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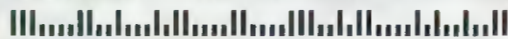
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SSG Matthew Sheppard of the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment patrols Lwar Kowndalan area of Afghanistan on local transport. Story on page 62.

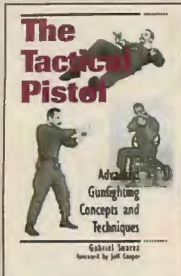


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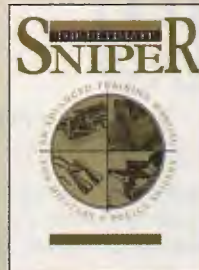


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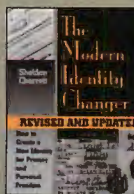
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Standing Guard

President George W. Bush—in appointing John R. Bolton as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations—once again has proved that he has more than earned the faith placed in his leadership by the nation's gun owners. With a very real U.N. threat to our national sovereignty—especially when it comes to relentless and massive efforts to place America's Second Amendment freedom under the heel of a global firearm prohibition—the recess appointment of Mr. Bolton was critical.

Nominated to the U.N. post at the beginning of the year, Bolton faced certain filibuster led by the likes of U.S. Senators Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). Given the ugly and protracted nature of their opposition, President Bush wisely used his constitutional power to make the recess appointment to elevate Bolton to the top U.N. post.

As a diplomat, Bolton has been a consistent critic of United Nations corruption, waste and ineptitude—words that aptly describe the watch of the current U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. Annan—with personal ties to Saddam Hussein's massive oil-for-food scam—greeted Bolton on his first day as U.S. representative with a stunningly graceless lecture about Bolton's need to get along with all U.N. representatives—including those from rogue states like Cuba, North Korea and Iran.

But much of the Senate opposition to Bolton's U.N. ambassadorship stems

from his intractable stand in defending America's sovereignty and our individual right to keep and bear arms in the opening days of the Bush Administration.

Nobody described that seminal performance better than a sneering *New York Times* 11 July 2001, commentary:

"The Bush administration might as well have sent Charlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association, to deliver its opening address to a United Nations conference on small arms earlier this week. In a shameless subordination of diplomacy to domestic political pandering, John R. Bolton, the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, told the gathering that Washington would not support an agreement to curb the international flow of illicit small arms if it infringed on the right of Americans to bear arms."

Bolton's appearance before the U.N. Conference to draft a global "treaty on small arms" was remarkable for the simple clarity of his words and for the effect it had on the proceedings:

"The United States will not join consensus on a final document that contains measures contrary to our constitutional right to keep and bear arms."

His words left the gun-ban delegates stunned. But the power behind the words derailed the efforts to create a binding world gun-ban treaty. Since then, the global gun-ban crowd has been gathering multi-millions of dollars

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784), January 2006, Volume 31, Number 1, is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 E. Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340. Periodicals Postage is paid at Boulder, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 18478, Anaheim, CA 92817-9928. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues \$34.95. Canada add \$20.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration business number: 12847 6249 RT). All other countries add \$65.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S.: \$4.99; United Kingdom: £2.60; Canada: \$6.99. PRINTED IN THE USA.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs or drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to Articles Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of *SOF*. All digital manuscripts must be submitted in Microsoft Word. All photographs must be credited and be accurately identified. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication. Editorial office phone number is 303-449-3750 ext. 309.

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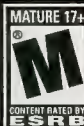
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Daniel Roxo

On the 23rd of August 2005, 60 friends, representatives of the Portuguese community and ex colleagues of I Reconnaissance Commando and 32 Battalion, gathered to pay their last respects to Daniel Roxo, Jose Ribiero and Ponchiano Soeiro.

Below is a page set up that I thought you might be interested in, as you published an article on Daniel Roxo "The white devil of Mozambique" in October of 1979.

I have over the last three years been researching Daniel's life and plan to write a book in the not-too-distant future. Daniel died on 23/8/1976 in a landmine explosion in Angola with Ponciano Soeiro, and Ribiero died two days later in a car accident ferrying wounded from an ambush to Rundu. The three men were then buried at Voortrekker Hoogte (Pretoria) without much ceremony, and having found the grave during my research myself and two colleagues (Manuel Ferreira and Paul Els) decided that it was unfitting for these valiant men to not have a headstone; Wheels were put in motion and with donations from former colleagues as well as the Special forces league and the 32 Battalion association, we were able to put this homage ceremony together. The unveiling of the tombstone was done by major General Fritz Loots (ret'd) First Officer Commanding, South African Special Forces.

As I initially indicated I thought that I would forward you the information as a matter of courtesy.

Regards,
Stephen Dunkley Clarens
Eastern Free State
South Africa

UDI of Rhodesia

As one of the few who served in Rhodesia (Security Off. Anglo/American Corp., Forest Management Service), I thank you for the reprint of the UDI. I had never read it.

My, how it does parallel our own Declaration of Independence. As you said, we fought to prevent what has happened today. No one cared, and now it is too late. If my 58-year-old memory is correct, former President Carter and I believe England's Lord Carrington, were two of the "usual suspects" who gave Rhodesia away. Please correct me particularly on Carrington.

Keep up the good work; I've been with you since the first issue. Death to tyrants.

Buddy Lilley



Rhodesian Convention

Dear Col. Brown:

It was a privilege to meet you and offer you a copy of my book *Chronicle of Modern Sunlight* at Laughlin last weekend. I was particularly thrilled when you offered to review it in SOF. It struck me that the best address to give to purchasers would be: www.Rhodiechat.com or www.Rhodesiaissuper.com.

These sites specialize in Rhodesian memorabilia (you may well be familiar with them) and have stocks of the book. In addition the owner, Bill McDonald, gives a portion of his profits to Rhodie charities – including my own pet project, Nerina Gardens.

Once again, many thanks for the help you gave us in those dark days of the 70's.

Best Wishes,
Bill Eaton

RE Learning from the Past

Thanks for reprinting "Why We Lost In 'Nam" by Col. Hackworth. I hope all the officers in the Army and Marines will read it.

George King,
Evanston IL.

News Stand Sales

Been meaning to let you know for about a year now that here at Fort Irwin, California, your magazine is selling out within about a week each month. You could probably sell a lot more if you had more on the rack. Keep in mind that there are a lot of soldiers passing through here each month on their way to the combat zone.

Keep up the great work!
Sincerely,
SSG David C. Dingman
Fort Irwin, CA

Sarge: Thanks for the heads up...we'll rattle some cages and see if we can get an increase. We would like to hear other troopers who find that their BX or PX does not receive enough copies of SOF. Stay safe. RKB

Legion Etrangere

After a 13-year sabbatical from SOF (wives, divorce, more wives etc.) I was walking through my local grocery store and saw your mag with an article about a Marine Corps unit out of Miami (reserve) in the initial action in Iraq. Picked it up and have been hooked since. After reading SOF around the barracks in the Corps (0341) back in '79 I was inspired to catch

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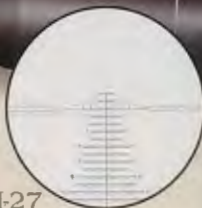
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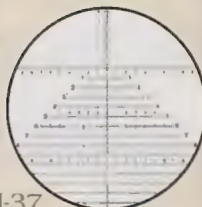
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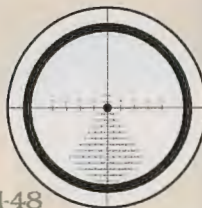
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a plane to Paris two months after my discharge then spent 4.5 years with 2e cie and 3e cie 2eme R.E.P. By far the best years of this middle-aged guy's life. I was even more pumped to see two editions covering the *Legion Etrangere* in Afghanistan as well as my old Regiment. Truth is, I was worried you had forgotten about us.

Here is a website of interest to former legionnaires looking for old mates: www.legionreunited.com and an excellent site for pics and memories of the Legion by a good friend, <http://members.lycos.co.uk/foreignlegiondiary/>.

Keep Up the Good Work.
Honneur et Fidelite
Cpl. USMC Weapons Co. 3/9 81's
T. Graves Cpl. 2eme R.E.P

Go Raven 42

The article on our Kentucky National Guard soldiers with the 617th MP Co "Raven 42 Ambush" was outstanding. In fact, we like it so much that we would like to seek your help.

First, could we get extra copies for all the 617th soldiers? Secondly, I want to take this article in its entirety and create a poster for each soldier (eventually signed by each member) and present it to them, when we do their FREEDOM SALUTE CAMPAIGN ceremony shortly after they return from their deployment. I think that it would be a strong memento that each of them would hang proudly on their wall and hopefully

every Armory wall in Kentucky!

Let me know what you think, and if you will be able to support us. There is one correction though; the date listed in the article for the ambush was written as 20 March 2000, should have been 2004.

Thanks again for all your help,
Joe Brummett
KYARNG

Command Guidance Outrage

I would like to respond to Oliver North's guest editorial in the Oct. 2005 "Command Guidance" column. In this editorial he referred to "Ohio's liberal Sen. Dick Durbin." Please don't accuse the state of Ohio of having elected this embarrassment. Our own senators are bad enough without having to accept responsibility for this traitor.

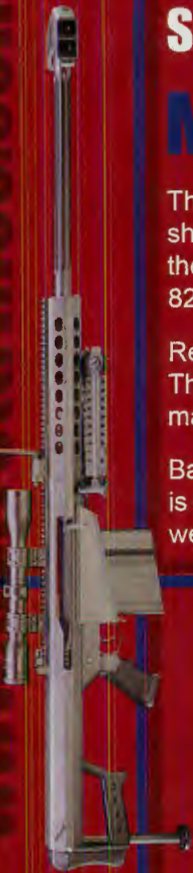
Respectfully,
Mike McManaway
Bremen, OH

Mike: Ollie dropped the ball on this one but bottom line is the "buck stops here" and I should have caught it. Thanks for bringing it to my attention.

*Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)
Editor/Publisher*

Continued on page 64

www.barrettrifles.com



Selected as one of the top 10 Inventions of 2004

Model M107 Semi Automatic Ten Round .50 Caliber Rifle

The Barrett Model 82A1 was designed as a sport shooters answer to long range shooting and fun. When called to the battlefield during Desert Storm, it quickly became the soldier's choice for long-range tactical engagement. Over the next ten years, the 82A1 evolved into the M107 and is now the U.S. Military's long-range sniper rifle.

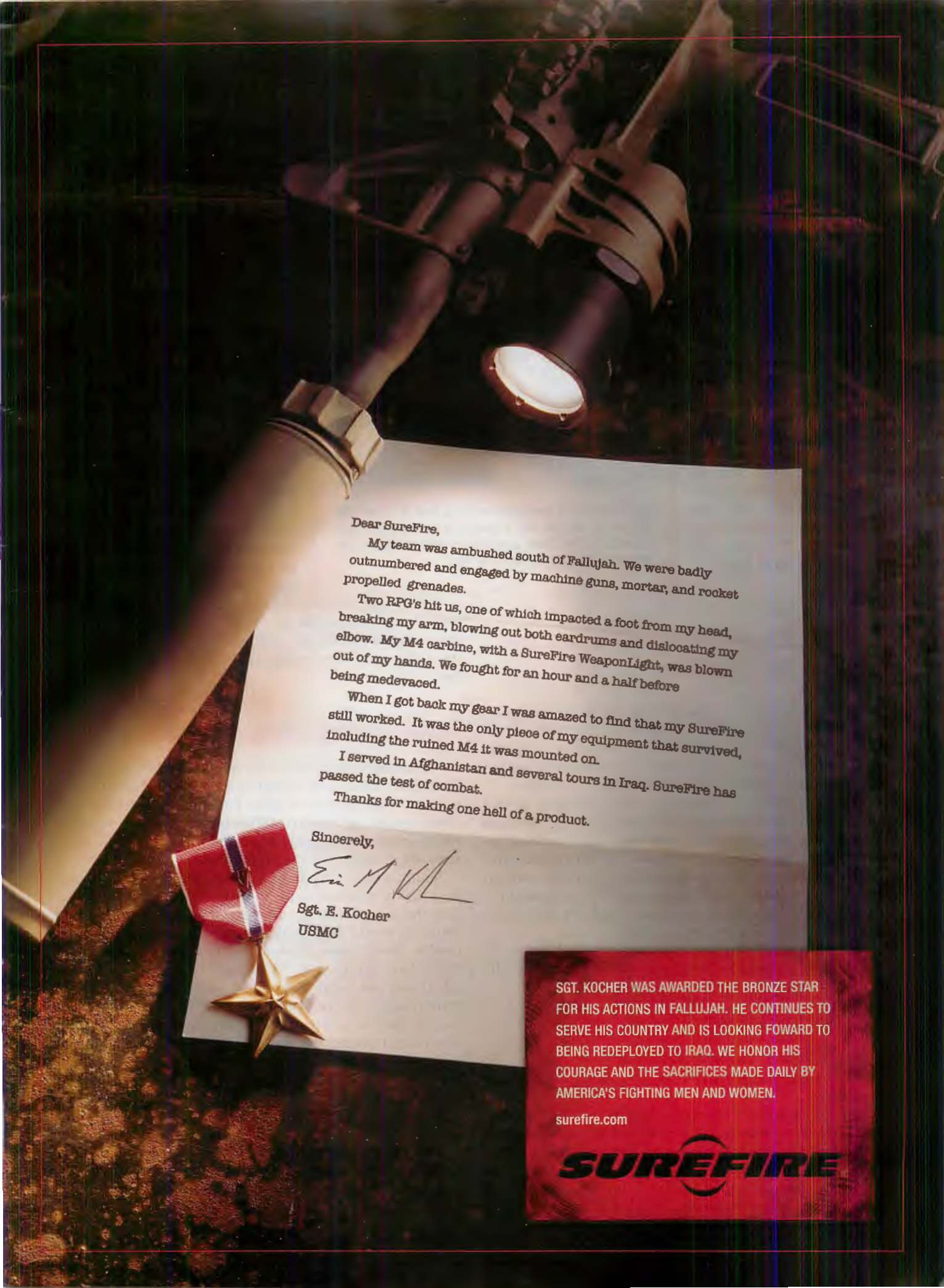
Recently the Chief of Staff of the US Army published the "Top Ten Inventions" of 2004. The M107 was selected as one of these inventions and is the only small arm ever to make this prestigious list.

Barrett Firearms Mfg., Inc is proud to build the M107 for our U.S. Army's soldiers. This is a truthful example of American firearms manufacturers contributing to the freedoms we enjoy.

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



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Dear SureFire,

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

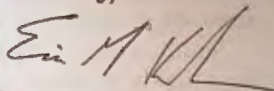
Two RPG's hit us, one of which impacted a foot from my head, breaking my arm, blowing out both eardrums and dislocating my elbow. My M4 carbine, with a SureFire WeaponLight, was blown out of my hands. We fought for an hour and a half before being medevaced.

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,



Sgt. E. Kocher
USMC



SGT. KOCHER WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR FOR HIS ACTIONS IN FALLUJAH. HE CONTINUES TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY AND IS LOOKING FOWARD TO BEING REDEPLOYED TO IRAQ. WE HONOR HIS COURAGE AND THE SACRIFICES MADE DAILY BY AMERICA'S FIGHTING MEN AND WOMEN.

surefire.com

SUREFIRE

Bulletin Board

www.homesforourtroops.org

Sgt. Peter Damon, Massachusetts National Guard, lost his right arm above the elbow and his left hand and wrist when the nitrogen-filled tire he was changing on a Blackhawk exploded. On 13 October in Middleboro, Homes For Our Troops gave Sgt. Damon and his family the keys to a specially adapted house to suit their new requirements. It's what they are set up to do – and they can use your help in doing it again [and again, and again]. Check 'em out on the web at www.homesforourtroops.org and see what you can do to help.



The Mannerheim would be proud: This Finn, a 19-year-old U.S. Army Ranger, was wounded on ops in Iraq. Commander in Chief Dubya gave him a Purple Heart, and his Mom a hug. Photo: Courtesy Jari Salo

sentative in the House from New Orleans, and one of two Senators in the Senate is a Democrat.

So you can see why any problems with Hurricane Katrina are all Bush's fault.

Kevlar® Turns 40

August marked the 40th anniversary of the discovery of Kevlar by DuPont scientist Stephanie Kwolek. A man-made organic fiber that is five times stronger than steel on an equal weight basis, Kevlar is well known for improving officer safety through its use in bullet-and stab-resistant body armor. The IACP/DuPont Kevlar Survivors Club has recognized nearly 3,000 officers who have survived life-threatening injuries as a result of wearing protective body armor.

Other applications for Kevlar range from the familiar GI "Fritz" helmet, to an in-home storm shelter, to aircraft components and to emerging ultra-strong protective applications in supporting the "soldier of the future."

Theodore Roosevelt on Immigrants and being an AMERICAN

"In the first place we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin.

But this is predicated upon the man's becoming in very fact an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all.

We have room for but one flag, the American flag, and this excludes the red flag, which symbolizes all wars against liberty and civilization, just as much as it excludes any foreign flag of a nation to which we are hostile...

We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language...and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Theodore Roosevelt 1907

It's All Bush's Fault

New Orleans has a Democrat Mayor, a Democrat City Council, and a Democrat Chief of Police. Louisiana has a Democrat Governor, a Democrat Lieutenant Governor, a Democrat Attorney General; 24 of 39 Louisiana State Senators are Democrat, 67 of 105 Louisiana State House Representatives are Democrat, there's a Democrat Repre-

Fonda Spitting Charges Dismissed

According to the *Kansas City Star*, a KC municipal judge dismissed a disorderly conduct charge against a Gladstone man who spit in Jane Fonda's face four months ago. Michael Smith was arrested following an April 19 incident when Smith spit at Fonda when she was autographing her memoirs at Unity Temple on the Plaza.

Smith, a Marine Vietnam vet, said shortly after the incident that he planned to plead guilty, but at a court appearance the judge "took the case under advisement" and told Smith he would dismiss the charge if Smith stayed out of trouble. Smith was refunded his \$100 bond. "It's over and that's that," Smith said. "A big part of war is psychological. If you can break the will of your enemy, you have a better chance to win. And that's exactly what she tried to do; she helped to break the will of her enemy – her enemy being the veterans, the guys who were there to fight," Smith was quoted.

Bandyng Numbers

The number of doctors in the U.S. is > < 700,000... Accidental deaths caused by physicians per year are > < 120,000... Thus, the rate of accidental deaths per physician is 17.14%

[Statistics courtesy of the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services]

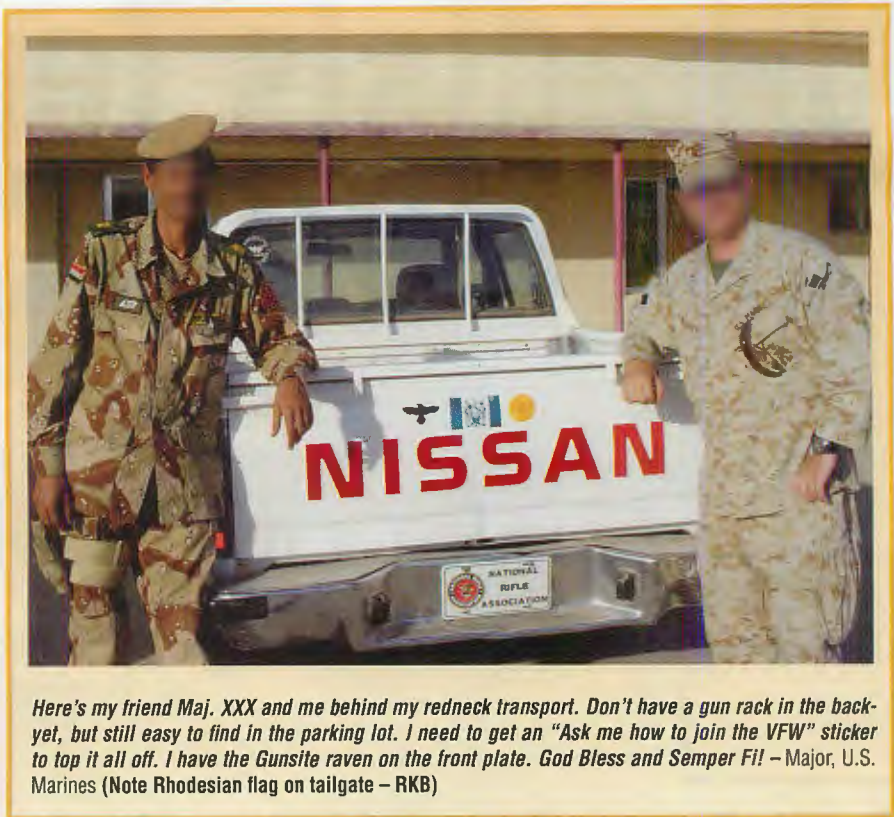
The number of gun owners in the U.S. is > < 80,000,000 (yes that's 80 million)... The number of accidental gun deaths per year, all age groups, is > < 1,500... Thus, the number of accidental deaths per gun owner is 0.001875%.

[Statistics courtesy of the FBI]

Therefore, statistically, careless doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

Remember, guns don't kill people, doctors do. Not everyone has a gun, but almost everyone has at least one doctor, so be careful out there! Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. It would seem only prudent that we ban doctors before this gets completely out of hand.

Out of concern for the public at large, our contributing statistician withheld statistics on lawyers, for fear the shock would cause people to panic and seek medical attention. ☒



Here's my friend Maj. XXX and me behind my redneck transport. Don't have a gun rack in the back yet, but still easy to find in the parking lot. I need to get an "Ask me how to join the VFW" sticker to top it all off. I have the Gunsite raven on the front plate. God Bless and Semper Fi! - Major, U.S. Marines (Note Rhodesian flag on tailgate - RKB)



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Jihadists Terrorize the Netherlands



Dutch Former French Legionnaire Provides Inside Scoop

By Dr. Martin Brass

Sophisticated terror cells in Western Europe that were used for staging 9-11 are still actively recruiting operatives and plotting more atrocities. U. S. officials fear that trying to keep murderous 'Islamof thugs' from penetrating into the United States has become virtually impossible.

