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**Caught On Video** page 14

**Six Klicks of HELL** page 46

**Terrorists' New Directional IEDs** page 66

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AMERICA AT WAR

VBIED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

It was all caught on tape, and we bring you the photos 14

PSY WAR by SSG Jack Lewis

Ballots last better than bullets in war for hearts and minds 18

TERRORISM SITREP by Dr. Martin Brass

Bad guys killed or captured in Malaysia, Australia, Colombia, Philippines 36

MARINES REPEL AMBUSH IN AFGHANISTAN by Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Two clicks from their extraction point Leathernecks are attacked by Taliban force 44

THE SINGING SOLDIERS OF HAIFA STREET by Nathaniel R. Helms

Six clicks of hell in Baghdad, but worthy of a song 46

EXPLOSIVELY FORMED PROJECTILES

Terrorists have a new weapon, with a little help from their friends 66

HOW TO LOSE A WAR - THE SEQUEL by Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.)

How you ask? Try political corawdice! 82

FEATURES

LR308 TACTICAL CARBINE by Gary Paul Johnston

New From DPMS, a .308 That Delivers the Goods! 24

THE HELLHOLE OF HENDERSON by Steve Stibbens

Leathernecks Sacrifice for the First Stepping Stone to Tokyo 30

THE NEXT SPECIAL PURPOSE RIFLE, Part II by Gary Paul Johnston

Johnston builds the "next generation" of a concept proven in combat 38

KUDOS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

by James J. Fotis 59

A congratulatory letter from the president of LEAA on 30 years of SOF

MOLOTOV: THE NEW FRENCH COCKTAIL by Dr. Martin Brass

Jihadists Recruit Suicide bombers in the smoldering immigrant ghettos 62

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION PROCLAMATION

by James F. Hetrick 69

Proclamation in appreciation of SOF's 30 years supporting SpecOps community

COLUMNS

COMMAND GUIDANCE by Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret'd)

Cut and Run in Iraq: A Disaster in the Making 6

FLAK

Belgians, Hack, and comments on working PSD 8

BULLETIN BOARD

Ma Deuce soldiers on at the fore 12

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

California Knives Roll-Lock, Falcon Industries Ergo-Gapper, DPMS "Pardus" Carbine Stock, 60

Spec-Ops Brand Universal Mamba Fighting Sling, Bushmaster 9mm Pistol, Filson Tin Cloth Field Jacket



On The Cover

Spc. Stephen Lewis, SSgt. Nicholas D. Daniels and SSgt. Jimmy Amyett, cav scouts from the 1st ID, fight their way through Fallujah. See inside for continuing coverage of the war in Iraq.



18



30



24

Gary Paul Johnston

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Advertisers' Index 56

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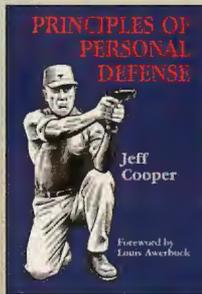
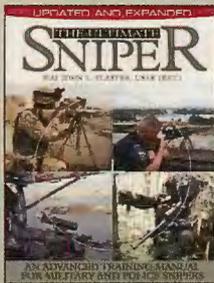
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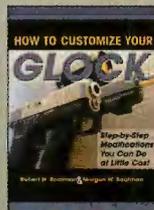
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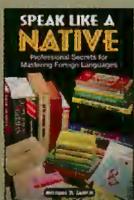
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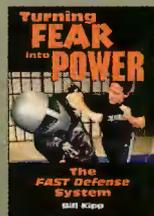
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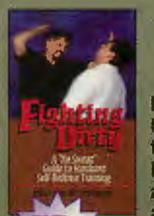
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# Command Guidance

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



## Cut and Run In Iraq: A Disaster In The Making

I truly weary of the partisan attacks on the White House and our effort to eliminate the radical fundamentalists who are bent on destroying a nascent democratic regime in Iraq and are part and parcel of those radical Muslims who are also bent on destroying western civilization and implementing their own fascist theocracy throughout the world.

Whether the Bush administration did in fact make incorrect estimates of the situation regarding justifying the Iraq invasion based on faulty intelligence regarding WMD and Hussein's involvement with the likes of OBL is now irrelevant.

That is not to let the administration and the Pentagon off the hook regarding their failure to address the problem of what they were going to do to implement stability once Huesseins conventional forces of had been defeated. One of the most glaring errors has been summarized by the Pentagon's Defense Science Board in a recent report which was developed from interviews with scores of current and former U.S officials with expertise in counter-insurgency and peace keeping, stated that the stabilization of "...disordered societies...involving lasting cultural change, may require 20 troops per 1,000 indigenous people...working for five to eight years." As I write, we have less than six troopers for every 1,000 Iraqis. You figure it out.

And, keep in mind, Undersecretary for Policy Douglas Feith and Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz blew it by blowing off warnings from the State Department, the military and intelligence community that stabilizing the "sandbox" would require far more troops than they would or could deploy. Whether these two boobs should get an achievement award for arrogance or stupidity I cannot decide. But I digress.

Prospects of peace are indeed dim. Depending on how you want to define the phrase "civil war" one could say it has already started. The southern portion of Iraq is already developing into Shiite controlled theocracy which is butting heads with the frustrated Sunnis who control central Iraq

and Baghdad and are pissed about having no oil revenue and having to bow to the Sunnis and Kurds who they have stomped on and exploited for decades. There is some hope of the Kurds establishing a stable democracy assuming the Turks, do not invade. Turkey does not want an independent Kurdish state, as the Turks believe that it will serve as an incentive for the large Kurdish populations in southeastern Turkey to also seek independence or alliance with the Kurds in Iraq.

So what to do? With the rising reluctance of the American public to understand that you cannot simply set a "timeline" for defeating the insurgency or at least reducing it to an acceptable level of violence, lead by the looney left and the Bush-hating media, one solution would be to emulate what we did in Vietnam - before our allies were so callously sold out by our feckless politicians in Congress. That is:

1. Provide unlimited air support for the fledgling Iraqi government,
2. Provide a significant Spec Ops capability to conduct missions targeting terrorists,
3. Continue to provide trainers to the Iraqi military and police, and
4. Continue to provide the necessary logistical support.

Keep in mind, when we withdrew most of our ground units from Nam and went full throttle on Vietnamization, we saw the ARVN ground forces successfully smash a conventional invasion from North Vietnam during the Easter offensive in 1972 with the help of U.S. B-52's. However, when the cowards on Capitol Hill, withheld air support as the NVA tanks poured into South Vietnam in an invasion no different that that of the Nazi's invading Poland in 1939. our allies succumbed.

What is relevant now, is do we "cut and run" before we do our best to establish a viable functioning democracy or some form of governing authority that will not fall victim to the fundamentalist terrorists will adversely impact on the overall, worldwide war against terrorism? That is a recipe for disaster. ☹

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## Happy 30th!

Bob,  
BTW, happy 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

I can well remember the day that a fellow 0351 ran into the squad bay with a breathless "Hey, man, lookit this shit!"

It was the picture of the gentleman with the handball-sized exit hole in the forehead, just off center to the recipient's right, as I recall.

After looking at that, and a quick flip through the magazine (my bud wasn't giving it up for long), I concluded, "Hmmm, these guys are serious."

I've never been disappointed.

Though several have tried to compete, you and yours stand tall upon their bleaching bones!

So... kudos my friend, to both you and your crew, for the things you've all done, both publicly and in the shadows, for the cause of freedom worldwide.

Sometimes history turns on the smallest and most arcane and esoteric hinges. Sometimes y'all have been the hinge, and sometime the oil to make them work more smoothly.

And to have the good fortune to meet you in person at GunSite, and then to later have my picture with you in the magazine when you wrote the article... well, that was just the cherry on top.

*De opresso liber!*

Jess



## Legionnaires on the LZ

I have just read a copy of your article on the 2nd REP, I enjoyed it, but got a little agitated when I read your report on the REP's Kolwezi operations in '78. I understand that you have little space and cannot publish a detailed action report, and sure this article concerned the 2 REP, so you're OK to focus on this unit. But not a word on the other actors... the 311th Zairean paratroop battalion who took the airport? The 2nd REP did not jump on the airport, they jumped into the "ant's nest" directly.

And not a word on the Belgians... they were there with the REP, it was them who organized the evacuation of the expats, they were there in bigger numbers, they were there with own C-130 tactical airlift where the French had used chartered civilian planes and Zairean C-130's, they were there with a surgical team who saved some legionnaires... Too bad you didn't even mention them. They saved American lives there, a little retribution for what America did for us in '44.

Best regards from Belgium,  
Wouter Dumoulein.



## China: America's Next War?

The following is in response to your article in *SOF's* December issue: The tactics used by China today are designed to confuse and frighten the American public. It can hardly be said that they are new, however. Such intimidation tactics were used by and even perfected by Ronald Reagan himself when he used them to scare the Soviet Union, giving the impression that he was unstable and willing to wipe out all mankind over trivial matters. The U.S. must come to realize that China is using our own Cold War strategy against us.

While China is most certainly building up its military and preparing to take back Taiwan by force, America is too busy wondering how we should handle the situation to realize that the Chinese are not yet ready to carry out their plan. If they were, they would have already done so. If decisive Reagan-style action is not taken to counter Chinese aggression, expand our military, and make our government seem united and fearless again, we are in for yet another Cold War – one we may very well lose.

ET1(SS) Brian D. Baird, USN

## China: "Smoking" Gun?

As a long-time subscriber, I disagree with the content of the Chin article. While they may be upgrading their armed forces to bully their neighbors (Japan, Korea, the Philippines,



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etc.) they are going to beat us the good ole American way – buy us with our own money from the jobs and economic clout we exported in the name of Free Trade. When will we learn that “Free” never really is? (Of course, the way their smoking rate is going up maybe Marlboros will be our next WMD.)

William Wade  
Kehena, Hawaii

### Hackworth's "Why We Lost In Vietnam"

After reading Col. Hackworth's article, "Why we lost in Vietnam," I feel compelled to make a few observations.

I will start by saying that I have absolutely no question about David Hackworth's personal courage. However, the fact that he may have been (at the time) America's most decorated serviceman, apparently did nothing to educate him as to the reasons why the war in Vietnam was lost.

If anything, Hackworth's article proves, once again, that simply having been in the military, in Vietnam, does not automatically qualify one to assume any degree of expertise on the political aspects of the conflict. The absurdity of Hackworth's assumptions and his willingness to buy into every statement made by our former enemy, demonstrates a staggering, almost willful ignorance. It is a shame that Hackworth did not live long enough to read C. Dale Walton's, *The Myth of Inevitable US Defeat in Vietnam.* Hackworth's assertion that he had determined that the war was "unwinnable," can only

be characterized as the mumbling of someone who is virtually brain dead. General Bay Cao's suggestion, as reported in Hack's article, that the VC/NVA planned "to win a great psychological victory" during the '68 Tet Offensive, is patently ridiculous. The fact, undisputed by top North Vietnamese leaders after the war, is that the Tet Offensive was a crushing military defeat. It was the American media that "created" the so-called, "psychological victory."

None other than Le Duc To stated directly, in an interview after the war, that the losses suffered during the '68 Tet offensive brought the Communist leadership to the verge of requesting a ceasefire.

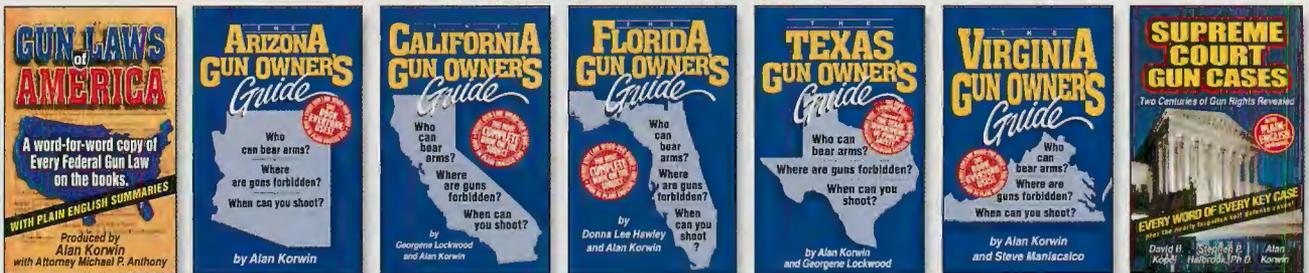
There are many other points, mentioned in the Hackworth article, that demonstrate the author's basic misunderstanding of the real causes behind our failure in Vietnam. And despite the fact that the causes were numerous, the Colonel fails to identify a single one, relying, instead, on his own myopic and extremely limited view of the war. As a Marine who served two combat tours during that conflict, I am greatly dismayed at the continuing lack of understanding as to why we, as a country, failed to succeed in Vietnam. I am equally disgusted that the many myths and antiwar-inspired legends and misinformation, continue to be widely disseminated, despite decades of historical investigation that have proved them false. I cannot help but feel that this article by David Hackworth fits into that particular category.

Richard Montgomery  
Palm Bay, FL 32908

Continued on page 58

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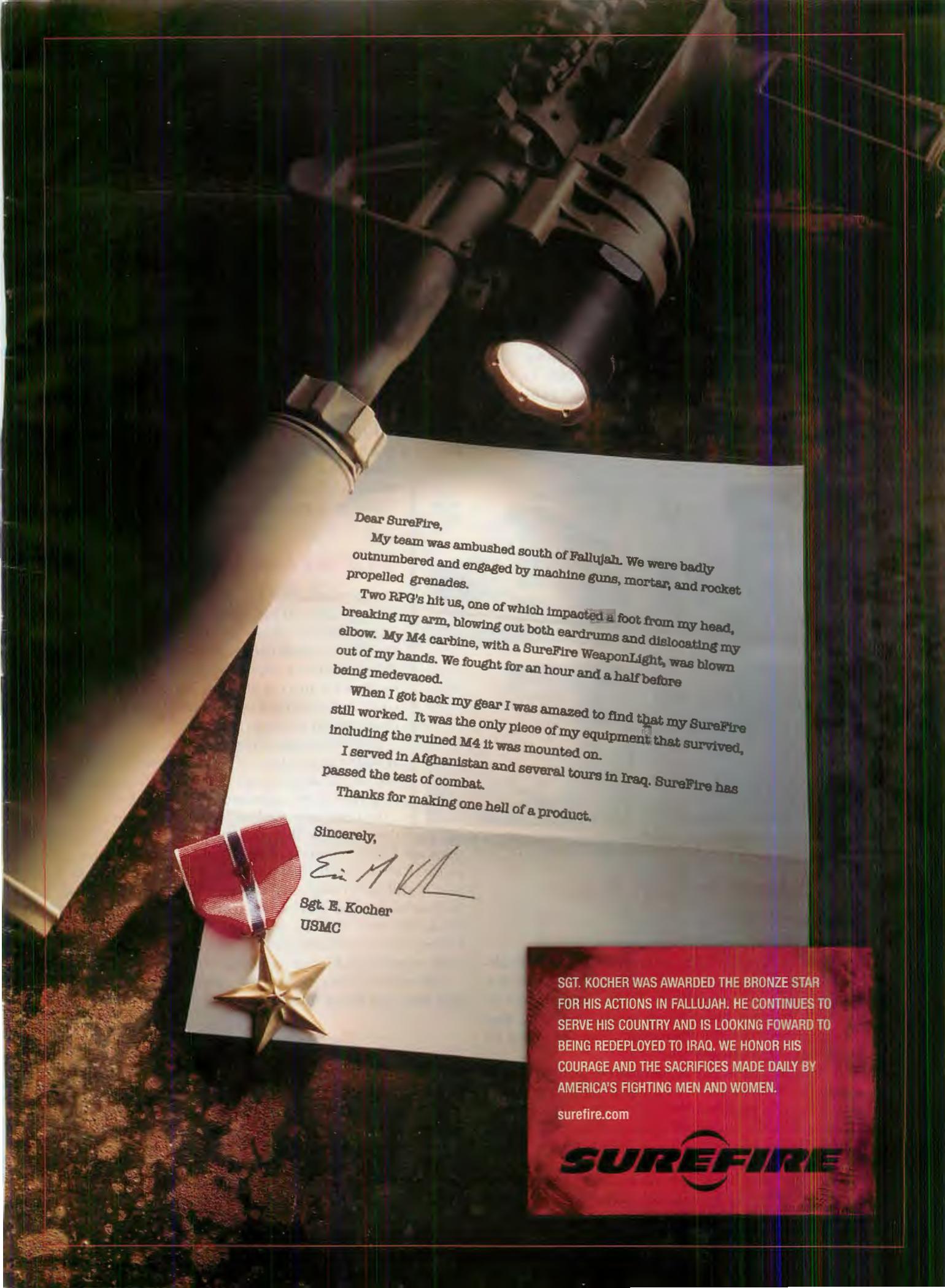
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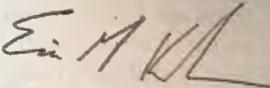
Two RPG's hit us, one of which impacted a foot from my head, breaking my arm, blowing out both eardrums and dislocating my elbow. My M4 carbine, with a SureFire WeaponLight, was blown out of my hands. We fought for an hour and a half before being medevaced.

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USMC



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**SUREFIRE**

# Bulletin Board

## Leathernecks Deliver Your Mail

The Corps 230<sup>th</sup> birthday, 10 November, was the first day of issue for four U.S. postage stamps honoring distinguished Marines. The four legendary Marines depicted are Sgt. John Basilone, Sergeant Major Daniel "Dan" Joseph Daly, Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune and Lt. Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller. For why these men are worthy of such commemoration, ask any Leatherneck. © 2005 USPS, used with permission. All rights reserved.



## Buffer Technologies' Larry Bullock Lost in Accident

Larry Bullock, founder and president of Buffer Technologies, was killed in an automobile accident on 12 November. Many knew Larry as a competitive shooter and product innovator, with many of his shooting accessories being used by the military and Special Operations troops deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and other duty.

It was through Larry's love of competitive shooting that he founded Buffer Technologies. The company, headquartered in Jefferson City, MO, manufactures its own line of proprietary products, such as its trademark recoil buffers, mag cinches and slings. It also was an exclusive distributor for Tango-Down grips and rail covers.

Although saddened by the loss, the company will continue "just as Larry would want," said Rob Parham, military sales

manager. "Larry's influence in the tactical accessory industry will continue as Buffer Technologies moves forward with business objectives already in place," Parham said.

Larry is survived by his wife, Debby, and two young daughters.

## The Red Shirts Are Coming

You may have noticed a lot of folks wearing red on Friday. It's a groundswell of support for our troops, like yellow ribbons and wrist-bands and bumper stickers, but mobile and more personal. Feel free to join in every Friday. Help make the contrarian media see red.

## Ma Deuce Soldiers on at the Fore

Like other weapons that always get the job done, the venerable .50 Browning M2 is still a top choice among combat troops, and fully worth its weight. Ma Deuce's combination of power, range and reliability make it a can-do favorite when the mission requires keeping the enemy at bay, shooting through cover and servicing targets before those targets get close enough to engage.

GIs and Leathernecks in Iraq are using .50 ammo at such a rate that the Army has ramped up production of .50 ammunition at the Lake City ammunition plant in Independence, Mo., adding more than a thousand new workers. Alliant Techsystems Inc., the contractor that runs the plant, reports that four years ago Lake City was turning out about 10 million rounds a year. Current production at a rate of 50 million rounds a year is still not enough, and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky., has dipped into stockpiled .50 ammo, some of which is three times as old as the GIs and Gyrenes using it. Soldered into sealed cans in 1945, this vintage ammo is carefully inspected and tested, repacked and shipped off to war.

Old soldiers never die, and the truly great ones don't even fade away. Ma Deuce rules.

## Dragon Eyes: Indigenous Air for Grunts

For the last three years, Leathernecks have been flying little battery-operated eye-in-the-sky drones with less than a four-foot wingspan, but which can silently recon up to five clicks away and stay airborne for up to an hour. A troop can be trained to operate a Dragon Eye in about an hour, and the information it radios back in real time about what is up ahead has saved a lot of lives in Iraq.



*The ultimate Road Warrior, highly Technical, kinetic sculpture. Courtesy Joe Fernandez*

The Dragon Eye is regarded as an interim solution – something pretty much assembled “off the shelf” until some sort of Mark II model is designed and built, but after some initial problems with reliability and parts supply, it has served very well. It is particularly valuable for scouting and patrolling missions as it removes a lot of dangerous uncertainty about what lies ahead. Flying at 300-500 feet, the units usually go undetected – but they have never been lost to enemy fire, although they are subject to mechanical failure or extreme weather.

Weighing only six pounds, the units have a top speed of about 55 klicks an hour, and mount a video cam forward and one to the side and feed the user live video. The UAV

carries GPS and can be ordered to fly to given coordinates, circle a target area, or come on back. Those lost and subsequently recovered, are readily rebuilt.

The Marines have more than a hundred flying in Iraq. Other services also have hundreds of conceptually similar units flying there, on a variety of missions.

## **South Africa May Halt Merc Work**

Private security firms and British military leaders are carefully watching a proposed new South African law that would prohibit South African nationals from participating in military and even post-conflict reconstruction operations

overseas, without prior approval.

