its dramatic new capabilities, next month Gertz will analyze just how capable they might be if they tried.

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to do, so we expected both the cooperation and the outcome. We switched back to assisting Moreno scan the rest of the area.

**Achmed – Now a Non-Combatant**

The battalion had finished with Ad Diwanayah by lunchtime, having no casualties of our own but killing at least ninety-two Iraqi soldiers and taking another fifty-six as prisoners. The actual butcher's bill could have easily been three or four times what was reported, but we were intentionally lowballing the numbers, minimizing enemy casualties instead of maximizing them to avoid the Vietnam body-count habit that created unrealistic numbers and expectations.

Once again back at the Main, I was gulping water and washing some of the thick dust off my skin when a Marine stopped by to tell me the security platoon had picked up some prisoners over in the area by the bridge, including a guy who had been hit by what appeared to be sniper rounds. The Panda and I headed for the prisoner pen and found the wounded man sitting on the ground with his legs crossed and plastic flex-cuffs shackling his wrists.

He was no more than twenty years old, and his cheeks were bare, as if he were just starting to shave. He had taken one bullet in the left arm, and the second had penetrated his back and emerged out of the top of his left breast. Somehow the big slug went through without ripping out his heart or hitting anything major. He was not even bleeding hard.

I checked the wounds, and they looked about the right size. Was this the guy I had shot? I grabbed a nearby interpreter and asked the boy how he had been wounded. The Iraqi refused to talk, and his dark eyes flashed in anger, but I saw some fright, too. I put on my war face, leaned close to let my own eyes pierce his, shouted a few choice expletives, then had the interpreter ask again. The kid was growing pale, and this time he answered, saying he had been trying to surrender when he was shot. Bullshit. He still had on his boots and had been carrying a rifle while he was running. "Where?" I wanted to know, and he described the area. Same place.

He said the first bullet hit his left arm and sent him stumbling forward, off balance. Then another shot went through his shoulder. I asked why, if

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he wanted to give up, he didn't throw down his rifle and take off his boots. He said if he tried to do that, then his own people would have killed him. I decided to ease up on him. I had the interpreter tell the prisoner that I was the one who had shot him. The Iraqi soldier glanced at my big M40A1 rifle and nodded.

Weird, conflicting emotions swept over me. I was glad that I had not missed my target, but I was also strangely delighted that this guy had survived. Never had I felt personal responsibility for the safety of an enemy combatant, so this sudden kinship was unexpected, and it was kind of cool.

The fighting was over for the day, so I didn't want him to die. I felt he had earned a new lease on life. I called him "Achmed," because I didn't know his real name. By doing so, I crossed the invisible line of humanizing my enemy.

Next, I had Achmed carried to the front of a long line of other wounded Iraqi soldiers at an aid station, and I told the doctor, an old friend, to patch him up. "He's the only one I've ever shot that lived through the experience," I said, and the doc balked.

He apparently thought that I wanted to make sure the kid didn't survive much longer in order to keep my record intact. No, I explained, just the opposite. This new patient was one lucky bastard, so I wanted him to receive special treatment. The interpreter explained to the soldier, "You're hooked up, man. You're a celebrity."

He began to lose that defiant look. As the doctor removed the shirt, pumped in some anesthetic, and started to work, I



*Author is presented his Bronze Star by Major J.M. Baker, 29 Palms, CA. Photo courtesy of Lance Corporal H.E.Laredo*

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stood there, talking quietly to the boy.

I went back to work at the Main for a while, then grabbed some coffee and rations and returned to the prisoner aid station.

After chow, I was briefed on where we were going the next day, cleaned my weapons, and settled in to get some sleep on another cold night in Iraq. I now had ten killed in Iraq. Then there was Achmed, who was blessed and protected by his merciful Allah. Should have been eleven, but things had not been going quite right all day.

### Friendly Hot-Foot, Friendly Rocket Attack

Earlier, I almost got my foot shot off by accident.

Gunny Don Houston and I were on patrol along a canal when a gunshot snapped out. The round impacted right at my feet, punching up a small column of dirt an inch from my boot.

"Oops," said Houston.

"Oops?" I yelled at my buddy. "What the fuck do you mean, oops?"

"OK. Oops, sorry."

That broke the tension, and I cracked a smile. He had accidentally pulled the trigger on his rifle, but it had been pointed at the ground. I told him to forget it—after all, shit happens in war—but I came out of the incident knowing that I was one lucky sumbitch.

Meanwhile, Casey and some of the boys had cleaned out a bunker in which they had found a cache of AK-47s, machine guns, plastique explosives, and about fifty rocket-propelled grenades, enough to arm a whole platoon. They stacked the weapons and set about destroying them with a thermite grenade, a big-league weapon that generates as much heat as a welding torch and melts through anything. Casey unwrapped

the grenade, then handed it over to a sergeant who wanted to toss it.

They jogged away when the grenade was thrown, and we heard the quiet pop as the little bomb ignited and began to sizzle through the stacked weapons. Then came a loud BANG and a WHOOSH, and an RPG round flew past Casey's ear and thudded into a nearby sand berm. The intense heat of the thermite grenade was cooking off the pile of live ammo. Casey and the sergeant crawled behind a little mound some farmer had built and hunkered down while more rocket-propelled grenades came to life and went flying. For the next five minutes, the aimless rain of RPG rounds zoomed about, giving the place the look of a major counterattack—or a carnival. Everyone chewed dirt. Luckily, an RPG round must be manually armed in order to detonate on impact, so the actual damage was light.