Hundreds of illusive, loose cannon Jihadists operating and training in Europe cannot be traced. That's because many of the jihadists cannot be screened through the normal immigration processes or watch-listed because they are second-generation immigrants with European citizenship. And the United States has no way of tracing them because they can enter the United States freely through the Visa Waiver Program offered to European citizens.

These undetectable Mujahideen pose an ominous threat to the United States, as well as globally.

Western Europe "has acquired not a colonial empire this time but an internal colony whose numbers are roughly equivalent to a Saudi Arabia in the heart of Europe," the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) reports.

Last month we focused on how a lax immigration policy has led to violent civil and ethnic tensions in the peaceful Netherlands. All those with whom I spoke on my last visit to the Netherlands were highly agitated and fearful that the country was sinking into civil chaos because of the violence of radical immigrants or children of immigrants.

So was a Dutch former French Legionnaire who recently visited the SOF office. He went into the shocking details of

how terrorists are being created in his country.

He reminded us of how many 9-11 perpetrators were arrested throughout Europe immediately after that disaster and how hundreds are still under surveillance. Others, like Djamel Bagal, arrested in Dubai, were linked to terrorists in the Netherlands, France and other western European countries. His interrogators gathered information that led to four arrests in Rotterdam.

The Algemene Inlichtingen-en Veiligheidsdienst (AIVD), the Dutch secret service, has had hundreds of suspects under surveillance since 9-11.

Most of those arrested were first or second generation immigrants to Western Europe.

"We are waging a war on terror, we are facing a problem of people that don't want to adapt, and we are facing people in our society that are hostile to us."

"Since WWII, what happened to the Jews controls our conscience, and thus our actions in Europe," the Legionnaire said. "We are not allowed to oppose immigration or

point out how hostile Islamic minorities have created chaos. They shoot at children, throw stones at police and throw bombs in subways. Minorities pester us with our heritage of colonialism and atrocities committed in WWII and we are not allowed to do anything about it.

"The country is sliding into chaos and becoming a breeding ground for international terrorists. Recently the police clamped down but I'm afraid it may be too late to cope with the crime waves.

"We are waging a war on terror, we are facing a problem of people that don't want to adapt, and we are facing people in

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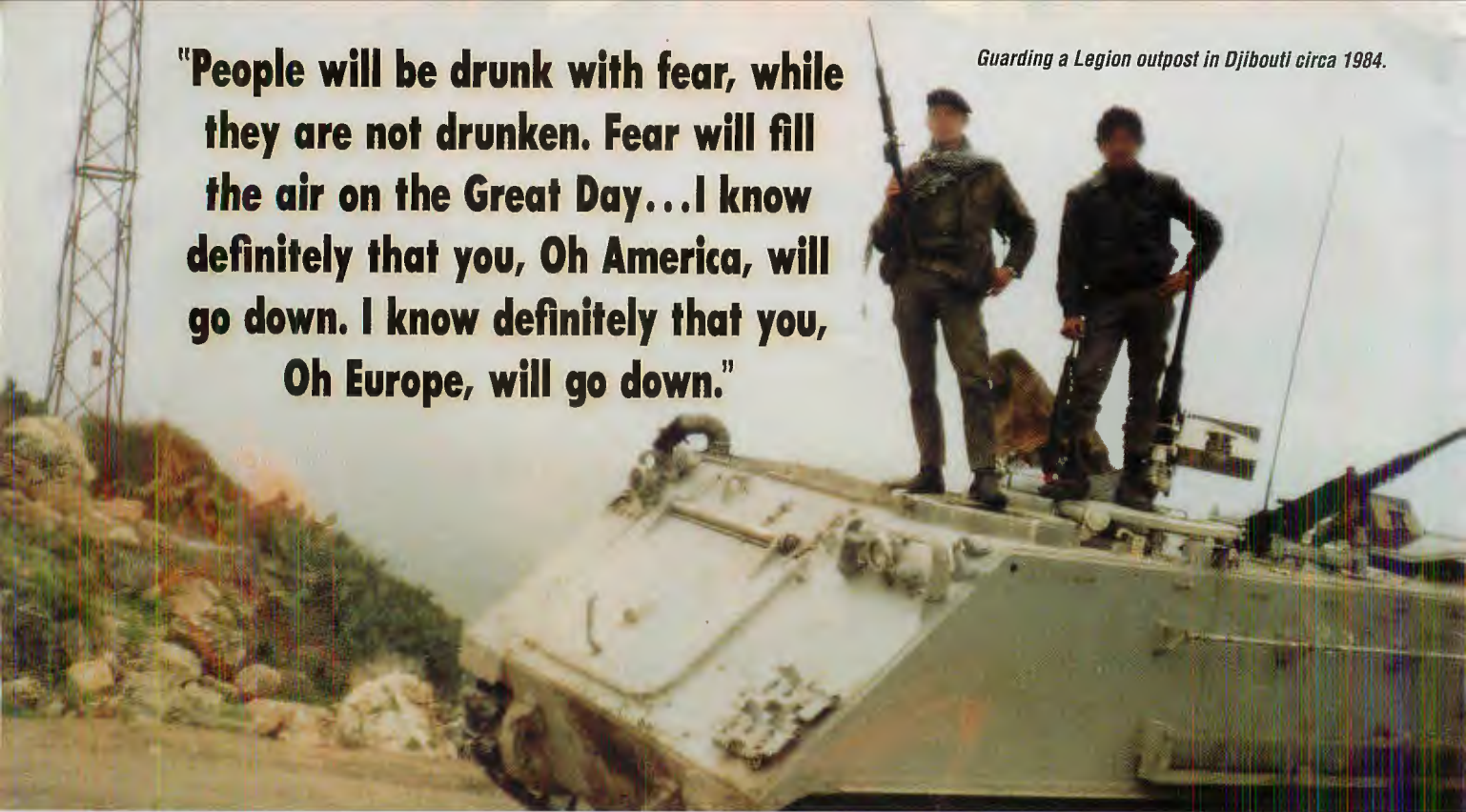


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"People will be drunk with fear, while they are not drunken. Fear will fill the air on the Great Day...I know definitely that you, Oh America, will go down. I know definitely that you, Oh Europe, will go down."



our society that are hostile to us," he said.

"And some political parties have all kinds of activists in the ranks that have been illegally politically active.

"These political parties are for free immigration and try to kill every initiative or opinion they oppose. If we were to go in the street with banners yelling 'stop immigration now' because our neighborhood is deteriorating into chaos, they would attack us in Parliament. They try to pass laws against us and the street fighters would come and beat us up. They are the politically correct that create an atmosphere that makes people afraid to say what they want. When we say there are too many foreigners in this country, too much criminality, and we can't back it up scientifically, we are called fascists.

"Lots of party members are anti-imperialism, anti-apartheid, anti-NATO, anti-Vietnam, against Israel, pro Palestinian. Anti-everything. Lots of those sitting in Parliament come from working class families; some are rich kids that rebel against their parents.

"One of the activists that were street fighters for one political party killed the anti-immigration politician Pym Fortuyn. Politicians just play a game, they disassociate themselves and say what he did was wrong," he said.

Jihad Comes to the Netherlands

Dutch intelligence warns that al Qaeda is "stealthily taking root in Dutch society" by recruiting Dutch born Muslims in mosques, cafes and prisons. The recruits watch jihad videos, attend Islamic summer camps, and discuss jihad and Islamic martyrdom in online chat rooms."

The notoriously tolerant Netherlands has become the stomping ground of 20 violent radical groups with several hundred members according to Interior Minister Johan Remkes.

And even the pacifist Dutch are fed up.

The situation exploded when the radical environmental activist riddled the body of Fortuyn, a flamboyant right-wing gay politician, with six bullets two years ago. Fortuyn's popu-

lar agenda included halting immigration, forcing integration of existing immigrants, re-erecting Dutch border controls, sacking 25% of civil servants and categorizing Islam as a "backward" religion, according to the BBC.

Thousands of outraged Dutchmen stormed through the streets of Rotterdam in protest of the killing.

Then last year, Mohammed Bouyeri, Dutch-Moroccan Islamic fanatic gunned down producer and political activist Theo Van Gogh and slaughtered him with a butcher knife. The assassin stabbed a five-page note into the mutilated, partially beheaded corpse.

The notorious Van Gogh had produced a video brazenly depicting a nude veiled woman that symbolized the abuse of women in an Islamic society. The bloodied note was labeled an 'open letter to Hirsi Ali'. Ms Ali is a Member of Parliament representing the free-market liberal party (VVD) who had authored Van Gogh's video production.

"Death, Ms. Hirsi Ali, is the common theme of all that exists. You and the rest of the cosmos cannot escape this truth," the ranting letter said. "There will come a day when one soul cannot help another soul. A day that goes paired with terrible tortures... when the unjust will press horrible screams from their lungs.

"Screams, Ms. Hirsi Ali, that will cause chills to run down a person's back, and make the hairs on their heads stand straight up. People will be drunk with fear, while they are not drunken. Fear will fill the air on the Great Day," *Pittsburghlive.com* printed excerpts of the letter.

"You, Oh America, Will Go Down"

"I know definitely that you, Oh America, will go down. I know definitely that you, Oh Europe, will go down. I know definitely that you, Oh Netherlands, will go down. I know definitely that you, Oh Hirsi Ali, will go down," the murderer wrote.

"Hirsi Ali had to go into hiding with 24 hour security and other politicians that were threatened by Moslems have had

to go incognito in secret addresses," the former Legionnaire told us. "One politician who wants to expel criminal immigrants, and strongly opposes Turkey becoming a member of the EU was threatened by the Moslems who killed Van Gogh."

Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk, Amsterdam's Jewish mayor, Job Cohen and Dutch lawmaker Gerrit Wilders are on the hit list, according to the *Washington Diplomat*.

"Sometimes the threats come by e-mail. Other times, warnings show up on Internet chat sites. Occasionally they are short video clips. The latest has a soundtrack of Arabic song and automatic-weapons fire, and a photograph of the intended target – a Dutch lawmaker, Geert Wilders," reports the *Washington Post*.

"He is an enemy of Islam and he should be beheaded," Wilders played the video that portrayed his demise in graphic detail, "Behead him, and you will earn a place in paradise."

"I've been threatened many times," Wilders told a reporter. "We've never experienced this before. It's something that nobody wants to live with."

"The Government didn't like the fact that people were stampeding to see this guy who was saying what the government didn't want us to hear. But authorities were obliged to put him under permanent guard and under cover in Camp Zest in a cell because they couldn't supply him with a safe house," the former legionnaire told us.

Dutch Intelligence Blows it Big Time

"Brigitte Boher, attorney for Volkert van der Graff, the killer of Fortuyn says that recently an agent for the AIVD forgot a laptop-computer in the train with sensitive informa-

tion about terrorists," the Legionnaire said. "Can you ask the CIA not to share any info with the Dutch anymore?" he asked mockingly.

Earlier, Dutch Intelligence sources were criticized for dropping the ball in suspending their surveillance of Van Gogh's killer two weeks before the hideous murder.

Security operatives had watched the 26 year old Dutch-Moroccan Bouyeri for two years before they dropped the surveillance.

Bouyeri, who allowed members of the terrorist Hofstad network to stay at his house, wrote a martyr's letter written in Arabic that was confiscated in a raid of his house. But Bouyeri was released without charge even though a Hofstad group member who was arrested warned the AIVD that he was a "dangerous person", according to Dutch officials.

"Bouyeri appears to be becoming increasingly radical, has changed his behavior in a short time and now shouts out Koranic texts," Dutch Police reported.

He was heard boasting to another suspect whose phone had been tapped that he had removed apparently incriminating documents before the raid. Within two weeks after his surveillance ended, he butchered

Van Gogh and terrorized the Dutch.

The "Hofstad Network"

Fourteen Muslims arrested in a police standoff in The Hague after the murder of Van Gogh belong to the radical Hofstad Network. The Network is linked to militant networks in Spain and Belgium. Some of its members train in Pakistan.

Continued on page 72

Dutch intelligence warns that al Qaeda is "stealthily taking root in Dutch society."



The legionnaire patrolled in southern Lebanon in 1981 as a merc in the army of Major Sa'ad Haddad together with Shia-muslims of his army.

CHINA...

America's Next War? *Part Two*

By Bill Gertz

The Chinese military buildup has been helped by aggressive Chinese intelligence operations... stealing military technology

Last month Gertz covered what the Chinese military itself says it is going to do with its dramatic new capabilities. This month he delineates just how capable they might be if they tried.

In the past, some defense specialists insisted a Chinese attack on Taiwan would be a "million-man swim" across the Taiwan Strait because of the country's lack of troop-carrying ships.

"We left the million-man swim behind in about 1998, 1999," a senior Pentagon official said. "And in fact, what people are saying now, whether or not that construct was ever useful, is that it's a moot point, because in just amphibious lift alone, the Chinese are doubling or even quadrupling their capability on an annual basis."

Asked about a possible Chinese attack on Taiwan, the official put it bluntly: "In the '07-'08 time frame, a capability will be there that a year ago we would have said was very, very unlikely. We now assess that as being very likely to be there."

Air Force Gen. Paul V. Hester, head of the Pacific Air For-

ces, said the U.S. military has been watching China's military buildup but has found it difficult to penetrate Beijing's "veil" of secrecy over it. While military modernization itself is not a major worry, "what does provide you a pause for interest and concern is the amount of modernization, the kind of modernization and the size of the modernization," he said during a recent breakfast meeting with reporters. China is building capabilities such as aerial refueling and airborne warning-and-control aircraft that can be used for regional defense and long-range power projection, Gen. Hester said.

On the strategic nuclear front, China also is building a maneuverable re-entry vehicle, or MARV, for its nuclear warheads. The weapon is designed to counter U.S. strategic-missile defenses, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The warhead would be used on China's new DF-31 long-range missiles and its new submarine missile, the JL-2.

Gen. Hester said China is also developing the ability to project power over great distances. The work being done on China's weapons and reconnaissance systems will give

No longer merely a client for former Soviet castoffs, China has its own ship-building facilities and is energetically building a world-class blue water navy, and fielding its own leading-edge military designs, such as the ZLC2000 air-droppable infantry fighting vehicle. The ZLC2000 mounts a 30mm automatic cannon and carries HJ-73C ATGMs, giving it the ability to fight modern heavy armor toe-to-toe.



its military the capability to reach 1,000 miles into the sea, "which gives them the visibility on the movement of not only our airplanes in the air, but also our forces at sea," Gen. Hester said.

Beijing also has built a new tank for its large armed forces. It is known as the Type 99 and appears similar in design to Germany's Leopard 2 main battle tank. The tank is outfitted with new artillery, anti-aircraft and machine guns, advanced fire-control systems and improved engines.

The country's air power is growing through the purchase of new fighters from Russia, such as Su-30 fighter-bombers, as well as the development of its own fighter jets, such as the J-10.

Gen. Hester compared Chinese warplanes with those of the former Soviet Union, which were less capable than their U.S. counterparts, but still very deadly. "They have great equipment. The fighters are very technologically advanced, and what we know about them gives us pause for concern against ours," he said. Also, China is buying and developing advanced surface-to-air missiles that are becoming more

accurate. New surface-to-air missiles provide "the ability to pinpoint targets that we might have out in the region, or our friends and allies might have," Gen. Hester said.

The advances give the Chinese military "the ability ... to reach out and touch parts of the United States – Guam, Hawaii and the mainland of the United States," he said.

To better deal with possible future conflicts in Asia, the Pentagon is modernizing U.S. military facilities on the Western Pacific island of Guam and planning to move more forces there.

The Air Force will regularly rotate Air Expeditionary Force units to Guam and also will station the new long-range unmanned aerial vehicle known as Global Hawk on the island, he said. It also has stationed B-2 stealth bombers on Guam temporarily and is expected to deploy B-1 bombers there, in addition to the B-52s now deployed there, Gen. Hester said.

In the past, China's military developments were thought to be focused exclusively on fighting a conflict over Taiwan. But Pentagon intelligence officials said what is being done now by Beijing goes beyond forces needed to fight a war to re-



The threat to Japan was highlighted last year when China dispatched a Han-class submarine late last year to waters near Guam and Taiwan. As part of the deployment, the submarine boldly surfaced in Japanese waters, signaling the Chinese military's drive to expand its oceangoing capabilities. The submarine was detected and triggered an emergency deployment of Japan's naval forces. Beijing later issued an apology for the incursion, but the political damage was done. Within months, Japan began adopting a tougher political posture toward China in its defense policies and public statements. A recent Japanese government defense report called China a strategic national security concern. It was the first time China was named specifically in a Japanese defense report.

Energy supply a factor

For China, Taiwan is not the only issue behind the buildup of military forces. Beijing also is facing a major energy shortage that, according to one Pentagon study, could lead it to use military force to seize territory with oil and gas resources. The report produced for the Office of Net Assessment, which conducts assessments of future threats, was made public in January and warned that China's need for oil, gas and other energy resources is driving the country toward becoming an expansionist power.

China "is looking not only to build a blue-water navy to control the sea lanes [from the Middle East], but also to develop undersea mines and missile capabilities to deter the potential disruption of its energy supplies from potential threats, including the U.S. Navy, especially in the case of a conflict with Taiwan," the report said. China believes the United States already controls the sea routes from the oil-rich Persian Gulf through the Malacca Strait, and Chinese President Hu Jintao has called this strategic vulnerability to disrupted energy supplies Beijing's "Malacca Dilemma."

To try and prevent any oil sea-lane disruption, China has adopted a "string of pearls" strategy that calls for both offensive and defensive measures stretching along the oil-shipment sea lanes from China's coast to the Middle East, according to the Pentagon study. The "pearls" include the Chinese-financed seaport being built at Gwadar, on the coast of western Pakistan, and commercial and military efforts to establish bases or diplomatic ties in Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, Thailand and disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The report stated that China's ability to use these pearls for a "credible" military action is not certain. However, the rapid Chinese naval buildup includes the capability to project power to these sea lanes in the future. "They are not doing a lot of surface patrols or any other kind of security evolutions that far afield," the intelligence official said. "There's no evidence of [Chinese military basing there] yet, but we do need to keep an eye toward that expansion."

The report also highlighted the strategic vulnerability of China's oil and gas infrastructure to a crippling U.S. attack. "The U.S. military could severely cripple Chinese resistance [during a conflict over Taiwan] by blocking its energy supply, whereas the [People's Liberation Army navy] poses little threat to United States' energy security," it said. China views the United States as "a potential threat because of its military superiority, its willingness to disrupt China's energy imports, its perceived encirclement of China and its disposition toward manipulating international politics," the report said.

Two likely targets for China are the Russian Far East, which has vast oil and gas deposits, and Southeast Asia, which also has oil and gas resources.

The Chinese military buildup has been helped by aggres-

China now produces their J-11 version of the Russian Su-27SK "Flanker" air-superiority fighter at the Shenyang Aircraft Industries Company (SAC) factory, as well as indigenous designs for domestic use and export. Although certain former-Soviet "Whisky" class traits can be spotted on the new Yuan-class and Song-class submarines, they are domestic designs, independently produced in China. Force projection seems to be the only rationale behind China's development of modern amphibian armor and ships to deploy them far beyond China's immediate sphere.

capture Taiwan. Especially in the naval weapons area, China is making great strides at building a blue-water navy.

"If you look at the technical capabilities of the weapons platforms that they're fielding, the sea-keeping capabilities, the size, sensors and weapons fit, this capability transcends the baseline that is required to deal with a Taiwan situation militarily," one intelligence official said. "So they are positioned then, if [Taiwan is] resolved one way or the other, to really become a regional military power as well."



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Beijing's Naval Buildup

China soon will receive a new Kilo submarine from Russia, part of a naval buildup of modern warships and submarines that has triggered new fears for U.S. military planners. As we go to press, the Kilo is on its way to China aboard a freighter from a shipyard in St. Petersburg, according to defense officials.

It is the first of eight advanced Kilos that China is acquiring, and intelligence officials say the submarine will be outfitted with advanced SS-N-27 cruise missiles, which are capable of attacking U.S. warships. The new submarine will augment four older, less-capable Kilos in the Chinese navy.

The Chinese navy also has been rapidly building submarines, key weapons that would be useful in both a conflict with Taiwan and for power projection globally, according to intelligence officials. Since 2002, China has built 14 submarines, including a new Yuan submarine that was unknown to U.S. intelligence until photos of it appeared on the Internet last year. Other submarines in development include the Type 094 ballistic-missile submarine, known as the Jin class.

At least two Type 093 attack submarines are under construction, as well as additional Jin, Song, Yuan and Shang submarines, the officials said. Other new submarines include one Ming submarine, 10 Song submarines and one Shang class.

"The Chinese have made it clear that they understand the importance of the submarine in any kind of offensive or defensive strategy to deal with a military conflict," the intelligence official said.

China's surface-to-surface missile forces also are increasing, including new short- and long-range missiles, along with a new warhead that can maneuver to avoid missile defenses.

"If you take a step back and look at the entire array of Chinese weapons, the

Kilos, the Songs, the Yuans, the ballistic missiles, this [maneuverable warhead] capability, more surface ships with anti-ship cruise missiles, these are all things that are going to give you capability to deal with any kind of naval force that comes toward you," the intelligence official said.

Beyond warships armed with missiles, the building and deployment of amphibious lift ships is one of the clearest signs of what U.S. defense officials say are Beijing's intentions to attack Taiwan, located about 100 miles from the Chinese mainland. In the past three years, China has more than doubled its fleet of amphibious landing and troop-carrying ships, a key indicator of such an assault, said officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

For example, intelligence officials said that since 2002, China has deployed at least eight tank-carrying Yuting II LST transport ships, at least 10 Yunshu LSM ships and at least five Yubei LSU ships. "These are all of fairly decent capability," a defense intelligence official said.