The controversial bill was drafted to inhibit South African nationals working as mercenaries, but would complicate the status of some 700 SA nationals who serve in Britain's regular armed forces, and thousands more who are relief workers and private security firm employees currently rebuilding and/or protecting the infrastructure in Iraq. Noted an attorney for a South-African private security industry association, “this law has been drafted in the most sweeping manner possible... Every security company would be worried about whether it was inadvertently breaking South Africa's law. And it is ridiculous that NGOs are covered as well.” ✂

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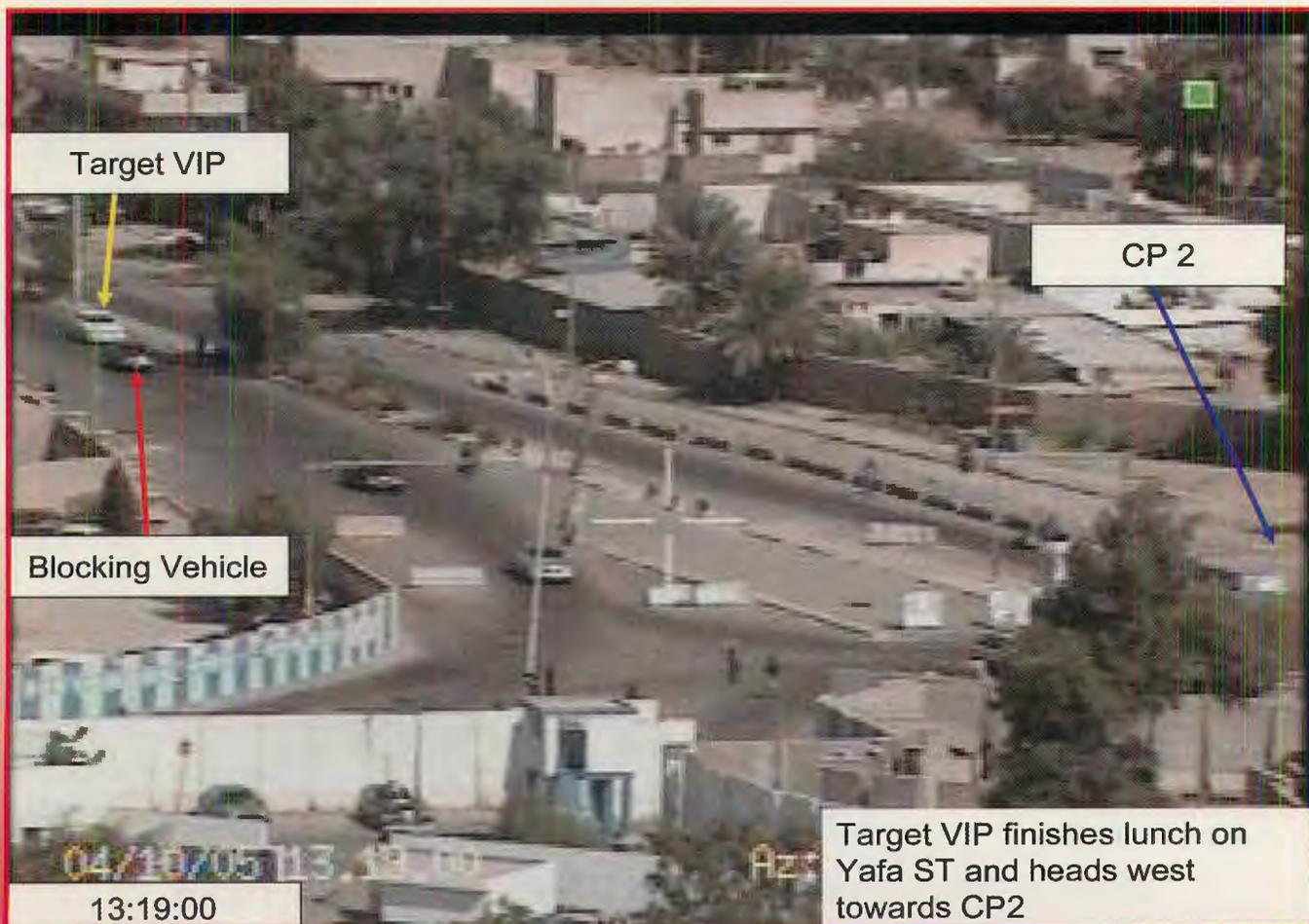
# VBIED

## Assassination Attempt

### Attack Summary

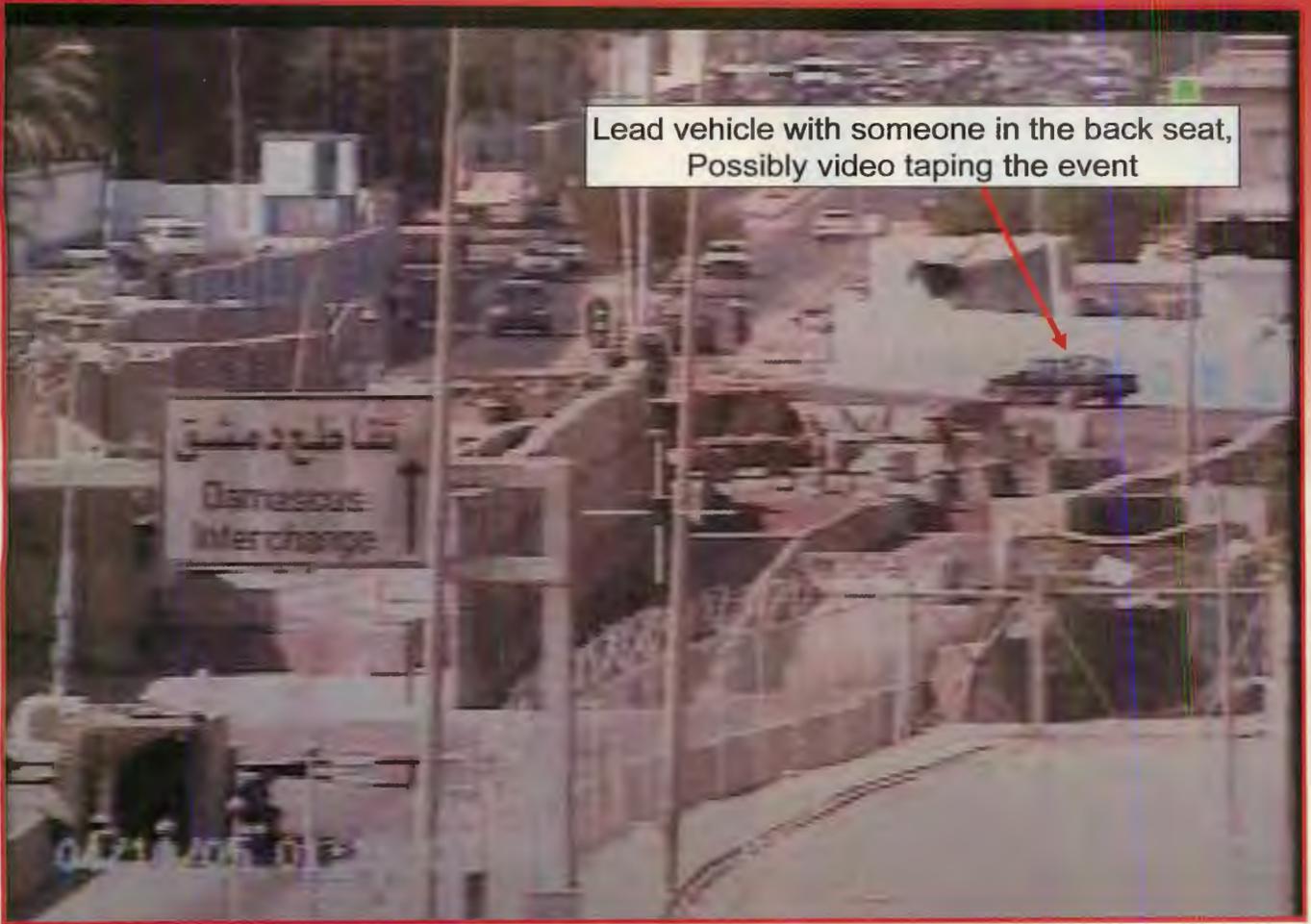
At 1339 on 04 Oct 05, a VBIED detonated in front of ECP 2 in Baghdad's International Zone. The target was an Iraqi general with one of the ITG Ministries. He was in a white Mercedes. His PSD (security) was in an IP Chevy trailblazer, blue and white. On this day, the target vehicle came across Bridge 6. The individual stopped at a restaurant vic an IP checkpoint. He was there less than 10 minutes after saying hello to a friend. He proceeded west on Yafa street. He was making a U-

TURN vic ECP 2 in order to head east on Yafa street. A dark blue vehicle slowed down in front of the Mercedes, allowing a red Daewoo to get in between the Mercedes and the IP PSD. The red Daewoo detonated. The driver killed himself only, but wounded others. The red Daewoo came through the IP checkpoint on Yafa street between ECPs 1 and 2 without being searched. After the VBIED detonated there was a large amount of SAF from the IA and IPs.









Lead vehicle with someone in the back seat,  
Possibly video taping the event



(left) EOD reports VBIED consisted of 2 x 152mm rounds, 2 x 82mm rounds, and 30 lbs. of explosives. The vehicle was a burgundy sedan.  
(below) Target vehicle. ❌



# PSY WAR

## Ballots Better Than Bullets In War for Hearts and Minds

Text and Photos by SSG Jack Lewis

Two days before the election, I was sitting on top of a school in Tall 'Afar, screaming at the top of my batteries. My manpack loudspeaker was shoved up against the parapet, repeatedly squawking out a series of pro-election messages I had prerecorded on a borrowed MP3 player, plus a couple of messages Charger's terp (interpreter) had recorded that morning, which were designed to give credit to the passel of commandos who were officially securing the poll site. Charger Troop, 2-14 CAV, "Rattlesnake Squadron," with its several Strykers, three machinegun positions and attached infantry squad from Apache Company, were just backup.

I didn't really see why I needed to be down there 24/7: Most times, there's no nighttime mission for PSYOP (psychological operations) to scream at civilians in the dark. But whatever gets you out of the office, right? Since my ATL (assistant team leader) was detached off to Task Force Tacoma and my driver had gotten himself shot, I had all the team equipment to hump around.

Previously, I had dropped off election banners to all the troops, plus "No Parking" and "No Roll" banners. Charger managed to get one No-Roll banner up, next to a hospital entrance where no cars had access. No other banners were posted anywhere in town, and Charger 6 didn't want to give back his banners for me to post. He wanted souvenirs.

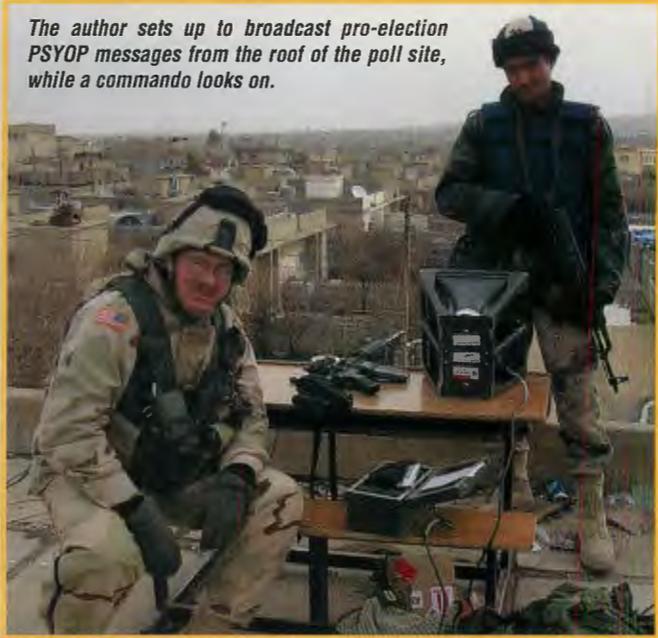
So I whiled away the hours by blasting the nearest neighbors of that school with my impassioned Arabic plea to get out the vote. We didn't care who voted. The victory, in this benighted, septic political backwater, was to vote at all. No one waved, stopped what they were doing, or in any way acknowledged the loony blaring of appeals for participatory democracy over their rooftops. The streets were empty, except for three kids in a little house across from the school entrance. They would wave shyly, then dart behind their mother's skirts. I goofed around some, hot-miking clumsy Arabic greetings at the kids. Their young mother looked stolidly at the ground, but she didn't pull her kids inside. Maybe she would vote. Somebody had to.

"It'll be a miracle if we get 50 people in here to vote," I told anyone who'd listen. The Iraqi commandos up on the roof with me grinned and nodded. "Your mother and I had a great time last night," I added. They grinned and nodded some more. I wondered what they were saying about me.

"Stock-BELLI-coom!" I screamed. That got them going – it means something along the lines of "go vote!" We all screamed it a few times, grinning like devils. Many thumbs were up.

All Iraqi commandos (just like U.S. special ops guys) think they're great looking and intelligent, several notches above their peers. They implored me to upgrade my messages,

*The author sets up to broadcast pro-election PSYOP messages from the roof of the poll site, while a commando looks on.*



*Two generations of first-time voters enjoy the moment as a family.*



which referenced the Iraqi National Guard (since folded into the army); They wanted messages specifically telling the people of Tal 'Afar that the election sites would be secured by the heroes called "commandos." I found a commando lieutenant who spoke passable English, and we laid a couple of messages onto the DVR (digital video recorder)-equipped MP3 player that I'd borrowed from an Air Force JTAC (joint tactical aviation controller). The Army doesn't give us exactly the gear we need, but what army ever did? You go to war with the gear you've got, etc.

### Hi, Mom!

The vanity didn't end there. Every last commando had to have his picture taken. Pretty soon, my digital camera was toast, and I had only one set of batteries left for the election itself. So I just kept punching the button on my lifeless camera, gazing thoughtfully at the dead, black display, then giving them the thumbs up. They loved it. They trust Americans: our friendliness, our sincerity, our faultless technology.

In case you're wondering, the Army didn't issue the team a digital camera, either. My wife did. It's going to have a lot of miles on it when it gets back to her.

One thing that wasn't about to go dead was the loudspeaker. I had brought half a rucksack full of BA5590s, the Army's all-purpose radio battery that we also use for our speaker. There were an extra 40 pounds or so in batteries. With the 75 or more pounds of the "manpack" over my body armor, two grenades, eleven full mags, GPS (global position satellite receiver), knife, buddy-aid kit, karabiners, and candy for the kiddies, I could barely tote my own kit up the crude concrete stairs leading to the rooftop.

Not to mention the "Darth Helmet," the *coup de grace* in discomfort that only Reservists and National Guard guys get these days. "Real" soldiers get the new, lighter, better-suspended new helmets – even if they drive forklifts on the FOB (forward operating base). The new helmet is said to have several times the ballistic protection of our old-school K-pots. But, ours not to bitch and cry, ours but to do and . . . never mind that part.

And so we squawked on, the commandos and I, trading lunches and punches and bilingual insults. I taught a couple of them what the safety on the AK47 was for. This was curiously important to me, since these guys walk all over the place and point their weapons every which way. They all wanted to look through my ACOG, which was fine until one of those handsome bubbas nearly dropped my rifle over the edge of the roof. That was the end of weapons familiarization. A fine time was had by all.

I knew it was a complete waste of time. No one would come. A theater-wide boondoggle. But down in the lobby, they kept prepping tally boxes and stacking ballots, shaking up purple ink bottles and going quietly, urgently down their checklists. And two rooftops over, Charger's gunners were piling ammo cans next to their machine gun position.

### Payday – Or Not

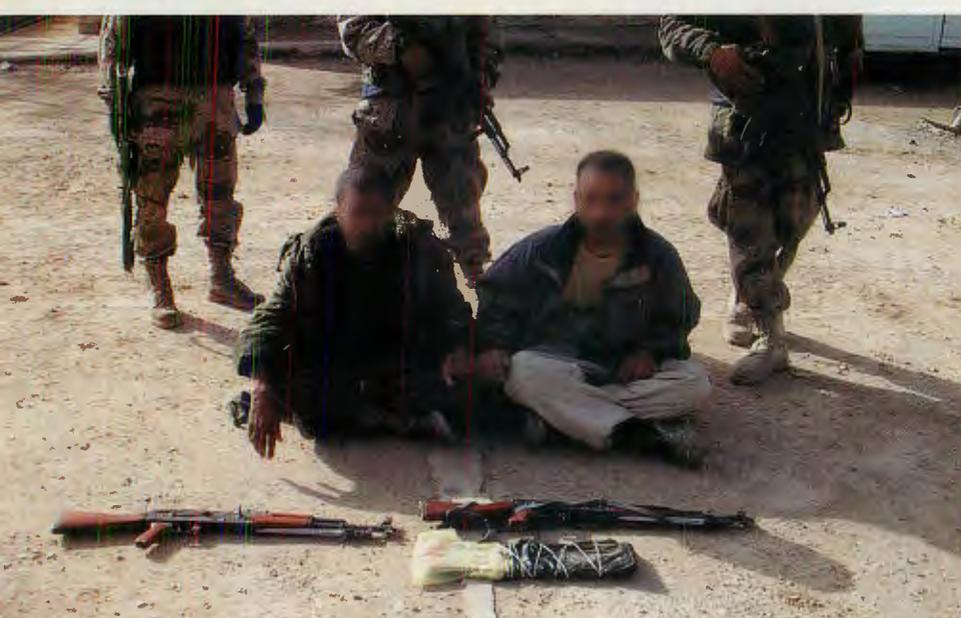
Election Day dawned overcast and cool. When I got up in the dark, in a side room that had been taken over by first squad, third platoon of Apache company – grunts on loan



*This Iraqi lieutenant ran commando operations at the poll site. He is not a modest man, but he is a capable leader.*

*Apache grunts from Big Sal's 1<sup>st</sup> Squad go looking for bad guys the day prior to elections.*





*(top) Iraqi medical staff members from the hospital adjacent to the poll site take a break from work to cross an open area en route to the poll site. The parking lot they are crossing received sporadic small arms fire throughout the day. (middle) Iraqi commandos hanging out at the gate. Chai breaks are sacred. (bottom) These men are suspected AIF captured during a commando sweep the day prior to elections. They were carrying Chinese AKs and other equipment.*

to the cavalry – Tal 'Afar was virtually silent. No cars had been allowed on the streets for three days, and there wasn't a city sound to be heard that you'd recognize: Only chickens, empty *ghee* cans rattling, and the sound of first prayer call wailing out, louder than my manpack and with centuries more staying power in the message. On our third morning there, we rose up cold and stiff out of a smelly pile of bodies and scraped disposable razors over our stubble, picked through breakfast bars and Gatorade, stumbled out for a piss. Not a creature was stirring but a few grimy Joes.

As the sun rose, so did the gunfire. H&I (harassment and interdiction) fire from "Ali Baba" started early, and made us skip smartly along when crossing the parking area between the school and hospital. I joined a Stryker patrol on Charger Six's vehicle. Charger had recently gotten itself a new "Six," Captain H, and he was doing OK as far as I could tell. We rolled through Tal 'Afar's nearby neighborhoods, not really looking for a fight.

The commandos were dismounted in the same area, and they have a tendency to utilize what I call the "Reverse-Polish Firing Squad" battle drill: they form a circle, face out and blaze away in every direction. Our infantry – which doesn't practice it – calls this 360-degree tactic the "Death Blossom." Iraqis with AKs are hell-for-brave, though. I lurked in the air guard hatch, securing the captain and watching alleyways.

An Iraqi male poked his head out; I pointed my rifle at him and gestured. He poked his head out again and I buried a 5.56mm round in his house, ending his curiosity. This happened several times. Usually with women, you only have to wave them in. Young guys are hardheads, though. It's the same all over the world.

### **Clearing the Streets**

One *hajji*, about 200 meters down, kept looking around the corner, scanning, then withdrawing. A warning shot didn't do it for this kid. A second warning shot chipped brick within two feet of his head. He looked again. The next time I saw him, he was trotting across the alleyway, toward the commandos' position. He was dressed in black, and carrying either a funny-looking briefcase or an AK47.

When the bullet smacked him, he went straight down. It was very non-theatrical. I wasn't sure I'd hit him; it looked like he'd stumbled. I didn't shoot again.



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Two people – not dressed in black, not carrying anything – ran out and dragged him back to where he'd started, at the corner. I didn't shoot them.

Then we got into gear, and rumbled off another block or two. The captain, busy on the radio through his CVC (combat vehicle commander) helmet, had never looked up from his maps.

We linked up with the Charger's XO (executive officer) a couple of blocks over. He was stopped outside a home, with more detainees and casualties than he could tote in his Stryker. We took on four detainees. They squatted on the floor, nuts to butts, flex cuffed to the front. Most times, we cuff them behind their backs only when they're violent. Charger 6's terp eyed them like they might attack at any moment. Our Stryker instantly smelled like sweet cologne over well-developed human body spice, crossed with fear-squeezed urine.

"There's a civilian casualty in the house. Have you got a litter?" asked the lieutenant. There was a burst of AK fire from down the alley, and he yarded out his nine-mil and blasted a few shots in the general direction, to keep their heads down.

We had a litter. I broke it out, and Lieutenant B and I headed into the house, clearing it muzzle-first. Inside the house, a young man lay on the floor. He was wearing shorts and a t-shirt, without even the ubiquitous plastic sandals. This was January, and the temperature was probably in the mid-40s, Fahrenheit. I wondered where his clothes had gone. He was a military-age male. I wondered if he'd been dressed in black.

He had a GSW (gun shot wound) in his abdomen, near the bottom of his rib cage and a little left of center. His eyes were glazed. We hoisted him onto the sled – he might have weighed 130 pounds, if he'd worn heavier clothes – and loaded him into the commander's Stryker. His father boarded behind him. Full house.