"Were you really trying to shell your own troops?" I asked the unusually sheepish Casey as he was dusting off.

The lieutenant had just endured another embarrassing lesson about how, in combat, even doing the right thing can go wrong.

Achmed, the murdered donkey, a stray bullet that almost took off my foot, and Casey's attack on the rest of us made a weird kind of sense later that evening, when I realized that we had been fighting on April Fool's Day. ☒

From the book SHOOTER: The Autobiography of the Top-Ranked Marine Sniper by Gunnery Sgt. Jack Coughlin, USMC, and Capt. Casey Kuhlman, USMCR, with Donald A. Davis. Copyright © 2005 by the authors. Reprinted with permission from St. Martin's Press, LLC and available wherever books are sold.

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# Katrina Questions

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Congress has questions about Katrina. The Congress wants their questions answered – now! To satisfy the insatiable curiosity of people like Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, congressional hearings are now being scheduled. Various administration officials engaged in Katrina rescue and recovery efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi therefore have to stop what they are doing in order to answer these very important questions from very important members of Congress.

Requiring rescue/recovery officials to stop rescuing and recovering to respond to questions is akin to demanding that a fireman stop pouring water on a fire so that he can answer an inquiry about how he is fighting the blaze. Apparently that doesn't matter to the likes of Mr. Reid or House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. They have their questions ready – and they want answers.

Mr. Reid and Ms. Pelosi have already given us a taste of their line of inquiry. "How much time did the president spend dealing with this emerging crisis while he was on vacation?" asked Mr. Reid in a salient observation on the storm and its consequences. Ms. Pelosi apparently prefers to cast her queries in the form of aspersions: "Mr. President, you should have taken charge, and you should have taken responsibility," she charged as President Bush was touring the carnage. Ms. Pelosi has since rejected the administration's suggestion that any investigation of the response to Katrina should be conducted by a bi-cameral, bi-partisan commission – an idea endorsed by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In fairness, there may be some – like Sen. Joe Lieberman – who want to use a Congressional Inquiry as an opportunity to determine what could be done better in response to an extraordinary disaster – manmade or natural. If that's the case, it will be important to ask questions of others besides Bush administration officials. Herewith a short list of questions for New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin:

When the National Weather Service warned that Hurricane Katrina would be potentially catastrophic, what emergency preparations and announcements were made to residents of New Orleans and when and how were they made?

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for New Orleans states that "the person responsible for recognition of hurricane related preparation needs and for the issuance of an evacuation order is the Mayor of the City of New Orleans." Yet in a radio interview, after the storm hit you said, "I need reinforcements, I need troops, man. I need 500 buses, man. We ain't talking about – you know, one of the briefings we had, they were talking about getting public school bus drivers to come down here and bus people out here. I'm like, 'You got to be kidding me. This is a national disaster. Get every doggone Greyhound bus line in the country and get their asses moving to New Orleans.'" How and when was your evacuation order promulgated? If you needed busses to move the population, why were hundreds of government-owned municipal transportation and public school busses left to be inundated and destroyed in parking lots around the city?

In December 1995 the New Orleans Levee Board told the local Times-Picayune newspaper that it had an "arsenal" of federal money to improve and maintain New Orleans flood control measures. Yet, a year later, the same newspaper re-

ported that the Levee Board was near bankruptcy. Where did that money go?

On Wednesday after the hurricane passed, news networks broadcast footage of criminals shooting at rescuers, looters carrying off stolen property and what appears to be police officers stealing DVDs. The facial features of many of the individuals engaged in this lawless behavior are clearly visible. How many of the perpetrators of these crimes have been apprehended?

Who ordered that the Superdome be used as an evacuation center? How many law officers were assigned to "protect and serve" the tens of thousands of refugees who gathered there?

When you told an Associated Press reporter that the "CIA might take me out," what did you mean? When you subsequently said, "If the CIA slips me something and next week you don't see me, you'll all know what happened," what were you talking about? Do you feel threatened by the CIA?

The American Red Cross says that they were ordered to stay out of New Orleans and not to bring in food and water to the victims. "The state Homeland Security Department had requested – and continues to request – that the American Red Cross not come back into New Orleans following the hurricane. Our presence would keep people from evacuating and encourage others to come into the city," reads a statement on the organization's web site. Did you confer with Louisiana Governor Blanco over this statement? Do you agree with it?

The Headquarters of the Marine Corps Reserve is in New Orleans. Before President Bush dispatched U.S. military ships, aircraft, equipment and units to Louisiana, did you, or to your knowledge, Governor Blanco ever request that U.S. Marines, under federal control, be used to restore law and order in New Orleans? If not, why not?

When the vice president visited on Thursday, did you thank him for the extraordinary response by 18,000 military personnel from the 82nd Airborne Division, the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, the USS Harry S. Truman; USS Iwo Jima, the USS Bataan and the Navy doctors, nurses and medical corpsmen aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort? Are you aware that the U.S. Coast Guard – the smallest of our Armed Forces – rescued more than 23,000 people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane?

Have you called Rudy Giuliani for advice on how to handle a crisis? If not, why not? ✖

*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](http://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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