The rapid deployment contrasts sharply with past Chinese weapons-development efforts, which produced small numbers of ships years apart, the officials said.

China has two Russian-made Sovremenny-class guided-missile destroyers, and two others are being built in Russia. The ships will carry large numbers of SSN-22 supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles that are designed to sink U.S. aircraft carriers and warships.

It also is building three new classes of destroyers. Two Luzhou guided-missile destroyers are under construction, along with two Luyang II missile destroyers that are undergoing sea trials. Two other Luyang I destroyers are operational or undergoing sea trials.

"The fact that you have three destroyer classes being built in China at the same time also implies a higher degree of sophistication in shipbuilding capability and overall project management," the intelligence official said.

The Luyang II is being described by the defense officials as China's answer to the U.S. Aegis-equipped destroyers, which form the backbone of the U.S. Navy warship fleet. The Luyang II also has advanced air-defense missiles.

In addition to destroyers, China has built two new Jiangkai frigates and two Jiangwei frigates since 2002. The new Jiangweis are in addition to the eight Jiangweis built before 2002.

It also has built at least three fast-attack patrol boats with a radical catamaran design that allows for high speeds. The wave-piercing design is aimed at making the ships less vulnerable to enemy radar and targeting.

To service its new warships, China is building numerous support ships, including a minesweeper, two Fuchi surveillance ships, and at least 15 tankers, logistics and service ships, the officials said.

As for naval training, intelligence and policy officials said one troubling development is China's use of commercial freighters in military exercises, which they view as a sign that it plans to move large amounts of troops and equipment across the Taiwan Strait in a future war. China's naval forces are not yet able to stand up to the U.S. Navy, but the trend is worrisome, especially because the number of U.S. warships is declining.

"The trend in the capability development in this country and the numbers of platforms is one that we need to address with some diligence," the intelligence official said. ✕

sive Chinese intelligence operations aimed at stealing military technology, according to FBI officials. "I think you see it where something that would normally take 10 years to develop takes them two or three," said David Szady, chief of FBI counterintelligence operations. He said the Chinese are prolific collectors of secrets and military-related information.

"What we're finding is that [the spying is] much more focused in certain areas than we ever thought, such as command and control and things of that sort," Szady said. "In the military area, the rapid development of their 'blue-water' navy — like the Aegis weapons systems — in no small part is probably due to some of the research and development they were able to get from the United States," he said.

The Spies Among Us

The Chinese intelligence services use a variety of methods to spy, including traditional intelligence operations targeting U.S. government agencies and defense contractors. Additionally, the Chinese use hundreds of thousands of Chinese visitors, students and other nonprofessional spies to gather valuable data, most of it considered "open source," or unclassified information.

"What keeps us up late at night is the asymmetrical, unofficial presence," Szady said. "The official presence, too. I don't want to minimize that at all in what they are doing."

China's spies use as many as 3,200 front companies —

many run by groups linked to the Chinese military – that are set up to covertly obtain information, equipment and technology, U.S. officials say. Recent examples include front businesses in Milwaukee; Trenton, N.J.; and Palo Alto, Calif., Szady said.

The Chinese “are very good at being where the information is,” Szady said. “If you build a submarine, no one is going to steal a submarine. But what they are looking for are the systems or materials or the designs or the batteries or the air conditioning or the things that make that thing tick,” he said. “That’s what they are very good at collecting, going after both the private sector, the industrial complexes, as well as the colleges and universities in collecting scientific developments that they need.” One recent case involved two Chinese students at the University of Pennsylvania who were found to be gathering nuclear submarine secrets and passing them to their father in China, a senior military officer involved in that country’s submarine program.

China gleans most of its important information not from spies but from unwitting American visitors to China – from both the U.S. government and the private sector – who are “serially indiscreet” in disclosing information sought by Beijing, Mr. Moore said in a recent speech. In the past several years, U.S. nuclear laboratory scientists were fooled into providing Chinese scientists with important weapons information during discussions in China through a process of information elicitation – asking questions and seeking help with physics “problems” that the Chinese are trying to solve, he said.

Rudy Guerin, a senior FBI counterintelligence official in charge of China affairs, said the Chinese aggressively exploit their connections to U.S. corporations doing business in China. “They go straight to the companies themselves,” he said. Many U.S. firms doing business in China, including

such giants as Coca-Cola, Boeing and General Motors, use their lobbyists on behalf of Beijing.

“We see the Chinese going to these companies to ask them to lobby on their behalf on certain issues,” Guerin said, “whether it’s most-favored-nation trade status, [World Health Organization], Falun Gong or other matters.”

U.S. government investigators say the number of cases involving China and its middlemen who have illegally obtained sensitive or classified U.S. weapons technology is growing.

In the past few years, Chinese agents illegally purchased or were caught trying to steal night-vision technology, restricted electronic components, embargoed components for precision-guided missiles, radar and electronic warfare, and communications systems, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials.

China also sought to purchase encryption devices that are embargoed for export and computer software used in missile development, ICE officials said.

Officials said one of the most damaging illegal technology exports to China took place in the late 1990s. In

that case, China secretly obtained technology related to the Aegis battle management system, used in the most modern U.S. warships. A Chinese front company won a contract from the system manufacturer and then stole details about Aegis, according to FBI counterintelligence officials. By 2004, China had deployed its first two Luyang II guided-missile destroyers, both equipped with the Chinese version of the Aegis system. The Aegis system is used for tracking and shooting at enemy aircraft and also is the heart of the Navy’s new sea-based missile defense.

Michael Pillsbury, a former Pentagon official and specialist on China’s military, said the internal U.S. government debate on the issue and excessive Chinese secrecy about its military

Continued on page 81

China’s spies use as many as 3,200 front companies... Milwaukee... Trenton... Palo Alto



Amphibious assault troops in foreground carry the new GBZ-95 (Type 95) 5.8x42mm assault rifle. The new rifle was first spotted at the takeover of Hong Kong, and in the hands of blue-helmeted Chinese troops deployed to Haiti on behalf of the UN.



Dirty Little Corps for Dirty Little Wars

Does Uncle Sam Need A Foreign Legion?

By Col. David Hackworth

In March 1994, Col. David Hackworth explored the proposition that American overseas interests might in large part be served with a service analogous to the very successful French Foreign Legion. This concept now deserves even more consideration as the U.S. military continues to be stretched to the breaking point in third world hellholes like Iraq and Afghanistan. — RKB

I'd like to have two armies: One for display with lovely guns, tanks, little soldiers, staffs, distinguished and doddering generals, and dear little regimental officers who would be deeply concerned over their colonel's piles, an Army that would be shown for a modest fee on every fairground in the country.

The other would be the real one, composed entirely of young enthusiasts in camouflaged uniforms, who would not be put on display but from whom impossible efforts would be demanded and to whom all sorts of tricks would be taught. That's the Army in which I should like to fight. — Jean Larteguy, The Centurions

The new face of war will be low-intensity conflicts: terrorist stuff, ethnic, religious and tribal fights that our all-volunteer, down-sized armed forces — along with their wives, children and fat headquarters — won't be able to handle. Nor will our Congress or the American people, who want swift, bloodless wars followed by confetti-sprinkled victory parades and instant Schwarzkopf-like heroes who modestly tell us, "It doesn't take a hero." There are more flagpoles than fighting holes in today's armed forces, and Clinton is doing his level best to hollow it out even more. Because of a shortage of funds, wrong-headed priorities and no real strategy, our armed forces will be confined to garrison and peacekeeping/humanitarian/relief operations.

Soldiers To Defend Our State Of Oenial

Then there's all that blood — which few people in America have the stomach for — that will come our way in the nightmare facing the planet Earth during the post Cold War, new world disorder. Yes, the Cold War is over. But war ain't going away, it will just come in smaller, more nasty doses. Look at the Balkans, Haiti, Cambodia and Somalia, post-Cold War hot spots, where the U.N. peace force has proven to be a toothless, multi-layered and ineffective giant.

With the end of the Cold War, the former Soviet enemy is eating itself up, republic by former republic. Amid the debris and chaos of their collapse, many gang leaders, war lords and aspirant dictators are grabbing power and turf, not only in the old "Evil Empire," but all over the world. America has been getting sucked into these quagmires one by one in our new Robocop/surviving world superpower/ Red Cross/Salvation Army role. So far, our win record has not been good, mainly because we have sent the wrong teams and have been under control of the United Nations.

What is needed is a new team that can jump into these fights when America's national interest is involved and slug it out, take the occasional pounding and not draw the heat from a liberal press — most of whom, like the majority of the yuppy-filled White House and Departments of State and Defense, have never worn a uniform except in some private finishing school. A reluctant Congress and reticent citizens will resist sending popular regular personnel to fight in these unpopular wars. The new military team I have in mind that would be designed to fight in the messy little wars could be called "The American Foreign Legion" or "American Freedom Force." Its military model would be the French Foreign Legion, a force I observed closely during Desert Storm and more recently in Somalia. They are the finest warriors, pound for pound, and finest fighting force I've seen since my days in Trieste. During the Legion's proud 163-year history, it has served France well with a force of tough, nonpolitical, highly disciplined, inexpensive, professional light infantry fighters. Such warriors are ideally suited for the little fights that are going to come down the track fast and furious in the years ahead.

U.S. troops man roadblock in Panama during Operation Just Cause. Could small, forward-deployed legion units prove an effective deterrent to anticipated small-war scenarios of the future? Photo: DoD

Been There, Done That

We've used foreign volunteers before, except instead of calling them the American Foreign Legion, they went under other names, such as the American Regular Army Cadre Philippines Scouts or, during the Vietnam War, the 5th Special Forces Group's Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) — a 50,000 man, damn-capable force composed of ethnic and tribal minorities mostly from Vietnam's hinterlands, led by American elite Green Beret warriors. Both the Scouts and the CIDG were far more effective, less costly and less politically troublesome than a regular U.S. unit. Throughout the Vietnam War, despite dumb missions laid on them by conventionally warped brass, the CIDG was extraordinarily effective.

In 1971, I had operational control of Company D, 5th Special Forces Group, when I ran the delta's 44th Special Tactical Zone's advisory command. Each of the 13 Special Forces A teams controlled about 1,000 mainly ethnic Cambodian fighters. These battalions conducted highly effective operations along the Cambodian border and on occasion, when they were "lost," foraged into Cambodia and knocked the hell out of the North Vietnamese. They later converted from Special Forces to what were called "Border Rangers."

As Special Forces and later Rangers, they were far more effective than the supposedly elite South Vietnamese Rangers, marines and parachute units the zone frequently had operational control of — and they required far less logistical support. In sum, they were lean, mean, awesome soldiers who fought hard and had a lethal sting — and there were initially only 11 Americans per battalion.

The major advantage of forming an American Foreign Legion would be that the USA would have a dedicated light infantry force composed of foreign volunteers that could be ridden hard in unpopular low intensity conflicts, and in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. Our regular forces could train for and focus on preparing to fight regional conflicts such as with North Korea, Iran and Iraq. Their military readiness would not be degraded by the "little wars" and our national security wouldn't be impaired. The press and American people wouldn't go nuts either, when the AFL took casualties, because the body bags wouldn't be filled with corn-fed boys from Iowa, but rather with volunteers from El Salvador, Poland and Nepal.

Our media and civilians would look upon their AFL casualties as the citizens of Rome looked at a gladiator going down: "Well, too bad, but that's the dude's job."

All Tooth And No Tail

Warriors below the grade of first sergeant couldn't be married, so there wouldn't be morale problems or other such downer baggage brought on by low pay and long separations from home base. Units would deploy to an operational area and stay there until the mission was accomplished. Unit turbulence (which haunts our regular forces today, with an average turnover of 30% to 40% in TO&E Army combat units) would be limited to only losses from casualties. Thus unit cohesion — that critical teamwork which comes from working together — would be greatly enhanced because of the long term institutional memory that would come from knowing the terrain, the enemy and each other like one knows his own front teeth.

Discipline would be Brown-Shoe-Army rigid and ramrod tough because inspectors general, congressional inquiries and an inquiring press wouldn't be around to intimidate COs from demanding that their warriors be exactly trained and rigidly disciplined. Nor would these hard-core warriors, while on operations, drink cold Coke, watch movies and USO shows and have R&R trips on luxury liners or to foreign cities as our pampered regular forces did during Vietnam and Desert Shield. All such morale and comfort goodies would

be shut off until the job was done, leaving few people bringing up the rear: It would be a force of minimum tail and maximum tooth.

There would be no bulky overhead as in the U.S. military. For example, during Vietnam and also Desert Storm, behind every frontline warrior there were at least 10 rear-echelon commandos drawing combat pay. In Vietnam, there were 560,000 people in the theater and only about 60,000 hunting and being hunted by Charlie. The ratio was even worse during Desert Storm.

Since the AFL foreign volunteers would be paid less than half what serving U.S. soldiers receive, Congress could field from three to four regionally oriented AFL divisions for less than half the cost of a U.S. light division. Not only would America receive more bang for the buck, but we would have a better team on the field that could understand the culture and speak the language. In these types of operations, the latter two factors — knowing the people and being able to talk to them — are more important than the number of cannons the AFL would deploy.

The force I envision would not be an army like Oliver North's rag-tag Nicaraguan Contras, nor a cadre of released criminals — such as the early Spanish Foreign Legion — but a legitimate, highly disciplined outfit that would come directly under the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, who could further delegate AFL opcon with the U.S. Special Operations Command, who run worldwide Special Forces, Rangers,

Continued on page 32



An enlisted soldier of the legion receives battlefield first aid during the occupation of Atlaten in the Rif war. Photo Courtesy Postal-Expres

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SureFire's Kadra Pattison demonstrates SureFire's M4FA Suppressor on a .223 carbine.



What's New At SureFire

New Developments From The Company That Defines The Leading Edge

Text & photos by Gary Paul Johnston

Every time I go to SureFire LLC, I expect to get an education – but I'm always amazed as to how much has changed. Created by Dr. John Matthews, SureFire was called Laser Products for the first 15 years, but has been SureFire for the past decade. Comprised of five buildings now encompassing 150,000 square feet, SureFire employs more than 350 people in production, shipping, engineering, R & D and marketing.

Having literally defined tactical, fighting lights, SureFire lights have redefined the way soldiers and law enforcement officers fight for and protect the citizens of America. Consisting of both hand-held and weapon-mounted lights, these tools provide their operators the ability to, as Dr. Matthews says, "win the light fight and win the gun fight."

Having just returned from the latest SureFire writer's conclave, I can attest to the fact that the company is not only living up to its promise, but is also taking a quantum leap forward in both production and in introducing new products. First is SureFire's commitment to the U.S. military and American law en-

forcement, both of whom are issuing SureFire products in ever-increasing numbers. This is the reason for the enormous growth in the company during the past few years. However, equally important is the continuing development of superior products as fast as advances in technology permit. At the forefront is the light emitting diode (LED) and the energy to run it.

PK Turns Up the Light

During a special lecture, SureFire's Vice President of Engineering, Paul Kim, explained the company's future direction and the advances forecast in LED technology, as well as in batteries. While I won't pretend to be an expert in electronics, it was fascinating to hear Paul talk in terms of high intensity discharge (HID), super batteries, advanced circuitry and so forth. To sum it up, Paul made it clear that SureFire is not in competition with anyone except itself. What would you think about a hand-held light offering not only white light,



Former USMC Sniper, Travis Mitchell, explains SureFire's M4FA Sound Suppressor to the class.



(left) Seen here is a brand new X200 remote switch for the Glock pistol. (right) Seen for the first time was a new integral suppressor mount, machined on the barrel of a Remington 700. This program will be offered to all major companies.

but also blue, green, red and infrared? With me so far? Now how about also being able to instantly adjust the brightness from 50 lumens up to 1,000 lumens?

In the meantime, SureFire continues to introduce new state-of-the-art products using existing technology. One of these is its new Scout Light. Designed as a tactical weapon light, the Scout Light comes with an integral M1913 rail mount and it's also very light in weight. It also comes with both LED and incandescent lamp modules, each of which produce more than 60 lumens of white light. If that's not enough, the Scout Light also comes with a pressure-pad end cap and a plug-in with a remote switch.

A new variation of an existing SureFire Tactical Weapon Light (TWL) is a Model 910 in Desert Tan. In addition to matching U.S. military weapons painted this color, the new M910 will absorb far less heat from sunlight and the color will also reduce the visual signature of the presence of the light to the enemy during the day-time, prior to an entry. Other new SureFire Tactical Lights include several LED models, such as the E2d Defender.

Sound Suppressors

SureFire's Suppressor Division is headed up by Barry Dueck, creator of SureFire's now famous M4FA Suppressor. While the M4FA continues to prove itself in Iraq and Afghanistan, the company's Suppressor Division now also offers this superb suppressor in 6.8mm SPC and 7.62mm (.30 caliber), with a slightly heavier version for the sustained fire role on FN M240G LMG.

To simplify things, the SureFire M4FA Suppressor is being offered in 6.8mm for use with either a rifle in this caliber, or one in 5.56mm. When used on a 5.56mm carbine, the slightly larger hole of the 6.8mm Suppressor increases the sound only by a tiny fraction, and allows the operator to use it on either weapon. Since the suppressor is the same size for all three calibers (except the M240G version), the feasibility of using a .30 caliber suppressor for any of the three calibers is also being studied.

The secret of the success of SureFire's sound suppressors lies not only in quality control, but also in the materials used. The exotic steel tubing alone costs \$150 per foot. This steel is similar to that used in venturis of jet fighter engines. Even at 1,200 degrees f, this special alloy steel is stronger than a stainless suppressor is at room temperature. When one well-known gun maker suggested that SureFire over-engineered its suppressor, SureFire replied, "No, we just made it to last forever."

However, an even newer twist is an integral barrel mount for these suppressors. SureFire is providing the blueprints to barrel makers for an integral mount that can be machined as part of the barrel. This integral mount will not only preclude the need to screw-on a mount, but will also guarantee the alignment of the mount with the bore, for optimum repeatability of point of impact (POI).

SureFire's Travis Mitchell, a former USMC Sniper, was on hand at the seminar with a sample of this system as well as a Bushmaster M-15 and an Armalite AR-10, both equipped



(above) Bill Murphy (top) and James Williams demonstrate building-clearing techniques in the SureFire Institute's Simunitions force on force house. (below) The SureFire Institute's James Williams demonstrates an excellent alternative to the rollover prone position.

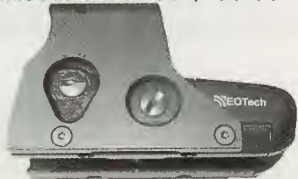


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with SureFire Suppressors. All present fired both SureFire-suppressed rifles without need of ear protection. SureFire's suppressors are now available to all qualified Class III dealers as well as law enforcement, but that's not the end of it.

Barry Dueck has designed a new rectangular suppressor for use on pistols. Although difficult to produce, a rectangular housing has a number of advantages, one being that it does not require higher sights, as in the case of a round tube. Another advantage is being more holster friendly, but even more interesting is that four interior sides do more to diffuse the hot gasses that create the sound as they are released into air. Beyond that is a whole new generation

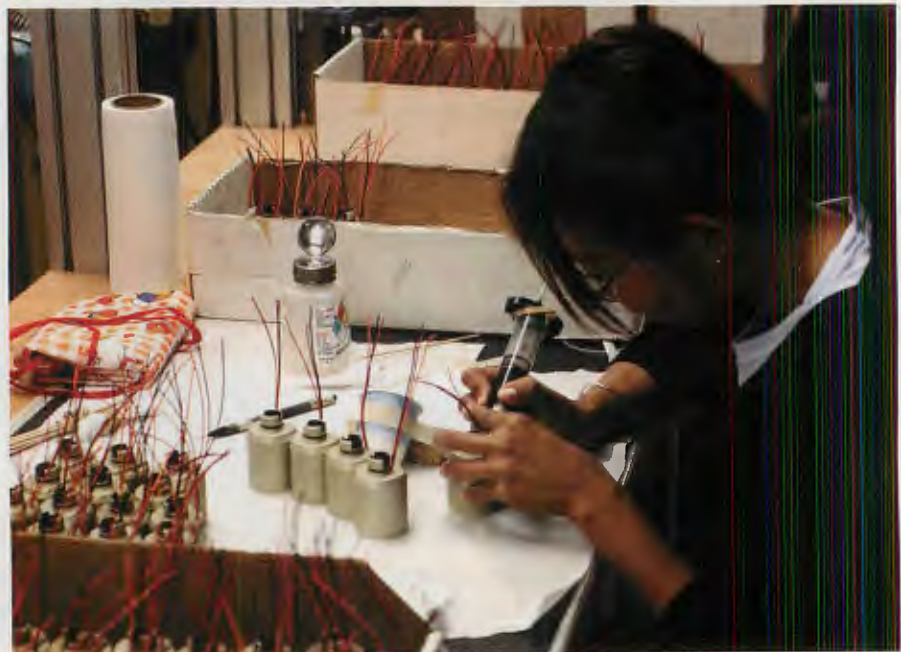
of suppressors and suppressor mounts also being developed by Surefire.

The SureFire Institute

After being revamped and expanded, the SureFire Institute is now operated by Tony Raper, a retired Army Special Forces lieutenant colonel, with the assistance of Orange County SWAT Cop Bill Murphy, who is also an adjunct instructor for Gunsite Academy in Paulden, Arizona. With both live-fire and force-on-force Simunitions shoot-houses at the Raahage Range in Corona, the Institute has another, even more elaborate force-on-force shoot-house at another site, the location of which will not be divulged here for reasons of

Continued on page 67

Many of SureFire's 350 employees are involved in production and assembly.



"Forget the Weights, Forget the Cardio"

Follow the Legendary Routine That Simultaneously Catapults Your Strength, Endurance and Flexibility to record levels. Feel the results that tens of thousands are raving about worldwide...

by Frank Sherrill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CPT Judd D. Mahfouz - Infantry

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



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

Dear Matt,

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

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

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

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SOF0305



When American citizens/interests were threatened in Grenada, Operation Urgent Fury assembled force from all branches and many units, including these 82nd Airborne troopers. An American Foreign Legion could readily handle such tasks. Photo: SOF staff

SEAL and Air Commando operations.