### For Beauty

A detainee had shit himself into his man dress, and the wounded man was bleeding out onto the seat. Somebody prayed quietly in Arabic, another tried to explain his innocence in broken English while sitting next to a bag of cheap Chinese rifles – including the one taken off him on a rooftop. A full menagerie: like Noah's ark, if it were launched from the Tower of Babel to sail through Hell.

The wounded man had three blue



(top) Charger 2-14 CAV troopers man a machine gun and sniper position atop a small hospital administrative building adjacent to the school. They are equipped with an M240 machine gun and improved, scoped M14 used by the Squad Designated Marksman. (middle) Infantrymen from first squad, third platoon, Apache CO, 1/5 INBN, led by SSG "Big Sal" patrol Tal 'Afar to secure the vicinity of the polling site. (bottom) Logistics are key to any operation: 2-14 CAV S4 provided HEMTTs to deliver thousands of pounds of concertina wire to secure a generous perimeter and transform an abandoned school into a secure site at which to vote.

dots tattooed onto his ankle. I asked the commander's terp what it meant: was it a terrorist marking?

"No, for ... for beauty."

His wound was a clean shot, through and through. We dressed him quickly with simple gauze padding, and raced to the hospital. I tried not to step on him as the Stryker lurched around corners and I banged off the sides of the air guard hatch, tiptoeing on the edge of the seat that held the wounded man while I scanned for targets on rooftops and down alleyways. We knocked a piece off a building corner with the wide-hipped slat armor and didn't slow down. A cavalry trooper down in the crew compartment held the litter up so the GSW case wouldn't roll off onto the floor.

He was dead within two minutes. The father's expression didn't change, though he never stopped looking at his son's face. He was looking at eternity in that moment, and he couldn't see us at all.

We dropped ramp at the hospital, and I carried the dead man inside with help from the terp. Iraqi doctors slung him up onto the table, right off the foyer. His father watched stoically as they performed thumping, violent chest compressions at the rate of about 90 per minute. It looked like they were trying to beat him back to life, to punish him for dying. I wanted to teach them proper CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). I wanted to yell at them to stop, leave him alone, quit beating on his scrawny, dead chest.

The captain had warned me not to leave the litter behind: "We're running out of 'em."

I took two digital photos of the deceased casualty for MI's (military intelligence) records, asked for the litter back, and collected a couple more from the hallways. The doctors stared at me as I carried them out. Our terp walked out backwards, scanning the halls.

The gunfire was pretty intense around the voting place by then, and there had been a couple of significant explosions within a couple of kilometers. I gave the captain back his litters, and picked up my speaker pack. For about 20 minutes, as the Charger troopers blasted concrete fragments off a beautifully finished luxury home across the MSR (main supply route) and the AK fire skipped around us, I broadcast my pro-election spiel over a masonry wall near the school.

The voters trickled in.

They walked, most of them, with the dignity of righteous action. One was shot in the belly, and was carried into the polling place to vote before being carried across the lot to the hospital. I guess they let him jump the line. Some ran, ducking and holding their headpieces, but coming anyway. Coming to vote.

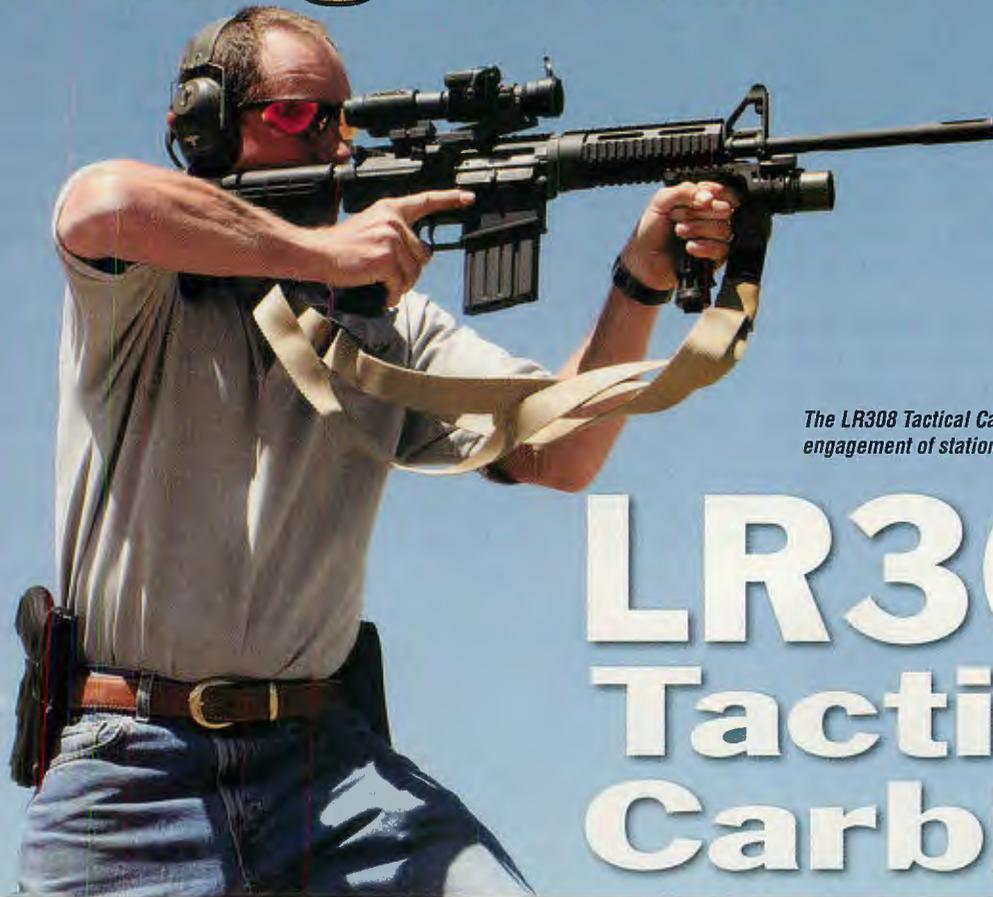
I took a break from broadcasting to run a few boxes of 7.62mm linked-belt ammo for the machine gunners, who were having way too good a time, then got back on the

*Continued on page 72*



*Iraqi commandos secured the poll site proper, while U.S. cavalry scouts and infantrymen secured the band of terrain surrounding the poll site throughout the day. Here, Apache grunts head out past commandos securing the wire, with the objective of neutralizing insurgents who were firing on civilians coming to vote.*

# SOFT Proving Ground



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## LR308 Tactical Carbine

### New from DPMS, A .308 That Delivers the Goods!

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

Although it's now widely known, small arms genius Eugene Stoner despised the military varmint cartridge craze that came out of the Light Rifle Program of the early 1950's. A World War II Marine, Stoner was a .30 caliber kind of guy who built his initial prototype AR-10 in .30-06 like the Johnson Rifle that inspired it. When USAF General Curtis LeMay later asked for a smaller-caliber version of Stoner's .308 caliber Armalite AR-10, this project that became the AR-15 was turned over to Robert Fremont and L. James Sullivan.

Gene Stoner turned his attention to another design and, in spite of the .223-caliber AR-15's budding success, he stuck to his guns and designed the Stoner 62 in 7.62x51mm

NATO (.308 Win.) caliber. When it became obvious that the Military still didn't want to look at this caliber, Stoner again turned the .223 caliber Stoner 63 design over to Jim Sullivan.

Now, close to a half-century after the .223 caliber AR-15 unseated the .308 caliber AR-10 rifle, the pendulum has begun to swing back with at least a dozen arms companies producing larger variations of AR-15 style rifles in .308. One of the latest is DPMS - Panther Arms, of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Having made a wide variety of AR-15 style rifles and carbines in .223, DPMS developed its own .308 version several years ago, in full-length precision rifle styles. During the so-called "assault rifle" ban, DPMS introduced a "post ban" carbine version in



*The new DPMS LR308 Tactical Carbine is a "pre-ban," "post sunset" carbine with all the features you haven't been able to acquire for the past decade, AND in 7.62x51mm NATO caliber.*



*(left) Another feature standard on the LR308 is DPMS' own flash hider screwed on the end of its M4 style barrel. (right) DPMS's LR308 upper receiver features a combination case deflector/forward assist.*

.308, but in the wake of the "sunset," the company brought out a new semi-automatic only version with all the fixings.

Called the LR308 Tactical Carbine, this weapon comes with a 16-inch M4 style barrel, DPMS flash hider and retractable butt stock that is adjustable for length of pull. The carbine also comes with the all-but-useless bayonet lug, which, for some bizarre reason, was one of the gun-hating leftists' biggest targets in the "assault-rifle" ban. After all, it is impossible to use a bayonet on an AR type rifle with a 16-inch barrel and no bayonet on any rifle has ever been used in a crime. Go figure.

However, several very useful features are found on the LR308, including a flattop upper receiver with a M1913 MIL-STD rail and DPMS' own 4-rail free-float handguard system. Along with an issue-type front sight/gas block, DPMS also furnishes its own removable and fully adjustable AR-15A2 style rear sight.

Being necessarily larger than the standard AR-15 format, the receiver groups of the LR308 are longer and wider to accommodate the .308 caliber cartridge, as is the bolt group, just as in Stoner's original Armalite AR-10 rifle. However, these components are notably different in the DPMS system. One of the most obvious is the forward assist. Unlike other AR-15 style forward assist systems, the one on the DPMS .308 rifle is combined with the case deflector, instead of being farther to its rear.

Employing the same straight-in magazine feed system as

others of its type, the DPMS LR308 uses a steel 20-round detachable box magazine (DBM) with a bolt hold-open design exactly like that of the original AR-10 and the AR-15. Ten shot magazines, such as were required during the ban, are also offered, and are an excellent alternative where space is limited.

### Optics

Any rifle or carbine with an M1913 rail begs to be used with optical sights, and we tried a number of them on our sample DPMS LR308 Tactical Carbine. First was the new Aimpoint Comp Red Dot Sight with its 3X Magnifier. For use with the magnifier, the new Comp M3 has a 2-MOA dot instead of 4 MOA, but that's only half of it. The M3 is also submersible twice as deep as the M2 and has a battery life of 50,000 hours. Yes, you read correctly – 50,000 hours. Optional for the sight is a protective rubber boot that can be had in either black or desert tan.

Built like a fine camera lens, the 3X Magnifier can be removed instantly in order to use the Comp M3 alone. The magnifier is also quickly adjustable up, down and sideways in order to center the red dot in the field of view, although this isn't necessary for accurate aiming. What's more, the magnifier can be replaced by an AN-PVS14 night vision device in the same Quick-Twist mount.

However, an even newer development for the Aimpoint 3X Magnifier is the Quick-Flip from Mounting Solutions Plus. Mounting on the rail via a #17 A.R.M.S. ThrowLever, the

*(left) The LR308's controls are identical to those of the original Armalite AR-10. (right) One accessory that's totally unique is the new GripPod, a vertical foregrip that instantly becomes a robust bipod.*



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Quick-Flip allows the 3X magnifier to instantly be pivoted off to the side and then returned to its locked position in about 1/2 second. This is the mount we used with Aimpoint's 3X Magnifier on the DPMS .308 Tactical Carbine.

Other optics we found excellent choices on the DPMS LR308 Tactical Carbine were the Eotech, Trijicon 4x32mm ACOG, and Leupold CQ/T 1-4X scope. However, just as compatible was Leupold's new Mark 4 1.5-5X20mm Mid Range Tactical (MRT) scope. A compact version of the Mark 4 3-9X40mm MR/T, this one retains the adjustable illuminated reticle and zoom magnification. However, just about any optical sight will find itself right at home on top of the LR308's flattop rail.

### The GripPod

For a sling, we used the new Tactical Sling from Buffer Technologies with its wide, comfortable webbing, and we also added an M4 rubber non-slip butt cover from SOG, but the most innovative accessory was the GripPod from GPS, Inc. Now in use with the USMC and other military units, the GripPod is the slickest piece of kit to come along in quite a while. Available in two versions, the GripPod can be had in 7075/T6 alloy or slightly lighter Space Age polymer, which is available in black and desert tan.

Mounting rigidly to any bottom M1913 (Picatinny) rail, the GripPod is normally used as a conventional vertical foregrip, and performs as any other. However, if an operator has to dive to the prone position in a split second, he needs only to depress a button on the rear of the GripPod. In doing so, a bipod deploys instantly from the bottom of the GripPod and provides an optimum height for shooting from this position. To retract the bipod, simply squeeze the legs together and cram them up into the GripPod where they automatically lock.

The GripPod can also be used in conjunction with a pressure switch for a weapon light and can also be removed in seconds for storage elsewhere if desired. We tested the alloy GripPod with

(1) Here the Samson Quick-Flip is seen in its open position to allow use of the Aimpoint Comp without the 3X Magnifier. (2) The Trijicon 4x32mm ACOG is mounted on the LR308 using an A.R.M.S. #19 ThrowLever. (3) A natural on the LR308 is the new Leupold 1.5-5X MR/T with its illuminated reticle. (4) The Mil/Police EOTECH mounted directly on the LR308's flattop. (5) With its A.R.M.S. Mount, the Leupold CQ/T provided an excellent optical system.



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a SureFire Tactical Light switch inserted under its closed-cell foam covering and found it to work perfectly.

### Trigger Time

Using a variety of .308 caliber ammunition, we found the DPMS LR308 Tactical Carbine to perform flawlessly. I was especially anxious to try Hornady's 110 grain TAP .308. Even out of a 16-inch barrel this round travels at over 2800 fps. Another new round I wanted to try was the new polymer-coated .308 from Wolf Performance Ammunition, and this round also functioned perfectly

and provided excellent accuracy. Most 5-shot groups went into about 2-inches or less at 100 yards and we found the carbine comfortable to shoot from all positions.

If you're in the market for a .308 caliber semi-automatic carbine that even Gene Stoner would smile upon, check out the new DPMS LR308 Tactical Carbine. For information on it and DPMS' entire line of rifles and carbines, contact DPMS, Inc./Panther Arms, Dept. SOF, 3312 12<sup>th</sup> SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304; phone: 800-578-3767, on the web at [www.dpmsinc.com](http://www.dpmsinc.com). ☒

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The LR308 comes with DPMS's own A2-style rear sight.

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# The Hellhole of Henderson



## Leathernecks Sacrifice for the First Stepping-Stone to Tokyo

By Steve Stibbens

Photos Courtesy U.S.M.C.

The 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1942 is a date that lives in a kind of personal infamy for Marines of the “Cactus Air Force” – the beleaguered Leathernecks who were trying to hold on to an airstrip on a stinking South Pacific hellhole called Guadalcanal. It was just the beginning of what would be the absolute worst 24 hours of the six-month battle to wrest the island from the Japanese, in America’s first offensive campaign of World War II.

For Marine Private Carl “Bud” DeVere, the first control tower operator at the island’s Henderson Field, the date burned a place of special misery in his memory. It was his first day in the war and was to receive a real baptism by fire.

“We had just offloaded from the ship out in Ironbottom Sound when Japanese dive bombers started buzzing our landing boats,” recalls DeVere, 81, now a retired master sergeant

residing in Longmont, Colo. “We were about halfway to shore when some Marine fighters went up and chased them away. None of us got hit.”

DeVere’s arrival at Guadalcanal, code named CACTUS, came when it was not exactly certain the Marines could hold on to that piece of rotting jungle in the Solomon Islands. It already had been a bad month and everything had seemed to go wrong for the Leathernecks.

It would get a lot worse before it got better.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division had arrived two months earlier. The initial landing on August 7<sup>th</sup> had been a complete tactical surprise with hardly a shot fired. The only Japanese on the island were 2,000 barely armed construction workers, scraping out an airstrip that the Marines would name Henderson Field to honor Major Lofton Henderson, a hero just two months



*Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, seen from a USS Saratoga aircraft in August 1942 just after the Marines landed. (inset) Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, under attack by Japanese bombers in October, 1942.*

earlier at the Battle of Midway.

Guadalcanal's airfield was a prize for both sides. The Japanese wanted it to support their battle for New Guinea and Australia. Admiral Chester Nimitz wanted a vital first stepping-stone for his march to Tokyo.

When the Marines landed, the workers fled to the jungles – but the Japanese military began urgent nighttime troop landings by destroyers and submarines. The Marines were soon fighting off nightly fanatical Banzai attacks, between air and naval bombardments.

While Bud DeVere was still digging at his foxhole, the first V formation of 15 bombers with about 10 Zero fighters arrived without warning over Cactus. The raid caught the Marine fighters on the ground, refueling and rearming. However, Captain Joe Foss, who had just arrived on the island, got air-

borne in time to shoot down his first Zero. Then, three enemy planes shot up his F-4F Wildcat, forcing a dead-stick landing at Cactus Base. Foss would eventually become the Corps' top ace with 26 kills, and receive the Medal of Honor.

With only scant fighter opposition, the "Betty" bombers damaged the field heavily. They destroyed aircraft on the ground and caused casualties among the troops still coming ashore.

"It was raining and we had to lug all our gear – seabags, packs, rifles – about a mile to a coconut grove where our tents would be," he said. "But first, we had to dig foxholes. The ground was mostly hard coral and I got mine only about 12 inches deep before chow call. My tent was right next to the commanding officer and several pilots.

The Marines were bombed twice more that day by V for-

*U.S. Navy Seabees inspect the damage to Henderson Field's perforated steel planking (PSP) after a raid by Japanese bombers in Oct. 1942.*



mations of Japanese bombers targeting Henderson Field from high altitude.

### **Gonna Be a Long Night**

At 1830, Pistol Pete began lobbing shells at Henderson Field. The Japanese had sneaked two 150-milimeter howitzers ashore two days earlier and the Marines promptly named them Pistol Pete.

The real show began just before midnight. First, a small plane approached and then quickly scooted away when it was caught in the Marines' searchlights. An hour later, the distinctive popping sound of a Japanese float biplane was heard overhead. Three flares appeared over the field: red and green marked the ends of the runway, a white flare lit the middle.

The big 14-inch and 8-inch guns of the Tokyo Express' two battleships, a cruiser and eight destroyers began to zero in on Henderson Field.

"The first round struck my CO's tent, killing Major Gordon Bell and four pilots," DeVere said. "It wiped out my tent, too.

"At first, we just laid face down in those shallow fox-holes," he said. "The guy in the hole with me wasn't much help. He kept groaning and moaning all night. 'Oh God, why isn't it morning? Why doesn't morning come? God, if you get me out of this one, I'll go to church every Sunday,' and stuff like that.

"I know it sounds crazy but I was tickled to death the whole time," DeVere said. "I was thinking, 'Oh boy, this is it. We're finally seeing it. This is what I signed up for.' It was exhilarating but I was also scared to death and shaking so hard from the waist down that I couldn't control my body. I pee'd my pants that first night.

"I tried to calm my buddy: 'Gee, isn't that a beautiful moon up there?' But he said, 'Aw, jeez, we're lit up like Coney Island. Those Japs will see us for sure now.' It was going to be a long night with this guy."

DeVere said he soon realized the big naval guns were raking the island in a pattern from Henderson Field to the

shore.

"One volley would be down 50 yards from the last one and next time, in between. They were planning to cover the whole island that way," DeVere said. "After a few volleys, we decided to get off the path of those 14-inch shells. My buddy and I ran about 300 feet to the bank of the Teneru River. The shelling pattern continued but we thought we were pretty safe now."

### **No Safe Spot**

The naval gunfire continued to sweep the field with impunity for more than two hours. The bombardment was joined by an occasional shot from Pistol Pete. The heavy shelling tore up the runway and parking ramps, as well as the tent sites in the coconut grove. Then the ammunition dumps and gasoline stores and aircraft began to go up in smoke and fire.

Seabees and Marine engineers raced around under fire with dump trucks full of sand and pre-cut PSP (perforated steel planking), trying to keep the airfield available. As soon as they fixed one crater, there were two or three more.

Finally, the naval bombardment paused, presumably to cool the guns.

"Then, Washing Machine Charlie came over and dropped one bomb on the other side of the river from us," DeVere said. "A piece of shrapnel got my buddy in the leg. After he was wounded, he quit whining. He was satisfied that he was getting out of there.

"I put a tourniquet on him and called the Corpsman," DeVere said.

"I could never figure out how he got hit," he said. "We were lying side-by-side and parallel to where the bomb hit. I was on the near side between him and the bomb. That piece of shrapnel had to go over or under me to hit him. I never got a scratch."

Shortly, the Tokyo Express began shelling the island again, this time for an hour. Before the eleven Japanese ships departed up The Slot toward Rabaul, at 0315, they had fired

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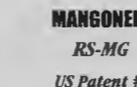


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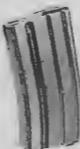


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*A flock of SBD dive bombers from VMSB-141 (Marine Scout Bombing Sq.) get ready for another mission in support of Marines in the jungles.*



870 shells from their 14-inch and 8-inch guns.

But the show wasn't quite over. Japanese bombers came over in groups of three, to bomb the field until daylight.

The morning of October 14 revealed the devastation. Luckily, only 41 Marines had been killed and 19 wounded. Fifty-seven aircraft had been destroyed or damaged. Just four of the 39 SBD dive-bombers remained and all the TBF torpedo bombers were out of action. Sixteen of the 40 F4F fighters were destroyed and the remaining 24 were damaged. Only a few barrels of aviation gasoline were left.

As if the naval bombardment were not enough, Pistol Pete began lobbing shells around the field at 0530 in the usual irregular pattern, about two shells every quarter-hour. This kept the Seabees busy all day. Henderson Field was all but useless although a few fighters zigged down the runway between the craters and got airborne. They were unable to silence Pistol Pete, however.

