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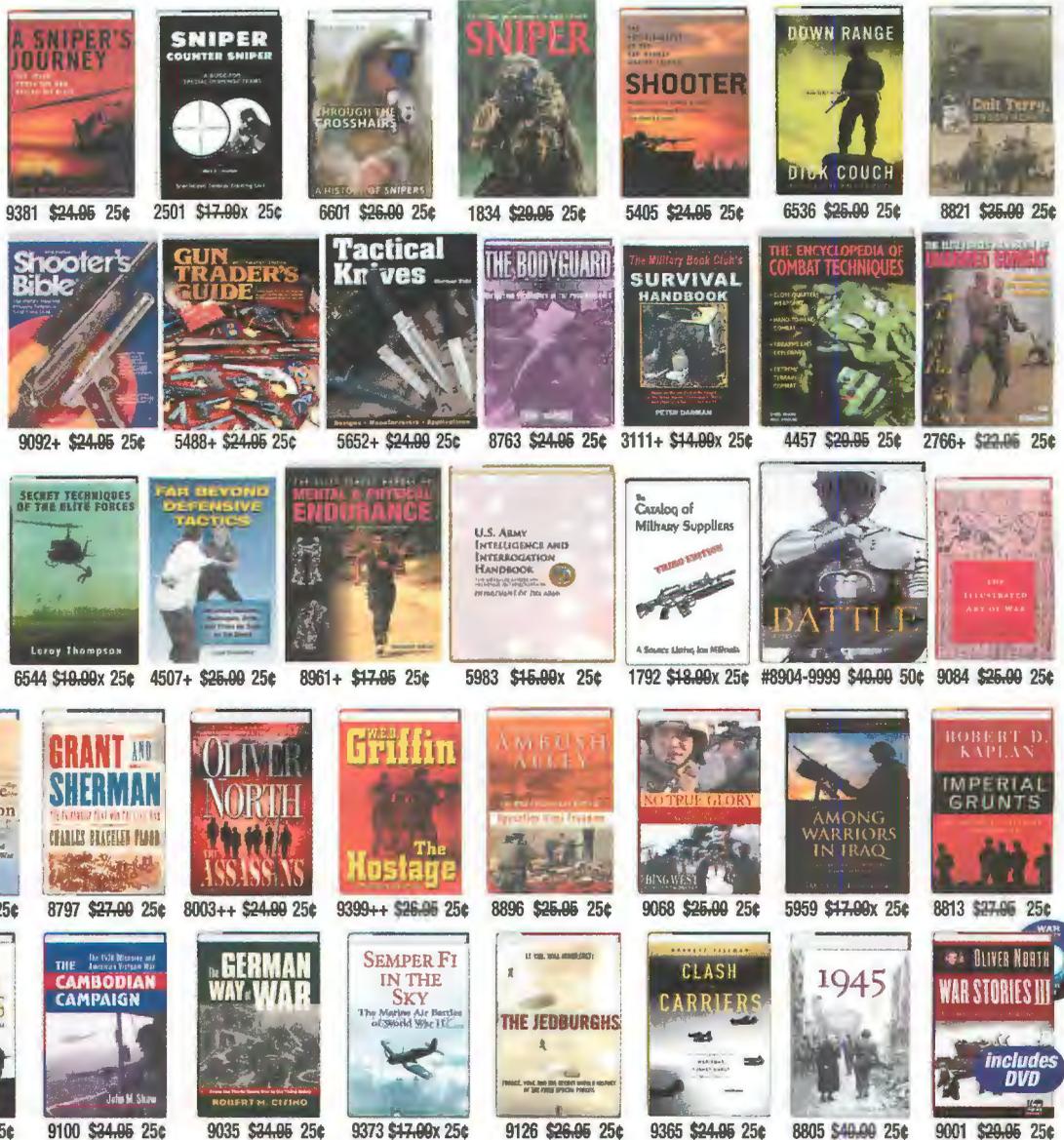
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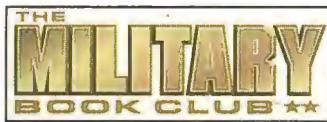
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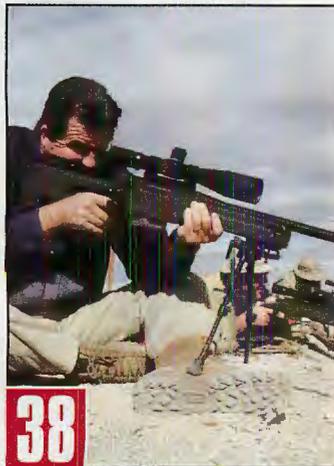
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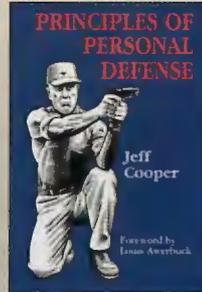
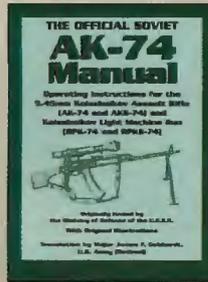
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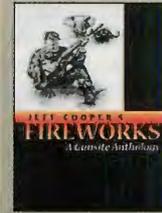


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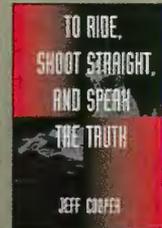
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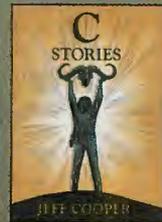
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War Without Heroes

Do you know who Paul Ray Smith is? If not, don't feel bad. Most Americans aren't familiar with Paul Ray Smith. He is the first and only soldier awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary courage in the war in Iraq. Five days before Baghdad fell in April 2003, Sergeant Smith and his men were building a makeshift jail for captured Iraqi troops.

Surprised by 100 of Saddam Hussein's Republican Guards, Smith and his men, some of them wounded, were pinned down and in danger of being overrun. Smith manned a 50-caliber machine gun atop a damaged armored vehicle. Exposed to enemy fire, he single-handedly repelled the attack, allowing his men to scramble to safety. He killed as many as 50 of Saddam's elite soldiers and saved more than 100 American troops. Paul Ray Smith, 33, was killed by a shot to the head.

The war in Iraq is a war without heroes. There are no men — or women, for that matter — known to most Americans for their bravery in combat. There are no household names like Audie Murphy or Sgt. York or Arthur MacArthur or even Don Hollender, the West Point football star killed in Vietnam. When President Bush held a White House ceremony to award the Medal of Honor to Smith, posthumously, the TV networks and big newspapers reported the story. The coverage lasted one day. The story didn't have legs.

Instead of heroes, there are victims. The two most famous soldiers in the war are Jessica Lynch and Pat Tillman (in Afghanistan). Lynch was captured by Saddam's troops after her truck crashed. Stories of her heroism in a gun battle with Iraqis turned out to be false. She was rescued later from an Iraqi hospital. Tillman, who gave up a pro football career to join the Army, was killed by friendly fire. "The press made that a negative story, a scandal almost," says a Pentagon official.

It gets worse. In a study of over 1,300 reports broadcast on network news programs from January to September of this year, Rich Noyes of the Media Research Center found only eight stories of heroism or valor by American troops and nine of soldiers helping the Iraqi people. But there were 79 stories, Noyes said, "focused on allegations of combat mistakes or outright misconduct on the part of U.S. military personnel."

Who is responsible for the lack of heroes? The Pentagon bears some of the blame. "We could do a better job," says

Larry Di Rita, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs. But the fault lies mostly with the media. With the striking exception of CBS News, the media aren't interested in stories of heroism by Americans in Iraq.

And even when the media take an interest, it isn't always respectful. When CNN took up the medal awarded to Smith the day after the ceremony at the White House, here's how anchor Paula Zahn presented it.

"Time now for all of you to choose your favorite person of the day. Every day you can vote on our website, cnn.com/paula. Today's choices: the mourners pouring into Rome, spending hours in line to pay their respects to the pope; Medal of Honor winner Sgt. Paul Smith for giving his life to save so many of his fellow soldiers in Iraq. And British Prime Minister Tony Blair, calling for a new election, even though his party has lost support in the polls."

At least Smith won. Zahn went on to describe his heroic act and call up sound bites from the president and Smith's widow. "His actions in that courtyard saved the lives of more than 100 American soldiers. Scripture tells us . . . that a man has no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends."

The *New York Times* took an odd approach to the Paul Ray Smith case. The nearer the awarding of the Medal of Honor came, the less coverage the Smith case got. It was as if the *Times* didn't want President Bush to get any credit for honoring Smith.