Transients and ticket punchers — largely responsible for our loss in Vietnam because no one stayed around long enough to learn the nature of the war, and who exist in even bigger numbers, from second lieutenant to four-star general, in today's armed forces — would be banned. Except for positions opened by casualties, all officer positions would require a four-year minimum tour.

Platoon, company, battalion and regimental COs would be frozen in their jobs for a three-year period, after a one-year initial tour as a trainer in each division's training depot. The officer arid initially the NCO cadre would come from the USMC and Army (preferably USMC Force Reconnaissance, Special Forces and Ranger units) and be seconded to the AFL for a minimum of six years. Within 10 years, the AFL would be producing their own NCOs from within, and after this, only officer replacements would come from U.S. units.

Promotion By Those Who Know

Promotion for NCOs and officers would be made by the division CG based on TO&E vacancy. There would be no distant Pentagon boards to decide who would make O3 or E6 or who would command a battalion or regiment. Enlisted soldiers would come from the area of the unit's primary in-

terest (the Americas for Western Hemisphere units, Asia for Pacific units and Europe for the Atlantic units). Recruits would be strong, bright and motivated. Criminals need not apply, but no petty questions would be asked about backgrounds. The requirement should be that the volunteer be made of warrior material. Values and morals would be pounded into them and shaped by their NCOs, much as mine were as a 15-year-old lad in Italy. Again, the French Foreign Legion recruit depot and training system should serve as a model.

With present down-sizing, there are more than enough great, highly motivated NCOs and officers who have gotten pink slips from our Army and Marine Corps. They have the right stuff to cadre the AFL. Age restrictions and petty past troubles would not apply. Physical and mental competence and experience would be the criteria. I've know too many 50-year-old studs with years of great war-fighting experience, who could walk, climb and fight younger men into the ground: The cadre should be made up of such centurions.

The mission or objective of the AFL would be to provide, at a low cost with minimum political complications, a fighting force of hard-hitting warriors to handle low intensity conflict/peace-keeping/humanitarian/ anti-drug operations. Because of national security

considerations, which include anti-drug operations, the first unit to be organized would be the Americas force. It should be built on the crawl-to-walk-to-run principle. First a battalion, then a regiment and then three infantry regiments with division headquarters and a light logistical tail.

The Americas force could be based in Puerto Rico and composed primarily of Spanish-speaking soldiers and cadre. English would be the command language as French is in the legion. Enlistment would be for six years, after which the AFL soldier could, if service was exemplary and he was proficient in English, be eligible for U.S. citizenship. As an incentive at this time, the AFL warrior could transfer to the U.S. regular Army or USMC. After one tour, NCOs and officers would be allowed to transfer back to the regular forces or extend in the AFL. As a carrot, for every six years with AFL, the cadre would receive eight year's retirement credit.

Artillery, medical, engineering, logistical and helicopter support would be provided both at base camp and during operations by guard and reserve units on tours of extended active duty. Tac air and airlift would be provided as needed. FACs (forward air controllers) and ALOs (air liaison officers) would come from the supporting USAF/USMC units. The second division to be formed

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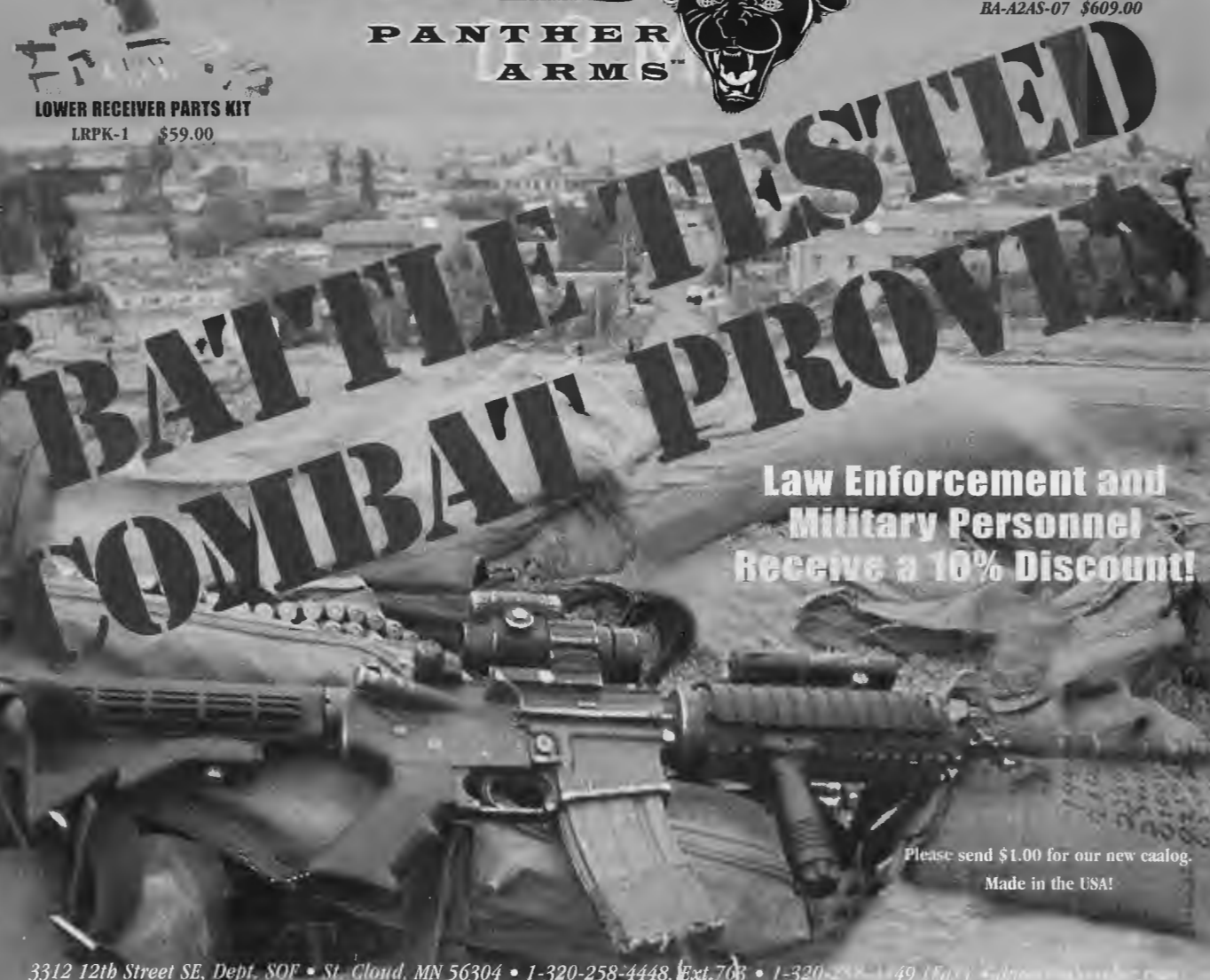
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should be built gradually along similar lines as the Americas division, and initially be based in the Middle East, ideally in Kuwait (perhaps with total Kuwaiti funding). This force would be a heavier unit, trained in mid-level conflict and equipped with "fire and forget" anti-tank missiles (Milan and Gallant) mounted in light armored and four-wheel-drive vehicles. It would be composed of volunteers from the former Warsaw Pact, and its focus, at least for the next decade, should be on Iran and Iraq. This force would, be reinforced quickly by regular units when the crap hits the fan. The Pacific Force would be based ideally on Guam, where there are great training areas and a good airfield, and would train for low intensity conflicts in the Pacific Rim region. Its volunteers would come from all over Asia.

Each regionally oriented force would serve as a multipurpose strike force: LIC, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. These forces would never serve as a unit in the United States. However, its cadre and in-house promoted NCOs should attend U.S. service schools, as well as the best of foreign schools (Israelis for armor/Australians for jungle warfare, et cetera).

And Train Like They'll Fight

Training would be hands-on in the field with maximum live-fire exercises.

Battle drill would be just that. They would not follow the Army example of computer games or everyone lining up behind sandbags and firing at targets with more controllers and safety personnel than firers.

"Safety first" should not control realistic preparation for battle. These Spartan warriors should train for war-fighting with maximum realism, under stressful conditions as close to battle as can be replicated. Training doctrine would be: "The more sweat on the training field, the less blood on the battlefield."

Initially, during individual and unit training cycles, U.S. Special Forces would be ideal trainers — one A team per rifle company. They'd teach the basics — shoot and salute, to the more complicated stuff— scoot and loot."

AFL members would take an oath just as U.S. armed forces members do to swear to defend the Constitution of the United States. Discipline would be Brown Shoe Army and NCO justice would be the law. Great pride would come from being in one of the toughest, most demanding and highly disciplined forces in the world. As Arnold Joseph Toynbee said, "The sterner the challenge to men, the finer the response."

Hopefully, every member of AFL would be airborne/Ranger-qualified and units would be capable of conducting

airborne operations. The AFL should wear a distinctive uniform. Heroism awards should not be given for "having been there" or "just doing the job."

One can anticipate objections to the formation of an AFL. The Army chief of staff and USMC commandant will scream bloody murder, seeing a rival for defense dollars and roles and missions.

Some members of Congress will object to the idea and say it ain't the American way to have "mercenaries." They'll have forgotten Desert Storm, when the Saudis and Kuwaitis paid big dough to have American "Christian soldiers marching onto war," and they may never have heard of the 1775 mercenaries like La Fayette, Kosciuszko and that little fag Baron Von Steuben who drilled Washington's troops with such Teutonic precision and delight.

A mercenary Army? No. A band of great warriors configured to fight the wars of the future, yes. This is the Army in which I should like to fight. ✕

Reprinted from SOF, March 1994

At the time of his recent passing, Col. David Hackworth was America's most decorated living veteran. In 1989 he authored the international best seller About Face. Hackworth was a widely recognized military analyst and journalist, and was a frequent contributor to SOF.



Coalition and Iraqi forces aid wounded, put out fires following car-bomb blast at Iraqi police station near Al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad. In frustrating, dirty little wars, would a cadre of well-trained and capable troops who did not hail from the heartland be able to function as well without bringing emotional baggage to American wars? Photo: DoD by Spec. Katherine M. Roth, U.S. Army

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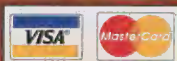


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By Dr. Martin Brass


AMERICA AT WAR

 **1. THAILAND** "CALLING CARD" cell phones banned, for fear of cell-phone remotely detonated bombs.

 **2. PHILIPPINES** **SPY RING** that includes Filipino cop Michael Aquino stole classified papers from FBI. Aquino and Leandro Aragoncillo, Filipinos with U.S. citizenship, arrested in the United States. U.S. asks Manila to trace documents and money mogul who funded espionage. President Arroyo withdraws passes for 97 New People's Army rebel negotiators and places bounties on senior NPA operators; 4,500 U.S. and 700 Filipino coalition troops begin joint training.

 **3. INDONESIA** **TERRORIST BOMBING DÉJÀ VU:** Suicide bombers strike tourist hangouts Kuta market and Jimbaran beach. Bombs explode in south Bali. Twenty-three killed; Three bomber's mutilated bodies recovered, Jemaah Islamiah suspected. **30-YEAR CIVIL WAR** that has claimed 15,000 lives may end as government promises to pull out 6,000 troops from Aceh province. Military to cut 60,000 troops by half and rebels agree to disarm. Previous accords have collapsed, ending in bloody violence.

 **4. AUSTRALIA** **GOVERNMENT ORDERS** radical Muslims to leave unless they abide by secular state standards, rather than live under Sharia law.

 **5. UNITED STATES** **SUICIDE BOMBING IN OKLAHOMA** outside packed football stadium of 80,000 fans, strikes terror in community; Motive uncertain. **INTEL TRANSFORMS** mode of operations to HUMINT (human intelligence); Director of National Intelligence and Director of the CIA announce the creation of the National Clandestine Service (NCS) at CIA. The initiative will strengthen human intel and "underscores CIA's proud position as the center of gravity for HUMINT." **POLICE** in Los Angeles, Washington D. C. and other hubs develop homegrown Intel networks to be shared independent of feds.

6. RUSSIA **CHECHEN REBELS** attack government buildings and battle authorities; Dozens killed. President Putin declares blockade of Nalchik, source of violence.

7. UNITED KINGDOM **SOME NEVER LEARN** Citizens outraged by release of terrorist suspects on bail. Government outlaws 15 foreign Islamic groups from Libya, Pakistan Morocco and other terror harboring states.

8. AMSTERDAM **GOOGLE EARTH AERIAL MAPS** may help terrorists by providing details of government buildings and nuclear reactors, according to Parliament. Sophisticated overlapping satellite photos map out important details. **SEVEN TERRORISM** suspects suspected of obtaining explosives to blow up Intel service AIVD headquarters, arrested in police sting.

9. ALGERIA **ISLAMIC TERRORISTS** conduct several attacks weekly, in spite of high operative death rate after cop crackdown. Al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, Islamic militants kill three civilians and wound two others in Algeria as voters backed an amnesty aimed at ending 13 years of violence. *Reuters*

10. SYRIA **IN THE HOTSEAT** for suspected complicity in assassination of Rafik Hariri, Lebanon prime minister, this year. Reported border clashes between U.S. and Syrian troops increase tensions.

11. AFGHANISTAN **NATO ANNOUNCES** major deployment of troops -- up to 15,000. U.K. to send up to 4000 troops to fight drug barons and insurgents and GERMANY plans to increase peacekeeping troops from 2200 to 3000.

12. PAKISTAN **RADICAL ISLAMIC** military officers jailed cashiered or still being investigated. **OSAMA BIN LADEN** suspected to be hiding with a dozen followers along Afghan border. *AP*

13. MALI **FUNDAMENTALISTS** infiltrate African democracy, raising fear of violence.

14. HORN OF AFRICA **JOINT TASK FORCE** trains Kenyan and Yemeni Coast guard. Task force "combat units" are mainly doctors, engineers and veterinarians building libraries, hospitals and providing disaster relief in effort to win natives over. *AP* **SIXTEEN SERVICEMEMBERS** from France, the Netherlands and the U.S. joined sniper, service rifle and pistol competitions against units from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda to build rapport.

* **15. SOMALIA** **SECOND HIJACKING** of UN ship, carrying 703 tons of corn, 108 tons of beans and 39 tons of vegetable oil through coastal waters.

15. VENEZUELA **PLAYS HOST TO DRUG LORDS** and Chavez refuses to work with U.S. intelligence.

RECONDO 2005

Canadian Hard Chargers Shoot, Jump, and Weather the Elements To Improve Adventure Skills and Techniques

By Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown
Photos by SOF Staff

In July 2005, the "Recondo" organization held their 17th annual outing 45 miles from Edmonton, Canada. No fancy Las Vegas hotels. Just plain old camping out in the rain for a week while participating in a number of shooting events as well as getting up to speed on advanced emergency medical procedures, martial arts, sky diving and hanging out with like-minded souls.

I had been invited to be the guest speaker at their banquet and to receive an award on behalf of SOF for its 30th anniversary of service to the cause of freedom. I, in turn, presented an award on behalf of SOF, recognizing the service of roughly 30,000 Canadians who fought for freedom in Vietnam to Dave Herbert who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry in 1970. I noted how sad it was that the Canadian veterans organizations rejected the Canadian veterans, as did Canadian society in general.

Ty Cale, the founder and chief honcho of this operation, stated, "I was inspired to develop the Recondo concept to continue the legacy that Soldier of Fortune has created throughout the years." Ty attended a number of SOF conventions where he met retired Lt. Col John "Dutch" Verschoor, who has an extensive Special Forces background as well as well-known small arms instructor, author and Vietnam veteran Chuck Taylor. Both became instructors at Recondo. The other instructors all are highly qualified in their fields of expertise and quite willing to interface with the students in social settings as well as the classroom. Oh, yes, it would be unforgivable of me to fail to recognize the "Sgt. Major," who really runs the whole show, Ty's hard working, charming wife, Mary.

Non-Canadians are welcome to attend and you must be over 18. For further information, check out: www.huphotoworld.com/recondo ☒





Robert K. Brown rallies the troops for a group photo... Canadian Recondo Group... a honorarium of friends / members sharing an interest in Military History, Training and Collecting. More than thirty students became members.



(left) Student awaits signal to proceed to new shooting position. *Armalite* rifle with Elcan scope. Camo by *BushRag*. *(middle)* Well known small arms instructor and Vietnam vet Chuck Taylor takes time to spend a few moments for a one on one session with student Savannah Nijeboer to discuss intricacies of the AR-15 rifle. All Recondo Instructors are willing to go the extra mile. *(right)* Students Kirk and Kelsie slice the cake as newlyweds. Heralded as a shotgun wedding, it fit in well with the Awards Banquet. Afterwards, Col. Brown had words of wisdom for the couple.

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(left) GERONIMO...Recondo student takes to the air. This was a first jump attempt by most. Needless to say, campfire talk that night focused on the daring and thrill of this challenge! *(middle)* Gift for most unique camp went to John and daughter Savannah as selected by Col. Brown. Camping out is part of the Recondo tradition, it provides a tight knit group of Instructors/Staff and Students. *(right)* Instructor Gordon McGowan presents one of many 30th anniversary awards presented to Col. Brown. Prize donors included *Blackhawk, Maxpedition, Spike Camp, Lightfoot Knives, Seals Action Gear* and many others.





(left) Instructor Mike McGuire quickly disables visiting student from Arizona, Ken Vance with the classic knife to the throat move. Rumour has it... the SOF t-shirt made Ken a willing target. (middle) Recondo students gear up prior to take off for Para-Diving. This was a first jump event for most of the students. Something to be proud of, something to tell your grandkids. (right) Rappelling and 1st aid Instructor Bill Poon readies a group for field training. Land navigation and survival skills rate as a priority to be taught to all students.

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(left) Students Dennis and Mike from northern Alberta show good form during the shotgun shoot. Handgun, shotgun and precision rifle made up this years firearm shooting program. (middle) Terrorists Beware... Recondo students have you in their sights. Handgun models were as varied as the students. Its not the make of handgun that matters, only your skill level with the tool at hand. (right) To end the banquet evening, Col. Brown donated his SOF jacket for auction. Student Levi Starko won the bid, fortunately, Spike Camp awarded Col. Brown a new tactical jacket to replace his old friend.



Picking Up

War Is Hell – And So Can Be The Healing

By Dale B. Cooper

Photos courtesy Spec. James P. Wade

“Baghdad is a living HELL” – Specialist James P. Wade, 1st Squad, 4th Platoon, 411th MP Company, 720th Battalion

Less than two weeks before Spec. Wade came home on leave, he was given a pass by the “Grim Reaper.” He hadn’t sensed any danger as his three-vehicle convoy entered an underpass in downtown Baghdad. It was just another day on patrol.

“We had an IP [Iraqi Police] truck in front of us and one behind us as we drove through the underpass,” as his Humvee headed out on a mid-morning patrol with Iraqi police.

What Wade didn’t see was a suicide car-bomber sitting at the entrance to the underpass waiting like a lone wolf to pounce on its prey. Apparently he took a pass on Wade’s convoy. Ten minutes later, Wade heard an urgent call for help came over the radio. A VBIED, Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device, had just gone off at the underpass.

When Wade and the IPs arrived on the scene, a squad from his company was beginning to cordon off the blast site. The

scene looked like something out of Dante’s *Inferno*. Black oily smoke poured out of the underpass as flames engulfed the Humvee and cans of .50 caliber ammunition inside the vehicle cooked off.

The street outside the underpass was cratered, and littered with human remains and vehicle parts from both the Humvee and the explosives-laden car used in the attack. Shopkeepers, some with blood streaming down their faces, screamed as they staggered from their ruined stores. A line of cars parked along the curb also burned.

The target had been a U.S. Army Special Forces colonel. He, his driver, and his civilian interpreter miraculously survived the massive explosion that blew doors off the passenger side of their up-armored Humvee – but his gunner, who was riding exposed waist-up in the turret, died of wounds from flying shrapnel when the Humvee was hurled nearly 100 feet through the air. The Green Berets were part of an SF team headquartered at Camp Shield, where Wade’s unit is located on the east side of Baghdad.

Smoke billows from a burning Humvee at the scene of suicide car-bomb attack near underpass in downtown Baghdad.



Suicide car-bomb exploded near right side of a Green Beret Colonel’s Humvee, blowing off the doors and killing his gunner.



The Pieces

As the “official” photographer for his platoon, “The Fighting Bastards,” Wade’s primary mission in Iraq is to document attacks on his unit and the Iraqi police that the 411th MP Company supports.

War Up Close and Personal

There is a certain detachment looking through the lens of his camera at the carnage, but the impact of what happened on this particular day hit home hard as Wade picked up pieces of the bomber’s body and put them into a plastic bag.

Who was this man? Why did he blow himself to pieces? These are questions for which there are no easy answers. The only recognizable body part was one of the suicide bomber’s hands. The pressure created by the blast had inflated the bomber’s fingers, making them look like bratwurst, hot off a grill. The rest of his body, mostly scorched flesh and splintered bones, fit neatly in a cardboard box with room to spare. “We never found his head,” Wade said.

The SF Colonel was medevaced to a nearby trauma unit where he was treated for cuts and bruises. Later, he returned to the scene where he had come within a nanosecond of meeting his Maker.

A blast-assessment team reconstructed the scenario based

on the crater the car packed with explosives had made in the street, and the cone of shrapnel that destroyed a half dozen cars parked nearby. Buildings, including a photo shop, also sustained damage, but somehow life in Baghdad goes on despite the car bombings. The city fire department hosed down the human debris, a military flatbed truck hauled away the blackened hulk of a Humvee and by mid-afternoon, the crater in the road was filled in and tamped down with new asphalt.