### Our Turn

High altitude Japanese bomber formations continued to bomb the airfield at intervals all day. At noon, the 25 enemy bombers appeared without warning. An hour later, another 15 bombers hit the field. This time, the Marine fighters were waiting. They shot down nine bombers and three of the 10 Zeros.

The next night, two cruisers sailed down The Slot to shell Henderson Field with 752 rounds from their 8-inch guns. The following night, two heavy cruisers fired 1,500 big shells at the field.

Toward the end of October, the situation on Guadalcanal was seriously in doubt. However, by mid-November, the nightly shelling began to subside and the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, now joined by a regiment of the Army's Americal Division, continued to fight bitter battles in the jungles surrounding Henderson Field.

The Marines and soldiers continued to fight off heavy ground attacks in the jungles but the tide was turning as

the major naval engagements began to preoccupy the Japanese throughout the Solomons area. This enabled the Cactus Air Force to get into the skies, where they outflew and out-gunned the Zeros and Bettys.

One night, expecting a Banzai charge to the field, the Marines lined up all the dive-bombers with their tails aimed at the jungles around the field so their twin machine guns could mow down the fanatical enemy. DeVere said he was an ammunition runner for the attack that never came.

DeVere was an operations clerk in VMSB-141 (Marine Scout Bombing Squadron) equipped with SBD dive-bombers. His job was tracking aircraft coming and going from the field. Before long, he got permission to use a 30-ft. wooden tower the Japanese had built so he could capture the tail numbers through binoculars rather than run around the ramp all day.

"I had been running my legs off getting the tail numbers," DeVere said. "This way, I could call the numbers in to Operations with a crank-up EE-8 telephone."

The Operations officer liked the idea of a tower for Cactus Base, so he sent a corporal with a radio so DeVere could contact the planes. "And that's how I became the first control tower operator of Henderson Field," he said.

"Now there were two enlisted men up there and you know



*(left) Marine Cpl. Carl M. "Bud" DeVere, April, 1944, a year after action on Guadalcanal. (below) DeVere, retired Marine Master Sergeant, now resides in Longmont, Colorado.*



*Continued on page 70*

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By Dr. Martin Brass

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**COMMANDOS** join terrorist manhunt.

 **4. MALAYSIA** **JEMAAH ISLAMIAH**  
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**9. RUSSIA** **COLD WAR FORGOTTEN:** Four helicopters, dozens of military vehicles and communications gear worth \$30 million given to new Afghan military.

**10. DENMARK** **MOSLEM MIGRANTS** riot and burn, claiming that affected neighborhoods belong to them.

**11. ITALY** **SECRET SERVICE DENIES** reports in Italian press that it gave United States forged documents claiming Iraq purchased 500 tons of yellowcake uranium from Niger.

**12. TURKEY** **RUSSIAN SURFACE-TO-AIR- SA18 ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES** smuggled through, to Middle East, for al Qaeda .

**13. SYRIA** **UNANIMOUS U.N. RESOLUTION** threatening "action" demands that Syria cooperate with UN investigation into assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Harir. President Assad has ordered mobilization of Army Reservists.

**14. IRAQ** **SADDAM'S SIDEKICK** Izzat Ibhahim al-Douri, wanted by United States, found dead. **SADDAM DEFENSE TEAM ATTORNEYS ASSASSINATED:** Defense team for Saddam being taken out one at a time. Some 150 civilian contractors have died and 4,200 injured, the last is half the rate of the military. **(SP) BORDER OFFENSIVE** on Syrian border nets 36 terrorist kills and 200 arrests.

**15. AFGHANISTAN** **HELICOPTER DOWNED** by hostile gunfire that killed five U.S. troops. **U.S. TACTICS** focus on streets patrols, UAV and helicopter gunship surveillance to flush out Taliban and capture them as they attack or flee.

**16. INDIA** **CAR BOMBERS** kill 60, injure 200. Indian border guard killed and more than 25 others injured in a car bomb attack in Indian-administered Kashmir. A bus carrying soldiers of India's Border Security Force was passing by on the outskirts of the state capital, Srina. State education minister killed by militants. **(ABC)**

**17. ETHIOPIA** **POWER VACUUM** left after UN withdraws from neighboring Eritrean border. Forty killed in violence in Addis Ababa since May, when opposition claimed that elections were rigged.

\* **18. SOMALIA** **LUXURY CRUISESHIP** carrying 600 European tourists attacked by armed pirates in three boats. Two-dozen UN relief vessels hijacked since March, in pirate infested waters.

# The Next Special Purpose Rifle?

(Part II)

## Could This Be The M16's Finest Hour?

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston



Johnston's "conceptual" Mk12 Mod 2 (SPR) is equipped with a Krieger .223 Match barrel, an A.R.M.S. #59 M S.I.R. System, a SureFire M556FA Suppressor and Tactical Light, Harris Bipod, AN-PEQ-2 Laser/Designator, Leupold MR/T Sniper Scope, VLTOR ModStock, WWO pistol grip and a Giles Tactical Sling.

Last month we reviewed the evolutionary development of the SPR, ending with a review of the latest developments adopted by the U.S. military as the Mk 12 Mod 1. This month we will hypothesize in steel what a "Mk 12 Mod 2" would be, predicated upon the addition of new components and accessories now available as a result of American creativity.

**A**nxious 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 flat-top 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.

### The SureFire M223FA Suppressor

Since the SureFire M556FA Sound Suppressor did not exist when the SPR program was begun, the Ops, Inc., SOPMOD Suppressor was and is standard issue. However, the SureFire

M556FA has also proven an outstanding suppressor, and would also be an excellent choice for the SPR of the future. Made of Space Age materials, the M556FA is instant on and off with virtually no loss of zero or accuracy. The M556FA is now in use with some Army SF and USMC SOCOM operators and I chose to use it with my "next generation" SPR.

### Leupold MR/T

Although I had borrowed an original Leupold TS-30A2 SPR Military Sniper Scope on an earlier occasion, I was not able to purchase it, but was informed that an identical commercial version would soon be available. That optic is now a reality and was chosen for this project. It is the new Leupold Mid Range Tactical (MR/T) Sniper Scope, the commercial variant of the TS-30A2, and identical to the TS-30A2 other than for its non-military designation. Just like the TS-30A2, this scope was mounted using A.R.M.S. QD ThrowLever Rings.

An interesting aside is that having been rushed into design and production after nine-eleven, the designation, "TS" is reported to have stood for "Taliban Special." Either way, Leupold deserves a big hand for getting this outstanding scope to our troops.



(left) SureFire's M556FA Suppressor is instant ON/OFF and locks in place with no loss of POI or accuracy. (right) Here the SureFire M556FA Suppressor is mounted on the rifle.

## The GripPod

Standard issue on Mk 12, Mod 0 and Mod 1 SPR's is the Harris Bipod, now available in a matte black finish. This bipod is used with the A.R.M.S. # 17 TriLock mount. I have used Harris Bipods for years and I find them excellent, but in addition to this tool, I also tested the new GPS, Inc. GripPod with my conceptual Mk 12, Mod 2 SPR.

Consisting of a virtually indestructible vertical foregrip, the GripPod instantly becomes a bipod when the operator needs it, and without having to deploy legs individually. Deployed in less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a second, the GripPod locks at an optimum height for shooting prone off the ground. The GripPod can also be used to support the rifle without deploying the bipod legs in a monopod mode, such as over the hood of a vehicle. An added feature is an outer closed cell foam cover under which a remote pressure switch for a SureFire Weapon Light can be inserted, and it stays where it's put. The GripPod is now in service with the USMC on the M16A4, M4A1, M249 and M240G, but there is also a brand new version.

Just before we went to print, GPS, Inc., sent me their new polymer GripPod. Made of the strongest space age polymer, this version cuts significant weight while maintaining nearly all the strength of the aircraft alloy version, thanks to stainless steel inserts in the legs. Since no bipod needs to be heavy to be effective, GPS will market the ultra lightweight polymer GripPod for rifles and carbines equipped with rail systems and the slightly heavier alloy version will continue to be recommended for heavy sniper rifles and light machineguns. The polymer GripPod will also be offered in colors with the first being Desert Tan.

## New Stocks

Although the SPR has, up to this time, been equipped with the original M16A1 butt stock that came with the surplus lower receiver groups used to build the rifles, I felt that the SPR of the future would require something more. I tested my version of the rifle with both the VLTOR Carbine ModStock and the ACE SOCOM-16

stock, both of which are adjustable for length of pull. These stocks not only fit all, but are also gas mask friendly, and the VLTOR can carry spare batteries for the SureFire Tactical Weapon Lights and other optics and lasers that are standard issue with the U.S. Special Forces. A full load of batteries also makes the lightweight VLTOR stock balance much better on the relatively heavy SPR. The USMC uses the Magpul stock.

## Tactical Lights

Not being particularly fond of the A2 pistol grip, I used the new M16 pistol grip from World Wide Ordnance. Available in two sizes, this grip can also be had in four colors and fits the hand superbly while also providing a small forward extension to cushion the middle finger of the shooting hand. However, the ERGO grip adopted by SOCOM for the SPR is also an excellent choice. I also added a Giles Tactical Sling from Wilderness Tactical Products.

With its full-length S.I.R. System, the SPR also provides an ideal platform for mounting an almost endless array of SureFire Tactical Weapon Lights on either side as well as the bottom, as in the case of the M900A with its integral vertical foregrip. Able to illuminate and identify targets hundreds of yards away at night, these lights become invisible to the naked eye when equipped with infrared (IR) filters, but turn night into day for use with night vision devices (NVD). Another excellent choice is SureFire's new Scout Light.

## AN-PEQ-2

For photographic authenticity and handling evaluation, I also mounted an AN-PEQ-2 ("Pec-two") Laser Designator from Insight Technology on the top rail of the S.I.R. System. Used as a visible or IR laser, this is the device that our troops use to guide "smart bombs" and missiles directly to the target. The AN-PEQ-2 is not available to the public.

## Trigger Time

Although issue SPR's use the M16A1 lower receiver component with a Knight's Armament Company Match Trigger, I used one of my Colt Match AR-15 lower components



Here Johnston's rifle is seen with the ACE SOCOM 16 retractable stock, ERGO pistol grip and the GripPod vertical foregrip/bipod. Fully equipped, the "Mk 12 Mod 2" weighs in at about 9.5 pounds.



Now available in 7075T6 alloy (left) and stainless steel reinforced polymer (right), the GripPod is a super strong and amazing piece of gear.

equipped with a Match Trigger from JP Enterprises. Krieger barrels call for initial break-in, so after sight-in, I tested the SPR with GI M193 ball, carefully cleaning the barrel after every 10 rounds for the first 40 rounds and then after 20 rounds for the next 60. During this period, I saw about a 40% reduction in group size with 3-shot groups settling in at about 1.3", which is excellent for M193 ball.

Following this, I switched to various 5.56x45mm (.223 Rem.) match quality loads including those from Federal, Hornady, Cor-Bon and Black Hills. These included Hornady's 75 grain TAP with a muzzle velocity of 2657 fps, and Black Hills' 75 grain Heavy Match with a muzzle velocity of 2661 from my barrel. All of these rounds proved capable of producing 5-shot groups of 1 MOA or better at all ranges out to 400 yards from my Krieger SPR barrel. Switching to Black Hills Mk 262 Mod 1 issue SPR ammunition, my best 100-yard 5-shot group was 0.52", not quite as good as the reported ¼ MOA accuracy the issue SPR's are producing. Then again, I anticipate that my SPR will do even better

as the Krieger barrel continues to break in, or perhaps in front of a better operator. However, I was plenty satisfied with the 0.64" 100 yard average from this round.

In any of its three configurations, the Special Purpose Rifle represents the optimum in performance of all the many M16 rifle variants to date, and it is highly thought of by our magnificent warriors who are using it in the Global War On Terrorism. As the war continues (and it will continue), additional SPR's may or may not be needed, this in the wake of the resurrection of the M14 rifle and the Army's 7.62mm NATO XM110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) Program now underway. Whether or not any future SPR's would be of a configuration similar to this one is speculative, but the rifle would surely continue to evolve.

### The 6.8mm SPC

The Mk 262 Mod O cartridge was always intended as an interim cartridge until something better than a varmint cartridge could be developed. After the brief SPR-V 7.62x39mm project was discontinued, the 6.8mm SPC was developed as an upgrade for the M16 envelope. With Hornady's superb 6.8mm SPC ammunition now available and the 6.8mm SPC finally seeing limited use in combat, the caliber of future U.S. Military rifles could also change.

One thing is certain. The bolt-action rifle, while superbly accurate, has severe limitations in a target-rich environment out to about 300 meters. By necessity, we shall see an increase in semi-automatic sniper rifles through-

out the Military. They may be direct gas or short stroke gas piston operated, they could consist of excellent upgraded M14's that escaped Clinton destruction. In addition to SPR or Mk 12, they may have names like DMR, SCAR-Heavy, SASS, 417 or Mk11. They may come from the U.S., Belgium or Germany and they may remain in 5.56mm NATO, 7.62x51mm NATO or emerge in 6.8mm SPC, but all will be in an auto-loading configuration, and will be M1913 compatible. They may or may not resemble the rifle shown here, but don't be surprised to see rifles similar to this one built on a custom basis for law enforcement and competition. ❧

### Specifications:

"Mk 12, Mod 2" (SPR)

#### Caliber:

5.56x45mm (.223 Rem.)  
also 6.8mm SPC

#### Muzzle Velocity:

2800 fps (with 75 grain bullets)

#### Barrel Length:

19.5 inches Krieger Match stainless

#### Rate of Twist:

6 grooves, 1-in-9-inch RHT

#### Overall Length: (stock extended)

37.5 inches (without suppressor)

#### Weight: (with accessories)

9.5 pounds (approx.)

#### Feed Device:

Any M16 magazine

#### Safety:

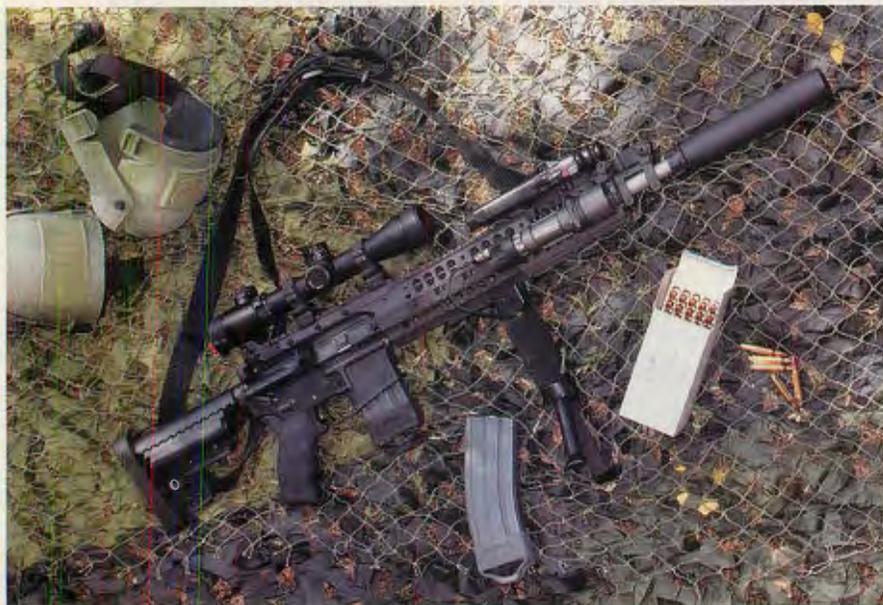
Thumb safety/selector

#### Sights:

(front) PRI SOPMOD folding, adj. for elevation  
(rear) A.R.M.S. #40L  
(optics) Leupold MRT mounted on A.R.M.S.  
ThrowLever Rings on S.I.R. System

#### Options:

SureFire M4FA Suppressor  
GPS GripPod  
VLTOR ModStock  
ACE SOCOM 16 Stock  
Magpul Stock  
Falcon ERGO Grip  
World Wide Ordnance Grip  
SureFire Tactical Light



Fully ready for counter sniping duty, Johnston's conceptual "Mk 12 Mod 2" is indicative of the role the semi-automatic sniper rifle will play in the Global War On Terrorism.

# CAA

Command Arms Accessories



## M44 Handguard Set (Carbine-M44S Rifle-M44L)



A polymer handguard featuring four integral Picatinny rails makes it easy to install and remove mission specific accessories. The handguard features stainless steel heat shields and rubber non-slip rail covers to protect the rails and insure a comfortable non-slip grip for the operator. No gunsmithing or fitting required. M44S - \$112.99 (Carbine) M44L - \$136.99 (Rifle)



## X6 Aluminum Handguard Set (6 Rails)



Aviation grade aluminum makes the X6 one of the strongest Picatinny rail system in the world for the AR15/M16. Featuring four full-length Picatinny rails on the handguard and an additional mini rail on each side of the front sight. Two long and six short rail covers provide protection to the rail when not in use and insure a comfortable non-slip grip for the operator. Available in both rifle and carbine lengths. A seventh rail mounts between the two mini rails on the front sight and is available as an accessory. No gunsmithing or fitting is required.

X6 - \$249.99 (Carbine) X6L - \$369.99 (Rifle)



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



Molded from high-density fiberglass reinforced polymer for extra strength and heat resistance, the handguard provides an extremely rigid, yet ultra light mounting platform for your accessories. The handguard set features full-length Picatinny rails on the top and bottom of the handguard and a mini rail on each side of the lower handguard to allow for the convenient mounting of all Picatinny and Weaver accessories. Handguards are sold as a set, or the upper and the lower handguard may be purchased separately. LHV-47SET - \$106.90



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COMMAND ARMS ACCESSORIES  
PH: 267-288-9995 FAX: 215-322-9223

[www.commandarms.com](http://www.commandarms.com)

# Special Purpose Rifle Contacts:

## A.R.M.S., Inc.

230 W. Center St., Dept. SOF  
West Bridgewater, MA 02379  
508-584-7816  
[www.armsmounts.com](http://www.armsmounts.com)

## ACE Ltd., USA

P.O. Box 191, Dept. SOF  
Chicago Park, CA 95712  
530-346-2492  
[www.riflestocks.com](http://www.riflestocks.com)

## Black Hills Ammunition

3050 Elgin St., Dept. SOF  
Rapid City, SD 57709  
605-348-5150  
[www.black-hills.com](http://www.black-hills.com)

## Cor-Bon Ammunition, Inc.

1311 Industry Rd., Dept. SOF  
Sturgis, SD 57785  
605-347-4544  
[www.corbon.com](http://www.corbon.com)

## Falcon Ind.

P.O. Box 1060, Dept. SOF  
Tijeras, NM 870759  
505-281-3783  
[www.ergogrips.net](http://www.ergogrips.net)

## Federal Cartridge Co.

900 Ehlen Dr., Dept. SOF  
Anoka, MN 55303  
800-322-2342  
[www.federalcartridge.com](http://www.federalcartridge.com)

## GPS, Inc.

4360 Deerwood Ln., Dept. SOF  
Evans, GA 30809  
800-471-3144  
[www.grippod.com](http://www.grippod.com)

## Harris Engineering, Inc.

999 Broadway, Dept. SOF  
Barlow, KY 42024  
270-334-3633  
[www.cyberteklabs.com/harris/main/htm](http://www.cyberteklabs.com/harris/main/htm)

## Hornady Mfg. Co.

P.O. Box 1848, Dept. SOF  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
800-338-3220  
[www.hornady.com](http://www.hornady.com)

## Insight Technology, Inc.

3 Technology Dr., Dept. SOF  
Londonderry, NH 03053  
877-744-4802  
[www.insightlights.com](http://www.insightlights.com)

## JP Enterprises, Inc.

7605 N. 128<sup>th</sup> St., Dept. SOF  
White Bear Lake, MN 15110  
651-426-8197  
[www.jprifles.com](http://www.jprifles.com)

## Knights Manufacturing Company

7750 Ninth St., SW, Dept.,  
Dept. SOF  
Vero Beach, FL 32968  
772-562-5697  
[www.knightarmco.com](http://www.knightarmco.com)

## Krieger Barrels, Inc.

2024 Mayfield Rd., Dept. SOF  
Richfield, WI 53076  
262-628-8558  
[www.kriegerbarrels.com](http://www.kriegerbarrels.com)

## Leupold & Stevens, Inc.

14400 Northwest Greenbriar Pkwy.,  
Dept. SOF  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
503-646-9171  
[www.leupold.com](http://www.leupold.com)

## Magpul Industries Corp.

P.O. Box 17697, Dept. SOF  
Boulder, CO 80308  
877-4MAGPUL  
[www.magpul.com](http://www.magpul.com)

## OPS, Inc.

P.O. Box 377, Dept. SOF  
Shingletown, CA 96088  
530-474-3777  
[www.opsinc.@c-zone.net](http://www.opsinc.@c-zone.net)

## Precision Reflex Inc.

710 Steine Dr., Dept. SOF  
New Bremen, OH 45869  
419-629-2603  
[www.pri.mounts.com](http://www.pri.mounts.com)

## Stag Arms, LLC

515 John Downey Dr., Dept. SOF  
New Britain, CT 06051  
860-224-0839  
[www.stagarms.com](http://www.stagarms.com)

## SureFire, LLC

18300 Mt. Baldy Cir., Dept. SOF  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
800-828-8809  
[www.surefire.com](http://www.surefire.com)

## VLTOR Weapon Systems

3735 N. Romero Rd., Dept. SOF  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
520-408-1944  
[www.vltor.com](http://www.vltor.com)

## Wilderness Tactical Products

5130 North 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 7,  
Dept. SOF  
Phoenix, AZ 85015  
800-775-5650  
[www.thewilderness.com](http://www.thewilderness.com)

## World Wide Ordnance

6580 East Rogers Circle, Dept. SOF  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
888-488-9793  
[www.worldwideordnance.com](http://www.worldwideordnance.com)



Sub MOA accuracy was a cinch for Johnston's Krieger barreled SPR as this 100 yard 5-shot group illustrates.