The day after the White House event, the *Times* put a picture of Smith on page A16 with a brief caption. True, the *Times* had run two earlier stories about Smith, one in 2003, the other earlier this year. The first was headlined: "The Struggle for Iraq: Casualties; Medals for His Valor, Ashes for His Wife." The second said Smith would get the Medal of Honor.

The back-page treatment of the award ceremony infuriated the White House. "We keep hearing how the people opposed to the war are not against the troops but only against the president," an official said. "Man wins the highest medal this nation offers — and you know how rare that is — and the *Times* does not think that is worth a full story and on page one. The Medal of Honor is not about the president. It is about the troops."

The media have no excuse for ignoring heroism. "There's no dearth of opportunity there," says Di Rita. In Iraq and Afghani-

Continued on page 70

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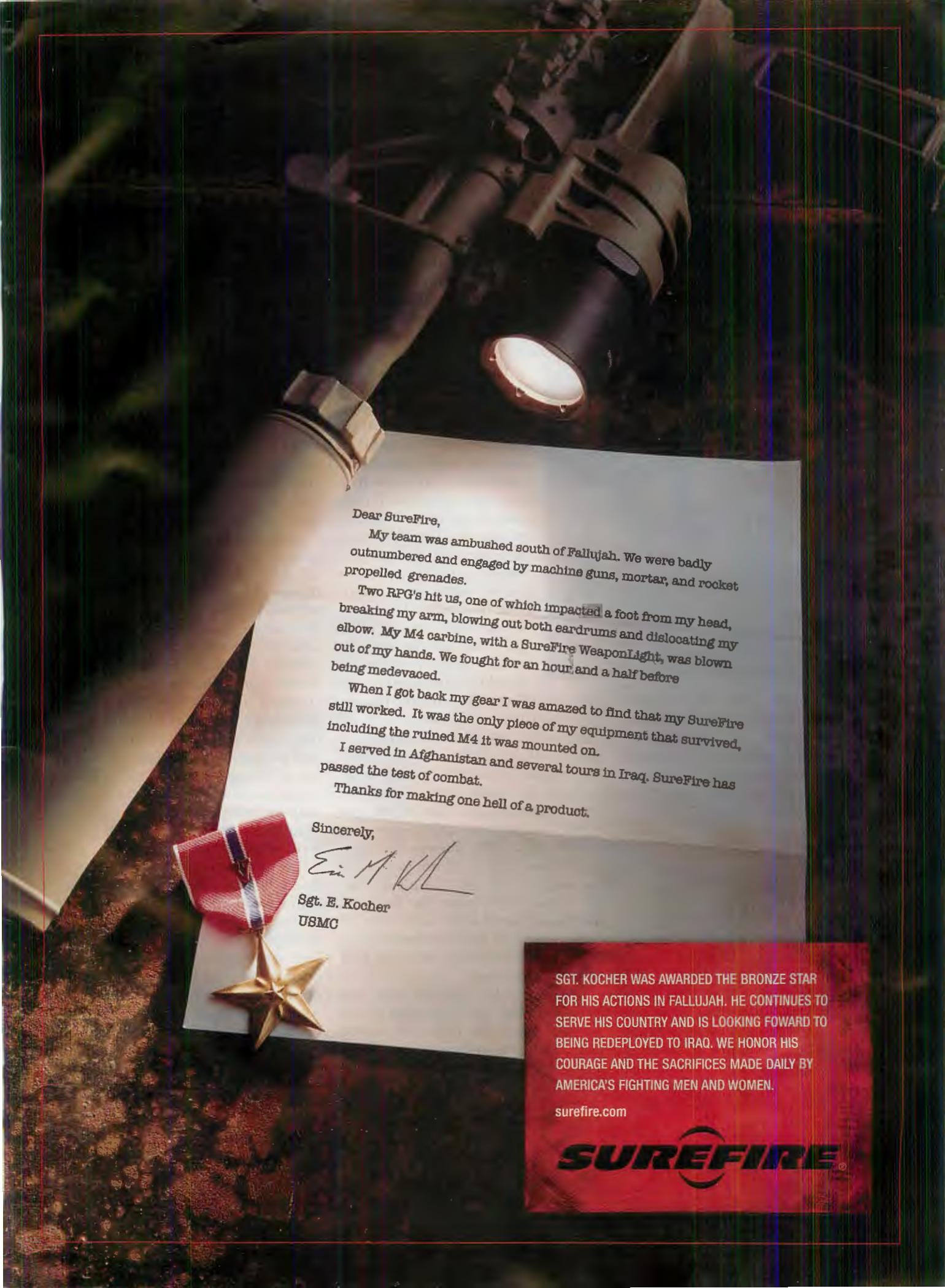
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784), APRIL 2006, Volume 31, Number 4, is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 E. Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340. Periodicals Postage is paid at Boulder, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 18478, Anaheim, CA 92817-9928. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues \$34.95. Canada add \$20.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration business number: 12847 6249 RT). All other countries add \$65.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S.: \$4.99; United Kingdom: £2.60; Canada: \$6.99. PRINTED IN THE USA.

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

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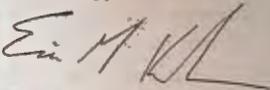
Two RPG's hit us, one of which impacted a foot from my head, breaking my arm, blowing out both eardrums and dislocating my elbow. My M4 carbine, with a SureFire WeaponLight, was blown out of my hands. We fought for an hour and a half before being medevaced.

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Ausraqis?

In your magazine issue of January 2006, one picture's caption is probably mistaken. On the top right picture on Page 44, it most likely isn't an "Iraqi soldier with Steyr AUG assault rifle over his shoulder (foreground)" but is instead an Australian soldier. The camouflage pattern would suggest an Australian "digger" carrying their version, the "Austeyr."



I first bought your initial issues while in high school in a military bookstore in Manhattan, NYC. I subscribed for many, many years while on active duty, and have come back to "roost" with your magazine again lately. Keep up the great work.

Michael W.

Iraussies?

FYI, the photo on pp 44, Jan. '06 issue, top-right is that of an Aussie Digger, not an Iraqi. [Credit where due...] The Aussies have stood tall with us since WWII! Note the distinctive AUSCAM pattern cammies, and Australia has demonstrated good sense in adopting the superb Steyr AUG. My bros from 1RAR, Vietnam vintage, will appreciate the plug and correction. GREAT ISSUE as always, Best to ya!

Jerry Sullivan

Love the Soldier, Hate Our Efforts in Iraq? I Doubt You Love Us

I have to remind critics constantly who say they are "for the soldier but against the government's actions in Iraq" that, since we are all volunteers, saying you love us but will work to undo what we are doing is like "hate" to us, period.

The vast majority of soldiers think we are doing right here and that what we are doing is worth their own sacrifice. They and they alone can make that choice – and others can argue it is not worth their lives if they wish, as are some who are running for Congress now say. Some of the old hard-line Democrats/Liberals seem to operate under the assumptions they made during the Vietnam War over 30 years ago: Many of the military in that war were draftees – unwilling participants – in America's effort in that country. Here in Iraq, not one of us is a draftee – we all joined of our own free will and droves have re-enlisted during the war effort. The numbers of combat soldiers re-enlisting in the combat zone is unheard of since America's Civil War, which was another war of Belief in the Cause.

Folks like Cindy Sheehan can legitimately claim that their own sacrifice is not worth it (she gave up a son), but she cannot EVER claim that her son's life was not worth this Cause, when he himself made the choice to come here to fight for others' freedom. He is the final arbiter of that claim.

Therefore, don't tell us that our choice to offer our lives here is not worth it. Speak the truth: tell us you don't think you would give *your* life – although others have made that offer in your stead.

And then ask yourself, is there anything you *would* offer your life for?

Dana D., Bahgdad

American Foreign Legion

I read with much delight [the reprint of] Hack's article regarding the need for an American Foreign Legion. I agree whole-heartedly with the concept. I am a retired Army Special Forces trooper and have seen the need up close and personal. I also believe that many of our active duty military units suffer great drag due to excess baggage. I believe that the "men" of many of our highly deployable combat units should be single with no family commitment as this tends to disrupt their focus on the mission at hand. A few years back the Commandant of the Marine Corps tried to implement this very strategy on new enlistees in the Marine Corps. He was shot down in flames by Washington.

Unfortunately the people of this country do not have the stomach for a truly effective fighting force and the details that make it so. We have been so infected by political correctness that we are unwilling to do even the basics to protect our country in the GWOT. For example, we refuse to profile the obvious potential Islamic Jihadists in our security screening procedures for fear of offending someone. I find it quite ridiculous that we pull a Caucasian grandma out of line for additional screening and allow a young male of Arab decent to pass without further screening in the name of fairness. That is the kind of mindless behavior that offends me. This is the very poison that will kill our free society. Until 70 year-old Caucasian women, or men, begin strapping bombs to themselves or high-jacking airliners I suggest we focus our limited resources to the profile of the enemy. Anything less is a tragic waste of valuable resources and a disaster waiting to happen.