With the exception of blackened guard railing on both sides of the underpass, it was difficult to tell what happened at that location a few hours earlier. But the site is forever etched into James Wade’s brain. Ten minutes later and that might have been his Humvee burning in Baghdad.

Uncle Sam Wants You

When Wade joined the Army in November 2000, he signed a five-year contract with Uncle Sam so he could become a military policeman. “I’ve always wanted to be a cop, and this seemed the best way to go,” said Wade. But his career in the military has not been all that he thought it would be.

“At the time I signed up, I was told that MPs don’t deploy, don’t go to the field...nothing but driving around in a patrol car,” said the young soldier from the Shenandoah Valley of





(left) The Kevlar helmet worn by a civilian interpreter and the American flag in plastic he carried in his body armor, somehow survived the suicide car-bomb attacker who let Wade's convoy go by. (right) Iraqi soldier with Steyr AUG assault rifle over his shoulder (foreground) provides security for a U.S. Army bomb assessment team at scene of suicide car bombing in Baghdad.

Virginia. The recruiter in Winchester was right about one thing: Wade is driving around, but not stateside. He's driving the crowded streets of Baghdad, one of the most dangerous beats for a military policeman. It's made even more dangerous by the fact that Wade and other members of the "Fighting Bastards" are riding with and walking behind Iraqi police officers on patrol.

The Courage to Be A Target

Sometimes, Wade thinks each of the Iraqis has a big bull's eye painted on their back. It seems like every insurgent in the Iraqi capital is out to kill them. Today, almost every MP in the U.S. Army has done at least one combat tour in Iraq. "They replaced us with DoD [Department of Defense] cops," said Wade who is wrapping up his second tour and looking forward to getting out of the army and becoming a deputy sheriff in Frederick County, where he was born and raised.

During a two-week leave in August 2005, Wade sat down and talked about the changes he has seen in Iraq since he and other troopers from Fort Hood, Texas deployed to Iraq a few days after the war commenced in March 2003.

"It's a lot different now than it was when we rolled into Fallujah, Baghdad, Tikrit – Saddam Hussein's hometown – and participated in Operation Peninsula Strike in Samarra," said Wade.

As far as danger is concerned, Wade's second tour in Iraq is a lot more dangerous than the first deployment.

"The first time you knew who you were fighting. This time you don't know who you're fighting, where the fire's gonna come from," Wade said. "We're not fighting people with rifles anymore. It's all IEDs [Improvised Explosive De-

vices], suicide car-bombs and that kind of stuff," said the 24-year-old soldier.

"You never know when you're gonna get hit. The insurgents are now hiding explosives in traffic barriers made out of Styrofoam," said Wade. Sometimes, the tipoff is two guys carrying one of those T-barriers down the road. If it were made out of concrete, there would be no way they could carry it. MPs who caught a couple of guys carrying one of them recently didn't ask them what they were doing, they just killed them on the spot.

Wade worries all the time about IEDs, car bombs and roadside bombs cleverly disguised. He worries more about being disfigured than killed. "I wouldn't want to come home handicapped," said Wade, who has survived more than his

share of close calls.

Midnight Madness

During the first deployment to Iraq, Wade's platoon rode into a nighttime ambush in the town of al Dhaluyah. "We were going in to cordon off the town for the 4th Infantry Division that was doing a massive raid on the entire city. When we drove into the city square a little after midnight local time, the Iraqis were waiting for us. They were up on the walls of every building facing the square. When we drove into it, they opened fire on us. Hitting us with mortars, RPGs [Rocket-Propelled Grenades] and small arms," said Wade.

Gas Masks Save Lives...

The firefight lasted two and a half



PFC Joshua Bryant provides security from gun turret of Wade's Humvee as Wade and other members of his squad pick up body parts at scene of suicide bombing in Baghdad.

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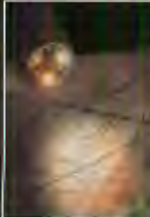
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Spec. James P. Wade administers first aid to an Iraqi civilian who was pistol-whipped on the streets of Baghdad.



to three hours. During that time, Wade was standing outside the Humvee he was driving, ducking and firing back at the enemy. "My gunner was behind a .50 in the turret, but it jammed after about four rounds," said Wade who climbed atop the Humvee and tried to help clear the weapon. "While I was standing up there trying to help him, I took an AK-47 round through my protective mask carrier tucked under my left armpit. The bullet missed by heart by an inch or so. It never hit me. Just skimmed off the side of my gas mask, destroying my decontamination kit inside the carrier. I felt something tug at my body when the round hit, but it didn't knock me down," said Wade.

The ambush had been well planned. The insurgents let the MPs get in close before they opened fire – too close to call in air support available to the 4ID. Wade and his buddies had NVGs, but the Night Vision Goggles didn't do them any good, as there was too much light on the ground.

"During the firefight, I busted several of the lights in the square to darken the area, because the way they had it set up, we were perfectly silhouetted in the middle of the square," said Wade who felt he was fighting the whole town.

Wade credits training for getting him out of a tight spot. "I'm sure some people were hosing down buildings, but my 35-man platoon was trying to eliminate the threat by firing at muzzle flashes, and you can't do that by hosing the place down," said Wade. He fired a half dozen 30-round magazines of 5.56mm. Despite the heavy volume of hostile fire, 4th Platoon didn't suffer a

single casualty.

"We had some excellent NCOs and very good discipline. That makes the difference in a tight situation," said Wade, "When it happened, training took over, because the NCOs couldn't communicate with individual soldiers. Communications went out the window. Too much noise."

When the Ma Deuce jammed, Wade and his gunner tossed the big gun off the side of the Hummer and put up the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, Wade's primary weapon. The insurgents were well concealed, firing from windows and over the lip of buildings. They were constantly on the move, running down alleys into the street, firing and then ducking back down the alleys. They were really dug in. But the MPs were more than a match for them. "A squad of MPs is more heavily armed than a platoon of infantry," said Wade, who laughed when this reporter compared him and his buddies to cops in Chicago who carry at least four handguns apiece.

"In a three-man team we've got a Mark 19 40mm heavy machine gun, possibly a .50 heavy machine gun, a SAW [Squad Automatic Weapon], hand grenades, AT-4s, anti-tank rockets, M16s and Beretta 9mms," said Wade. But all of the hardware in the world can't protect American soldiers, sailors and marines from suicide bombers. They choose the time and place to attack.

A Pentagon Re-Up

Wade's first deployment to Iraq was like "Heaven" compared to the "Hell" he's currently experiencing on the

streets of Baghdad. "We work with the Iraqi police, doing joint patrols," Wade said, "but we're always looking over our shoulder. Because Baghdad is so populated, around five million, mobility is near zero - the perfect environment for suicide car-bombers and IEDs."

Patriots: Those Who Volunteer To Serve

At least a half-dozen car bombs explode everyday in the Iraqi capital. Police are a prime target. They are dying by the dozens, but Wade said there is no shortage of Iraqi men or women who want to help out their country.

"They're stepping up," said Wade, "and that makes me feel good. Makes me feel like we're making a difference in Iraq."

The 720th Military Police Battalion has been able to help the Iraqis get their own "911" service up and kicking. IPs can be seen on the streets of Baghdad handing out their emergency number, and that's helping a lot," said Wade. But Wade admits he doesn't agree with a lot of stuff that's happening in Baghdad, but feels there is nothing he can say or do that will change the situation.

"I think we could have done more to keep our casualties down," said Wade, "but when you look at the big picture, I'd have to say things are going well." But the Iraqis are paying a heavy price for their freedom from Saddam Hussein. Especially members of the new Iraqi army and police force. Dozens of them have been captured by insurgents,

hands tied behind their backs, electrician's tape stretched tight over their eyes and each soldier or policeman executed with a bullet to the back of the head, and dumped alongside a road.

"When some of our IPs don't show up for work, we know where to go," said Wade: down to the local morgue. Occasionally he will see an IP he knows lying on the floor. But despite the heavy loss of life, Iraqis are volunteering in droves. Some of the Iraqi men and women Wade sees at the police academy are quick learners, but many of them are not.

"The hardest thing to teach a police recruit is weapons discipline. They always want to point their weapons in your face and keep their fingers on the triggers," said Wade, "and that's the biggest thing we're trying to teach them. And that goes for IPs [Iraqi police] who are on the street."

"They don't care who they point their weapon at. When they're talking, they'll point their weapon at you," said Wade who tries to explain the necessity of weapons discipline every day: "Leave the safety on, muzzle to the ground and finger off the trigger. But for some reason, they don't get the message," laughed Wade who thinks that's just the way most of them were brought up, especially those who served in the Iraqi army.

"We've got a lot of guys who were prior military coming into the police force now," Wade said. Some of the older guys know what to do, but not the



Specialist Brad Kellan, right, Bravo Team Leader, 1st Platoon, 411th MP Company mingling with Iraqi children in the company of an Iraqi police officer in Baghdad.

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Private Gary Hodges tells Iraqi police cadet to keep his finger off the trigger of his AKM until he's ready to fire at a target. Fittings indicate rifle was made in former East Germany.

younger guys. On patrol in Baghdad, IPs always take the lead. At first, they were reluctant to mingle with people on the street, but now they are gaining the confidence of residents in Baghdad, some of whom tip them off to weapons caches and illegal activity in their neighborhood. "When we first started in February 2005, they were really timid about talking to people on the street, but now they want to take a walk and talk," said Wade.

Back to Iraq

Saying "goodbye" to his friends and family was hard for James Wade. While he was home on leave, TV stations in Washington, DC, about 60 miles east of Winchester broadcast stories about a young soldier from Maryland, the first female soldier from the neighboring state to die in Iraq. TV anchors told how Army Specialist Tocarra Green was killed by a suicide car bomber who attacked her convoy five days after she returned from visiting her family. Like Green, Wade also "needed a break" from the war.

Wade, whose enlistment was extended six months to cover the current shortage of MPs in Iraq, said he needed to get away from the war, if only for two weeks, but it was still hard for him to say "goodbye."

For two weeks, Wade's family and friends hung out together, eating barbecue and drinking cold beer, something the young soldier can't get in Iraq. Alcohol is also not served on charter flights home. The food in Iraq is a lot better

the second time around, however. There are dining halls with hot chow, but the food served in KBR [Kellogg, Brown & Root] facilities can't hold a candle to his mother's home cooking.

"I think I fattened him up some on leave," said Judith Wade, who cooked lots of his favorite food, chipped beef and gravy. Like many soldiers who come home on leave, James Wade spent most of his two weeks hanging around the house with his family where he grew up. He spent a lot of time with his father who served with the 82nd Airborne Division during the Vietnam war. James P. Wade Sr. says he was lucky. He

didn't have to go to "Nam." He served in South Korea during the war that tore this country apart politically. So far, the majority of the American people supports what President Bush is trying to accomplish in Iraq. Wade is proud of what his son is doing in Iraq.

Iraqi police officers his son has trained are also proud of what they've been able to accomplish since major combat ended in their country just over two years ago, but the American people are impatient. They want immediate results, and it remains to be seen if a very vocal minority in this country gets any traction with their anti-war stance. So far, it's been pretty much confined to a field down the road from President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, and a few candlelight vigils in major cities.

James Wade Jr. talked several times to his buddies in Iraq while he was home on leave. They kept asking when he was coming back, "But I told them I wasn't rushing myself," said Wade, as we ended our two-hour interview.

As much as he's come to hate the war, young Wade will leave the Army this year with a good taste in his mouth. "I don't think there's a person over there who doesn't feel better about themselves for being there," said Wade. He feels the "Fighting Bastards" have given the Iraqi police force a fighting chance against the insurgency. ✕

A frequent contributor to SOF, Dale B. Cooper covered Operation Iraqi Freedom as an embedded reporter with the USMC.



Spec. James P. Wade on patrol with his M4 in front of his Humvee in Baghdad.

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FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY

By John Farnam

New Detonics' New Combat Master

I've been carrying my Detonics Combat Master Pistol for nearly a month now. It fits just fine in an Inside the Waistband holster, called the "Minimalist," made for me by Brian Hoffner of Hoffner's. I also carry it in an IWB holster, the "C-Tac," made for me by Gregg Garrett of Comp-Tac. I like both systems. I'm currently carrying Cor-Bon DPX 160gr. Ammo. The little Detonics digests it with much enthusiasm. I shot this year's NTI (National Tactical Invitational) in June with the Detonics, and its performance was wonderful. Reliability is superb with all ammunition I've used.

When I first got my hands on it, I ran several hundred rounds through it,

per my routine, but I'm now persuaded a "break-in" may not be necessary, as it functioned without any problem from the first round.

It is a sub-compact 1911, designed for concealed carry. It is about the same size as S&W's CS45. It's smaller than a G36. The Detonics is a seven-shooter (six, plus one), and all parts are stainless steel. A handy extension on the bottom of each magazine provides tactile confirmation that the magazine is fully charged. It has a signature scallop on the top, rear of the slide, which moves the rear sight forward. Part of the original design, it is there to facilitate the manual cocking of the hammer. Of course, we all carry today with the hammer already cocked and the manual safety "on." However, "cocked-and-locked" carry of the 1911 pistol is a relatively recent

trend, first made popular by Uncle Jeff in the 1970s. Cocked-and-locked carry was not unheard of prior to that, but, in the 1920s and 1930s, most who carried 1911s carried them with the hammer down on live round. This carry option necessitated manually cocking the pistol during the draw.

The Detonics Pistol's accuracy is remarkable, given its short sight radius. Trigger is crisp and clean at five pounds. Manual safety snaps sharply "on" and "off." It came to me with several sharp corners and edges. I like carry guns more "de-horned" than do most of my colleagues. So, I sent it off to master pistolsmith, and good friend, Jim Garthwaite. Jim rounded off the sharp edges and got it back to me within a couple of weeks. Now, it's perfect!

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who needs to carry a small, but powerful and reliable, pistol, discreetly concealed all the time. Its makers assume it will spend its life in a concealment holster, under its owner's vest, jacket, or coat. It need not be pampered. It's built for life on the road. For 1911-o-philis, like me, this is an opportunity to carry a genuinely small pistol that is still an eminently heavy hitter. I'm carrying mine right now! ✂

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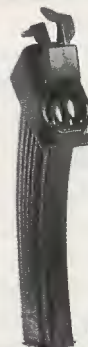
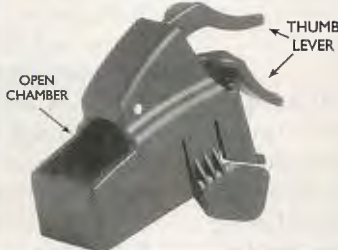
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Training To Fight On The Two Way Range

By Max Fidelis

"For he wins, who fires first and can deliver the heaviest most accurate fire."

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

The Marine Corps is renowned for their competition at arms skills and long-range marksmanship abilities with rifles. Unfortunately, over the last several decades the focus of Marine Corps marksmanship has been training Marines to compete on a "one way" rifle range vice teaching Marines how to fight on a "two way" rifle range. Fortunately, some of the Marine leadership within I MEF sought to correct this deficiency in enhanced firearms training by turning to Gunsite Academy, Inc of Paulden, Arizona.

Mobile Training Teams

Originally founded by Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Cooper, USMC, as American Pistol Institute in 1977, its name changed to Gunsite as its mission morphed from simply teaching the Modern Technique of the pistol to teaching how to fight with all forms of firearms. While Gunsite is known for offering superb instruction at their 1,600 acres facility in Paulden, they also offer Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) as well.

It was via Gunsite's MTT, that Gunsite Adjunct Instructors Dean Caputo, Jon Dial, Chris Weare and Tim Lau have taught five "train the trainer" three-day Tactical Carbine Classes in the last nine months to Marines from I MEF. The focus of the instruction has been on the Gunsite Survival Triad (Combat Mindset, Combat Marksmanship, and Gun Manipulation). Also addressed are the principles of combat threat engagement to include the ballistics of 5.56mm M855 NATO 62 grain steel-core round and its effect (or lack thereof) on human anatomy.

The following is a synopsis of the three-day Tactical Carbine Class that Col. Bob Young, USMC (Ret), Vice President

of Operations at Gunsite Academy and Lt.Col. Freddie Blish, USMC, from I MEF developed together to meet the needs of the I MEF Marines training to deploy to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq:

Day 1: 0800-1200 hrs

1. Firearm Safety Rules/ Range Safety
2. Nomenclature/ Range orders
3. Loading/ Unloading issues
4. Maintenance and other related issues
5. .223 Ballistic review
6. Ready Position/ Indoor Ready/ Threat Management
7. Deployment from various slung positions
8. Use and deployment from a vehicle

Day 1: 1300-1700 hrs

1. Review of large-aperture sights
2. Offset sight issues related to cover
3. Use of positions relative to available cover
4. Malfunction clearance
5. Tactical reloads and speed reloads
6. Sighting in with large aperture
7. Survival triad/ mindset/ mental awareness

Day 2: 0800-1200 hrs

1. Prone (military/roll-over/olympic)
2. Kneeling (braced/high-low/2 knee)
3. Sitting
4. Squat
5. Standing

Day 2: 1300-1600 hrs

1. Controlled/accelerated pairs/2+2 drills
2. Alternate aiming zones
3. Non-standard responses (NSR's)
4. Unorthodox positions (urban prone and kneeling/SBU/ supine)

Day 2: 1900-2100 hrs

1. Low-light firing
2. Flashlight use

Day 3: 0800-1200 hrs

1. Pivots and turns to targets
2. Movement – forward/reverse
3. One-handed firing
4. Coordinating with a partner, outdoors/indoors
5. Tactical use of cover / firing around vehicles

Day 3: 1300-1700 hrs

1. Review of firing
2. El Presidente
3. Scrambler

The Hot Range

The Gunsite instructors began by addressing the four firearm safety rules developed at Gunsite. These rules were not unfamiliar to the Marines of I MEF, but what was unfamiliar to most Marines was the concept of a “hot range.” Most Marines are use to the very controlled “nanny state” range mentality on the Marine Corps’ Known Distance Qualification Course. Marines are only allowed to load a precise amount of ammunition in their magazine and insert the magazine into their rifle when told to do so by the range tower. This may be suitable for running a range at the NRA National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio but is completely unacceptable for training Marines how to fight on a “two way range” on the streets of Iraq or mountains of Afghanistan.

Once the Gunsite instructors addressed range safety, administrative firearm skills, and the Marines conducted the necessary dry practice to demonstrate proficiency, the M16A2s and M4 Carbines were loaded with full magazines and carried that way during the entire course. Suffice to say that the Marines took to the “hot range” concept like ducks to water and not one single negligent discharge has occurred during all five Gunsite MTTs.

The M16A2

Dean Caputo, a certified Colt Armorer Instructor, addressed the pro’s and con’s of the M16A2 and M4 Carbines. First was the fact that the gas operation of the rifle causes it to “sh*t were it eats” or in other words the gas tube pushes the bolt carrier group rearward with hot carbon gas in the same area that the magazine is feeding the chamber. Second, these carbines are very accurate because they are manufactured with tight tolerances. However, tight tolerances mean that the rifle is more susceptible to stoppages caused by im-

proper care/cleaning, dust and debris. This is easily rectified by keeping the rifle functionally clean and only placing oil on the wearing surfaces of the bolt, not ‘liberally’ spraying oil on the whole bolt as is often done. Spraying oil on non-wearing surface parts only allows dust and debris to collect where they are not wanted, contributing to stoppages. Excellent lubricants like TW-25, Shooter’s Choice FP-10, or dry lubricant sprays produced by Outers, Hoppe’s, and Remington work very well, having been field tested in Iraq with results far superior to the issued CLP. Also, closing the ejection port cover as part of the shooter’s follow-through skills after target/threat engagement will help reduce stoppages by keeping dirt and debris from getting inside rifle’s operating system.

Another problem unique to the M16A2, and the newly USMC issued M16A4, is that they both use a 13 5/8” stock designed for competitive use in NRA High Power Rifle matches, not for fighting. The A2 and A4 stock is nearly an inch longer than the originally designed M16 and M16A1 stock. The additional length of pull causes short-stature shooters wearing the superb U.S. military issued Point Blank Interceptor Vest, with the Small Arms Protective Insert (SAPI – pronounced “sappy”) Plate, to fit their stance to the rifle vice fitting the rifle to their stance. Simply installing a four-to-six position adjustable stock could solve this problem but is prevented by MCO P4790.1B. One Marine Battalion bought adjustable stocks and converted them while in Iraq to better fit the rifles to their Marines, as well as equip them for the mission and environment – only to be forced by bureaucrats within the Marine Corps to reinstall the original stocks or face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Hopefully, no Marine has lost his life to such myopic adherence to regulations by those “who don’t want to know what they don’t know.”

One Marine Corps Known-Distance Marksmanship myth that was broken during the Gunsite training was about the purpose of the large-aperture rear sight. Almost all Marines are taught that the large aperture rear sight is only for low or no light use. This is not true. The large aperture rear sight is for engaging targets between 0 and 200 meters. The small aperture is for engaging targets from 200 meters and beyond. Also, the large aperture is not on the same plane as the small aperture, thus will not shoot to the same point of aim,

point of impact. The small/“long range” aperture is approximately 6 Minutes of Angle (MOA) higher than the larger/“short range” aperture. Knowledge of this fact is very important so that Marines can adjust elevation accordingly.

Proper Positions

Gunsite, like other firearms instructors, including John Farnam of Defense Training International, teaches that the sling is to the rifle as the holster is to a pistol. Slings in tactical environments are used to carry the rifle when not at The Ready or On Target, but the need to quickly mount the rifle is still essential. The two types of slings commonly used are the carry strap and the tactical sling. The carry strap is the common military-issued two-point-attached 1.25” nylon web sling. The carry strap does an excellent job, as well as being simple and inexpensive. The rifle can be carried, or slung, in two ways. First is the American Carry where the rifle muzzle is up and carried on the strong side. Second is the African or Field Carry where the rifle muzzle is down and carried on the support side. Both positions allow the shooter to mount their rifle quickly, but are better suited to transportation than fighting. Tactical slings, like three-point slings from Wilderness Tactical, Specter Gear, and IBD Products, and the Wilderness Tactical single-point sling (coupled with the excellent Tango Down PR-16 single-point mount), offer the Marines a better tactical carry method, allowing for very quick mounting of the rifle when necessary, as well as better weapons retention. However, good tactical slings need to be able to transition from strong to support side, as well as have a quick disconnect in order to remove the rifle from the shooter’s body in an emergency. Whenever carrying a slung rifle, no matter what type of sling used, muzzle awareness is paramount.