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

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

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Who is Combat Conditioning for?

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

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

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

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

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

### Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!

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

**Time is not the issue!**



### Matt Furey

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

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

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

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

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

### New Results from Forgotten Exercises

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Here's How to Order

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

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

Yes, Please Send Me *Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness* for only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H (\$12 foreign S&H), and if I'm one of the first 25 to order, I will also receive 3 Special Reports on eliminating knee, back and shoulder pain.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Money Order drawn from a U.S. bank

Visa  MasterCard  Amex

CARD NO: \_\_\_\_\_

EXP: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check/Money Order Payable to:

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# Marines Repel Amb

Text and Photos by  
Sgt. Robert M. Storm

**KORENGAL VALLEY, Afghanistan (1 Sept. 2005)** -- Marines with Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were ambushed on August 18 during an extraction following a mission that lasted nine days in the Korengal Valley. The ambush took place at sundown while Marines were passing through the village Taleban.

"The road exploded with rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire," said Cpl. Salvatore Cirencione, infantryman, from Freehold, N.J. "Marines immediately dropped their packs and dove for cover on either side of the road and returned fire."

The Marines were dangerously exposed to enemy fire from all directions. The insurgents also fired mortars against the Marines during the hour-long firefight. After action reports estimate 20-30 insurgents attacked the platoon.

The mission involved three line companies conducting security and stabilization operations in the Korengal Valley. The area is notorious for the consistent attacks on coalition forces. The purpose of the increased manpower and security was to conduct a show of force and solidarity for the upcoming elections.

"Our platoon's main mission was to clog up the valley and regulate traffic coming in and out, over the course of the mission the platoon moved about 20 kilometers including the security patrols," said Staff Sgt. Demetrius King, infantry unit leader, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, from Washington, D.C.

The Marines from second platoon were leaving the valley to return to base and were reinforced with machine guns and Afghan National Army soldiers. At the end of the mission, while traveling in a tactical column on a road that ran the base of the valley, the platoon was ambushed. They were just two kilometers from the extraction point with coalition forces.

"At first I couldn't tell how many insurgents were attacking, rounds were coming from everywhere and everything just seemed to be happening in slow motion," said Cirencione. "It seemed like it was going to last forever and at the same time it was moving so fast you didn't have time to be afraid, you just reacted the way our training taught us."

Previously, insurgents in small groups of two or three would fire at Marines and then quickly fade into the hills and backcountry. This time the insurgents were firing at the Marines from three positions, using advanced ambush tactics. They used a pile of rocks placed in the middle of the road as a range marker for their initial volley, and fired from both sides of the high ground towards the Marines. The insurgents also fired from ground level towards the front after the Marines attention was drawn towards the rear. ✕

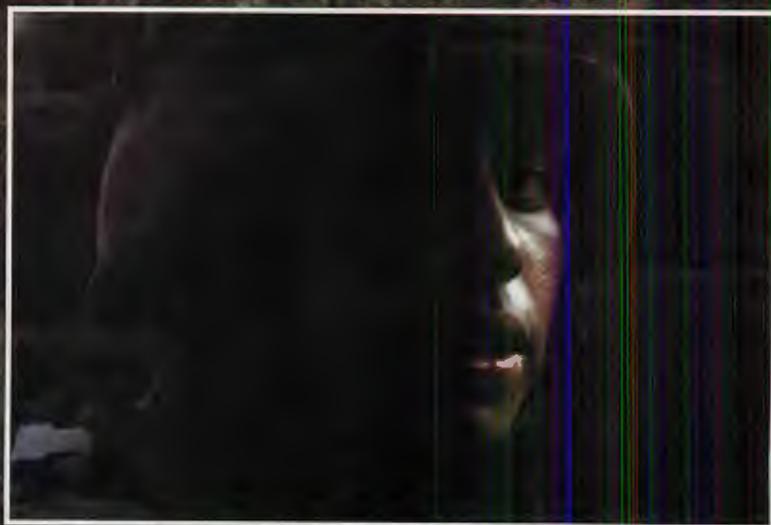
Marines confirmed the death of at least three insurgents and recovered ammunition and other sources of intelligence after the attack.



Lance Cpl. Ryan R. Irving, infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, returns fire at insurgents in the Korengal Valley. The Elburn, Ill., native was one of the Marines with E Company that repelled an insurgent ambush Aug. 18.

# Push in Afghanistan

*(left to right) Lance Cpl. Jacob Kareus, machinegunner, from Fort Smith, Ark., Lance Cpl. Andrew T. Farlaine, machinegunner, from Helper, Utah, and Lance Cpl. Aaron S. Carnahan, machinegunner, from Peoria, Ariz., return fire at insurgents in the Korengal Valley. Three insurgents were confirmed killed.*



*Cpl. Anthony Sarmienta, infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment from Ennis, Texas was one of the Marines from E Company that repelled an ambush by insurgents in the Korengal Valley.*

# Singing Soldiers

## Six Klicks of Hell in Baghdad, But Worthy of a Song

By Nathaniel R. Helms

Photos courtesy SSG Randy Bartlett

There is a place in Baghdad named Haifa Street that winds for six klicks along a narrow, walled boulevard of ancient origins, where American grunts dodge snipers and IEDs and suicide bombers looking for quick access to perpetual virgins in Iraq's version of some lawless planet in a galaxy far, far away.

The "tush hawks" from the Arkansas Army National Guard who fought last year along this, one of the world's oldest boulevards, know all about it. They took on the best of the bad guys had to offer on their own turf, and kicked their sneaky unwashed asses from one end of that windy old street to the other, in some of the toughest fighting the war in Iraq has seen.

Staff Sergeant Randy Bartlett and his buddies J.R. Schultz and Nick Brown found out first hand when their Arkansas National Guard brigade was sent to Baghdad in late March 2004. It was a time when the mission was called Stability and Support Operations (SASO), a snappy euphemism for serious combat that has since fallen from out of style.

Before they went to Iraq, Bartlett was a captain and the commanding officer of Charlie Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade, Arkansas Army National Guard. But soon after his company received its orders to deploy in the summer of 2004, the Army's befuddling personnel system struck like a bolt of lightning: Bartlett was reduced to the ranks and sent packing from the Army officer corps. To stay

in the fight he enlisted as a staff sergeant of infantry, although he had already been a captain for more than four years and an infantry officer on active duty for almost eight.

Bartlett, a former paratrooper and Schultz, a fish biologist when he wasn't getting shot at, along with eight other troopers from the brigade, ended up as advisors at an Iraqi Army outpost on the western end of infamous Haifa Street. Their base was a few miles from the so-called "Green Zone"

where the U.S. Embassy is surrounded by coalition troops who had better luck in the draw. Their team leader was a savvy ARKARNG officer named 1st Lieutenant Tim Stiph. Bartlett was the NCOIC. Along with Schultz, they lived at OP Peach, a dusty, drab pit of a place down the road from Forward Operating Base (FOB) Unity II. Like its counterparts Solidarity, Prosperity, and Unity I, OP Peach was named by psychological warfare wizards, who wanted to inspire national unity and pride among the Iraqis.

"I can just see some (expletive deleted) psychops dude getting off on it though, thinking all the Iraqis would feel better. Typical psychops weenie shit," Bartlett recalled.

The advisory team – called a "cadre" – was co-located in the Area of Operations (AO) of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and worked under operational control of the 3rd Brigade, which gained notoriety for its tough street fighting during the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005. The brigade was



Alpha 302 Iraqi National Guard comes under fire while advancing through a graveyard, before American advisers were allowed to participate.

# of Haifa Street

led by Colonel John M. "Mike" Murray, "a fine soldier and combat leader and great guy," Bartlett said.

## Haifa Street Heats Up

That is also where Nick Brown ended up, a rifleman in Charlie Company doing road security, cordon and search, and general infantry patrolling that landed his unit in plenty of dangerous times over the next 12 months. Although not a member of Bartlett's team, he fought side by side with them on many occasions as the battle for Haifa Street heated up.

The fights were fast and furious, punch and counterpunch. It was always a street brawl in an alley with no second place winner.

Fortunately it wasn't always about war. Whenever the advisory cadre wasn't out looking for trouble, J.R. would get together with Nick to use their infrequent quiet time to write songs and play some music, Nick said.

"Most of our songs were about what happened," J.R. explained. "One song I wrote was about what happened in the Green Zone when the Iraqis used a donkey cart to launch some missiles into that big hotel there. It was a few days before we deployed (March 2004) when I first heard about it. Rumsfeld [SecDef Donald Rumsfeld] had just been on TV saying Baghdad wasn't so bad and then he went over there and the rockets hit the hotel and he came right back home."

## Baghdad Ain't So Bad

Rumsfeld's quick departure inspired a song the men call *Baghdad Ain't So Bad*. It expresses the sardonic humor they all noted in Rumsfeld's pre-visit assessment and his hasty departure a few days later.

"I just thought it was funny," J.R. drawled.

Too bad, some would probably say, that Rumsfeld couldn't hang around for a taste of what the boys from Arkansas got to chew on when they got there a few days later. Bartlett's cadre and Rick Brown's company quickly discovered Haifa Street to be a deadly place. On one side of the street was the British Embassy and the beautiful homes of Baghdad's rich and famous before the war destroyed their lives. On the other side of the narrow road are the squalid slums of the desperately poor. For 10 months Bartlett's team and his Iraqi buddies patrolled the walled road in a constant battle with

insurgents over the hearts and minds of the war-weary Iraqi civilians who lived there.

"That was before we were allowed to accompany the Iraqis on their operations and they went in on their own and went into an isolated street and got mouse-trapped. We spent two days getting them rescued. My lieutenant and I had followed them in. At the time Americans couldn't go out with them. They got their asses kicked. They weren't ready for the foreign fighters," Bartlett recalled.

Bartlett's team advised 80 Iraqis led by a former Republican Guard captain Bartlett calls Haider (a *nom de guerre* as he is now an Iraqi lieutenant colonel, and a prime target for assassination). Together they formed the 1st Battalion, 302 Infantry, 40th Brigade of the Iraqi National Guard. The commanding officer was a former Republican Guard captain who had fought the Americans twice. Bartlett remembers the Iraqi captain saying, "I had my ass kicked twice by Americans and I want to know why."

"He was a squared away guy and a good officer," Bartlett added.



Alpha 302 enters target area, while advisors observe from over-watch position, as they were not then allowed to come along. A 302 attacked, got mouse-trapped – and it was a long day before they were extracted. Lesson learned.

## More than One Enemy

They soon found out there was more than one enemy on Haifa Street. In addition to the AIF the Americans operating there had to contend with the followers of Mullah Muqtada al-Sadr, the grandson of a revered Shia cleric. Bartlett dismisses him as a thug.

"He lives to create divisions, to stir the pot," he said. "The Iraqis I talked to, they just couldn't stand him. He [al-Sadr] is evil, he is insane, a criminal. If anybody needs to be killed it is Muqtada al-Sadr." Al-Sadr fomented an uprising in Karbala in central Iraq that spread across the region last year. Until the fight at Fallujah, it was the biggest battle the American Army fought in Iraq after President Bush had declared the mission "accomplished."

Bartlett's advisory team and their Iraqi brothers fought almost daily duels with al-Sadr's followers. "If you went out you got in contact. Our guys were in contact almost every day," he said.

The worst fights on Haifa Street came during February 2005. The elections to set the groundwork for adopting a new constitution were going on and the Anti-Iraq Forces (AIF) – the official names for the bad guys – were working hard to disrupt them.

Bartlett remembered: "We had just stepped onto 17th Street at Sheikh Marouf Circle when they ambushed us. As usual, the fire came from what we called [the] Green Awning Building. The Iraqi machinegun crew next to me started returning fire immediately. They were lighting up the building pretty well when we came under fire from another alley.

"I pulled back in time to see Stith arguing with the Iraqi platoon leader (PL). He wanted to pull back and Stith was having none of it. We finally explained to him that pulling back would be letting the AIF (Anti-Iraq Forces) win. Imagine doing this under fire.

"We finally maneuvered the platoon into a junkyard that dominated several streets. Shortly after that the incoming fire

picked up. A lot of rocket propelled grenades hit the wall we were behind."

## Making Do With What You Have

At the time it wasn't wise to venture onto Haifa Street with less than a company, but... Bartlett's advisory team plus a reinforced squad cobbled together from a rifle squad they had borrowed from another platoon of 302<sup>nd</sup> ING, along with a machine gun and a half dozen advisors from Bravo Company, a Washington National Guard unit pulling advisory duty, were it. It was all they had, but it proved to be enough – barely enough!

"Turned out to be the smartest thing we did. The Iraqi PL was hesitant and unsure at this point. Stith was all over him to get his men up and returning fire, with very little effect. The NCOs were keeping the Iraqis who were fighting moving around the perimeter to keep the AIF off of us. This was one of the few times we saw AIF aggressively maneuvering against us. This phase lasted a couple of hours, with steady incoming fire the entire time."

About three hours into the fight the friendly Iraqis were up and fighting. The options were obvious: fight or run. Then more bad news arrived over the radio from SSG James Martin, another former paratrooper who was securing the team's trucks and HUMVEEs in Bartlett's rear. More enemy fighters were infiltrating through a graveyard near his position, Martin reported.

"Hey Boss, you have about 15 bad guys coming in from behind. I'm engaging."

"Specialist Eric Spicer tore into them with the .50 Browning, with several long bursts of HE (high explosive). During that time, I was able to get SPC Ron Newton to put 40MM HEDP (High-explosive dual purpose) onto the AIF that Spicer had pinned down. Those two young soldiers kept that up for a long time.

"At one point the fifty stopped firing. I had heard screams from that area so I called Martin to find out if they were OK.



This was not news: Haifa Street was always Condition "Red."



(left) AIF drops an 82mm mortar barrage on A 302 as they go into attack. Picture taken by advisers in over-watch position while directing Iraqi attack. (right) Iraqi Guardsman on anti-graffiti patrol.

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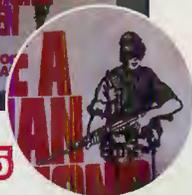
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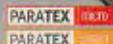
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He actually laughed: 'Spicer's switching to API (armor piercing incendiary). They're trying to hide in the tombs.'

"Newton was still firing 40MM, to great effect. This went on for some time until Martin finally called and said he saw no more movement."

About then the bad guys to their front put on a full court press to overrun Bartlett's team. Bartlett and two Iraqis moved to the rear of the perimeter to relocate the unit's medic. He had just killed a bad guy from inside his casualty collection point at a range of 20 feet. When he returned, Stith was wondering where Bartlett had gone. The team's top kick responded, "I've been looking for escape routes. If this gets any worse, we need to go. I then filled him in on Martin's fight. He just looked at me and said 'I'm calling the QRF (Quick Reaction Force). You keep those routes open.'

"By now our interpreter was in the fight. Interpreters were not supposed to be armed," Bartlett recalled.

### Within Range of Grenades

The enemy continued to press against Bartlett's position. They got close enough to throw grenades. Stith stopped a large fragment with the magazine of his M4 rifle, denting it so badly it wouldn't feed. Before that happened, the fighting was so intense that he killed a couple of bad guys closing in on him. About the same time the receiver of Bartlett's weapon was struck by grenade fragments, which luckily didn't disable it. Through it all the friendly Iraqi soldiers showed good fire discipline, keeping up a steady barrage against their

attackers using semi-automatic fire, something the advisors had worked hard to teach them. Without fire discipline things could have gone badly due to a lack of ammunition, Bartlett said.

The contact lasted four hours before the quick reaction force arrived and the bad guys fled the field, leaving behind at least 20 corpses and plenty of bandages and blood trails. To the rear, Martin, Spicer and Newton had wasted more of the AIF attackers as well. A late-comer to the fight called the battle "fucking carnage" and stared with disbelief at the bloodied corpses littering the battlefield.

Nick said his war in a line company was a different world than that endured by Bartlett and J.R. His life was one of monotonous patrols punctuated by moments of terror. Snipers and IEDs made getting blown up a distinct possibility just driving down the road. Nick said the training they got in the States wasn't worth going to because it did not prepare them for anything they eventually encountered, but they did their jobs anyway.

"I'm a patriot," Nick said. "My grandfather was in World War II, in the 705<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The older I got the more I got interested in it. When I was young he was just an old man in a chair who didn't say much, but he sacrificed everything in World War II. I know that now. He died shortly before we were deployed."

Being on the outside of the big, secure Forward Operating Bases (FOB) looking in, gave the three war fighters a different perspective than the Ameri-



American advisers with a can-do attitude have gone a long way in convincing Iraqi forces that they can prevail against foreign insurgents and local extremists.

"Sunset In Iraq" (Cpl. Guynup, H Platoon,  
2-108 NYNG) ©2005 SPC Nolan



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cans who stayed behind the berms and barbed wire of the big logistical bases, Bartlett said.

### Not to Win, Just Not to Lose

“The insurgents are good enough to keep the Americans bottled up. They don’t have to be; we weren’t. It is because of fear of casualties and impact on careers – we see it most from the field grade officers. Well, insurgents are in it to win and the Americans are in it not to lose and that is not good.”

Fortunately their time in Iraq wasn’t all about war. Like a lot of folks from Arkansas, J.R. and Nick have a natural affinity for good country music, loving their country, missin’ their women, and making up songs about how darn sorry the whole business sometimes made them feel.

J.R.’s most poignant memory was the night his son Barrett was born. It was three A.M. in Iraq and his wife Sandra was in labor. They had talked for a while on the telephone. J.R. was absorbed with the realization he was about to be a father and the horrible thought that he might never see his son.

“It was June 15<sup>th</sup> 2004. It was also the first time I met Nick. We were doing a patrol with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the day after



Thumbs up after a successful snatch mission in the neighborhood: A known insurgent was extracted with no casualties. Iraqi guard unit was starting to show some unit cohesion.

my son was born. Nick and I talked a little bit – just talking – then the words to the song came out. I just kind of started writing them down.”

J.R. remembered his Grandfather was married when he went overseas in World War II. He used the memory in his song. “Then I put on my thinking cap and more lines about the sacrifices soldiers make going overseas and sometimes dying – stuff like that – and it just came to me. At my rank my job is to do what I’m told, supporting my

country. We came up with a song called *I Am a Patriot*.

“Music made by a guitar is made from chords – you know, strumming. The tune will pop in your head and then it sort of gets going,” J.R. explained.

The big fights in February they were singing about did more than provide lyrics. The fights also stopped the AIF cold, Bartlett said.

### Stopping the Disruption

“We received word later that we had done a great deal of damage to the AIF attempt to disrupt the election results, both physically and psychologically. The Iraqi platoon and

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PL went on to redeem themselves after their initial slow start. We moved a few NCOs and promoted a few soldiers. We were only with that platoon for a few more weeks but they showed more promise with every operation. Our replacements were 3<sup>rd</sup> I.D. guys, a number of whom had made the march up during Operation Iraqi Freedom. I think they paid the highest compliment to the Iraqi National Guard: "If they'd been here when we came in the first time, we'd still be fighting them."

Today J.R. is back working for the State of Arkansas as a fisheries biologist. Nick is back in school learning about sports medicine and being a football coach while he waits to find out if he can become an Arkansas State trooper. Bartlett is an operator for the government doing things he can't talk about. In the meantime J.R. and Nick have self-produced a CD folks can buy by clicking on their website at <http://www.iraq-songs.com> and ordering the CD.

"Now, me and Nick are getting serious about this music thing," J.R. said. "I think people will like the message behind the music."

They spend a lot of their free time "learning a lot about the music business," Nick added. "Right now we are small scale but we want to get out our message about Iraq. Who wants to hear a song about someone going to college or 'I'm a fish biologist!'"

Instead, they sing about their experiences on Haifa Street that they hope the world will someday hear. Maybe it will.

*I Am A Patriot*, by J.R. Schultz

Twilight, and I'm alone  
On a battlefield so far from my home

My wife is running through the fields of my mind  
My only prayer is to see her again sometime

It's been a year now since I've seen your face  
A beautiful thing that all my dreams could never replace  
How I long to feel your touch and hear your voice  
And God knows how I want to hold my little boy

*Chorus*

But I am too proud, to be forgotten  
I've given too much, to be forsaken now  
Just keep that American flag in our yard flying  
Cause I'm a patriot and, I don't mind dying

I don't know what God has in store for me  
But if I don't return, I only ask one thing  
Don't let my memory fade too far away  
And tell my son how much I love him every day

It's getting closer now; I can hear the sounds of home  
Seems like forever here, the time has passed so slow  
Too many men came here who will never leave  
A sad reminder of the cost to be free

*Final Chorus*

And they were too proud, to be forgotten  
They gave too much to be forsaken now  
So I'll keep that American flag in our yard flying  
For all the patriots who went down fighting ✕

Nathaniel Helms is a writer and editor for [DefenseWatch.com](http://DefenseWatch.com).