"It is better by noble boldness to run the risk of being subject to half the evils we anticipate than to remain in cowardly listlessness for fear of what might happen."

De Oppresso Liber
Mark Potts



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stock photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

Seeking Viet-Vet Finns

Dear Friends:

Help needed, hope you can help or forward me to the right direction. There is a book project going on about FINNS in the Vietnam War and also those who had/have Finnish roots, "next generation" born in The USA etc., KIA, MIA or still living there.

I'd appreciate your help very much. I promised to the author that I'll ask from my friends!

There was one Finn from Australia who was KIA there, Timo Pesonen. "next generation"

Finns included Reino Panula and Jarmo Kari.

Thank-you in advance.

Jari • jarisalo@netikka.fi

Those able to help with this research project can e-mail Jari at the address above.

People-to People

I think most of us here want our

troops to come home as soon as they've successfully completed their mission, and that means Iraqi forces are going to have to step up and assume security.

From what I've seen they have a long way to go but some of the outfits appear to be getting their stuff in order. And you have to admire those Iraqi's who are stepping up despite the constant threat to themselves and their families from terrorists.

With that in mind, how about starting up a program similar to those we have for our own troops, to supply them with odds and ends that are in short supply? We could let our guys on the ground ID what they think is an exemplary Iraqi unit to be "adopted." I think showing the ordinary Iraqi soldier that he's supported by regular folks in the U.S. would boost his morale and maybe encourage his fellow soldiers. A low-cost, people-to-people "hearts and minds" op could help get our guys home sooner. Just a thought.

Congrats on the anniversary from a long time reader and sometime Conventioneer.

Gene Stephens, USA
RVN 1968

Holland's Immigration Time Bomb

Great article. However I would disagree with Dr. Brass on the point that RadicalIslam has hijacked Islam. Islam has never been a Religion Of Peace. It was not spread by evangelizing, but by conquest. Islamic societies do not tolerate diversity of any kind. What is happening in Europe is a slow conquest by demographics. "There are three forms of jihad," says Bat Ye'or, author of *Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Axis*, "the military jihad, the economic jihad and the cultural jihad." "What is happening in Europe is the latter two forms of jihad. As she also suggests that America is the last frontier, and the American people should take it as their duty to avoid Europe's fate. Read this book for the depressing details.

Thanks for a great mag, and happy 30th birthday, Bob.

Robert Dietrich ✕

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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, is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

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

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

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

New Results from Forgotten Exercises

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

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

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

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

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

12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!

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

1. Cranks up your metabolism so you burn excess body fat a lot, lot faster. This means fitting into the clothes you WANT to wear.
2. Packs attractive and healthy functional muscles (not grotesque) onto your entire body
3. Simultaneously doubles your strength and flexibility – and does so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. Quadruples your endurance inside of 30 days. Never get tired again.
5. Within a couple weeks, it often eliminates chronic back and shoulder pain from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing – or other forms of abuse.
6. Sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as you hit the rack you're out like a light.
7. Your self-confidence will have no bounds. Especially when you get compliments from people who hardly paid attention to you before.
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.

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

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An Excerpt from DTI Quips:

I'm voting, once again, for my long-time friend and colleague, BOB BROWN. All NRA Board members are good people, but Bob is the best! Bob Publishes *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, of course, and his views on Second Amendment issues are consistent and well known. Bob is my friend, and I support him in his steadfast commitment to the preservation of our birth-right as Americans.

I'm also voting for AMY HEATH. Granddaughter of Jeff Cooper, she is a bright and rising star on the political end of our discipline. Her unwavering support of the Second Amendment is also needed on the Board.

John Farnam

Shootie-Feelie

According to a CNN news report, while interviewing an unnamed U.S. Special Forces soldier, a Reuters News agent asked the soldier what he felt when sniping members of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. The soldier shrugged and replied, "Recoil."

Fighting Fords

Ford has sold a lot of their stock F-350 and F-250 pickups to police and armed forces around the world. The Afghan Army, for instance, recently bought 5,000 F-350's that had been upgraded to handle the hard cross-country work.

Because the F-350 is a no-surprises, proven design, it has been selected by the Office of Naval Research and the Georgia Tech Research Institute as the starting point for building an "armored truck" that incorporates features needed by – often suggested by – the troops in Iraq who daily patrol where the endemic threats include mines, roadside bombs and IEDs, and ambushes. The GTRI team included engineers with NASCAR experience, for their expertise in high-performance design work.

Early versions featured the "hillbilly armor" add-ons such as the lightweight

armor common to GI trucks in Iraq, and bullet/blast-resistant glass, but later iterations replaced the commercial body with sloped armor, and incorporate many suggestions from end-users. The seating arrangement was changed from 2x2 to 1x2x1 – a diamond arrangement with the driver facing forward, two behind him facing outward to cover the flanks, and one facing to the rear. This not only gives troops the ability to observe 360, it puts them in a position to quickly return fire, and it moved them away from the wheels that detonate the mines and take much of the blast. Also, troops would now sit in



a blast bucket that helps deflect the energy of exploding mines. The result of this research is called the ULTRA AP. Office of Naval Research will now test the ULTRA AP to glean it for ideas that may be of use in future GI vehicles, and it is anticipated more will be built for field tests with mines and roadside bombs as well. *Photo: U.S. Navy, by John E. Williams*

Russia Deploys SDI-Proof Topol-M Nukes

Just before Christmas, Col. Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov, chief of Russian Strategic Missile Forces, spoke at the commissioning of Ivan's leading-edge Topol-M nuclear ICBMs, boasting that the new missile "is capable of penetrating any missile defense system."

Speaking at a ceremony that marked the commissioning of the latest set of Topol-M's at a missile base in Tatishchevo in the Volga-River Saratov region, Solovtsov said the mobile

version, carried by heavy off-road vehicles, is slated to enter combat service next year.

The Topol-M missile is capable of hitting targets more than 10,000 Klicks (6,000 miles) away. Deployed Topol-M's are fitted with single nukes, but plans are afoot to equip each with three individually targeted warheads.

Billion\$ for Poor-Man's Artillery

Forecast International expects there to be a \$5.33 billion man-portable

anti-armor and bunker-buster weapons market over the next decade. Russian manufacturers are in a good position to dominate the field with the RPG-26/27, and the market itself is splitting into costly state-of-the-art designs, mostly from Europe, and cheaper, simpler weapons – predominantly Russian and former-Soviet designs.

The latter would include licensed production and knock-offs in Third World nations.

FI noted that "Iran's Defense Industries Organization (DIO) will be the most significant player involved in RPG-7 production during the forecast decade. Iranian licensed production of the RPG-7 would account for 4.25 percent of all new man-portable anti-armor and bunker-buster weapons production, worth 2.88 percent of the total market value, through 2014."

That translates into a glut of more than 80,000 weapons, with half of that estimated production expected in the 2005-2008 period.

Sinking Phony SEALs

According to a recent story on the Strategy Page (www.strategypage.com), more than 20,000 pitiful wannabees have been exposed as phony SEALs in the past six years alone. SOF has written on this problem many times over the years, but it would appear

we had little effect on stemming this malodorous tide of frauds – especially when in the past six years, many times more fraudsters have been exposed, than there are actual SEAL veterans. And the phony SEALs are probably like crab lice: for every one you catch there are myriads uncounted. Here are a couple very efficient volunteer organizations set up to research and expose the phonies: www.AuthentiSEAL.org and www.VeriSeal.org. Feel free to access them any time you think you have found a phony dishonoring the sacrifices of real SEAL veterans. As James Dunnigan noted on Strategy Page, "...the phonies are often embarrassing specimens of humanity, who make the real SEALs look bad simply by association. So it's not just a little harmless make-believe, it's bad for the morale of people who risk their lives for all of us."

Hire a [Real] Hero

Everybody looks forward to any war being over, and the troops who have put it on the line for us returning safely home. And each of man's incessant

battles and wars do eventually end – but the reality is that some never come home; and for many more, they do come home, but for them the war is never over. Wounded veterans often face a hard road to recovery and normalcy for them and their families. We owe it to them to go ahead of them and kick every rock out of their path that we possibly can.

One of the important mile markers in getting their life back, is a decent job. These returning heroes possess a maturity few men will ever develop, and they have skills, they are motivated, and are ready to work or retrain.

Now, they need a job.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (www.saluteheroes.org/sah_contents/resources/hire.shtml) is building a network of organizations that are prepared to help. You can email them to apply to be a part of the program. Gen. Tommy Franks, USA (Retd.) told Salute America's Heroes, "your selfless service is an example for all of America's citizens to emulate." Do better than emulate. Join them.