Various fighting stances from standing to prone, some similar and different from those used on the Known Distance range, were introduced to the Marines. The logic behind the fighting stances was quickly recognized and adapted by the Marines without hesitation. First was the difference between a classic NRA off-hand standing position and the better Gunsite-taught standing fighting stance where the shooter squares off to the threat, pulling the rifle in tight to the body, thereby maximizing the full capability of the Interceptor Vest and SAPI plate and increasing recoil control. Firing drills that covered the classic braced

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John Walton, 21 November
1968 at FOB 1 Phu Bai.
Photo by Doug LaTourneau

John Walton:

A Secret Warrior, Green Beret Medic Before He Gained Fame and Fortune

By John Stryker Meyer

The mass media headlines announcing the tragic 27 June death of John T. Walton focused on the personal fortune he had amassed as the second of three sons of American icon and entrepreneurial pioneer Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart.

Since 1968, the John Walton I knew was first and foremost a family man — when his father was dying of cancer, he flew around the world searching for remedies to the disease that ultimately claimed Sam Walton's life.

He was an intelligent free spirit who went his own way in life — becoming a Green Beret medic first and later succeeding in the businesses he started, while extolling the virtues of charter schools.

Yet, the man who died that fateful Monday when his ultra-light aircraft crashed in Grand Teton National Park, was the same, humble man I first met 37 years ago in Phu Bai, South Vietnam and yes, he was a man who lived on the edge for several decades of his life.

In the early days of our friendship, we exchanged family notes: My dad was a milkman, his dad “had a five-and-dime store” in Bentonville, Ark., and we had strong, no-nonsense moms.

In May 1968, we were young Green Berets who had just entered the secret war that was fought during the Vietnam War. We were stationed at FOB 1 in Phu Bai as members of small reconnaissance teams that ran top-secret missions across the fence into Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam under the aegis of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam — Studies and Observations Group, or simply SOG. He was assigned to a recon team, code-named ST Louisiana.

As a Green Beret medic, Walton could have arranged to work in the relative safety of the base camp, attending to the indigenous personnel's and SF troops' medical needs. But, he chose to

run recon, in SOG, which was arguably the most hazardous duty during the war, running missions deep into enemy territory with no artillery or conventional ground force support. SOG men suffered more than 100 percent casualties, which was noted when the unit received a Presidential Unit Citation in 2001.

On 3 August, 1968, during one such mission, Walton's six-man recon team was surrounded and overrun by enemy soldiers. The attack was so fierce, the team leader called an air strike on his team to break the enemy attack. That strike killed one team member, wounded the team leader and severed the right leg of the Green Beret radio operator Tom Cunningham Jr., of Durham, N.H. Another team member was wounded four times by AK-47 gunfire by an enemy soldier whom Walton killed.

A South Vietnamese helicopter pilot, Capt. Thinh Dinh, landed and picked up the five living members of the team while under heavy gunfire and barely extracted the team from its sure-death firefight with hundreds of enemy soldiers. Because both Americans were seriously wounded, Walton had to direct the air strikes, in addition to tending to the wounded and fighting off continuous attacks by NVA soldiers while conversing with the forward air controller, SF SFC Pat Watkins.

Interviewed from his home in Utah a few days after Walton died, Watkins said, “John Walton was a fearless recon man and a helluva a medic, first and foremost. On that particular mission, I was flying Covey (the Air Force forward air controller in the secret war) and I talked to him on the radio. He was unflappable, in the best SF tradition.



Without him that entire team would have been lost...personally, I believe he should have received the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross — the nation's second highest medal for valor) for what he did that day under extremely adverse conditions.” Walton did earn a Silver Star for that mission.

As '68 rolled along, our friendship grew as we became strong competitors in Scrabble, poker and impromptu football games — ironically, the most serious injury Walton sustained during his tour of duty in SOG was a severe ankle sprain during a football game at Phu Bai.

During one mission, while running a mission from CCC in Kontum, Walton's team had climbed a steep mountain and took a break at its crest. The team ate lunch, while sitting behind a huge rock formation. After the break, the point man took two or three steps around the rock and opened fire on an NVA company element that was taking a break on the opposite side of the mountain. Walton managed to lead ST Louisiana from that fierce firefight, with minimal casualties to his six-man team.

He also shared his dreams: he said that if he lived, he would return to the U.S., buy a motorcycle and drive across

Continued on page 59

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Columnist & Contributing Editor, Black Belt Magazine
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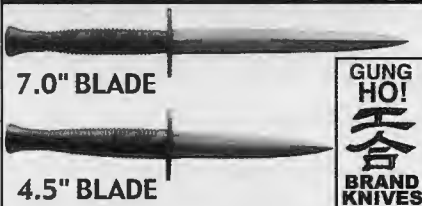
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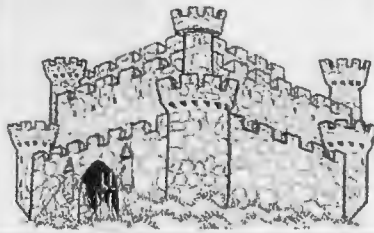
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kneeling, speed kneeling, two-knee kneeling (known in Gunsite lingo as the “Monica”) and “rice paddy prone”/squatting position. Finally, advantages and disadvantages were addressed, followed by practical application, of the classic Olympic and military prone positions, as well as the asymmetric prone positions like rollover prone, Supine prone, urban prone, and SBU (from U.S. Navy Special Warfare Small Boat Unit) Prone.

Immediate Action

As previously mentioned, the Eugene Stoner-designed M16 system is an excellent rifle, but it is not without its flaws. Neither is John Browning’s superbly designed 1911 .45 ACP fighting handgun. Nothing made by man is perfect. Thus, the importance of immediate action drills or in Marine Corps parlance “remedial action” to clear stoppages or malfunctions induced by the shooter, rifle or ammo. Combat is not a time to raise your hand and ask for an alibi from the Known-Distance range coach! The Marine Corps currently teaches Tap-Rack-Bang. Tap the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is properly seated, Rack the bolt to the rear (using the firing hand), sight in and attempt to fire – Bang. Gunsite teaches a more effective method. Push the magazine into the magazine well and Pull it to ensure it is properly seated. Tapping or slapping sharply on the bottom of the magazine can often jar loose a round from the magazine creating more problems. Roll the rifle so that the ejection port faces the ground, Rack the bolt to the rear with the non-firing hand allowing any potential “debris” or the problem round to fall out. Sight in and attempt to fire – Bang. In other words: Push-Pull, Roll,



No, the Marines are not “sleeping on the job.” They are shooting from the asymmetric SBU Prone position, that minimizes the shooter’s profile and allows them to shoot under vehicles during an urban fight. You won’t see this position at Camp Perry or on the Known-Distance course.

Rack, Bang. A more elaborate variation is used for clearing Type III or Double Feeds. As “Murphy” is always screwing with riflemen in combat, one can always expect to have the worse happen, i.e. a double feed, at the least favorable moment. Reflexively clearing these is essential to a rifleman.

Verbalization

One addition to the last few MTTs that occurred was the inclusion of “Verbalization” during the firing drills. As Blish explained, “Verbalization conditions Marines to identify the threat while engaging the enemy so that their fellow teammates know why and what they are shooting. This makes everyone situationally aware at the beginning of the engagement and minimizes confusion as to who and why they are shooting.” Simple one-to-three-syllable words are taught and used, i.e. “Bomb,” “Gun,” “Knife,” and “RPG.” Also, taught are simple activity words to emphasize com-

munications within fire teams like, “Moving,” “Reloading” – “Up,” “Malfunction” – “Up.” The coupling of “Verbalization” with the firing drills liked Controlled Pairs, Hammer Pairs, Non-Standard Response (NSR), and Failure to Stop made the training more realistic and helped with combat mindset conditioning. As an aside, an NSR is defined as three or more rounds fired into the center of the exposed mass of your threat. In other words, shoot until the threat goes away. NSRs require mastering a proper stance and semi-auto trigger control in order to shoot very rapidly using one initial sight picture. It is almost as fast as full auto, but a whole lot more accurate!

Shooting While Wounded

During the first battle of Fallujah, Sgt Eric M. Kocher, Reconnaissance Team Leader from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division was leading a counter-mortar patrol when they were ambushed. Kocher was wounded in the initial RPG volley, loosing a “baseball” size chunk of bicep muscle in his strong side (right) arm. After applying a tourniquet to his own arm he continued to return fire with his support arm only, as well as lead his patrol out of the ambush while personally killing more than 20 Iraqi insurgents. Kocher was awarded the Bronze Star for his valor.

This is just one example of why training to shoot, reload, and clear malfunctions with only one hand, either strong or support, should be an essential part of preparing Marines and soldiers to fight. Because the Gunsite MTT s can be shaped according to the customer’s needs, Blish requested that this be included in the I MEF Gunsite Carbine course. Marines truly appreci-

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ated this aspect of the training and its emphasis on staying in the fight, even if wounded.

Low Light/No Light

Owning the night and being able to operate effectively in this environment has made the difference between victory and defeat. Rifleman need to be able to locate, identify and engage the enemy. Using AN/PVS-7Bs Night Vision Devices with AN/PAQ-4 Infrared Laser Aiming Devices provides some Marines this distinct advantage. But not all Marines have access to these devices at all times. Thus, the ability to see their sights is accomplished by installing their own personally purchased XS Sights tritium front sights and/or using a high-quality Surefire, Streamlight, Laser Devices, or Insight Technology light system to illuminate, blind, and dominate the threat. However, flashlights are "bullet magnets," thus use must be intermittent and movement must occur immediately after the light is turned off. One problem that must be guarded against, especially by male Marines or soldiers, is "premature illumination" or in other words illuminating oneself and fellow teammates unintentionally. This not only draws unwanted "attention," but also negatively impacts the night vision of oneself and fellow Marines.

Bottomline

The Gunsite carbine "two way" rifle range training provided to the Marines of I MEF is the necessary step forward from the current Known-Distance "one way" competition rifle range training. Candid comments from every Marine participating in the training, many already veterans of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and/or IRAQI FREEDOM, were enthusiastically positive. Many

JOHN WALTON • Continued from page 58

country. Then, he'd get his pilot license, find a job and explore Mexico and Central and South America.

He pursued those dreams with vigor, eventually becoming a crop-duster for six months a year, while driving his VW bus south, into and through Mexico. During those years, I'd called his mom for John's latest phone number while my mom would get calls from John. By the '80s, as Wal-Mart became a force to be reckoned with, John went his own way, building several success businesses while living with his wife, Christy, on a trimaran before they bought a sailing captain's historic house in National City, California.

And, he remembered his comrades from Vietnam. In 2003, he flew his executive jet to Fargo, N.D., to pick up now-Col. Think and family to fly them to a reunion in Las Vegas that honored the Vietnamese pilots who operated in the secret war.

Marines asked, "Why isn't the Gunsite curriculum the standard throughout the Marine Corps?" I would only add, "Why not the standard throughout the U.S. military?"

"But we in it shall be remember'd; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile, this day shall gentle his condition: And gentlemen in England now a-bed shall think themselves accursed they were not here, and hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

Henry V – William Shakespeare ✕

Contacted in New Hampshire, Tom Cunningham Jr., who used to work at SOF, said he was heartbroken to learn of Walton's untimely death. "He was an uncommon medic, and regardless of the wealth he accumulated over the years, he remained the same caring, witty guy he was when he was an elite warrior in SOG." ✕

Editor's Note: The author John 'Tilt' Stryker Meyer ran reconnaissance missions in SOG on ST/RT Idaho from 1968 through 1970 at FOB 1 in Phu Bai and CCN in Da Nang, and is the author of Across The Fence: The Secret War in Vietnam. Chap. 4 in that book focuses on the 3 August, 1968 mission in Laos where Walton and S. Vietnamese helicopter pilot Capt. Think Dinh returned all of the living members of that six-man recon team. You can obtain the book from realwarstories.com

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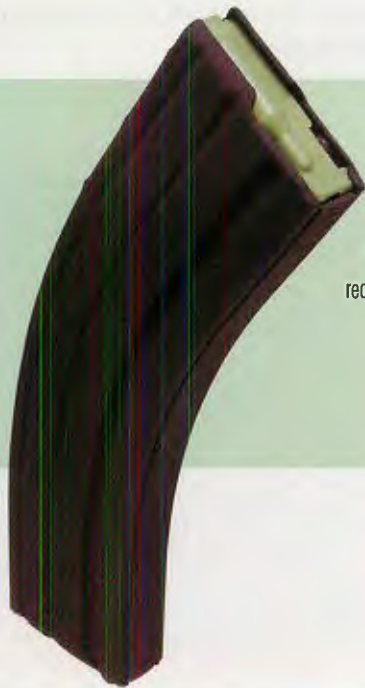


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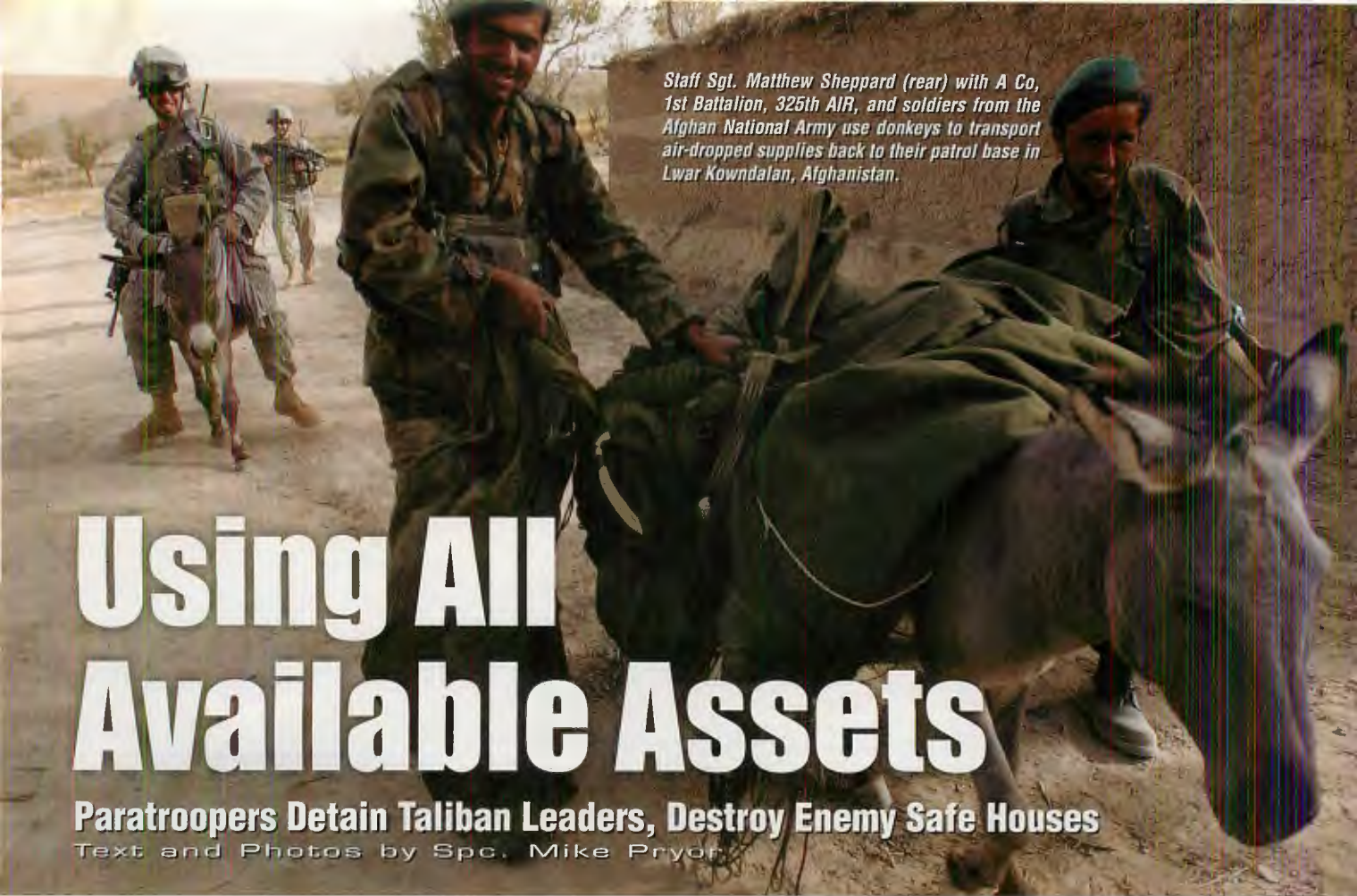


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Staff Sgt. Matthew Sheppard (rear) with A Co, 1st Battalion, 325th AIR, and soldiers from the Afghan National Army use donkeys to transport air-dropped supplies back to their patrol base in Lwar Kowndalan, Afghanistan.

Using All Available Assets

Paratroopers Detain Taliban Leaders, Destroy Enemy Safe Houses

Text and Photos by Spc. Mike Pryor

MIANASHIN, Afghanistan (Army News Service, Oct. 12, 2005)—Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division, along with Afghan National Army troops, were conducting an operation in the Mianashin region north of Kandahar in early October when an airdrop of supplies fell short of its mark.

Water bottles and boxes of food were strewn for hundreds of yards across the mountain and paratroopers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment spent the afternoon carrying boxes down from the ridgeline, but there were still several large loads that needed to be transported. With daylight rapidly disappearing, A Company seemed to have run out of options.

Luckily, that is when the “Donkey Man” showed up.

Spc. Daniel Boyle spotted the old man as he led a team of donkeys up a hill in the distance. Boyle realized the donkeys might be the solution to A Co’s transportation problem. He beckoned the man over and began to negotiate. They reached an agreement, and soon each donkey was loaded with a bundle of supplies and was ready to move out.

Staff Sgt. Matthew

Sheppard mounted the lead donkey and with a gentle jab he spurred the animal forward.

“On a mission like that, you never know what situation you’re going to find yourself in. That’s why we just try to stay flexible and make the most out of whatever breaks we get,” said Shaw.

The five-day operation resulted in the detainment of three Taliban leaders and the destruction of two enemy safe houses. It began with a pre-dawn air assault into the town of Lwar Kowndalan Oct. 1. Two Chinook helicopters with an Apache

gunship for support delivered the paratroopers in a clearing just outside the village. They exited the helicopters and as the dust settled, the paratroopers could see they had landed in a graveyard.

The paratroopers moved out quickly and encircled the town by squads. Their objective was to capture several high-ranking Taliban operatives known to live in the village. After they searched several houses, three Taliban members were captured.

Meanwhile, paratroopers were also on the lookout for a safe-house used by Taliban



An Apache helicopter provides protection from the air while paratroopers from A Co, 1st Battalion, 325th AIR, move into position shortly after air assaulting into Lwar Kowndalan, Afghanistan to start a five-day mission.

Paratroopers from A Co, 1st Battalion, 325th AIR prepare to board a Chinook transport helicopter that will return them to their home base at the end of a five-day mission in Mianashin, Afghanistan.



forces. After several hours, Capt. Michael Shaw, A Co. commander, decided to set up a patrol base from which to continue the search. He chose a high-walled, fortress-like compound. Ironically, soon after occupying the building, the paratroopers realized it was actually the safe-house they were looking for.

The next day, after loading the three detainees onto a Chinook for transport to a secure location, the company moved out on a punishing hike through the mountains to the town of Gardeneh. The village is situated on top of a hill at the foot of a cluster of immense boulders. A search of the homes failed to turn up any evidence of Taliban presence, but one old man told the paratroopers that approximately 50 Taliban fighters had recently moved through the area. Shaw had his men set up an observation point at the old man's house in hopes that the enemy might pass by again that night.

As they waited for night, the paratroopers were almost entirely out of food and water. They paid the old man to butcher one of his goats and drank water from his well after purifying it with iodine tablets.

Later, when most of his men were in their sleeping bags or on guard, Shaw went to sit by the old man's side to thank him for the hospitality. In the morning

the company hiked several miles further out to search another compound, then circled back and made the journey all the way back to their base in Lwar Kowndalan to await re-supply.

From the roof of their compound, the paratroopers saw the C-130 fly over and crates of food and water attached to green parachutes came tumbling out of the plane's hold. Sheppard's squad was dispatched to retrieve the supplies. Hours later, he rode the donkey back into the compound leading the rest of his improvised convoy behind him.

The re-supply had also included humanitarian aid supplies for the local people. All afternoon and into the evening the villagers filed into the compound one by one to receive rice, beans, sugar, tools, radios, and other supplies. The paratroopers did their best to distribute the material according to need, but everyone seemed to be equally needy.

Operations continued the next day as the platoon discovered another abandoned safe-house and several caves that had been used as shelters or staging points for ambushes. Using mortar fire, M136 anti-tank missiles, and hand grenades, the paratroopers destroyed them.

A company was due to be exfiltrated

by Chinook helicopters just after sunrise Oct. 5. But before they could leave, there was one last piece of unfinished business – the compound they had been living in. Rather than leave it intact for the Taliban to use, Shaw gave the order to destroy the building and the remaining supplies in it with claymore mines. Staff Sgt. Richard Eldridge emplaced the mines.

When everything was set, Eldridge crouched down just outside the gates of the compound and detonated the mines. There was a tremendous blast and then a cloud of smoke and dust came drifting out of the gates. Poking his head inside, Eldridge saw that the explosion had split the main building straight down the middle. The compound's days as a safe haven for Taliban fighters were over.