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**Mark Cheng, L.Ac.**

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

**I** imagine yourself face to face with:

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- A gun barrel to your head, or
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FEBRUARY 2006		ADVERTISERS INDEX	
American Watch	29	Command Arms	41/71
ARMS	52	Cove Shoe Co.	27
Best Made Designs	73	Dark Ops Knives	3
Black Ink Design	28	David Jones	68
Bloomfield	10	DPMS	33
Buffer Tech	78	Doublestar	74
Bushmaster	79	GG&G	13
Bushrag	79	Global School Inv.	55
Carroll Media	26	Harbucks Watch Bands	80
Challenge Coins	78	Hydrastorm	C3
Chase Durer	C4	Hurley & Withington	55
Combat Elite	75	Inter-American Security	55
John's Guns	80	Silverman's	55
LA Police Gear	21/54	Southern Ordnance	81
Laser Devices	70	Specter Gear	77
Matt Furey	43	Steve Arnold's Gunroom	58
Maxsell	19	Sure-Fire	11
NIC Law Enforcement	55	Take 2 Interactive	9
One Stop Knife Shop	58	Tamiami Int.	53
Paladin Press	5	TCI	C2
Para Ordnance	7	Texas Tactical Supply	81
Proforce Equipment	50	Wiggy's	76
Ratchet Belt Co.	55	Wiley-X	51
R.M. Equipment	81		

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## Thinking Of You This Veteran's Day

Dear Colonel Brown,

Let me say congratulations on the 30th anniversary and here's to 30 more!

I will also be thinking of you all tomorrow. THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF FREEDOM!

Best,  
Joe Fernandez.

Joe: Thanks for the "thanks." We will just keep on plugging.

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

Editor/Publisher  
Soldier of Fortune Magazine

## Journal of Professional Adventurers

As a long time subscriber it was good to see the "Journal of Professional Adventurers" once again included on

the cover. It has been a good 30 years. Here's to at least 30 more! Happy Anniversary.

Jerry Widmer  
Long time subscriber

### Good Quote

Hey, guys! Been a subscriber since '83. Just came across this quote, and thought of you right away. Hope you can use it in a future edition - if you haven't already!

*Of every one-hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are nothing but targets, nine are real fighters...*

*We are lucky to have them, they make the battle... Ah, but ONE, one of them is a Warrior... he will bring the others back!* - Heraclitus c. 500 B.C.

Hoo Ahh! Here's to all the WARRIORS! Let us not forget them, when the enemy has been defeated!

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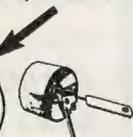
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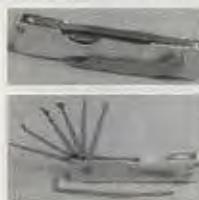


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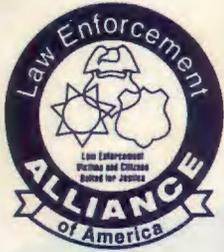
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Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown  
Founder and Publisher  
Soldier of Fortune, Inc.  
5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5  
Boulder, CO 80303

September 15, 2005

Dear Bob,

On behalf of the more than 75,000 Members and Supporters of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA), I am pleased to write you this letter of congratulations on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soldier of Fortune Magazine.

In three decades, the pages of your magazine have paid witness to the frontlines of the fight for freedom around the globe and even here at home. As a voice for those who know all too well the price of freedom, your magazine has served as a reminder to all Americans that the precious liberties granted by the efforts of our founding fathers came at a terrible but worthy price and their preservation over the centuries has been paid for by the lives of equally dedicated patriots in service to their country.

As a soldier, you've risked your life to defend our freedoms and as a publisher you've helped keep Americans aware of the ever present need for vigilance in preserving those freedoms. As such, I am pleased to award you the **Law Enforcement Alliance of America's 'Freedom Fighter Lifetime Achievement Award'** on this the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SOF Magazine. The citation for your award is as follows:

*Robert K. Brown (2005) For a lifetime of conspicuous gallantry and intrepid service in defense of freedom and liberty. Lt. Col Brown has served his country in uniform and in the private sector - A soldier, a scholar and a journalist. Lt. Col. Brown's service in the United States Army reflects his commitment to the defense of the American ideal of liberty and freedom the world over. As a journalist, Brown used the First Amendment to defend the Second Amendment here in the United States as well as the cause of liberty worldwide. As a scholar, Brown bucked the trend of academia to promote the important victory of liberty and democracy over the oppression of communism and tyranny.*

I am honored to present you with this award, privileged to have you as a Life Member of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, and proud to call you my friend.

Sincerely,

James J. Fotis  
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# Adventure Quartermaster

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The Roll-Lock comes with a blade length of 3-1/2 inches, the scales and spine are made of durable Zytel and the blade is of 440C. The auto mechanism is a positive roll wheel in the handle that locks the blade in the open and/or closed position. When the wheel is rolled forward the blade comes out with considerable force and authority due to the heavy duty lifetime eight-coil spring, which is fully supported by the bushing and a spring-support boss cast right into the handle. This is an extremely durable knife and blade.



### CALIFORNIA KNIVES, Dept. SOF

809 S. Santa Fe • Visalia, CA 93292 • 800-735-9060 • [www.californiaknives.com](http://www.californiaknives.com)



## FALCON INDUSTRIES ERGO-GAPPER™ for AR-15/M16

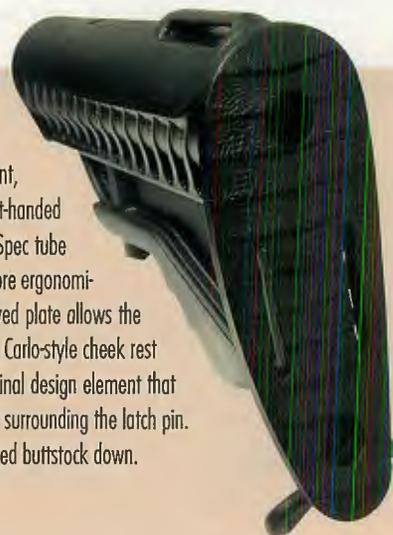
The unique Ergo-Gapper™ (US Patent No. 6,434,874) is designed to fill the small void or gap in front of the pistol grip up to the rear of the trigger guard on an AR-15/M16 rifle. The Gapper acts as a cushion and protects the knuckle of the index finger when holding the grip. The Gapper™ also helps prevent debris from being lodged into the open space and provides a more finished look to the rifle. Falcon Industries produces this part from a solvent-resistant thermoplastic elastomer that remains flexible. Installation is simple: The operator just slides the "U" shaped portion of the Gapper™ over the rear of the trigger guard with the longer side pointing down, and pushes it forward. If it can not be pressed in easily, it can be moistened, or as a last resort the grip can be loosened by untightening the grip-mounting screw, will allow it to fit. After the Gapper™ is positioned all the way forward, the mounting screw is retightened.

### FALCON INDUSTRIES, Dept. SOF

P.O. Box 1690 • Edgewood, NM 87015 • 505-281-3783 • [www.ergogrips.net](http://www.ergogrips.net)

## DPMS "Pardus" Carbine Stock

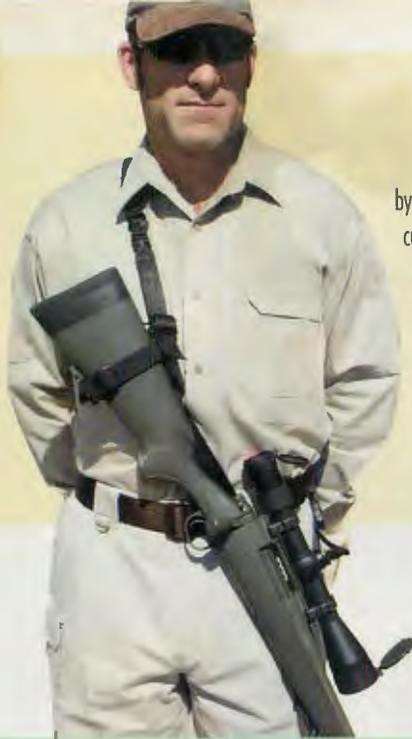
Made of a space-age, lightweight, fiber-reinforced black Zytel, the buttstock has four integral slots for sling attachment, in addition to the standard sling swivel, making it completely customizable to the needs of both left-handed and right-handed shooters. Customize your length of pull with the six-position buffer tube: Both the standard six-position tube and the MilSpec tube are available with this design. Adjusting the tube with cold or gloved fingers just got easier too, as DPMS has designed a more ergonomically shaped latch with fully integrated finger grooves. Shooters will also notice the curved, saw-tooth buttplate. The curved plate allows the shooter to pull the rifle to the shoulder more securely, providing for a tighter cheek-weld to the comfortably flared, Monte Carlo-style cheek rest - law enforcement and military personnel who routinely wear Kevlar will appreciate this insightful design element. One final design element that everyone, especially those who have inadvertently dropped the rifle on its buttstock will appreciate, is the reinforced area surrounding the latch pin. This reinforced area provides additional strength to the latch pin and helps it resist breakage should the rifle ever be dropped buttstock down.



### DPMS, Dept. SOF

3312 12<sup>th</sup> Street SE • St. Cloud, MN 56304 • 800-578-3767

[www.dpmsinc.com](http://www.dpmsinc.com)



## SPEC-OPS UNIVERSAL MAMBA FIGHTING SLING

The new universal design allows the sling to be mounted quickly and easily to all weapons platforms now being fielded by the U.S. Military. The innovative "Uni-Link" feature (patent pending) allows the user to mount the sling without the cumbersome adaptors and failure-prone hook-and-loop attachment points found on other slings. The same sling can be used by right or left-handed shooters, simplifying the procurement process. The Universal Mamba underwent extensive field testing in Iraq and Afghanistan. The sling has a 1.25" wide shoulder strap and uses a tubular web design that is super strong and virtually twist/tangle free.

**SPEC-OPS BRAND, Dept. SOF**

P.O. Box 475 • Monahans, TX 79756 • 866-773-2677

[www.specopsbrand.com](http://www.specopsbrand.com)

## BUSHMASTER 9MM PISTOL

Bushmaster has introduced the next generation of Carbon 15 pistols — in 9mm NATO caliber, and with a full-length Picatinny rail including integral iron sights, an M203 type foregrip, and a comfortable neoprene sleeve over the buffer tube. Receivers, forend and other parts are milled 9d durable, water-resistant carbon fiber composite. Operating controls are similar to any AR-15 type firearm. The 9mm NATO caliber chrome-moly steel barrel includes a birdcage flash hider for control of muzzle rise. Carbon 15 pistols are shipped with a 30-round magazine, operating and safety instruction manual.



**BUSHMASTER FIREARMS, Dept. SOF**

P.O. Box 1479 • Windham, Maine 04062 • 800-883-6229

[www.bushmaster.com](http://www.bushmaster.com)

## FILSON TIN CLOTH FIELD JACKET

The style #641 is made out of Filson's 12.5-ounce, 100% cotton Tin Cloth that has been impregnated with wax to give maximum rain and wind resistance. For added protection the front is zippered and snapped closed with a storm flap and lined with Filson's tightly woven 8-ounce dry-finish 100% cotton Shelter Cloth. There is a draw cord at the waist and adjustments at the wrist. Plus, there are wool-lined hand-warmer pockets for added comfort and an internal zippered security pocket to secure keys and wallet.



**C.C. FILSON CO. Dept SOF**

P.O. Box 34020 • Seattle, WA 98124 • 800-624-0201

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# Molotov: The N

## Jihadists Recruit Suicide Bombers in the Smoldering

By Dr. Martin Brass

This is the second part in a series that is focusing on how treacherous sleeper terrorist cells are thriving in Western Europe. Part one dealt with how Islamic jihadists were terrorizing the Netherlands and how the Dutch, fed up, had taken to the streets in protest after the murder of politician Theo Van Gogh.

This part focuses on the intensifying terrorism threat in France.

Western Europe, according to many official and unofficial sources, is the stage where the next spectacular attack ordered by bin Laden on the United States is being plotted. Much of the planning for 9-11 was carried out in Europe.

Many of the Jihadists are second generation Europeans

with European citizenships. Those who have European passports are free to travel to the United States under the Visa-waiver program, therefore facilitating movement of terrorists.

"Al Qaeda, or Bin Ladinism, now spans Europe. The Madrid bombers received illumination, advice, and assistance from Imams and colleagues in Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and Norway...Islamic terrorists have extended their European operations according to senior counterintelligence officials, classified intelligence briefings and press reports based on secret recordings of militants," the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) warns in an article, 'Europe's Mujahideen' by Robert S. Leiken.



French policemen arrive at the site of a protest against the government's handling of recent urban unrest in France, at Place Saint Michel in Paris, 16 Nov 2005.  
Photo: Reuters

# ew French Cocktail

## Immigrant Ghettos

Of 373 Muslim terrorists arrested or killed in Europe and the United States from 1993 through 2004, 87 percent are from immigrant backgrounds, nearly half are naturalized, second generation or converts to Islam. More French nationals were arrested than nationals of Pakistan and Yemen combined, according to Leiken's research.

### "Paris Burning"

France, like Holland, is a smoldering breeding ground for the new Jihadists.

"We have 20 to 100 organizers here and hundreds of supporters. Though most of the operators that went to Afghanistan for training are captured or dead," the editor in Chief of

RAIDS, the French military magazine, told me in his office in Paris.

"Islamic Fundamentalists blend in here much more easily because of our immigration population mix," one official in the tourist industry who had lived in the United States for ten years and now lives in France told me in his office in Paris. "Since many are European citizens, they can travel freely to the United States."

In France, fear of the threat of terrorism is very real. Many French are wondering when it is their turn—first the United States had 9-11, then Madrid had the train bombings and London was struck with terror bombings.

With dread, I was expecting to see the splendid Paris,



Remains of 27 city buses burned by angry youths in a warehouse in Trappes, West of Paris, France. Photo: SIPA

which I called home for several years, up in flames as CNN and the mainstream press was flashing fiery scenes of out of control riots from Paris.

“Civil War is declared. There will no doubt be deaths.

Unfortunately, we have to prepare,” a mysterious “Rania” posted a sign. “We are going to destroy everything. Rest in peace, guys,” wrote “Saint Denis”, one of the threatening agitators, AP reported.

**“No Place Will Be Safe”**

Paris proper was unsettlingly calm on the surface. But the immigrant suburbs were ablaze and the media was flashing the violence in the ghettos across the TV screens and front pages of the journals.

“The French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, who has

his eyes on the Presidency, made a horrible mistake. He called the rioters “scum” that need to be power vacuumed up,” a French attorney told me.

“The riots erupted when seventeen year old French-Mauritanian Ziad, and fifteen year old French-Tunisian Banou were electrocuted in Clichy-sous-Bois, an immigrant ghetto east of Paris. When the boys spotted the police, they fled as one of them did not have an identity card. They were electrocuted when they jumped an electrical fence to hide in a power substation because they believed the police were chasing them.

News of their charred bodies spread rapidly. Thousands took to the streets in revenge,” the French advocate said.

“I personally think that the rioting is linked to the French

**There's a path in the Buttes  
Chaumont park that leads to the  
“Bridge of Suicides” where Muslim  
boys who heard the call to jihad  
train for a holy war in Iraq.**

**“One asks himself why a certain number of young French people are in Pakistan in religious schools,” Sarkozy said. “It’s not normal that an individual who lives in our neighbourhood leaves all of a sudden for four months in Afghanistan, three months in Syria. We want to know who is going where, for how long, and when they come back.”**

rejection of the membership of Turkey, an Islamic country, into the European Union,” the attorney said. Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan Prime Minister is extremely angry for the French rejection of his country. He blames decisions such as the banning of headscarves in school for the riots. He believes such laws are a sign of rejection of Islam and its followers and blames them for the riots.

“I think the riots were well organized or they could not have erupted so spontaneously throughout the country.

“The fundamentalists are everywhere, Indonesia, China, India, as well as Europe and the Middle East. We are facing a global Jihad, and its only going to get worse. No place will be safe,” he said.

The violence spread with lightening speed throughout other cities in France, thanks to cell phones and chat rooms. Rioting was reported in 300 villages. Over 7000 vehicles were torched and hundreds of Muslim youths were arrested in two weeks of violence.

The immigrant enclaves have been problematic for years, and according to reports that French officials gave to the media, at least thirty patrols are stoned and as many cars torched every night in the slums, even before the latest riots.

In central Paris only thirty cars were burned during the riots.

Rioters fired on police with shotguns and pistols in southern Parisian suburb of Grigny, injuring 36 policemen.

“Only one old man was killed and that may have been unrelated, maybe a bunch of thugs beat him up,” *Newsweek’s* international editor Christopher Dickey said when we were discussing the situation. “The level of violence was really mild compared to the Los Angeles riots, where 53, I think, were killed.”

### **State of Emergency Declared**

President Jacques Chirac declared a state of emergency after 12 nights of violence, acting under a fifty year old law that was passed in haste during the Algerian war of independence from France. The police were ordered to enforce the curfew.

“When mobs rioted in Los Angeles in the United States, the National Guard was brought in, but the French constitution does not allow the army to come in,” Eric Micheletti explained.

Police were authorized to raid residences, put agitators under house arrest and confiscate weapons. Public gang hangouts were blocked off, especially over the weekend of 10-12 November when the country was celebrating Armistice Day.

Gang members could face up to two months in prison.

Courts were jammed up when reserve magistrates tried dozens of cases in one day in emergency sessions. Over fifty adults and half that many minors were sentenced to detention centers or jails according to the Justice Ministry.

The curfew declared by President Jacques Chirac, which gained an 80 percent approval in a poll according to *le Parisien*, curbed the riots within a few days.

### **“I Don’t Think There is a Big Al-Qaida”**

I asked Micheletti if the riots were tied to the terrorist cells operating in France.

“The trouble in the suburbs is a media hype,” Eric Micheletti said in his office in the Place de la Republique the day after three cars were arsoned there the night before. Everything looked normal as the cars had been towed off in short order by the French police.

“Winter will arrive and the young people will go inside. They want to play. Some are as young as fourteen. The Islamic problem has been going on for 20 years. The problem is that the immigrants want all rights, including I.D. cards that give them work and welfare. Yet they want to live in their ghetto like enclaves with their own autonomy and with Islamic law. They don’t want to live under French law.

“We don’t have any problem with the Chinese or Tamil immigrants and they don’t necessarily assimilate.

“The troublemakers are most often second and third generation. I don’t think the riots going on right now are spurred by religious pressure. I think that it is just a problem with rowdy young people that create a climate of rioting to get attention. This is very political—the pressure is for the French people to make lots of meetings to talk about immigrant unrest.

“But of course Islamic Fundamentalists are a threat here.

“Bin Laden, if he is alive could organize a large operation in the French subway. We could have many die. They talk about the big terrorist organization. I do not think there is a “Big Al Qaida”. I think it is a separate network of operators.

“We have had attacks. A few years ago a bombing was planned in a Christmas market in Strasbourg but it was intercepted,” Micheletti said.

When the Islamic people were captured in an Arabic state, they admitted to organizing the attack after a ‘little pressure’. After they were extradited to France, they said they only spoke under pressure, that they had been tortured,” Micheletti said.

### **“Pay Attention, We Have Power”**

*Continued on page 75*

# Explosively Formed Projectiles

## With a Little Help From Their Friends

The Explosive Formed Penetrator (EFP) (shape charge) is becoming an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) that poses an extremely serious threat to armored vehicles used in Iraq by both the military (HUMVEE'S) and Security Companies (Up armored SUV's).

The EFP is a high tech device that has been deployed using Passive Infrared Radar (PIR) Devices much like garage door openers. Usually the device is observed and then remotely activated when a target passes by. The routes traveled by the military and PSD teams can be placed under surveillance for a given period of time by AIF to determine any patterns developed or the device can simply be placed along known routes and employed against targets of opportunity.

Devices are generally used in areas where natural slow down points exist, interchanges, steep curves, traffic circles, etc.

These devices are well manufactured by experienced bomb makers and then employed by various AIF elements. The following instructions were translated from the an original Arabic Version after having been recovered with a cache of these devices.

- Speed 40 – 60 km
- Height 1m
- Range 4-15 m
- Direction Sideways (refers to angle of attack)

### BACKGROUND

- Military – class warhead
- Designed to defeat light and medium armour
- Pioneered by Lebanese Hezbollah.
- It is assessed that insurgents have the capability to manufacture these devices.
- The UK has accused Iran of providing these devices to insurgents in Iraq

### IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVELY FORMED PROJECTILE

(Typical of devices deployed in Iraq)

#### Device Construction

- Constructed from 6 to 9 inch diameter steel pipe, one end of which is sealed with a

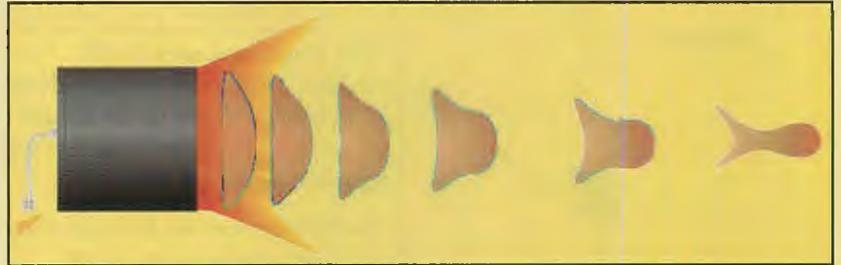


welded steel plate drilled in the centre to take a blasting cap.

- The weapon is filled with high explosive and an inwardly dished steel or copper plate is fitted to the front of the weapon.
- It is this plate that is formed into the projectile when hit by the detonating wave from the explosive.