You can go on line to www.saluteheroes.org, or write them at 1360 Beverly Rd., Suite 300, McLean, VA 22101,

or phone them at 703-556-4376 and learn what they're all about. If you can, go on line and dedicate some time to crawling their website and learning in detail what all they're up to, and how you can be a part of it – including joining the network that matches wounded troops to civilian jobs.

Homes For Our Troops

This is a very worthwhile – and productive – non-profit that builds and/or remodels homes for severely wounded veterans. Quarters for troops who have lost limbs often need specific – and expensive – design or modification in order for these heroes to live a more normal life, often beyond what immediate friends and family can furnish. So Homes For Our Troops goes to the Extended Circle of Friends and to the greater American Family who volunteer their time or treasure to make it happen.

Check them out on the web at: www.homesforourtroops.org and see how you can get involved in your locale. ✕

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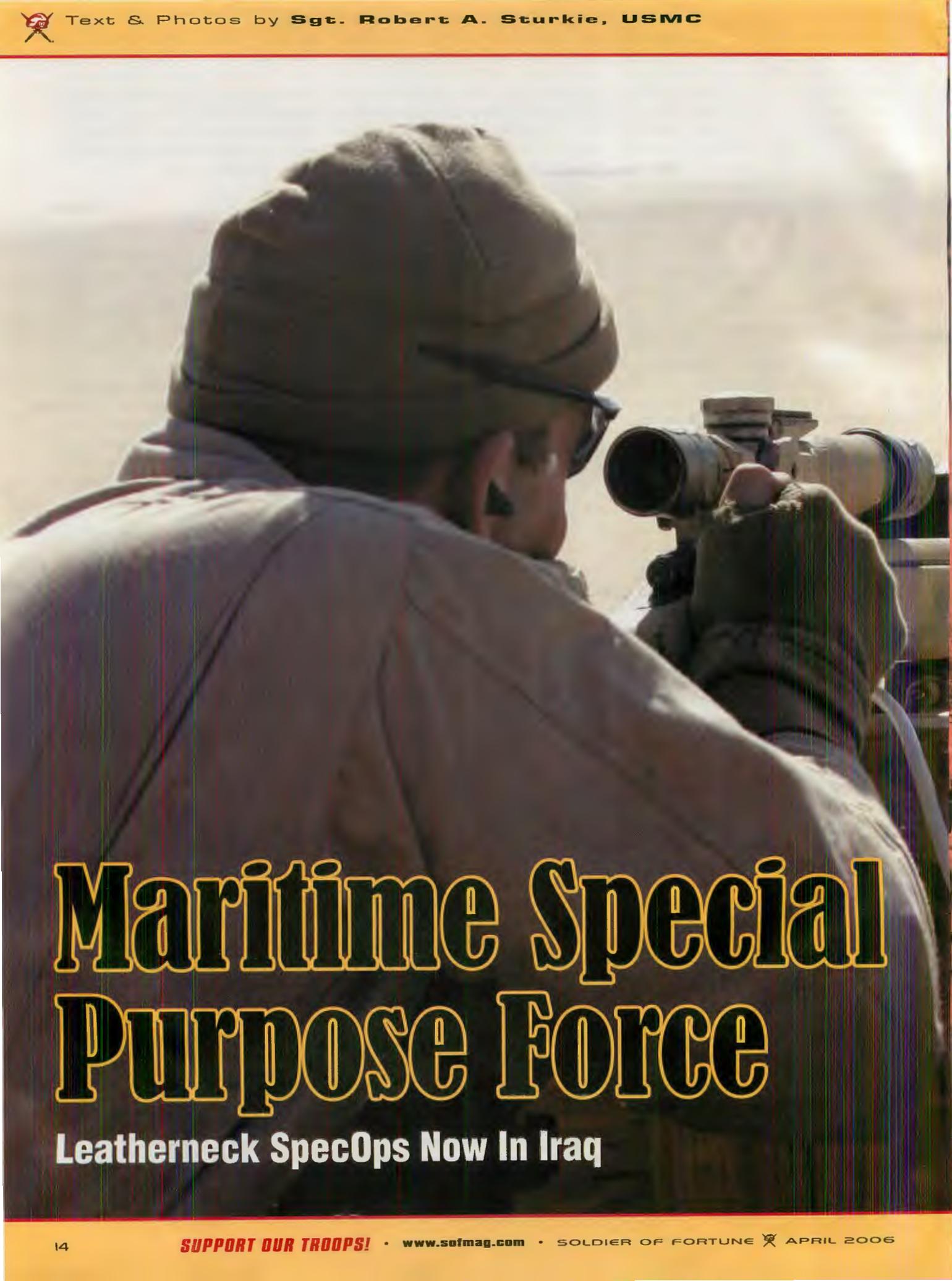


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Marines in two highback Humvees practice firing their M240G medium machine guns while on the move, during live-fire training.

As a spent 7.62mm cartridge tumbles through the air, a sniper with the 22nd MEU (SOC)'s Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) slams another round forward into his M40A1 sniper rifle during practice trigger time at the Udari Range outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HIT, Iraq – The Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF) of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) sharpened its marksmanship, tactical driving, and close-quarters-combat skills during recent training on the Udari Range aboard Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The MSPF is made up of the MEU's Force and Battalion Reconnaissance, and Surveillance Platoons, and is a sub-unit within the MEU trained to execute a host of specialized combat missions. Such tasking is likely to include deep reconnaissance, demolition operations, direct action, close-quarters battle, and maritime interdiction.

The MSPF Marines and sailors participated in live-fire drills with

their personal and crew-served weapons, became familiar with driving their Humvees in rough desert terrain, and practiced firing from moving vehicles. The training culminated in two live-fire raids, with the Marines "taking down" simulated objectives.

This training evolution was the last undertaken by the MEU before it entered Iraq, where it is now conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province.

The 22nd MEU (SOC) consists of its Command Element, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 (Reinforced), and MEU Service Support Group 22. ✕

Force Reconnaissance Marines stalk their targets during a movement-to-contact drill, part of live-fire training just before deploying to Iraq. Bent knees enhance hit probability when shooting on the move.



(below) Marines work out on an M240G medium machine gun, on its pintle mount atop a Humvee.



Transition Drill: His M4 carbine empty, a Marine goes for his pistol as his fellow Marine continues to blast 5.56mm rounds down range.



Blowing dust partially obscures a sniper as he fires a .50-caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle (SASR).



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JUNGLE



LISTEN UP! New recruits are briefed in Tuluá, Colombia at the JUNGLAS anti-narcotics base. Photo by Robert K. Brown

SOF publisher Robert K. Brown was chomping at the bit to go on anti-narcotic ops with the Colombian police. Thanks to our well-connected U.S. agent, we were introduced to the JUNGLAS, the elite anti-narcotics team of the Colombian National Police (CNP), similar to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), as soon as we hit the ground.

During our last jaunt in Colombia, the new hardliner President Alvaro Uribe was promising to wipe out all of the guerrillas and crush the drug trade

that was making fat cats of the gangster cast of characters that were butchering each other, civilians and blowing up villages in the crusade for the almighty dollar and the power that it can buy.

The U.S. was promising to back Uribe's aggressive counter-narcotics Plan Colombia to the tune of billions of dollars. The plan was to target narcotics and improve the economy. The convoluted theory was that if the coca were wiped out from the country that supplied 90% of the tons of cocaine to

the hundreds of thousands of U.S. addicts, the drug addiction problem in the United States would vanish.

"U.S. aid has given us incredible training and equipment including helos, but sometimes it is frustrating. For example, the U.S. State department says the spray program must take precedent over interdiction operations. Even if we come up with info on a target, we have to go beg for helicopters," the JUNGLA Commander L said in his office in Bogotá.

"The bloody turf wars started in the

JUNGLAS

Colombia's Anti-Narco Commandos Come of Age



late 1980s when the U.S. decided to spray and eradicate the coca crops. The Narcos, who were just small clans, hired the guerillas—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN)—to protect their cultivation, their labs, and airfields,” JUNGLAS Commander L said.

“The guerillas, who couldn’t believe the enormous profits the drug lords made in the coca trade, got greedy, and decided to get in on the big bucks multi billion dollar cocaine business.

“The Narcos then turned to the paramilitary group, the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) chiefs, who didn’t take long to start lusting after the big bucks and decide to take a cut of the profits. The competition between the FARC, the ELN and the AUC is fierce, bloodthirsty and ruthless. For example, in the areas like Catatumbo in the North, the guerillas and AUC engage in vicious turf wars. Both groups tried to get control of cultivation in Areno, but on the Pacific side, they are working together

to get cocaine out of Columbia.”