The paratroopers moved out to the pickup zone. Soon they heard the incoming Chinooks, and less than 45 minutes later they were back at Kandahar Airfield, looking forward to a well-earned day of hot chow, hot showers, and sleep on comfortable mattresses. And no more donkeys. ❧

(Editor's note: Spc. Mike Pryor is with the 1/325th Public Affairs)

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from countries, from foundations and from the likes of globalist billionaire George Soros. And they have added additional countries to their U.N. vote column. They have sworn that their efforts won't be derailed again, and are working toward a binding International Arms Trade Treaty by 2006.

During the recent Biennial Meeting of States in New York—in which I participated among only a handful of opponents to this scheme—the world gun-ban crowd has made it clear that their major target is private ownership of firearms.

A manifesto distributed by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) simply titled "Ownership," spells out "minimal" goals for U.N. control and destruction of privately owned guns—yours and mine. It includes the following steps:

- Prohibit civilian ownership of certain weapons (read, handguns and semi-automatics).
- Prevent the build-up of private arsenals (read, ban gun collecting).
- License all legal users. Register all small arms. Implement safe storage requirements (read, U.N.-imposed site inspections of your home with power to take your guns).
- Limit the carrying of guns (read, the end of Right to Carry).
- Restrict ammunition sales to license holders only. Effectively enforce these restrictions (read, enforcement aided by groups like the Violence Policy Center and Brady Campaign).
- Make gun laws uniform within national borders (read, U.N.-mandated Federal gun bans).

Remember, IANSA is headed by Rebecca Peters, who claims among her accomplishments the confiscatory ban in Australia that robbed licensed firearms owners of their 550,000 registered semi-auto rifles and shotguns and all slide-action rifles in private hands.

During our debate at Kings College London, Peters lectured that under her world view, hunters in America would only be allowed to use single-shot rifles, and to recreational and competitive shooters she said, "Take up another sport."

Ambassador Bolton's work is cut out for him. For us the task is daunting, and the fight is enormous. The world gun-ban crowd is deadly serious. As NRA members, this is our fight. And it is a do-or-die battle for freedom. ✘

Command Guidance October

Oliver North was on sight with his article. It is slanted by the way the media reports the news from Iraq or anything to do with the military. It seems as if most of our elected officials are now intelligence experts. If you listen to them stand up now and point fingers at the President and anyone else involved with the military it makes my butt burn. It only shows that some people go into politics because they're too ignorant to do anything else, not to help the people who voted them into office.

I know young men in the ROTC program away at school and they are fine examples of our future leaders and protectors. I have been a loyal reader of your fine magazine since its birth. It was read more than once in the squad on break. A subscription is forth coming.

Keep up The GOOD Work
Jim Hudgins OP4/1

I do have to say one more thing about his article. The Senator Durbin is from Illinois. (Damn I hate it when that happens!)

None Dare Call It Treason?

Shortly after World War II one William Joyce was convicted of treason in England and hung, in large part because he broadcast pro-Nazi and anti-UK propaganda after seeking the protection of a British passport. How much greater is the treason of those who have obtained UK citizenship and wage physical jihad (war) against others in the UK by blowing them up or attacking UK forces anywhere in the World?

I only wish the U.S. government would arrest and charge, with treason, all those who commit such acts against the USA or even solicit others to do so – and impose the death penalty which we have, wisely, held in reserve for such cases. Perhaps the UK gave up hanging too soon and, at the least, should charge such persons with treason. If they cannot find a qualified hangs-man, their Forces can surely assemble a firing squad.

Name withheld by request ✘

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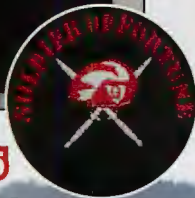
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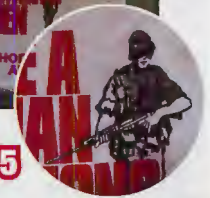
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American Handgunner editor, Roy Huntington, looks over an array of SureFire lights with Vice President of Engineering, Paul Kim.

national security. However, we were allowed to tour this facility as well and it is top notch.

Following this tour, we traveled to the Orange County Sheriff Department's indoor range to shoot the rest of the day. Most of us used Springfield XD pistols. I chose one in .45 GAP caliber. The

following day we went to the force-on-force shoot house at the Raahage Ranch Range, but first we were treated to some of the defensive and offensive tactics of James Williams, a former Army officer with more than 45 years of martial arts experience, who is also an integral part of the SureFire Institute. Having stud-

ied both armed and unarmed defense since many of his students were in liquid form, Williams does his magic almost effortlessly, taking you down before you know it, or deflecting an offensive move.

James Williams also works with real edged weapons about half of the time. I know, as I was on the delivering end of a razor sharp dagger several times during classroom demonstrations. Where projectile-based fights are concerned, Williams demonstrated several innovative solutions to problems in shooting scenarios. Although his techniques are well illustrated in his training videos, James' hands-on training courses are unsurpassed.

"Say, WHAT?"

Among a number of new divisions at SureFire is one that will manufacture a new line of electronic hearing protection and communication gear. This will include miniature devices as well as more sophisticated comms systems. Although it was not announced at this writers' conference, I learned of a major new program under development at SureFire that will rock the firearms industry, so stay tuned for more from this major player in the world of tactics.

In the meantime, for information, contact SureFire LLC, Dept. SOF, 18300 Mt. Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: 800-828-8809, on the web at www.surefire.com.

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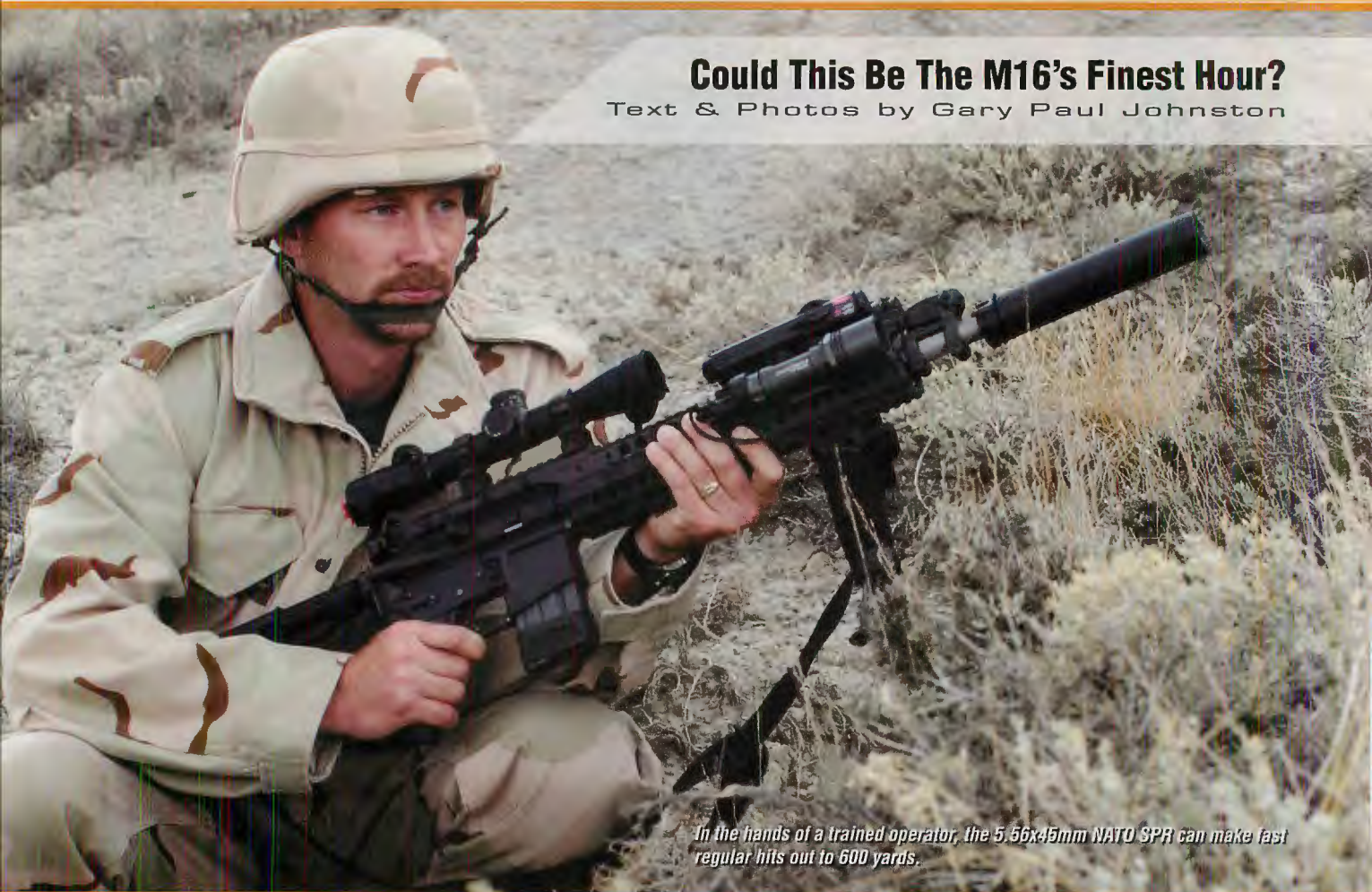
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The Next Special Purpose Rifle?

(Part I)

Could This Be The M16's Finest Hour?

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston



In the hands of a trained operator, the 5.56x45mm NATO SPR can make fast regular hits out to 600 yards.

The story of the Special Purpose Rifle (SPR) starts with the USSOCOM's Enhanced Carbine Program, from which the SPR was born.

In October 2000, the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) issued a Summary of System Descriptions, and in particular, SOPMOD Block 2 and 3 Systems. The USSOCOM includes the U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Navy SEALs, Airborne Rangers and U.S. Air Force elements.

Officially called the Special Operations Peculiar Modification Program (SOPMOD), the program centers around what is called the Enhanced Carbine, a project that encompasses an extensive list of requirements for the main battle rifle (MBR) of the future.



The Harris Bipod, PRI Folding Front Sight and AN-PEQ-2 Laser are SOP on current SPR's. The S.I.R. System and SureFire M556FA Suppressor adapter are new.



(left) The ACE SOCOM 16 buttstock is one of the strongest available, but is also lightweight. The ERGO Grip is part of the original SPR package. (right) One of most innovative inventions to ever come down the pike is the GripPod, a vertical foregrip that instantly becomes a bipod, now in use with the USMC, although not with the original SPR.

These requirements are listed in what is called the SOPMOD Upgrade Block II.

The SOPMOD Upgrade Block II

Consisting of modifications and improvements to the M4A1 carbine, SOPMOD was meant to ensure enhanced reliability, accuracy, zero retention, ergonomics/man machine interface, a reduced cyclic rate and an increased service life of 15,000 rounds. A summary system description includes the following components:

- Enhanced Carbine (the basic weapon).
- Special Purpose Receiver (SPR), a .223 sniper component (now a complete rifle).
- Over The Breech Receiver (OTBR), a wet/underwater capability (a pistol caliber component).
- Close Quarter Battle Receiver (CQBR), a short-barreled version.
- Enhanced Shotgun Module (ESM) for door breaching/less than lethal applications.
- Enhanced Combat Optical Sight (ECOS), a multi-purpose illuminated-reticle sight.
- Image Intensifier Module (IIM), a night vision device (NVD) capable of being used with the ECOS.
- Thermal Image Module (TIM).
- Digital Daylight Image Video Module.
- Rangefinder Module (RM).
- Integrated Pointer-Illuminator Module (IPIM), an improved laser capable of visible and IR operation.
- Heat Source Detection Module (HSDM).
- Battery Recharger/Blasting Machine (BRBM).
- Laser Protection/Protection from Optical Augmentation (LPPOA), a hi-tech filter system.
- Muzzle Brake/Suppressor. The OPS, Inc. sound suppressor was adopted for the SPR.
- Sustained Fire Assembly (SFA), a belt-fed LMG upper for the M4 lower receiver group.
- Chamber Bore Sight (CBS).
- Enhanced Bayonet/Field Knife (EBFK), a new utility knife to attach to the barrel.
- Shot Counter (SC).
- Improved 5.56mm Ammunition.
- Enhanced Grenade Launcher Module (GLM).
- Integrated Carbine (IC), a long-range future alternative to the OICW.
- Sensor Fusion Module (SFM), a sensor fusion imaging/aiming capability.
- Improved 40mm Grenade and Other Enhanced Indirect Fire Munitions (EIFM).

In the original document, accompanying each requirement was a computer-generated drawing of the gun and/or component, some of which were quite recognizable, while others were only conceptually represented. Of particular interest was the basic weapon, which was centered on the M4A1 (M16) Carbine and one subtle, but important requirement included in the summary: This requirement was a marked reduction of mean rounds between failure/stoppage and "barrel assemblies that were more accurate, maintained accuracy longer, and rigidly mounted four-quadrant MILSTD 1913 rails to retain zero within ½ MOA objective/1 MOA threshold." Among other system requirements were ambidextrous controls, folding front and rear iron sights, and a sloping cheek-weld stock with five adjustable lengths.

A key element of the Enhanced Carbine, the above "barrel assembly" took on major importance and sparked competition between several American companies including A.R.M.S., C-More, F.N.M.I., and KAC, all of which designed and built systems that incorporated multiple M1913 rails. Consisting of a rounded metal handguard, the C-More had four full-length rails and left the barrel free floating. F.N.M.I.'s Floating Integrated Rail Mount (FIRM) was produced in both M16 and M4 versions, and provided three M1913 rails and a mount for the M203 grenade launcher on the bottom. However, the FIRM was never mass-produced, and the two major competitors were Knight Armament Corp. (KAC), of Florida, and A.R.M.S., Inc., of Massachusetts. Coming on the scene almost immediately, KAC submitted its Rail Adapter System (RAS).

The Rail Adapter System

Replacing the M4 Carbine's handguards, the RAS consists of top and bottom halves machined from 7075-T6 aircraft alloy that attach to the barrel nut and the handguard cap at the front-sight base. Held in place by the delta ring, the RAS is also anchored by an additional locking device that is tightened against the barrel nut. The metal RAS contains four-quadrant M1913 rails on which can be mounted any number of optics and accessories. These rails can also be covered by sliding polymer handguard covers if not used to mount accessories. The top rail is more or less a continuation of the rail on the M4's upper receiver. The RAS is in wide use on M4 Carbines in the Military.

The Selective Integrated Rail System

After a decade of development, the A.R.M.S. M1913 rail assembly was first seen in prototype form in 2000. Called the Selective Integrated Rail (S.I.R.) System, this design consists



The VLTOR ModStock is not only adjustable for length of pull, but also carries extra batteries for its SureFire Tactical Light, would be a worthwhile addition to existing SPRs.

of a free-floating handguard system on a totally rigid frame. The S.I.R. System mounts directly on the M1913 (so-called "Picatinny") rail on the M4A1 receiver beginning just to the rear of the barrel nut. Here it provides its own full-length rail about 4/10" higher than the receiver rail, with a spring-loaded, folding M16A2 rear sight (the A.R.M.S. #40) mounted directly behind it.

Extending forward to the front sight base, the S.I.R. also fans out and down on either side of the barrel to the centerline of the bore. Here it stops with interrupted rails on either side. Attaching to these rails is a synthetic handguard that locks firmly in place. Along these rails are mounting holes for M1913 accessory rails, and mounting holes are also found along the bottom of the handguard.

In addition to providing an uninterrupted top-rail mounting platform, the S.I.R. System also leaves the barrel totally free floating. While it closely surrounds the steel handguard cap, it doesn't touch it. This feature not only increases accuracy, but also greatly reduces heat buildup in the barrel, and almost totally eliminates it in the S.I.R. System. Vent holes in the S.I.R. not only prevent fingers from accidentally entering, but also increase the flow of cool air up into the system. The S.I.R. System weighs only about 4 ounces more than the parts it replaces on the M4A1.

Besides not touching the barrel itself, the S.I.R. System also makes it unnecessary for any accessories to contact the barrel. Although the standard M203 40mm grenade launcher can still be mounted on the S.I.R.-equipped M4, the M203 can be equipped with an adapter to quickly mount directly onto the S.I.R. after removing the synthetic

handguard. The S.I.R. even contains a means for housing an M203 sight system. Colt produces the M203 mount for the S.I.R. System under license from A.R.M.S. In addition to having been adopted by foreign military establishments, the S.I.R. System is now being used by some special units of the U.S. Military.

The Close Quarter Battle Receiver

With the SOPMPOD Program well underway by 2001, one element of the USSOCOM, the U.S. Navy SEALs, took great interest in the number 4 component, the Close Quarter Battle Receiver (CQBR).

Amounting to a short-barreled version of the M4A1, the CQBR was tested with both 11.5-inch and 10.5-inch barrels. The 10.5-inch version was selected in mid-2001, but will not accept a sound suppressor. Both types were taken into combat in Afghanistan several months later.

The Special Purpose Rifle

Originally conceived as the Special Purpose Receiver, the SPR was a multi-purpose precision assault rifle conversion for the Enhanced Carbine created by the Special Forces Group with prototype support from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) Shop. However, the designation soon became the Special Purpose Rifle when SOCOM procured a large number of surplus M16A1 rifles, the lower receiver groups from which were used to build the SPR as a complete weapon. Assembled on an ArmaLite M4A1 type flattop upper receiver, the initial SPR used a heavy 416 stainless steel Match 1-in 8" twist barrel by Douglas, Krieger, or Schneider.

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by a special barrel nut, the barrel is machined to accept the SOPMOD folding front sight made by Precision Reflex, Inc. (PRI). At the rear of the receiver is an A.R.M.S. M16A2 folding rear sight using a torsion spring to automatically spring up into position when released. This sight returns upright even if knocked down, an airborne requirement. Two trigger systems tested by operators were the single stage match full-auto model from Accuracy Speaks, and the two-stage Match Full-auto trigger from Knight's Armament.

Mounted on the initial SPR was a PRI tubular carbon-fiber handguard. Leaving the barrel totally free floating, the handguard was reinforced by a special extended-length Swan sleeve with an A.R.M.S #38 SPR M1913 MilStd rail. Anchored to the flattop receiver, this rigid sleeve reinforced the handguard. The first SPR used the ERGO Grip by Falcon Industries. As with the basic Enhanced Carbine, the SPR used SOCOM's Ops, Inc. SOPMOD sound suppressor along with PRI's M84 charging handle. Called the "Gas Buster," the M84 provided easy access with a scope mounted and deflected gas blast away from the shooter's eyes.

In 2000, some 150 SPR's were produced with the main components being painted tan using baked-on Cal-Guard. The SPR was issued with a special M30 Leupold telescopic sight. Of 3.5-10X36mm, this 30mm scope also had a mil-dot reticle. The SPR was issued with proprietary 5.56x45mm ammuni-

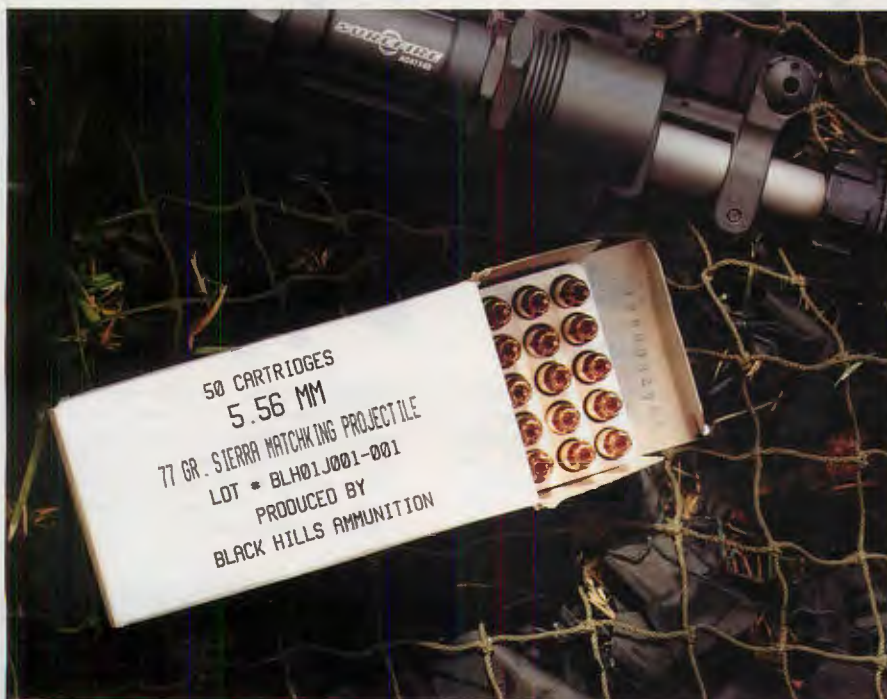
tion developed for the SF by the AMU. Loaded with 77gr. Sierra Match King bullets by Black Hills Ammunition Company, of Rapid City, South Dakota, this round was type classed as the Mk 262 Mod 0. It has made many 600+ yard hits on the enemy in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT).

Kevin Morehead, American Hero

Just how many hits the SPR has made on our enemies is classified, but the accomplishment of one Special Forces Hero, the late Sgt. Kevin Morehead, tells some of the story. Part of a team of three snipers with 5th Group, Sgt. Morehead and his comrades became pinned down on a hill by a large force of Taliban that outnumbered them roughly fifty-to-one. Using their Ops, Inc. suppressed SPR's, the three snipers were successful in preventing the enemy from taking the hill, but when night came, the Taliban became more aggressive. What they didn't know was that the three Americans had night vision.

Having grown up in the woods of rural Arkansas, Kevin Morehead was a skilled hunter and tactician. He told the other two SF snipers that he was going to descend the hill on the Taliban's left flank. Throughout the night, as Taliban troops moved or stood up to fire up the hill, Sgt. Morehead shot them one by one. In the dark, they were unaware of where the shots were coming from, and gradually began holding their AK-47s above their heads to fire from behind

Continued on page 80



This 50-round box of Black Hills Mk 262 Mod 0 5.56mm OTM ammunition has been standard issue with the SPR since 2001.