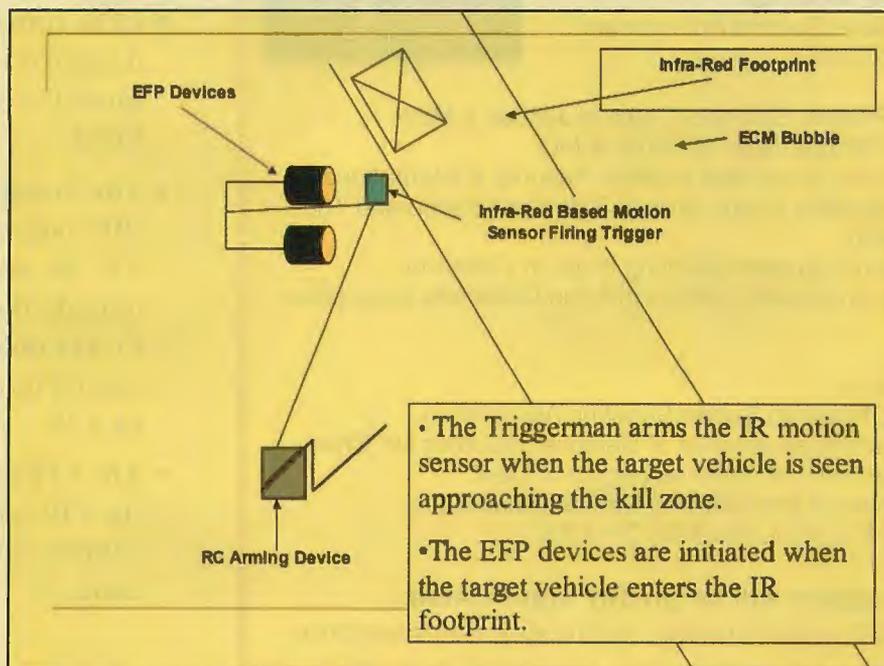
### Formation of the Projectile

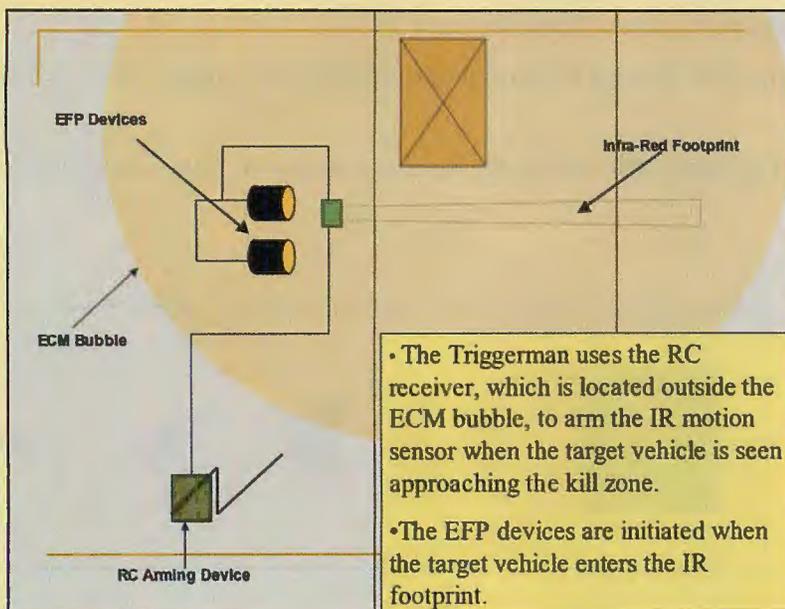
- The heat and shock wave from the detonation of the explosive projects the steel / copper plate from the front of the weapon at a velocity approaching 2000 metres / second forming a metallic dart capable of penetrating armour plate up to 10 centimetres thick or more at a range of 100 metres or more.
- This relatively simply constructed weapon is highly directional and capable of being aimed to a fair degree of accuracy – hence it's popularity as a stand-off anti armour weapon with Islamic insurgents.



### Common Emplacement Techniques

- Recently we have seen the main charge placed on the curb along side the road and angled upward.
- Additionally they have been placed on top of guardrails.
- Usually, but not always, these IEDs are placed on the left side of the road in order to target the vehicle's driver.





- The Triggerman uses the RC receiver, which is located outside the ECM bubble, to arm the IR motion sensor when the target vehicle is seen approaching the kill zone.
- The EFP devices are initiated when the target vehicle enters the IR footprint.



- The device can be emplaced in a very short period of time (< 2 minutes).
- Once armed, any movement of a person or vehicle in the field of view of the sensor will cause the device to function.
- Unit actions on this type of device are no different to any other type of IED.
- If units have thermal vision recommend they use it to scan areas of known EFP activity (especially curbs, near overpasses and ramps in those areas) to look for object that present different thermal signatures from other objects in the area.

## TTP OF ENCASING EXPLOSIVELY FORMED PROJECTILES (EFP) IN FOAM

- The entire Passive IR Sensor / EFP device is packaged inside foam and carefully camouflaged to blend in with the area where the device is to be emplaced.
- Recent devices have been colored gray to match concrete blocks.

Re-elect

**David C. Jones**  
NRA Board of Directors  
February 2006 Ballot



- Elected to the NRA Board of Directors in 1997.
- 100% attendance at all 41 scheduled NRA Board & Committee Meetings.
- Legislature to achieve Second Amendment rights in Missouri 2004.
- **Education:** B.S. Political Science, Criminal Justice & MBA.
- **Political activist:** Worked with NRA/ILA & MO
- **Competitive shooter:** Proficient in seven national & international disciplines (Distinguished Pistol, Bronze Rifle Shot Badge and The Presidents Hundred).
- **Hunter:** Family owns big-game hunting lodge in Colorado.
- **Collector:** Serves on the BoD, Missouri Arms Collectors Association.
- Former Marine.
- Camp Perry 33 years.
- Current President, Missouri Sports Shooting Association.
- Served as bodyguard to secretaries of Defense (including Mr. Cheney).
- Awarded the Department of Defense Legion of Merit.
- Dues paying member of the following NRA affiliated State Associations: CO, FL, HI, IL, IN, MO, OH & TX.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Visit David at <http://pages.prodigy.net/daviejones/main.htm>

## EFPs Initiated by PIR

- EFPs initiated by PIR are designed to defeat armored vehicles fitted with ECM.
- The Triggerman arms the PIR motion sensor by RC. The RC receiver is located outside the protective ECM bubble and is connected to the PIR sensor by CW.
- The EFPs are initiated by the PIR when the target vehicle enters the kill zone. ☒



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

### *PROCLAMATION*

*The Special Operations Association wishes to congratulate SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE (SOF) on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

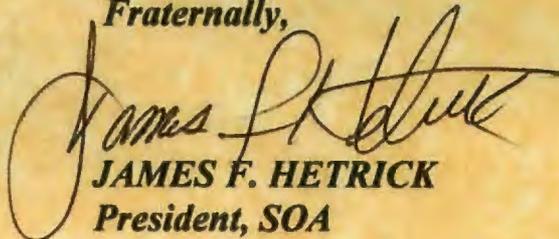
*Whereas, The Soldier of Fortune Magazine has consistently supported the United States Special Operations community, and*

*Whereas, The Soldier of Fortune Magazine, since its inception in 1975, was the first publication to offer all United States Vietnam military veterans the recognition and support they so richly deserved.*

*Be It Therefore Resolved, That in this year of 2005 the members of the Special Operations Association are honored to recognize through this Proclamation its appreciation to Soldier of Fortune Magazine for thirty years of outstanding service in support of our Nation's Armed Forces.*

*Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2005 during the conduct of the Special Operations Association Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada.*

*Fraternally,*

  
JAMES F. HETRICK  
President, SOA

the Marines can't allow that," he said. "So, they sent us a second lieutenant. They also set up a switch for the field lights and warned us to never turn the lights on or off without orders.

### 'Dammit, I'm a Pilot'

"One night, we were waiting for our dive bombers to come back from a raid when we heard from a flight that was really low on gas and wanted to come straight in," he said. "The lieutenant radioed that he'd turn on the lights as soon as he heard the first aircraft approach. I told him he shouldn't but he said, 'Dammit I'm a pilot and I know when they have to get in here.'

"Well, the first aircraft to approach was a single low-level bomber, a Japanese," DeVere said. "He laid a stick of three or four bombs right down the middle of a well-lit Henderson Field. He sure tore up the runway."

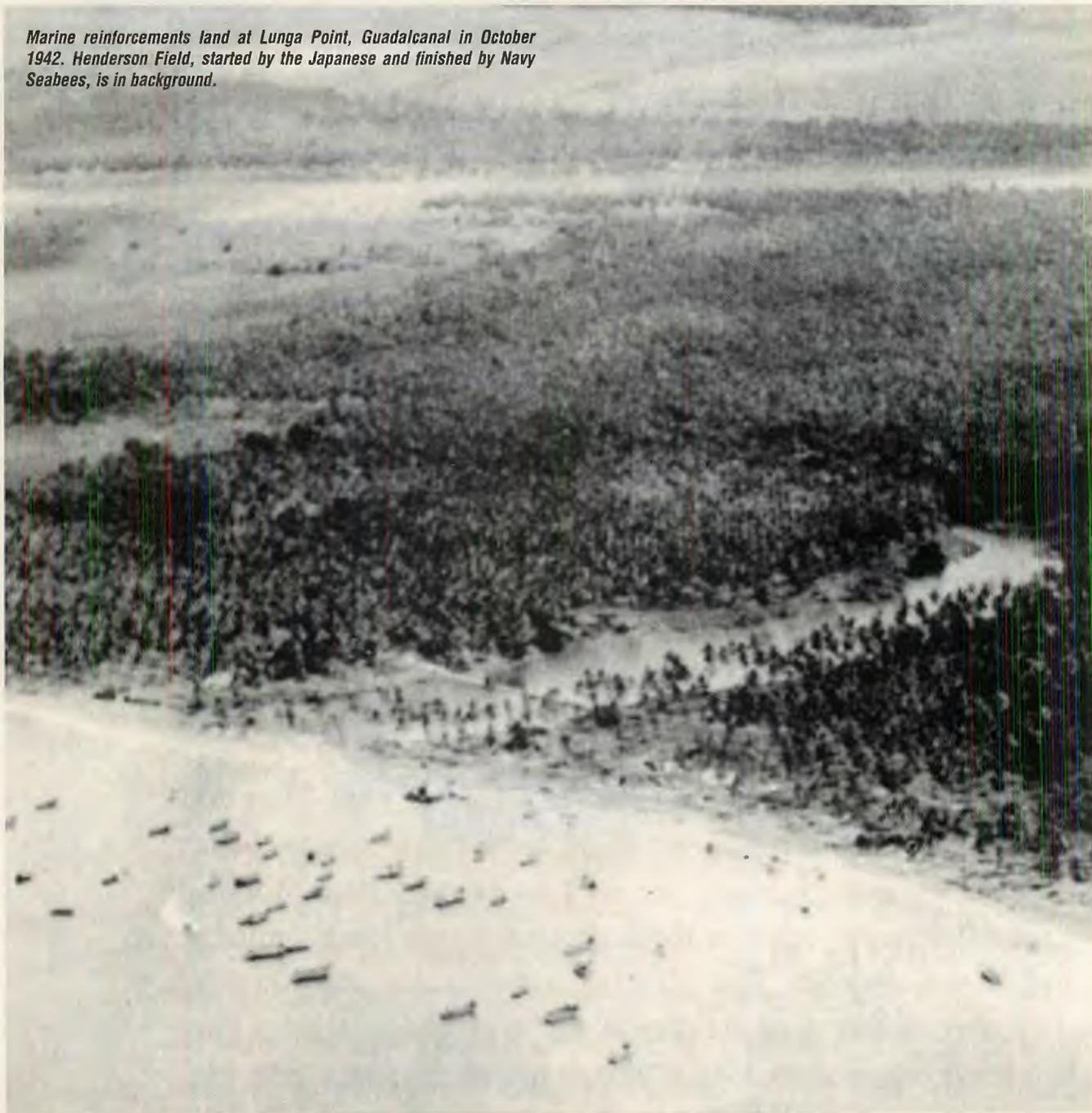
"The Seabees had to come out in a hurry and lay some new PSP before that flight of Marine planes could land," he said. "The lieutenant was quickly replaced by another one."

DeVere said Cactus Tower operations was pretty primitive as towers go. The returning aircraft would set up their own patterns and he would tell them when they could land. When Japanese planes came by to strafe the field, the tower crew had to scramble through a trap door and into a foxhole at the bottom.

"With our radio, we listened to pilots having dogfights, sometimes right over the field," he said. "The only one I ever heard identify himself was Joe Foss. You'd hear them saying, 'Look out, Joe! There's one on your tail,' and stuff like that. Just like the movies. You could hear the machine guns and hear them say, 'You got that one, Joe. Good shooting!'

"One pilot shot the wing off a Jap plane," he said. "They were all up there laughing at how long it took the wing to flut-

*Marine reinforcements land at Lunga Point, Guadalcanal in October 1942. Henderson Field, started by the Japanese and finished by Navy Seabees, is in background.*



ter to the ground. One end was burning as it corkscrewed to the ground, like a feather.”

Conditions on the ground at Guadalcanal were never good. Besides lack of sleep, constant rain and general anxiety, many troops were put out of action by jungle disease, including malaria and a form of elephantitis the Marines called muu-muu.

Supplies were always scarce. DeVere vividly recalls a two or three week period when the only food was canned lamb's tongue from Australia. Even when things got better, the Marines lived on onion sandwiches, powdered eggs and Spam. There also were large quantities of rice abandoned by the Japanese in their haste to depart.

“Despite everything, morale was high,” DeVere said. “We joked a lot about the rain and the possibility we might not get off the island or become prisoners of war. I saw some of the older NCOs cut stripes off their uniforms so they couldn't be identified as leaders. We had some nervous young lieutenants in our squadron. You didn't dare light up a smoke at night for fear a brown bar would shoot at you with his .45.”

### The Time of Aces

There would be more naval bombardments and V-formations overhead but the Marines were winning. In the air, it became the “Time of the Aces.” In November, the two sides met for the “Battle of Guadalcanal,” described by the chief of naval operations as “the fiercest naval battle ever fought.”

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the exhausted, disease-ridden Marines turned the island over to the Army's 14<sup>th</sup> Corps and departed for a rest and a few more bloody island campaigns. The Japanese finally realized they would never retake Guadalcanal and began their slow retreat northward to Tokyo.

DeVere left Cactus in December for Espiritu Santos and the New Hebrides where he spent the rest of the war with SCAT, the South Pacific Combat Air Transport command.

“The only thing I left on that island was a Jap .25 cal. rifle, a German Luger pistol, a pair of binoculars, a bayonet and an Imperial Marine helmet confiscated as I was boarding the departure plane,” he said. But DeVere says he took a lifetime of memories with him:

...“Being in the tower just after sunset and watching a flight of sneak, low-level bombers coming at me strafing and dropping 500 pound bombs



Remains of a Japanese Zero fighter plane smolder in the coconut grove near Henderson Field after dogfighting with U.S. Marine aviators of the Cactus Air Force over the field in 1942.

before I could get down... Listening to Pistol Pete's rounds churning overhead as they head for Henderson Field... The night sky lit up with tracers and searchlights... Walking up to the front lines to hunt souvenirs, experiencing the odor of hundreds of decaying bodies... Making aluminum bracelets from the skin of a downed Zero (which my bride of 61

years still has).” ✕

Steve Stibbens is a writer and photographer living in Dallas. He was a U.S. Marine Combat Correspondent for Pacific Stars & Stripes (1962-64) and Leatherneck Magazine (1964-66) in Vietnam and a war correspondent there for the Associated Press (1967).



**CAA**  
Command Arms Accessories

## MAGAZINE LOADER/UNLOADER

# NEW

MLU556 (fits .223 cal mags)  
MLU762 (fits 7.62x39 cal mags)



OPEN CHAMBER  
THUMB LEVER



AK47



.223



**Command Arms Accessories** introduces two new magazine loader/unloaders for the popular .223 caliber and 7.62 x 39mm caliber magazines. The new magazine loader/unloaders work with M16/AR-15, Ruger Mini 14 magazines and AK-47 magazines and are designed to load & unload single magazines as well as two magazines that are coupled together. Lightweight, and compact, the magazine loader/unloaders utilize thumb activated levers for easy loading & unloading of magazines. Lifetime warranty. \$19.<sup>95</sup> Retail.

## COMMAND ARMS ACCESSORIES

PH: 267-288-9995 • FAX: 215-322-9223 • [www.commandarms.com](http://www.commandarms.com)

squawk box.

The squadron commander rolled up in his personal, hot-rod Stryker. He was waving at me. I waved back. He waved harder. Friendly fella. Lieutenant B trotted over, ducking the fire.

"Rattlesnake Six says shut that thing off!"

"What?" I was about half-deaf from broadcasting, plus I was wearing ear protection.

"TURN IT OFF! Colonel D says you're just pissing 'em off!"

"What the hell does he know?"

"Just turn it off!"

"Roger, sir."

Guess I didn't convince him: negative impact indicator for that PSYOP mission.

I'm not sure the SCO (squadron command officer) was a POOC (psychological operations officer's course) honor grad, but I wouldn't know. He's the commander on the ground, and I'm a staff sergeant. I shut it down.

Since I now officially had nothing left to do, I rejoined "my" infantry squad, and we patrolled the nearby streets on foot, looking for shooters who were targeting voters. I took along the digital camera. We waved and smiled at the voters, then crossed the MSR (also the main thoroughfare), over to the point from which we had been receiving fire. I put my

camera away and brought my rifle to low ready. SSG "Big Sal" led the squad. Since I was just a straphanger, I tagged along and pulled rear security for them. We got nothing.

We found some AK brass at an intersection, tactically questioned a couple of guys, and neutralized no one. We did figure out that the gunfire was coming down the alley at an angle, and that the Charger 240 gunners were shooting at hallucinations, but that wasn't a huge surprise. They were just having a good time up there, rocking the gun. Every time a round or two came down, they'd burn through a belt and a half in response. We spent a lot of money that day.

Our little patrol stopped the constant AK fire, though. The rest of the city was a hodge-podge of scattered gunfire and the occasional big, black, smoky BOOM, but the consistent fire from across the way was stopped. After that, it was just sporadic, hit and run stuff. One Stryker gunner had the charging handle of his .50-cal. shot off in front of his face, but he was lucky. No Purple Heart for him that day. Eye pro (protection) rules!

And the voters rolled in.

They came from all over the city. They came with their children and donkeys and wives. I could hardly believe the lines. Hundreds of Iraqis, holding up their proud, purple fingers. Women, bandaged head to foot in their *bourkas*, voting for the first time in their lives. Venerable old men voting in



Iraqi commandos, brought up from Baghdad for Election Day, move supplies into the poll area they will be securing. In the background, 2-14 CAV troopers offload concertina wire from a HETT, with a Stryker vehicle in overwatch.



maybe their second real election. Young, hip guys in sharp Western suits. Farmers in grubby *dish-dashas*. Donkey carts and favorite dogs. My favorite shot is of an old man, his young son and his old wife, all giving me the finger in lurid, living purple.

It was a sight to see.

It went on and on. Twelve thousand people voted in Tall 'Afar that day, and each of them had to risk their life to do it. People in my precinct at home won't go to vote if there's heavy traffic. I haven't voted in person in years. That's what absentee ballots are for, right? By

God, I'll go next year, if only to shake the palsied hand of the old bat manning the booth. She's one of my heroes. A lot more of my heroes live in Tal 'Afar, still at risk for their lives.

I hope we won't let them down. I pray they won't let the coalition of the ornery keep manipulating them, through coercion, murder and fear.

By 0200, we had policed up thousands of pounds of concertina wire. The trucks were packed up, fueled, ready to go. The ballot boxes – precious cargo – were sealed and loaded, kept under guard. I sat in the Charger commander's

Stryker again, too bone-tired to move. The radio squawked, and he sighed.

"It's going to be awhile longer."

"What's up, sir?"

"We have to wait and secure the HEMTTs (heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks). Should be about 40 more minutes."

"You know, we really did something here today, sir. At least, I think we did."

"Yeah. Let's hope they can take it from here. This country needs to do this for themselves next time."

I lit up a smoke, unauthorized in military vehicles, and sucked on it until my eyes itched too much to want to close. The captain looked at me.

"It was really something, though, wasn't it?"

"Roger, sir."

And so we waited there, wakeful but bleary, until we returned back to the FOB around 0530 and made it to the chow hall before it closed at 0800. That had to be the best Kellogg, Brown and Root chow I ever ate.

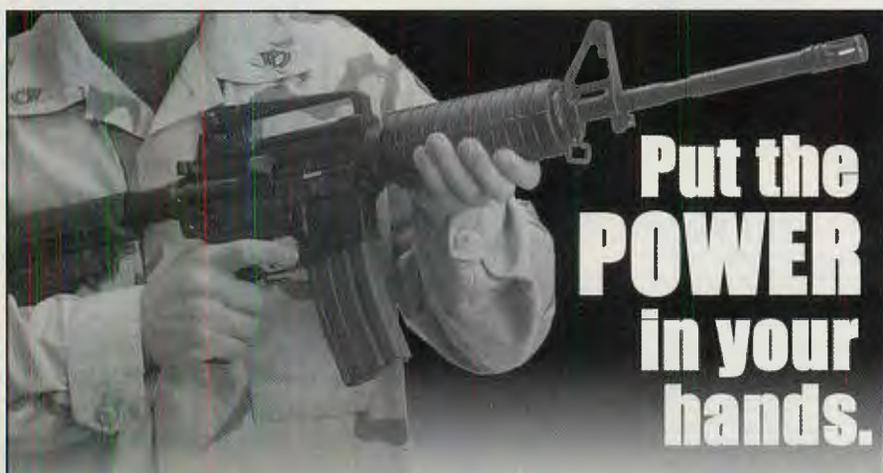
I'd been up for 30-some hours by the time I got back to my hooch. It didn't feel historical, just tiring. My knees hurt. My back hurt. I felt like hair was growing out of my eyeballs. I cared only about ripping the batteries out of the manpack, filing my report and staggering off to the rack. That night, I had another mission – a cordon and search, probably – and I didn't think about Election Day again until much later.