The villainous hodgepodge of murderous thugs mask their ‘struggle’ behind convoluted words of ideology and freedom to attract recruits and mobilize popular support.

“The ELN follow the Castro model of socialistic nationalization of the economy and the FARC, the popular, more nationalistic guerillas, follow a Maoist Chinese model of total state control. As soon as the Soviet Union dissolved, they started changing to a Bolivarian model (after Simone Bolivar who fathered the South American independence and unity movement of South America when it was subjected to Spanish rule). The FARC number 15,000 to 20,000 members, the ELN around 10,000 and the AUC around 4,000,” the JUNGLA Commander gave his take on the supposed ideological motives of the guerillas.

“I believe that here are a lot more FARC members than the officials claim,” a U.S. Spec Ops operator and a long time Colombian hand that is well connected in the Colombian police circles, told us.

“Colombia has a tortured history since the 1940s and 50s that saw autonomous Moscow leftists and communists spring up throughout the country. One of these groups developed into the FARC in the 1960s. It was easy for them to appeal for recruits since the government had no control in the peasant areas, so the FARC filled the void and took control,” a bilingual South American expert and editor for a prominent journal said in an interview. The adventurous critic, who wishes to remain anonymous, has gone on ops with the FARC and ELN, the police and the Colombian military ‘a lot’ in the last few years.

“It doesn’t take much for a fourteen year old stuck in a village going nowhere to want to carry a gun. There was no fear of the government in those areas. I think the FARC have lost some numbers although I don’t know how many, but I hear they are down substantially. I heard in 2001 that they had 17,000 members, but I have no idea right now.”

Protecting Drug Lords For Obscene Fees

“The AUC are supported by agrarian business, some of the cattle ranchers and small provincial drug lords. They are definitely heavily into the drug business. They are hardened kill-

ers who terrorize much more often than the FARC. They publicly massacre and torture those who help the FARC. They have been known to go into a town and assassinate thirty FARC supporters and leave the bodies as examples. They fight fierce turf wars with the FARC. They are butchers that decapitate with chain saws.

"The AUC are now 'disappearing' people, taking them out one, two or three at a time and dumping their bodies without a trace. They used to make sure that they left the bodies out, maybe dozens at a time, to make examples to those that supported the guerillas, but now they are using different techniques," the reporter said.

"The AUC claim that 12,000 of their members disarmed. That's a joke. They just pumped their bullets into civilians, threw down their guns, and went up the hill and grabbed some more guns," our Spec Ops agent source said.

"The AUC are paramilitaries that the military pretends to reject, but actually, the Colombian military eats out of their hand," he said. "Some of the military is corrupt and they are as neck deep into

the coca game as the drug thugs and guerillas."

The Spec Ops agent makes no pretenses that he has taken the side of the police in the vicious rivalry between the Colombian military and police.

They put plastic glue in the huge propane tanks and put a mortar bomb inside. They put nails and human excrement that stick on the targets skin and wrack their bodies with infection. When the bombs explode, the glue that hits a target severely burns the skin. They use it to attack small towns and troops in the field, targeting civilians."

The Colombian military has taken severe hits in the drug war and scores have been massacred this last year.

For instance, the FARC ambushed 80 soldiers and slaughtered 28 of them near Vista Hermosa, 100 miles south of

Bogotá while we were in Colombia.

"At least 500 soldiers have been killed this year in some of the deadliest attacks on the military," the seasoned DEA agent who was assigned to the CNP in their anti-drug and anti-terror operations said.

"In Putumayo 22 soldiers were killed and leftists blew up a marine base with their special made rockets."

"I have been involved in 150 operations in the last five years. When I first got here, I was going out two three days a week, but with the new U.S. policy, I am lucky to go out once every two or three weeks now," he said.

Israeli Commandos and Irish Revolutionary Army Mercs Train the Thugs

"The FARC, ELN and AUC have underground organizations in almost every major city which include separate

intelligence gathering groups, logistic groups and action arms. The FARC and ELN communist groups are more likely to cooperate on joint operations. For example, in San Marino a week ago there were ELN and FARC cooperating in a



JUNGLAS take out another cocaine laboratory. DEA pays informants for the JUNGLAS on an average of \$4000 per laboratory.

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ended reading for students in big-city police sniper schools. Overseas, the Karen National Liberation Army in Myanmar translated sections

for its resistance fighters, and the Philippine Marine Corps regarded the book so highly that it copied its art for its sniper unit logo. Perhaps GySgt. Carlos Hathcock, legendary U.S. Marine Corps sniper during the Vietnam War, summed it up best: "Just plain dad-gum good."

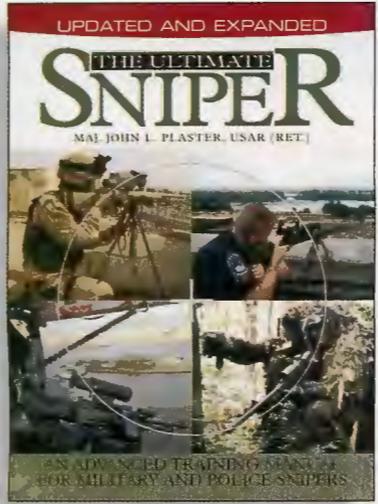
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take over of the town. They share information since the ELN has sophisticated information.” the JUNGLA commander said.

“So with everybody in the business, it has become really hard for us. They have money to get anything they want. They buy weapons, training, communications and hire mercenaries like the IRA and Israeli Commandos to train them. They hire personal security for the top men,” he said.

Scorched and Tortured with Cold War Leftovers

“They haven’t employed any ground to air missiles, but the FARC leaders admit to having them and threaten to use them if we close in on them. They say they are reserving them as a last resort against us. They have used RPGs and use gas cylinders to take down our helicopters. They have weapons from Central America, including explosives and propane bombs used to attack the towns. They put plastic glue in the huge propane tanks and put a mortar bomb inside. They put nugs and human excrement that stick on the targets skin and wrack their bodies with infection. When the bombs explode, the glue that hits a target severely burns the skin. They use it to attack small towns and troops in the field, targeting civilians,” JUNGLA Commander L said.

“Actually, I was surprised at how few weapons the guerrillas had when I went on ops with them. They only have a few RPGs they got from the government of Nicaragua. The ground-to-air missiles from Nicaragua are pretty good. They got SAM-7s and SAM 14s, supposedly after the Sandanistas lost the elections, but they haven’t shown up yet. They make their own explosives,” the reporter told us.

“The Colombian air force, on the other hand has three U.S. made AC-47 gun ships they brought from El Salvador,” he



Brown on the right and JUNGLA trooper with suppressed H&K MP5 in front of JUNGLAS day room.



JUNGLAS pose for photo after operation.

said.

“The Singlaub Commission was responsible for getting the AC-47s to El Salvador and they used them very effectively in that conflict. After the war ended, they were sent to Colombia and are used effectively there as well,” SOF’s RKB who had spent nearly a decade traveling back and forth to El Salvador during that conflict, said.

Forget al-Qaeda, Give Us the Greenbacks

“Has al-Qaeda made a presence here?” RKB asked the JUNGLA commander.

“No impact here,” the JUNGLA commander said. “There are no indications that the FARC and ELN are tied in with al Qaida.”

The reporter agrees. “I don’t think that the FARC and ELN have any interest in al-Qaeda. Their game is drugs and big bucks. The FARC has lost much of their ideology. They are business groups with a lot of guns. The ELN are more like urban intellectuals, often well off and educated and they espouse the Castro Marxist model. They are less into drugs now and on the decline because their ideology is passé,” he said.

“The FARC have been waiting for the Uribe administration to leave, but they are going to have to wait for a long time. Uribe changed the constitution to allow reelection and he will probably get another term when the Colombians vote this year.

“The FARC realized they have been too inactive so they have accelerated their terror to show they still can concentrate enough power. 28 Dec 23 soldiers were killed, 27 a week before, and 29 the week before that. There have been more military deaths this year than the year before and the year before that,” he said.

We Shall Overcome

The Colombian National Police claim great success since the time of our last visit.

"Kidnappings are down by 70%—a decrease of more than 4-500 a year because of President Uribe's democratic policy and his use of police and all forces in Colombia. The attacks to the towns are down by almost 80%. People are now driving from one town to the other without being attacked.

"Now that we are close to elections, the next six months are going to be real hard, though, as the FARC accelerate their attacks in trying to take credibility from the president's policy.