Special Purpose Rifle Contacts:

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“One member of the Hofstad cell, Jason Walters, is the son of an American serviceman stationed in Holland.” the Legionnaire said.

“Jermaine Walters, the brother of Jason, who was already in custody awaiting trial for throwing a handgrenade at the police was arrested,” he said.

“The father is American, which makes the brothers Americans, too. Can't you take them back?” he asked.

Jason W. was arrested in The Hague after a 14-hour standoff with the police searching for Van Gogh's killer. The Dutch group received orders from Abdeladim Akoudad, a suspect in the May 2003 terrorist strikes in Casablanca who was arrested near Barcelona in October 2003. Akoudad's detention led to the roundup in the Netherlands of five suspects in October 2003, including Samir Azzouz, a friend of van Gogh's killer Bouyeri. The five were planning violent attacks on Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, the Dutch parliament and the Borssele nuclear reactor.

“We Have Moles in the Secret Service”

“We have moles that infiltrate into the secret service. Most secret service agents only speak Dutch. They hire Arabic speaking Moroccans to listen to the suspect's conversations. The interrogators probably don't have a clue what is being said or what secure information is disclosed to the suspects,” the Legionnaire said. “The Dutch secret service even has been infiltrated by an Islamic extremist linked to the killer of Theo van Gogh.

One mole, 34-year-old Moroccan Outmar Ben A, who immigrated to the Netherlands when he was four was an AIVD staffer. Outmar was arrested and charged with stealing security documents just before the Van Gogh murder. He had forwarded state secrets directly to the Hofstad network, according to Dutch officials.

The stolen documents included a file on Azzouz. The police who raided his home found bomb making materials, including a silencer and ammunition, night vision goggles and a bulletproof vest, jihadist literature and videos, and maps of the Dutch parliament and other potential targets along with notes on their security, according to the *Pittsburg Tribune*.

“Many Moroccans have Dutch citizenship, yet they hate us to the extent that they want to kill us,” the former

Legionnaire said. This Moroccan guy was caught with plans of the Parliament building and of a nuclear plant. He had an enormous collection of all kinds of information about castrating people and beheading people. He was making plans to blow us up.”

Not only does the secret service blow it, so do the courts.

In a court decision that outraged the Dutch, Azzouz was acquitted of terrorism charges.

The Legionnaire, back in Amsterdam, informed us as this goes to press

that “six men and a woman were arrested for preparing attacks on Parliament, the AIVD building and politicians (likely Wilders and Hirshi Ali. Shots were fired, probably stun-grenades. Arrests were made in den Haag, Amsterdam, and Almere. One of the arrested is Azzouz of the Hofstad Cell.”

The Bomb in the Toilet

“The Leftist GroenLinks Party has related organizations with activist recruits that use violence who have all previously fought on some ideological



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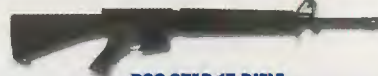
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front.

"Politicians linked with terrorism officially act within the law under the cover of all kinds of organizations or through links with respectable animal or environmental organizations such as Green Peace. Some would go to the streets and fight with political opponents and disturb meetings by people they consider Fascists, which was almost everybody.

"Lower House member Wynand Duyvendak is the director of a milieu-defensie-like organization that fights for nature. He was suspected to be part of the RARA terrorist organization that was anti-Apartheid and anti immigration in the 80s. RARA blew up the State Secretary's house in the early 1990s and smuggled a bomb into a toilet in the Parliament, and blew up the Ministry of Defense. Members blew up banks in the 90s and sabotaged Shell stations because the company was doing business in South Africa, the land of Apartheid. He eventually got caught and now he's in Parliament.

"Peter Klerks is a socialist working for the city council of Amsterdam in charge of Public Order and Safety," the Legionnaire said. "He has a radical activist past and was together with his

buddy Duyvendak on the staff of the underground magazine BLUF, that teaches leftwing radicals (all anti-American) how to make bombs and frustrate police techniques. Klerks also teaches at the Police Academy.

"One of his other buddies is Cyrille Fynaut. This former police inspector from the city of Tilburg is now an international authority on security matters and terrorism and advises the government. He is also a professor at the N.Y.

"You can count on having a terrorist bombing in Holland."

University School of Law. He is presumably the guy that got Klerks in the Police Academy," he said.

"Iranian Political refugee Karima obtained Dutch nationality and was elected to the Parliament for the Green Left party, a takeoff from a former Dutch Communist Party, even though she has been linked to terrorist movements.

The Mercs of Moluccans

"Sam Pormes, a leftwing Green (GroenLinks) Senator, is the son of Moluccan immigrants who trained in Yemen with the most notorious guerilla Palestinian terror movement (PFLP) in the 1970s," the Legionnaire said.

A Central Detective Information Service (CRI) report confirmed Pormes' participation in the South Yemen training camp. His GroenLinks party asked Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner to investigate whether Pormes lied about his alleged participation in the guerrilla training.

Pormes is suspected of being involved in the 1977 train hijacking at the village of De Punt, a protest action by Moluccan militia eventually ended by the army. Six hijackers and two passengers were killed.

In 1982, Pormes spent seven months in pre-trial custody. He was acquitted of charges of shooting at a police car.

"The South Moluccans are a warrior people who formed a loyal core of civil administrations and soldiers in the Dutch Indies.

"Pormes was a Moluccan, but he has been rejected by them.

"The Moluccans were well trained mercenary soldiers that fought generation




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after generation for the Dutch in Indonesia," the former Legionnaire told us.

"They were betrayed in the 70s, just like the U.S. sold out the Montagnards. When the Dutch pulled out of Indonesia the Moluccans wanted a free Republic of Malacca. The Indonesian army invaded the Moluccan islands. The Dutch authorities put all the Moluccan soldiers and civil-servants and political and religious leaders on a few ships and told them they were going to Holland for a short while. They were demobilized on board and were not allowed to go home and fight for their country. Their leader, the heroic and charismatic Dr. Chris Soumokil became the first president of the Republik Maluka Selatan, but he was captured and executed by the Indonesians. You could say that the ordeal of the Moluccan exiles in Holland was the longest hostage-taking in history, for which neither the Dutch government nor the Dutch royal family ever apologized," he said.

"A few of the sons of the second generation staged hijackings, and kidnapped trains out of frustration. One group of 200 radicals came by trains and cars carrying baseball bats, knuckle-dusters, and sticks to hit people. Police raided them in the train. It was bad

publicity for them.

"But most of them were just soldiers treated badly. Pormes is a socialist with a left wing ideology and he had a liaison with the ones that hijacked trains. The hijackers claim his role was much more important than the story tells and that he was one of the initiators of the hijackings. Of course he denies that. The Moluccan society tells stories about him because they don't like him. They are not politically active.

"The Dutch see the Moluccans as train hijackers but in my opinion they were soldiers, and they are ambitious. They go to school and become doctors and lawyers."

Butchers of Morocco

"Moslems that make problems are almost exclusively Moroccan and sometimes Algerians or Turks. They are rejected racist rebels without a cause. They have everything from free medical care to free education.

"Moroccans and Turks came from poor areas as guest workers to work temporarily. Left wing parties decided they could stay and bring their families to Holland.

"These Moroccans and Turks became Dutch citizens yet they still don't speak

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Dutch. They own mosques and were allowed to form their own society. The Zaandam Turkish Mosque is the biggest mosque in Western Europe, I believe. Most Muslims are not really against us but we have problems in weeding out radicals because of these leftist politicians. Leftist politicians allow immigrants not to assimilate and use their own language.

"Radicals preach hate in the Mosques sometimes. A priest from Morocco or Turkey tells the people that the western women are whores and the men are homosexuals. Muslims have to reject us because of the very negative image.

"The kind of democracy we have is also one of our great weaknesses.

"Some people see this as a weakness. If I don't break your nose I am a pussy. When they come after a woman in the middle of the street and her husband doesn't come beat them up, she is a hooker.

"Moroccans have been terrorizing the streets for at least twenty years, hassling people in public areas, in shopping malls, in public transport systems, on popular beaches and in public swimming pools. They look where the girls are hiding. In some countries they would kill these people. In my country

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they get away with it. We don't go to the swimming pool, many are afraid to use train or bus especially at night especially in certain neighborhoods. Moroccan youth are involved in vandalism, verbal and physical assault, car theft and burglary, robberies in the street and possession of illegal arms and knives.

"Guns are not legal, but there is always an underground. Guns are smuggled from Croatia, from the former Yugoslavia, and everywhere in the former Eastern block.

"The immigrants came in as guest workers or because of de-colonization or other reasons.

Surinam Moves to the Netherlands

"In addition to the Moroccans, people came from the Caribbean, the Dutch Antilles and were given citizenship. They have no families in Holland.

"Surinam was a friendly country of Blacks and Chinese without a violent history. The socialist wind blowing in Holland decided it is not politically correct for a civilized country to have a colony. Most of the blacks did not understand why Holland wanted to get rid of them because they considered themselves Dutch. In 1975, Surinam became independent. Half of the people had vot-

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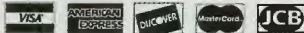
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ed against independence and the other half were thinking they were going to get rich or just plain independent. The country was not ready for this. There was no infrastructure for governance. Half of these people are in Holland now since 60-80,000 immigrated en mass in 1975. The Dutch Government had to pass a law that required that they apply for a visa because the country was emptying out. Surinam was attractive until it became independent and civil unrest broke out. Every sheriff had his own show. They are not nasty, although some outlaws were causing trouble in the beginning but most of them are assimilating and doing pretty well.

Island of Curacao Immigrants Breed Contempt

"Those from Curacao hate us and don't respect us," the Legionnaire discussed the history of immigration from the Dutch Antilles.

"Curacao Blacks have no education. The prisons are overfull because almost everybody has a criminal record. There is no future for these people. Many are outlaws that go to Holland to get social security. They are very dangerous because they will shoot you.

"Young people come in, no school, no family to link up with, no social control, no system to guide these people. They make girls pregnant and drive around with cars with pistols. There are dangerous people in every large community. It's too late. You have to send these people back but left-wingers won't allow authorities to send them back.

"The trouble doesn't come from Islam, it comes from young people rejected by Dutch society because of the way they behave. They have no respect for us because we are pushovers. They get inspiration from people like Bin Laden, al Qaeda or Al Jazeera.

"So a little boy gets his inspiration, a reason to live, a reason to die, and a reason to kill. They accept him. The danger is far greater because young people are playing all day in front of a computer. They download all these movies and create a world in which they are welcome and feel very at ease with others who have a Moslem background and speak the same language. They think it is a way of getting acceptance. They rejected our society first but they don't understand that.

"They hate us because we are the supporters of Israel and of the United States against Islam. What Israelis do with non-Jewish using amazing laws

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against Arabs that would be completely racist. In Holland and the United States, we would never get away with it.

"The disturbing thing is that the Dutch get involved as well. One Dutch policewoman, a Moslem convert who was hanging out with Moroccans, was arrested two months ago with a Moslem woman and Moroccan man with loaded submachine who were in contact with the Hofstad cell. It's a new breed of terrorists-western people that got converted to Islam and want to be more Muslim than Osama Bin Laden. They are rejects that found a new mission.

"I was talking to this Moroccan who was growing a goatee and showed all the signs of going the way of fundamentalism. He was asking me what he should do. I said, 'why don't you go to school and get medical training or go to the army or do this or that or whatever. Go to Gaza and to the West Bank and teach poor Palestinian children or give them medical care. Why do you people hate us' I asked him. 'We have nothing to do with people on the West Bank. We have nothing to do with messed up idiots in the mountains of Afghanistan.

"That was not on his agenda.

"The Bin Laden gang is a different breed of unhappy children living in Holland. These Moroccans are living in a country that gave them so much and they don't have to give back. Large numbers of Dutch, German, and French Moslems didn't go to Bosnia.

"Croatians who held the line against the Islamic Turks of the Ottoman Empire had to do military duty. They were the frontiersmen of the West, the first defenders of Western society and they could not understand that West was letting them die in this war. Europe would not recognize them. I was in Croatia and I don't understand why the European Moslems did not flock to help their fellows then. I hear that 200,000 died, but I can't find the figures. Yet 400,000 to 500,000 Turks and Moroccans feel discriminated against. They are simply Africans with the wrong attitude.

"If you're mad at us for supporting Israel go there and fight. I don't say they are cowards, but they are fighting the wrong battle for the wrong cause using the wrong arguments.

"You can count on having a terrorist bombing in Holland, probably by amateurs that have found their inspiration," the Legionnaire said with grave concern in his eyes." ✕

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

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The Leupold MR/T is an exact copy of the SF TS30-A2 Sniper Scope used on the SPR. It is mounted with A.R.M.S. #17 ThrowLever rings.

the boulders that covered the slope. When they did, Kevin shot them in the left armpit with the Black Hills 77 grain Open Tip Match (OTM) Mk 262 Mod 1 5.56mm ammunition he was issued.

In the morning, after U. S. fast movers had arrived and killed or captured what remained of the enemy, Sgt. Morehead was credited with having killed scores of Taliban – including 51 shot in their left armpits. For his actions, Sgt. Kevin Morehead was awarded the Silver Star by President Bush himself, but was later tragically killed during fighting in Iraq. Kevin Morehead was only 33, but his life story is worthy of a movie.

The Mk 12 Mod. 0 And Mod.1 SPR

As with all other new weapons in the military, the SPR became an evolutionary rifle, and in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attack on America, an additional quantity of some 300 of these rifles was hurriedly requested by SOCOM. Initially called the #38 SPR PEQ-2-2-3, this second run of SPR's used an improved PRI tubular handguard with a reinforced barrel nut, and a redesigned A.R.M.S. #38 Swan Sleeve. It also used a Douglas Premium Match Grade barrel and an improved Leupold Sniper Scope with an illuminated reticle called the M30A2.

A third variation of the SPR designed by Knight's Armament Company (KAC) was also adopted. Initially called the SPR Alternate (SPR-A), this and all previous designations were replaced by the type classification of simply the Mk 12 Model 0 (zero) and the Mk12 Model 1. The Mod. 0 designation was given to both PRI versions of the SPR and the

Mod. 1 to the KAC version.

The Mk 12 Mod. 1 differs from the Mod. 0 in that it uses the KAC full-length Free-Floating RAS (Rail Adapter System) handguard and KAC open sights. The primary night sight of the Mk 12 Mod.0 and Mod. 1 is the PVS-17 with a PRI Hi-Lo mount, and its primary tactical light is the SureFire M9625406. All versions use the Ops, Inc. SOPMOD sound suppressor.

Although existing SPR's are well equipped, a number of new innovative accessories might improve it to the point of developing a new variant.

A Mk 12 Mod 2 SPR?

With the A.R.M.S. M4-length and Mid-Length S.I.R. Systems having been well received, SOCOM had urged Mr. Richard Swan to develop a full-length version. Finally, in 2004, the A.R.M.S. #59M Full-Length S.I.R. System was finished. Incorporating all the features of the existing S.I.R. Systems, the #59M was designed to be used with future Mk 12 (SPR) rifles, as well as all full-length versions of the M16 with flat-top upper receivers. Although it is state-of-the-art, the full-length S.I.R. System has been tested on the SPR, but has not yet been adopted or type classed, as no further SPR's have been requested.

However, since the S.P.R. has been an evolutionary (product improved) rifle, and with the continuing need for precision 5.56mm NATO caliber rifles in the GWOT, it is logical that if more of these rifles are needed, yet another improved SPR will be integrated into the system. ✕

Next month, anxious to field test what could be type classified as the "Mk 12 Mod 2," we acquired the components to assemble an SPR with some of the latest and best accessories on the market. In addition to the A.R.M.S. #59M Full-Length S.I.R. System and A.R.M.S. #40 Rear Sight, the upper receiver component was built on the superb Stag Arms MilStd flattop upper receiver. To this, a stainless steel Krieger Match SPR type 5.56x45mm NATO barrel with a 1-in-9" twist was installed along with a PRI SOPMOD Folding Front Sight, a PRI M84 charging handle and a SureFire M556FA Suppressor Adapter – plus other superior attachments and accessories now available: don't miss it!

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buildup "has cost us 10 years to figure out what to do."

"Everybody is starting to acknowledge the hard facts," Pillsbury said. "The China military buildup has been accelerating since 1999. As the buildup has gotten worse, China is trying hard to mask it."

Richard Fisher, vice president of the International Assessment and Strategy Center, said that in 10 years, the Chinese army has shifted from a defensive force to an advanced military soon capable of operations ranging from

space warfare to global non-nuclear cruise-missile strikes. "Let's all wake up. The post-Cold War peace is over," Mr. Fisher said. "We are now in an arms race with a new superpower whose goal is to contain and overtake the United States." ❧

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).

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GSA Schedule

Triumph Over Terror

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Twenty years ago, four Islamic terrorists hijacked the cruise ship Achille Lauro and murdered Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound, American passenger. As U.S. Special Operations teams pursued them through the Mediterranean, the killers sought to make good their escape. Abetted by the government of Hosni Mubarak, the terrorists were finally apprehended when U.S. Navy jets forced their Egyptian-provided aircraft to land in Sicily. Though Italian officials helped spirit the terrorist ring-leader, Abu Abbas, out of the country before he could face charges, the other three were prosecuted and convicted. In Washington, Reagan administration officials involved in the daring operation applauded the capture as a victory in the war on terror. Our celebration was premature.

In the aftermath of the Achille Lauro incident, newspaper headlines quoted President Reagan saying, “We bagged the bums,” and “You can run but you can’t hide.” True enough for the three terrorists who were jailed for hijacking and murder – but widely off the mark if viewed in the broader context of fanatical Islamic terrorism that was even then a very dangerous and growing movement. In a moment of absolute candor after the event, a senior CIA officer commented, “We only caught them because they wanted to live.” And then, reflecting on the deaths of 241 Marines in Beirut two years earlier he added, “If these three had wanted to die, the outcome would have been a whole lot different.”

That’s where we are today. In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Madrid, London, Bali and literally thousands of “suicide-homicides” from Tel Aviv to Chechnya to Tal Afar, Iraq – it is apparent that there are plenty of volunteers willing to become “martyrs” in the process of killing infidels. Those who suggest that pulling our military out of Iraq will remove the incentive for radicals to join the jihad are sadly mistaken. So too are those who believe that the problem will go away if we eliminate “kingpins” like Osama bin Laden or Abu Musab al Zarqawi – “evil men, obsessed with ambition and unburdened by conscience,” as President Bush described them this week in a forceful presentation before the National Endowment for Democracy.

As Mr. Bush explained, “no concession, bribe, or act of appeasement would change or limit [the terrorists’] plans for murder. On the contrary: They target nations whose behavior they believe they can change through violence.”

So as the protests grow louder on the home front, Americans will continue to be targets for radical Islamic extremists. The best hope we have of protecting innocent civilians is to continue to improve protection here at home, take violent action against the perpetrators where they gather and train, and ameliorate the conditions that make it conducive for those inciting the jihad to recruit more volunteers. It is a strategy that has been working and which the president expanded upon this week.

The regular drumbeat of news from Iraq and Afghanistan – albeit most of it negative – should make it clear that violent action is being taken against “Jihadis” where they gather in significant numbers. And, despite criticism, there can be no doubt that we have improved homeland defenses. Since Sept. 11, as the president explained, the U.S. has prevented “at least ten serious al Qaeda terrorist plots” – including three planned for inside the United States.

What isn’t apparent, because it just isn’t “news,” are the measures being taken to remove the incentives for young Muslims to become suicidal “foot soldiers” in the jihad. Recently, the presi-

dent went even further, calling on “all responsible Islamic leaders to join in denouncing an ideology that exploits Islam for political ends.”

Beyond responsible dialogue, the best antidote to the imams, sheiks, ayatollahs and mullahs who incite terror are purple fingers. That’s why violence in Iraq is increasing as the Oct. 15th Constitutional referendum approaches. Millions of people lining up to vote are a threat to the power of the Jihadis – and they know it. So too are many other developments in Iraq that the masters of the media miss as they file reports on “the war” from the balconies of their air-conditioned hotel rooms in Baghdad’s green zone.

Over the summer, 43 Iraqi schools were renovated, making it possible for another 18,000 Iraqi children to get a quality education instead of a deadly indoctrination. Since June of 2004, 656 schools have been rebuilt or renovated.

Hundreds of thousands more Iraqis have clean water today than ever before thanks to new water treatment plants being brought on-line. In the villages surrounding Kirkuk, for example, 25,000 residents have running water for the first time in their lives.

In August, the new Iraqi Highway Patrol headquarters opened its doors in Baghdad, and six new highway patrol stations are under construction. Major Andy Johnson of the 18th Military Police Brigade calls this “a major step toward consolidating Iraqi control over the security of the main highways and commercial arteries in Iraq.”

Throughout Iraq there are more children going to school, more people with electricity, clean water and sanitation than ever before. There are more newspapers, radio stations, televisions, fire stations and health care facilities in Iraq today than at any point in the history of Mesopotamia. Yet we never hear about these things from our mainstream media.

Major General S.T. Johnson, who commanded the forward element of the 2nd Marine Division in Iraq puts it this way:

“As a result of everyone’s perseverance and personal risk, children here are going to school; water and electricity are widely available in the provinces of Karbala and Najaf which, almost one year ago, were dysfunctional. Forward operating bases in Najaf continue to be turned over to Iraqi Security Forces. Last but not least, thanks to our Military Training Teams and joint coalition and Iraqi patrols, Iraqi Security Forces and everyday people are taking charge and securing their national interests.”

In JANUARY, the Iraqi people will elect their first government under their new constitution. All of these measures point to trouble for the Jihadis, intent on despoiling freedom. Those who are fighting this war – on both sides – know this.

Though protests and pessimism command the attention of the media here at home, there is hope in Iraq. That’s a big improvement over twenty years ago when we had to regard the capture of a handful of hijackers as a major victory in the war on terror. ✕

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

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