Of any experience I've had in Iraq, this is the hardest to sort out. It wasn't the best or the worst of days, but had elements of both. In some ways, it was a high point, a kind of crisis in the harum-scarum plotline of this scattershot war. Or peacekeeping operation. Or counter-insurgency.

In other ways, it was just another day at the office. I have no tidy thoughts about what my teammate calls "Game Day," except maybe for this one: the good guys didn't win, and the bad guys didn't win.

The home team won. ✖

*Jack Lewis deployed to Iraq as a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve, serving as team sergeant for Tactical PSYOP Team 1291. The three-man team of TPT 1291 supported 2-14 Cavalry Squadron (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) across western Nineveh Province. After his redeployment, SSG Lewis transferred to a unit in the Washington Army National Guard. He is working on a book about his team's experiences in Iraq.*



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During the riots, the Union Of French Islamic Organization (UFIO) chairman Lhaj Thmi Breze issued a fatwa or religious edict forbidding “any Moslem seeking divine grace and satisfaction to participate in any action that blindly hits private or public property or could constitute an attack on someones life,” according to the *Financial Times*.

“That puts the government in a bad light and gives the appearance of delegating authority to the religious leaders.”

Commentators reacted instantly, calling the actions as opportunist religious meddling in the country that highly guards separation of church and state.

Islam is France’s second religion and is seen as a barrier to assimilation, especially if local religious leaders establish their own dominance. It is in the immigrant ghettos where Islamic leaders have the freedom to indoctrinate and recruit young Jihadists.

### The French Who Aren’t

France considers herself as the great defender of human rights and a land of asylum for political refugees. Shortages of laborers led to the twentieth century’s two main waves of immigrants.

*“Neither the blood spilled by Muslims from North Africa fighting in French uniforms during both world wars nor the sweat of migrant labourers living under deplorable living conditions, who rebuilt France for a pittance after 1945, has made their children....full citizens. — A radical leader of the Union of Islamic Organizations of France, associates of the Muslim Brotherhood curses his homeland: “oh sweet France! Are you astonished that so many of your children commune in a stinging naal bou la France (F—France) and damn your*

*Fathers?” Gilles Kepel noted professor and author of Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam was cited by Robert S Leiken’s article Europe’s Mujahideen.*

Between 15-20 million Muslims live in Europe compared to 3 million in the United States. France has the largest number, up to ten percent of the total population, just ahead of the Netherlands.

The first waves of immigrant workers, mostly single were not supposed to settle permanently in France.

In July 1974, when economic growth

was slowing down, the government announced that immigration would officially be brought to an end, although the right to asylum and family reunification were approved.

Migration from the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa continued to increase. More recently, countries of origin have diversified with a 35% rise in Asian nationals and 16% Turks and immigrants from eastern Europe. The population from sub-Saharan Africa tripled between 1982 and 1990 and has almost doubled in the last ten years. Since 1975, Portuguese people make up the largest community of foreign origin, with Algerians the second largest. Their numbers are smaller, however, than those of north Africans as

a whole (Algerians + Moroccans + Tunisians), according to the French Embassy figures.

However, the waves of African immigrants did not assimilate like the earlier guest workers.

93% of Algerian immigrants go to France, according to the CIS. Many do not assimilate and have not forgotten the brutal war of independence from France. They perceive that the French are racist and feel discriminated against in employment and other social inter-

**“Neither the blood spilled by Muslims from North Africa fighting in French uniforms during both world wars nor the sweat of migrant labourers living under deplorable living conditions, who rebuilt France for a pittance after 1945, has made their children... full citizens. — A radical leader of the Union of Islamic Organizations of France, associates of the Muslim Brotherhood curses his homeland”**

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actions.

At least one third of immigrants to France become citizens, allowing them to hide behind their naturalization and passports. Their children, French citizens, are free to operate as they choose.

Dickey warns in a recent *Newsweek* article that the exodus across the Mediterranean from North Africa: Morocco, Somalia, Nigeria, Mali, Algeria to Libya and to Europe is out of hand. Europe with its low birth rates needs labourers. Making run-amok immigration 'a pathology' borne by all countries bordering the Mediterranean and beyond according to Italian Interior Minister Pisanu.

**Squalor Breeds Contempt**

Many immigrants live in squalor, often in government housing, without jobs or a future.

Most are cushioned by welfare and other social services. Sources estimate that unemployment rates in the immigrant enclaves are double the 10% of France overall, and some estimate that the unemployment rate for youth is as high as 40 to 60%. In addition to charges that the French are racist, labor laws that make it virtually impossible to fire employees, making employers hesitant to hire anyone they suspect might not work out, are also blamed for the high unemployment.

True immigrant counts are unavailable as national census taking cannot question race for those that are French citizens to avoid appearance of the register of Jews by the Vichy Regime in WWII.

The French moto of liberty, equality, and fraternity incorporated into French law does not allow demographic statistics to be ethnic based.

"In a report issued just days before the violence broke out, the French government counted 751 neighbourhoods populated with millions, as 'sensitive' urban zones. Average unemployment is 20% among men younger than 25, the rate goes up to 40%," Leiken said in an article, 'Europe's Angry Muslims' in *Foreign Affairs*.

While admitting to government deficiencies in dealing with the immigrant problems, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, promising to increase job training to address the high unemployment rates of the immigrant enclaves, nonetheless took a tough stand.

Authorities are reported to be speeding up plans to revamp ethnic slums by demolishing run down build-

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It is among the enclaves of immigrants that have not assimilated, feel alienated, and become increasingly hostile as their frustration heightens, that Jihadist fanatics find their recruits.

The new recruits are given training in explosives, chemical weapons and terrorist strategies.

Attacks and attempted attacks occur constantly. Several were reported just before my visit to France.

On 27 September this year, nine Terror suspects were captured in France as they were planning to blow up the Metro, a Paris airport and the headquarters of the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance (DST) the police and counter terrorism intelligence service.

One of the suspects Safe Bourada, 35, had served a five year prison term for his role as ringleader in a series of bomb attacks in France in 1995 by the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The arrested are members of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), an armed Algerian group that grew out of the GIA and has links to the Al-Qaeda network, according to French newspaper accounts.

Then just three weeks later, the *Spanish Herald* reported that French police arrested two of the most-wanted leaders of the GRAPO (First of October Antifascist Resistance Groups) radical-left terrorist organization, José Antonio Ramón Teijelo and Manuela Ontanilla Galán. Ramon Teijelo was leader of the GRAPO's armed groups. José Antonio Ramón Teijelo, alias Kid, Angel, and Fatty, is on the Civil Guard's most-wanted terrorist list. When police searched Ramon's house, in a working-class neighborhood north of Paris where many Spanish immigrants live, they found false identification with Ramon's photograph. On 6 October, the former chief of the GRAPO, Fernando Silva Sande, was turned over from France to Spain temporarily so that he can be tried for the June 1995 kidnapping of businessman Publio Cordon.

Well before 11 September, France had the toughest counterterrorism policies of any Western country. The French Government had enacted laws in response to the brutal terrorist tactics during the French-Algerian war. Asylum was denied to radical Islamists. Enforcement officials cracked down on jihadists, detaining suspects for as long as four days without charg-

ing or access to a lawyer. No place of worship is off limits to the police and hate speech invites a visit from the police, blacklisting, and the prospect of deportation. Religion is barred from the public sphere. Public radical preaching is forbidden, although satellite television and the Internet are not censored, according to Leiken.

### "Bridge of Suicides"

"I don't believe it was a big al Qaida connection in the riots going on, but al Qaida or al Zawari operators go into these immigrant areas and recruit. Europe has been concerned because al

Zawari was recruiting young European immigrants before 9-11 and is still recruiting. He was operating in the Northeast of Iraq in the Kurdish areas, where things are pretty lawless. He is recruiting and training suicide jihadists in Iraq."

Dickey, an American, who has been stationed in Paris since 1989, except for a three year stint in Cairo, has been to Iraq several times since the invasion, and has written extensively about terrorist cells and suicide bombers. We met on the Champs Elysee where locals and visitors of all nationalities strolled peacefully, speaking many lan-

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guages, including Arabic. The ethnic mix mingling, enjoying the *splendour* of the Arche de Triomphe, the designer shops and the dozens of cafes and bistros seemed so remote from the civil turmoil on the outskirts of the city.

Dickey speaks of a path in the Buttes Chaumont park that leads to the "Bridge of Suicides" where Muslim boys who heard the call to jihad train for a holy war in Iraq. One died in Fal-lujah, one blew himself up in an attack on the road to Baghdad airport, three are imprisoned in Iraq, and three others in France.

"These suicide bombers made the road to Baghdad airport the most dangerous place in the world when I was there. It is a short jaunt, but every inch is wrought with danger, and one must travel over it if not helicoptered in to the Green Zone. The suicide bombers have terrorized the road, just as they do outside of Iraq"

"The United States has no experience with hostile occupation. Iraqis want them out and use terrorist means to destroy the enemy or gain attention. Operators are trained in Iraq and sent to Europe and globally to use the tactics they learned."

"For years, even before 9-11, Abu Musab al Zarqawi, the al Qaeda kingpin in Iraq was already recruiting jihadists in France and throughout Europe," Dickey said.

"I believe he was involved in the Jordan bombings last night," he said. The night before we met, Jordan was terrorized when three hotels were bombed, killing 59, four of them Americans.

Al Zarqawi is the most wanted man in the Middle East, according to some accounts.

He has been convicted in abstentia twice for his savage terrorist activities in Jordan and has been given two life sentences, and an additional fifteen year sentence. Although he is not on the FBI most wanted list, Zarqawi was the bogymen of Colin Powell's infamous speech before the United Nations when he tried to mobilize the world for the invasion of Iraq.

Dickey believes that al Zarqawi is still alive, in spite of reports that he has been killed, injured, assassinated, or somehow eliminated.

"I don't think Zarko is dead, sorry to say. There's disinformation from both sides on that: those who wish he were, and those who want to confuse his enemies," Dickey said when I asked if he believed the reports.

"He built a network of existing cells



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spanning Western Europe, effectively creating a second Qaeda," Dickey concluded after researching Italian and Spanish documents. Italian documents, which he said are more revealing than those of other European countries confirmed that a Zarqawi's Tawhid group in Germany was giving the marching orders. Operators in France, Spain, the Netherlands, Britain, Switzerland and Norway included illegal immigrants and legal refugees and European citizens.

"Intelligence surveillance in Europe focuses on the 'gatekeepers' often associated with radical mosques, who facilitated travel to Iraq and earlier jihads.

"Tape transcripts submitted to Italian courts, for instance, show that the police have not only bugged phones, cars and apartments, but the mosques themselves," Dickey said.

### Kamikaze Frenchmen in Iraq

"According to senior counterintelligence officials, classified intelligence briefings, and wiretaps, jihadists extended their European operations after the roundups that followed 11 September 11 and then again, with fresh energy, after the invasion of Iraq.

All with whom I spoke in France agreed. The fact that the French refused to join the invasion did not cushion them from the homegrown jihadists.

Iraq just fanned the flames of the already angry French immigrant youth.

Iraq has given the recruiters and martyrs a new jihad according to Dickey. His reports in Newsweek and the insights he gave me are based on extensive research of Italian and Spanish documents in addition to his participatory journalism.

At a meeting in Istanbul in February, 2002, according to unsealed Spanish court documents, Zarqawi, anticipating a long war in Iraq, began to lay plans for a two-way underground railway to send European recruits to Iraq and Middle Eastern recruiters, to Europe and activated European sleeper cells established during the Bosnian war.

Chief terrorist investigator in Milan, Armando Spataro, says that "almost all European countries have been touched by Iraq recruiting. The network that procures weapons in Germany from Balkan gangs parallels those for the conflicts in Chechnya and Kashmir. Italy, with its state-of-the-art document-forging industry has become a dispatch base, according to Dickey.

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One French official said the extremists were using a virtual "underground railroad" through Syria to spirit European and Middle Eastern citizens into and out of Iraq. A senior French law enforcement official said French citizens had undergone terrorist training at camps in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

"There's always been an enormous jihad zone to train people to fight in their country of origin," the official said. "We saw it in Afghanistan, in Bosnia, in Kosovo, and now we're seeing it in Iraq."

What's new, he said, is that the French cell under investigation "is linked with networks in Iraq, right now, through an individual based in Syria. Now we're finding camps in Syria and Lebanon, and it's the same pattern, training in explosives and chemical weapons, which is an obsession of the jihadists."

French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy became respected for cutting crime as interior minister from 2002 to 2004. His second term began in May with full force on a new crime offensive targeting 25 problem neighbourhoods.

Interior Minister Sarkozy told French TV that the terror risk for Paris is "very high," warning of Kamikaze Frenchmen in Iraq, according to the *Washington Post*.

"One asks himself why a certain number of young French people are in Pakistan in religious schools," Sarkozy said. "It's not normal that an individual who lives in our neighbourhood leaves all of a sudden for four months in Afghanistan, three months in Syria. We want to know who is going where, for how long, and when they come back."

"Iraq is a live-fire training ground in urban terrorism, and that's exactly what we fear," the *Washington Post* quoted Francois Heisbourg, director of the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris.

The French "kamikazes" are being trained in France, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere to strike at any time any where.

If Iraq has empowered the terrorist kingpins and their recruits against former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, the United States, the aggressor in the war, is bound to be on the hit list. ✕

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

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ate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who voted for war in 2002, waited until President Bush was overseas meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan to proclaim that, "Democrats and Republicans acknowledged that staying the course is not the way to go." He then summed it all up by adding, "This is a vote of no confidence on the Bush-administration policy in Iraq."

William Jefferson Blythe Clinton knows what this is all about. Though the Clinton administration had advocated the overthrow of Saddam in 1998, he told a university audience in Dubai this week that the Iraq war was "a big mistake." Like former President Jimmy Carter, Mr. Clinton apparently no longer feels bound by the affront to our troops or the traditional protocols that once governed political discourse while overseas.

In the House, Pennsylvania's John Murtha, an influential Democrat who voted in favor of Iraq war in 2002, called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops saying, "it is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf region."

The GOP leadership, senior administration officials and the president need to dramatically alter the debate. They need to go to Iraq – talk to the troops and reassure them that we will stay there long enough to get the job done and not one second longer. Notwithstanding the "peace in our time" appeasement sentiment sweeping through our capital, it's not too late. Republicans need to realize that winning the war in Iraq is the only issue that really matters right now. It is more important than Medicare, the next Supreme Court justice, foreign trade deals or tax reform. If we lose the war – and we could – none of these things will matter. ✕

*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.*

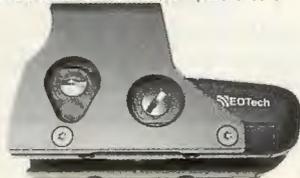
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BY LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, USMC (RET.)

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII – Since October of 2001, our FOX News “War Stories” unit has been documenting the remarkable young Americans fighting the Global War on Terror. We have covered thousands of them on the decks of ships in the Persian Gulf, on combat patrols in the shadow of the Hindu Kush, in gunfights along the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates and gone to hospitals in Iraq, Germany and the U.S. with the wounded. Throughout, there has been a common bond among these “warriors of Sept. 11” – a steadfast resolve that they could win the war. Now, for the first time since I accompanied the initial U.S. combat units heading into Kandahar, Afghanistan, I’m hearing something different – a loss of confidence in the final outcome.

Over the course of the last ten days, I’ve met with scores of those I’d previously covered overseas. These soldiers, sailors, airmen, Guardsmen and Marines are now in “state-side” assignments at Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg, N.C., at Miramar Air Station in California, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio and here in Hawaii. Many of them expect to be back in the fight – some of them soon. But recent reversals – not on the battlefield but in Washington – have caused nearly all of those I talked to on this trip to question whether we are suddenly in danger of losing the war they have been fighting.

This sudden loss of assurance in our fighting forces has nothing to do with casualty figures, troop levels, the leaders prosecuting the war in the field or new acts of terror by a ruthless enemy. Rather, the anxieties I’m now hearing from those I have covered in combat come in questions like: “Do you think that they are going to pull us out before we’ve finished the mission?” and “Will we abandon Iraq like we abandoned Vietnam?” Interestingly, not one of the thousands of young Americans I have covered in Iraq or Afghanistan has ever asked about or commented upon pre-war intelligence.

For more than two years the so-called mainstream media, the far left and some in Congress have been making trite comparisons between Vietnam and Iraq. Having spent a significant amount of time in both conflicts, about the only parallels I have seen in the two wars have been that bullets still wound and kill, and spilled blood is still red. But another common thread now ties the two hostilities together – political cowardice in Washington, D.C.

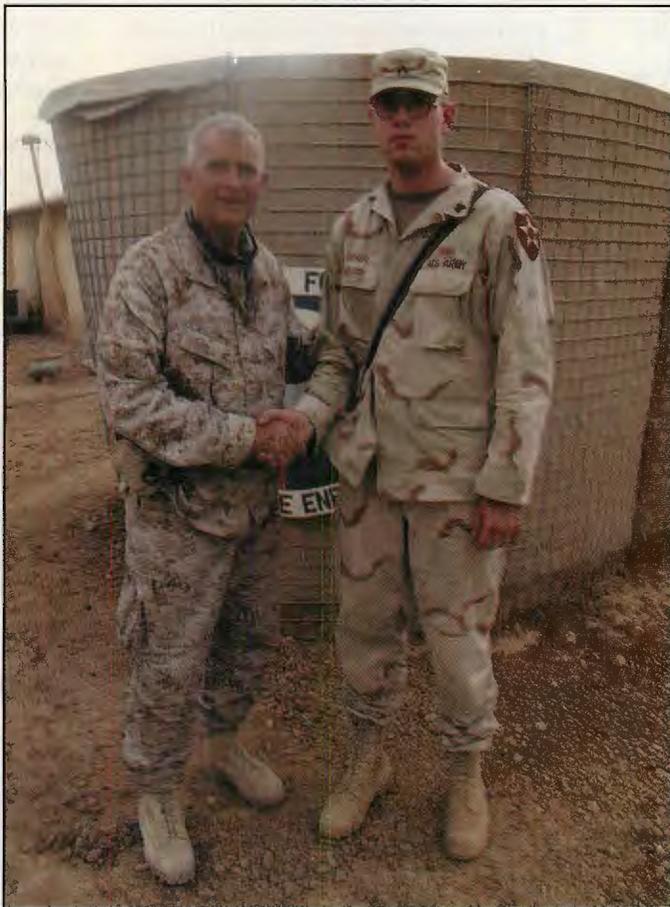
On Tuesday this week, with the Commander in Chief traveling in Asia, the Democrat leadership in the U.S. Senate introduced a proposal that would have set a fixed date for withdrawing American troops from Iraq. The measure was defeated 58 to 40, but an amended version, setting 2006 as a “period of significant transition creating conditions for the phased re-deployment of United States forces from Iraq,” passed by an overwhelming 79-19 margin.

Though the White House and some Republican lawmakers sounded the trumpets of victory for defeating the Democrats’ hard-and-fast timetable, the message to the troops is clear: No matter where we stand in the war on terror – if the Senate has its way, we’re “pulling out” in 2006. Abu Musab al Zarqawi’s “al Qaeda in Iraq” terrorist organization immediately claimed victory and exhorted his followers to “hold on.” Officials in Iraq’s interim government, intent on providing a secure election on Dec. 15, were publicly muted in response to the votes, expressing hopes in an official statement that “Iraqi security forces are becoming increasingly effective.” Americans in uniform – both in-theatre and at home – were stunned.

Major General William Webster, commanding the U.S. Army’s 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq said that “setting a date would mean that the 221 soldiers I’ve lost this year, that their lives will have been lost in vain.” A U.S. Marine colonel, recently returned from Iraq, called it “a formula for disaster.” And universally those I have met with here in Hawaii, from the U.S. Army’s 25th Infantry Division to the 1st Marine Brigade, to the sailors of the fleet, to the wounded at Tripler Army Hospital – all expressed anger and frustration with statements like: “We’ve fought well.” “We’re helping to create a democracy.” “Don’t they want us to win?”

That’s a valid question. Even Senate Republicans don’t seem to know what they want. As the “World’s Greatest Deliberative Body” was exploring how to set a “date certain” for withdrawing troops without setting a certain date, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said, “Americans do not cut and run, Americans do not abandon their commitments and Americans do not abandon their friends.” But he voted for the measure anyway.

About the only ones in Washington who seem to know what they want are the leaders of the Democrat party. Sen-



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

Continued on page 81

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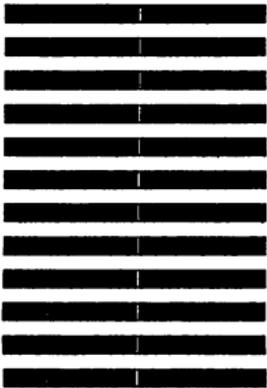
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