"The illicit cultivation of coca is down more than 50% this year, making it a record year. 139,000 hectares were sprayed in the last year and we seized more than 70 tons of cocaine and 700 kilos of heroin. We hope that next year we will have wiped out poppy cultivation in Colombia. In the 1990s, 4-5000 hectares of poppies were grown and now there are only about 900. Afghanistan, with its 200,000 hectares of poppy fields, is the prime source of heroin," Commander L and Commander A who had joined us at the police station in Bogotá were constantly interrupting each other with excitement of their well deserved achievements.

"It was all thanks to the United States government," the Spec Ops agent said. "See these police stations, the U.S. government paid for those, he pointed out the sophisticated police stations. But the money is drying up now."

He was referring to recent official U.S. reports that the Colombian cocaine supply in the United States had probably increased in spite of \$3 billion dollars of rabid spraying under Plan Colombia.

We asked the reporter how effective he thought that Plan Colombia was.

"The level of violence is down and security up. Kidnapping, killings and massacres are decreasing. The army and police have more control over more ar-

reas. In rural areas there is more security. In 1989 and 1990 the army was hit every day and hundreds of prisoners were taken.

"The Plan Colombia goal was to eliminate one half of the acreage of coca. They can claim that is true. The drug people in Washington claim that the price of cocaine is up and that the purity is down. Plan Colombia is beginning to impact. Most people view those claims with skepticism. The acreage decrease got stuck at 50% last year. It's an illegal business and no one knows the details. The U.S. tries to turn this into a business model.

"It takes three pounds of bug killer for one acre. You need so much fertilizer for one kilo of coca per acre,' they claim with authority. How do we know that is right? I wanted to do a story on heroin. I talked to the DEA people. They

Company, which consisted of 150 JUNGLAS. The original team was trained to track down and apprehend Drug Lord Pablo Escobar. 100 JUNGLAS were sent to Medellin where all but 20 got killed in the war against Escobar. I was in the fourth company of 50 who were trained for contra narcotics only," the JUNGLA chief said.

"Who came up with the idea of the JUNGLAS?" RKB asked the Commander of one of the sections who asked not to be named.

"Margaret Thatcher decided to send the SAS to train us in a British initiative," the JUNGLA commander responded.

The Legend of the Colombian CONDOR

"One of the 20 surviving CONDOR officers sent to Medellin, Winson Conterro, has become a legend. In 1998,

he was involved in a huge operation. On the way back, he had to land to refuel the helicopters and was ambushed by the guerillas. All of the helicopters escaped except one. The guerillas chased the survivors for a week before they finally got them. Conterro was kidnapped and held for a year during which time they brutally tortured him. He tried unsuccessfully to escape three times. The fourth time he made it with three pistols, two rifles, and two grenades that he had stolen from the guerillas," the JUNGLA Commander spun



JUNGLAS platoon sniper team armed with Remington 700 Harris bipod and four power Leapold scope. Sig-Sauer P228. Lead sniper observer armed with M16 with ACOG also carries Sig-Sauer P228. Sniper team has created their own partial Gillie suit.

were totally wrong—totally off base at every turn. How do we know there is not a better way of refining the coca and that there is not a more efficient way to grow the coca so more is produced on each acre? Estimates are nonsense. Official figures say that 350 to 650 tons of cocaine are coming into the country. Now that is 300 tons difference—that's a huge difference.

The JUNGLAS of the Jungle

"The British Special Air Services initiated the training of the JUNGLAS in 1993. Eleven SAS soldiers trained a small company called the CONDOR

the tragic tale.

"He escaped with two of the guerillas that were defecting after killing six of them. He walked 50 kilometers in the jungle for eight days when one of the guerillas that escaped with him told him he could request aid and food from the people. One of the guys from the house, probably wanting to collect the \$250,000 ransom the FARC were offering, squealed on him. The FARC ambushed him and shot him 38 times.

"We were able to arrest all the people in the house and threw the one that ratted on him in jail.

"There are now 350 JUNGLAS op-

erating in 100 man teams across the country.

"Twenty that were trained by the SAS have become American trained helicopter pilots.

"Since the 1980s, the Americans have been training the JUNGLAS. The British conduct the basic training and for specific training we are sent to the United States—to Ft Benning, to Ft Bragg, to Louisiana to San Antonio and to New Mexico for anti terrorism training. Spec Ops teams come here because our training facility, three and a half hours out of Bogotá is very good. The recruits are trained in the first phase in Tulua, and then they train in different regions of the country to learn to survive in different terrain. In the second phase, we are trained by U.S. Special Forces."

"There are 750 U.S. military and 750 U.S. contractors here but they are only allowed to assist on training and advise but not allowed to support operations. They can join us on reconnaissance, but if there is going to be any contact, they have to get out.

"Everybody knows better," the Spec Op told us. "We go on ops and do what we have to do. I personally have gone out on several ops," he said as we looked at coke lab photos that the JUNGLAS has provided us.

The JUNGLAS go ONLINE

The JUNGLA Commanders walked us through the grueling recruiting process.

"We have a website for national recruiting. The recruits have to be volunteers. After that process of selection through letters of recommendation, they come here for psychological testing and medical exams. Of 4-500 candidates, 100 are selected. Thirty percent don't make it in the initial screening. 50 per-

cent of that 30 percent are eliminated because of physical defects.

"All JUNGLAS have to be single and they usually sign up at the ages of 21, 22, 23.

"The first stage takes 6-8 weeks and that depends because we want every one to match the same standards in skills weapons, survival, communication and patrolling skills. Seventy percent of the 100 chosen will make it all the way through."

"Are any recruits chosen from FARC defectors?" SOF asked.

"Absolutely no FARC, ELN or AUC are allowed for security purposes. No one with any record of human rights abuses is allowed. We are different from the military because we are policemen first who fight crime and have to gather evidence to build a case through personal interrogations. Every operation includes a human rights agent and an attorney from the attorney general's office. The military is trained to kill, but we have to build a case strong enough to arrest suspects.

Takin' Out The Trash

"Every operation is different. In some cases we get information on a specific target from the many informants that come forward. We have an effective witnesses protection program.

"We have one purpose, that of irradiating drugs under our criminal code and constitution and the evidence is subject to judicial review. All of poppy and coca growing and selling is illicit. Our mission includes destroying laboratories of high profile targets of the FARC, ELN, AUC and drug lords. Other units, like intelligence units of the police that have intel of where the bad guys are or any other evidence will come to us and we will support them in planning of opera-

tions.

"Many are extradited to the United States. We bring the suspects to Bogotá and hand them to the attorney general's office and U.S. government.

"If the GAULA, (Colombia's Special Forces elite police anti-kidnapping task force that tackles 3-8,000 kidnappings every year) has information to rescue somebody, one of our units will get involved. We rescued a daughter of one of the richest men in Colombia in 2002, Ana Maria Correa. We completed the operation in 15 seconds after five months of planning.

"We send special planes based on human intelligence and communicate with radios. We provide 3-D presentations that show the pilots how to get in. We put them on the ground with air support. In the Correa operation no one was lost—they were either arrested or rescued. We operate at the same time that negotiations are going on.

The JUNGLAS go in first to secure the area.

"We have been so well trained that the U.S. operators do not have the need to go out with us. Even though our first instructor was the SAS, this year we requested that the SAS give us a refresher, but they said 'no, we want you to train us because of how advanced you have become'.

Apparently both the JUNGLAS and the U.S. agents have become experts. "Some service retired DEA agents who trained us have ended up acting as advisers to the drug lords for big bucks. Government prosecutors have gone into private business. Their knowledge is drugs and they become advisors to the drug lords," the reporter said.

Electronics Comes to the Jungle

"JUNGLA intelligence creates detail power point presentations, including specific maps of targets and supply points that calculate the positions of the targets. A comprehensive analysis and briefings of weather conditions and terrain prepare the operators.

"We assess the weakness and strength of the enemies. Their major strength is that they know the terrain. But they have limited power, poor resources, their movements are often restricted, and they are easy targets when spotted by the JUNGLAS who are equipped with air surveillance and air power.

"Our Intel assesses the enemies' weapons and tactics expected to be used in an attack. They often use a river or high hill to attack us so it is hard to get



JUNGLAS platoon pose with equipment and small arms after demonstration.

Continued on page 81

Every fight is Bam-BAM and you're done!

"All Your Fancy Fighting Skills Won't Earn You An Extra Second Against This Devastating New Natural Streetfighting System!"

Why are black belts, boxers, Ju Jitsu wrestlers... and *especially* those silly macho "military" guys who *claim* to be so tough... scared to *death* when faced with this amazingly *simple* new fighting secrets?

Dear Friend,

My name is Bob Pierce... and I have *serious* "inside" knowledge about every "new" fighting system that's ever been available to martial art and military circles. *Real* fighting... especially the vicious, **no-rules** attacks and fights you're every likely to see in the street... has **changed forever!** Almost *everything* you know is obsolete, and I don't care how long you've been training or who you've trained with.

Every fighting system I've seen is just **too damned complicated** to master in a reasonable time (and they're just *lying* to you if they say different)! I'd almost *given up* trying to find an *honestly* simple fighting system that was easy to master (not just "learn")... and that I could count on if I was forced to defend myself.

And then I stumbled on something...

Let me tell you a very short story that may be the most important one you ever hear in your life: Just outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, there's a beat-up warehouse where certain "unusual" types of people like to gather. If you're a stranger out here, you're not just unwelcome...

You're Meat!

And it's very easy to tell if you're not one of the "in" group: These guys are **Skinhead Neo-Nazi's**... probably the most *vicious* and *dangerous* punks roaming America. Skinheads never need a *reason* for violence — just being alone and close enough to jump will make you an instant victim.

These Sick Jerks Actually Enjoy Hurting And Humiliating People!

Anyway, on this particular night an ordinary-looking man named **Chris Clugston** made the mistake of driving out to this isolated warehouse. He thought he was going to have some simple fun on a hot summer night. He didn't have much money on him — maybe *one little nickel* in his pocket. Remember that — a single nickel. Not even enough to leave as a tip at the makeshift bar.

Entering the place, Chris didn't know what to make of all the skinheads giving him the "evil eye". He thought they just had really bad haircuts and silly taste in clothes. He felt no fear... in fact, as he passed a table of them, he reached out and good-naturedly rubbed one of them on the scalp. "Nice haircut, fella," he said.

Three skinheads stood up and quickly cornered him. The band played on.

Now, you have to get this scene right to understand the importance of what happened next: The *smallest* of the three Skinheads coming at Chris was his same size; the others were taller, more muscular, heavier.

They were reaching for objects in their pockets (it was too dark to see clearly) smiling with relish for the stomping they expected to hand out. No one in the warehouse had the slightest urge to help or stop the fight. There was nowhere for Chris to escape.

In less than a second, he suddenly realized he was about to be jumped by **three experienced streetfighters**... and if he didn't do something right *NOW*...

His Life Wasn't Worth Much More Than That Nickel In His Pocket!

Well, what would *you* have done? You know, in your heart, you run the risk every day of being in the same situation... cornered by punks who want to do you **serious harm!** They don't want your nickel, they want the thrill of stomping your face into hamburger.

It could be in a parking lot downtown, in a movie theatre, outside your local 7-11... **or in the cool darkness of your own bedroom, late at night!**

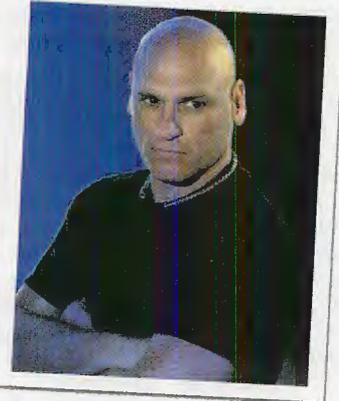
Have you *seriously* thought about what will happen to you during **real-life crunch time**... where *your* life (and that of your loved ones) aren't worth a plugged nickel?

Back in that lonely Tulsa warehouse, Chris didn't have *time* to think. He didn't *need* to... in a *blink*, he turned that **nasty situation around 180 degrees**... and those three Skinheads, *even though they were poised and ready to attack*, found **themselves** suddenly thrust into a world of pain and confusion. But Chris didn't use anything that even *remotely* resembles karate, or Judo, or Tai Kwan Do, or even boxing or wrestling. No. Instead...

Chris Did Something These Experienced Fighters Had Never Seen Before... And Hope They Never See Again!

There were other Skinheads in that old warehouse that night... *but they didn't bother Chris!* Not after they saw what he did (with an absolutely **chilling** calm and sense of confidence) to those three streetfighters who cornered him! There was something in his eyes... something the *first* 3 punks missed in the dim light... that now warned the rest of them away.

The fight didn't take three seconds... because while two of the Skinheads went down hard *immediately*, the third broke and ran, and Chris couldn't catch him! These guys have been spotted around Tulsa occasionally since then, and they're still "jumpy". **The people who saw what Chris Clugston did that night all report the same thing:** It was like nothing



Chris Clugston (considered to be one of the most dangerous men on earth) insists that he can teach *anyone* his simple (yet highly advanced) fighting secrets.

they'd seen before... the quick moves looked *too easy and simple* to have actually worked...

And Yet The Results Were Instant And Devastating Beyond Belief!

What Chris (the most normal-looking and *likable* guy you'll ever meet) used is the **strangest fighting technique imaginable** — unlike anything you have ever seen before... and yet (for guys like you and me) it is absolutely the most *ruthless and effective fighting style ever devised!*

- Hard-core streetfighters end up being *bullied* by people half their size using this system!
- Trained boxers *can't land a punch!*
- Karate black-belts *never get a chance to strike*... and any *defensive* move they make only gets them hurt more seriously!
- Even the *highest-level* "elite" training in the U.S. military won't help a soldier last beyond a *few seconds* in hand-to-hand combat against this new, *utterly-unique* fighting system!

I **never, never** want to feel what it's like to be on the *other end* of this amazing stuff! Nevertheless, once you see how it's done, you'll see that this new fighting system is:

- **Incredibly easy to master in short time!** (People who have only been *shown* these moves — and never actually *done* them — have nevertheless had tremendous success in "crunch time"... with *devastating results* for their attackers!)
- **So simple you can actually "learn it and forget it"...** and yet it will be there for you whenever you need it! (There are only **6 components** to the *entire* system... *less* to remember than most karate schools have for *one fancy kick!*) In fact, you can learn more intense fighting skills in **one short hour** than you'd learn in a *month* of "formal" martial arts!
- **And yet these fighting secrets require**

no special strength, speed or coordination to get started! (Everything you need, Chris can teach you in about the time it takes to eat a big meal!)

I knew this was something you'd want to know about right away. This new system — Chris calls it "**Combat JKD**" — is a completely different way of fighting "in the street", where you'll likely be if you ever need help.

I think what Chris has is just perfect for guys like you and me. Perfect because you don't need to train much... you can use what you learn immediately... and (because it's so incredibly simple)...

You Will Face Any "Situation" With A Steel-Eyed Calm Confidence You've Never Experienced Before!

This new fighting system simply **did not exist** until a few short years ago! Chris Clugston — as far as I know — is the *ONLY man in the world* who was in a position to take modern fighting methods... and create new "twists" to them that are so innovative... so amazingly natural (you'll never feel awkward or have trouble learning any of it)... and so *instantly devastating*... that what he wound up with is an **entirely NEW way to fight**. None of his methods would be allowed in the boxing ring, or in a karate match, or in any kind of fight...

Where The "Rules" Say You Must At Least Give The Other Guy A Chance To Hit You Back!

This is the most honestly brutal, **bam-BAM**-and-you're-done kind of fighting you could ever imagine... and the best part is, it's *especially* easy for "non-fighting" types of people to master quickly!

That's because Chris Clugston spent a *lifetime* searching where no one thought to look for the simplest fighting secrets of the world. Here's the story:

- Streetfighting has been his overriding passion since he was 12 years old. (He earned black belts in 5 different martial arts before he was 20!) He even learned 7 languages so he could travel the world and uncover new styles of fighting and techniques that *hadn't reached the U.S. yet!*
- Chris fought professionally for over 8 years (*twice* as long the average pro)... becoming one of the world's most *accomplished* fighters! (He was Number One World Rated in Shoot Boxing for 1991-1992... American Kickboxing Colorado Champ for 2 years... as well as Maximum Total Light Heavy Champ, *despite* fighting in a higher weight class!)

He also won **over 50** vicious, no-rules streetfights during this time. This is how he realized how *stupid* it is to master any martial art style that has rules. **The real world of streetfighting has no rules!** Even the most brutal-looking "official" fighting systems can actually get you *killed* in the street... and the "confidence" you get from years of dedication to any formal training...

Is A Total Sham!

Then, about a decade ago, Chris was invited to "try out" with perhaps the **most secretive group of people in the U.S.** — a small, almost fanatical "fringe" bunch of fighters who had developed a combat-oriented system that emphasized simple moves... and **brutally-quick endings to every fight**.

This "over-the-top" fighting style was

what Chris had been searching for! But because of his travels... his Soviet training... and all his professional insights... plus all the "official" martial art know-how he had... Chris brought something **NEW** to the table that even these hyper-secret fighters didn't understand. Chris realized that even the most *cutting-edge* fighting styles were still shackled with moves based on centuries-old situations involving fencing, stick-fighting and ritualized combat!

Chris was *forced* to create an entirely **NEW** fighting system... one that took the simplest moves of the best styles... and "blended" them with the scientific insights of the last few years to make...

A Natural, Utterly-Simple Fighting System That Can Defeat Any Other Fighter Instantly!

This amazing new system will immediately "catapult" you in the *highest levels* of the fighting world, practically overnight!

Chris has instructed me to give you an opportunity to see his new "Combat JKD" system in action... in a complete, "uncensored" form that the rest of the world will never even hear about... learn the **basic (simple) moves** yourself... see how it "fits" on you, and if you like it... *and do it all without having to risk a nickel of your own money!*

He's doing this because, finally, he's **fed up** with all the "hype" and hysteria out there about the "rules-oriented" fighting systems now flooding the market. He knows his new stuff will make those systems look *silly*... with less fuss, less learning time, and **more power** than anyone would believe. He wants to show you... so there will be *no doubt in your mind whatsoever*... that "Combat JKD" has changed fighting forever. And all the secrets of it can all be yours... *as soon as you want it!*

Here's how it works: A few weeks ago, Chris submitted himself to a grueling **week-long video session**, where he revealed — *on tape* — all the most closely-held secrets of his new fighting system. It's the best I've ever seen. Even if you only "scan" these videos once, you'll be changed forever! There are nearly 4 hours of tape here, on two power-packed video cassettes. It's information that was completely unavailable to anyone except the few "insiders" who knew Chris personally. Yet, with the advantages of slow-motion, rewinding and multiple camera angles (we used a state-of-the-art recording studio down in San Diego)... you actually get a **better and more complete education**, in a *shorter* time, than any of Chris's personal students!

You'll get it *cheaper*, too. Chris only takes a few students on every year, and they pay **outrageous fees** to get their personal education in "Combat JKD".

Look — here's just a "taste" of what you're about to learn:

- Why you should *never* use your **knuckle** in a real street fight! (Even trained fighters make this crucial mistake... and risk serious injury that's 100% avoidable!) There's a *better* way to do more damage, **quicker**, with *no risk of hurting yourself* at all!
- Secret "**2-minute**" training techniques (that's all it takes!) that are guaranteed to make you look ridiculous... but which will pump up your fighting ability (and confidence) 1,000% almost overnight!... New (and *simple*) exercises that actually *install* animal quickness and

viciousness **directly** into your muscles and nerves... leaving it *locked* there until you need to spring it loose! (Go from calm to *frightening* in a split second, whenever you choose... or whenever you're threatened!)

- How to use the "**two second**" **stalking** test to see how trained your opponent is... and *what* he's trained in! (Crucial information to end the fight when you choose!)
- The **hyper-advanced new fighting stance** that *negates all others*... putting you in a position to keep boxers, wrestlers, and even the **dirtiest** fighters on the planet off-balance until you decide to strike! (They'll *never* get "settled" enough to hit you!)
- How to *never again* feel uncontrollable emotion (or even sweaty palms) in a tight situation... and how to channel all your adrenaline into purposeful energy that will charge you up like a *bomb*!
- Why your *best fighting moves* will come completely **naturally**... forget all that martial art nonsense about needing to train for years to do complicated moves! (The best fighters in the world use only a few simple moves... and routinely knock around karate dudes like they were children!)
- What to watch when you're **eight feet apart** (it's NOT his eyes — a terrible mistake most fighters make that gets them hurt)... and what to watch **inside the two feet "crunch time" zone**... to keep you a precious **step ahead** of even *superbly-trained fighters!*
- The number one "**Dirty Trick**" of fighters who want to *decisively* end a fight as soon as possible!
- Leverage secrets (known *only* by students of Clugston's) that **multiply every pound of your weight ten times**, giving you "Godzilla" advantages against even a much-heavier opponent!
- How to correctly use the "**scissor choke**" — which 99 of 100 fighters do so incorrectly it actually puts them at **risk** (instead of providing the fight-ending *certainty* you can have doing it right!)
- A 1,000-year-old move (which all but a handful of martial artists never learn about) that will **end the fight instantly** once you get to the ground... even faster than the most *famous* ju-jitsu move!
- How to handle **worst-case scenarios**: when you're surprised, caught in completely undesirable places, outnumbered... and *worse!*
- How to easily and *effectively* destroy your opponent's "wheels"... and why the *standard* karate knee kicks are **doomed to fail** 7 of 8 times (leaving you exposed and ready to go *down*)! Chris's understanding of "knee take down" fighting is *unsurpassed* by any other fighter on the planet... and he can show you how to *never* be without this fight-ending "out"!
- The secret of **correct head butts** — it's *not* what you've seen the military guys doing! (If you ever use the *wrong* method, you'll *split your head open*... **proof** most of those military guys have *never* been in a real hand-to-hand fight!)
- Head-on moves that will *separate you from the boys* in the first second of the fight! (And send even the craziest attacker *running*!)
- How an **untrained fighter** tips himself off!
- Your **single best "one answer" move** in any confrontation — if you never learn anything else from Chris, *this* move will assure

you survive almost any one-on-one fight you get into... even with trained fighters! (And it's so simple you don't even have to practice it very much!)

And more... including details so "sensitive" I wouldn't dare list them here for you!

PLUS... as part of a special mega-generous (and extremely time-limited) deal, you'll also receive Chris's international best-selling 2-video set "Comhrac Bas" AND his wildly popular video "Rosetta Stone".

This astonishing "add-on" 3-video set will quickly teach you hyper-advanced "upper level" vicious and *amazing* fighting skills. "Comhrac Bas" (translating to "Death Fighting") covers the *really nasty stuff* that will jettison you overnight into the world of the most elite fighters on the planet. It's been broken down to such simple basics, *you can learn it all almost immediately!* These are the *simplest* fight-ending techniques you could ever learn. Every move is devastating beyond belief — this isn't "injure to degree", or "slap-and-run" self defense... these are the *first real fighting secrets* I've seen where you can actually simply watch them performed.

In "Rosetta Stone" you'll discover the "missing link" of fighting. You will suddenly be able to see even the fastest action in any fight in a kind of "internal slow motion" in your head... so that every move and counter-move is crystal clear to you. (And you will be able to do this whether watching a fight, or — more critical — *being in one yourself*)... You will no longer need a long "menu" of moves yourself... because now that you've "uncomplicated" the details of actual fighting, you can use the simplest and most basic responses to counter any attack, and take any opponent down quickly... And... Every skill you *already have* will be ALL YOU NEED. Because, you will finally understand how to APPLY what you already know in a real situation. The effect of this is to actually MULTIPLY the power you already possess as much as a thousand times.

The hyper-advanced fighting skills you learn from Chris have *already helped other people just like you...* in the most dangerous, out-of-control situations you're ever likely to face in the street! People who have experienced Chris's training methods report a *deep and permanent change* in their lives. It's as if Chris has helped *install another person* inside you... a stronger, more *vicious* and unafraid warrior who won't hesitate a second to eliminate (with all the force necessary) any danger to you!

This is not like the training terrorists go through, however — that turns them into savage beasts that cannot be absorbed back into civilization again. Far from it... Chris's training techniques leave you normal and centered (much like a fighting master should be)... your same old lovable self...

Until The Time You NEED To Unleash That Brutal Warrior Inside You!

It's not even a conscious process! Imagine having little *danger-sensing antennae* (like a Geiger counter) inside you that leap into action even before you consciously understand you are in trouble! Imagine having the *inner peace and confidence* to be relaxed

anywhere in the world... **knowing your training and mastery has placed you among the most viciously-effective fighters on the planet if trouble occurs!**

You can't *buy* that kind of confidence for any amount of money...

But You CAN Earn It... With Chris's Help!

So how much is Chris's video course going for? It's cheap — *less than you'd pay for two lousy lessons at the local karate school...* less than a big meal for two at a fancy restaurant... less, even, than a decent pair of cowboy boots! Ask anyone who has trained with Chris... they'll tell you how foolish it is to quibble over a few dollars when the result is *learning the most effective fighting skills on the planet!*

Here's what you need to do now: Use your credit card and call 1-800-899-8153. Tell the operator you want to order Chris Clugston's "Combat Pack" video course, Dept. CC-31. It's important to tell them that code, too — *don't forget!*

The price is just \$97 — an incredible deal when you consider that together these packages have sold world-wide for over \$230.00. We've simply combined the BEST of Clugston's training and slashed \$133.00 off the price to just \$97 (plus \$9 shipping & handling). It's an amazing deal that will NOT last.

Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order (payable to TRS Direct), simply fill out the Priority Order Form below and send it with your payment to the TRS offices at 606 East Acequia, Visalia, CA 93292. Either way, your tapes will be rushed out to you by return mail as soon as we receive your order.

But remember — you get Chris's personal guarantee on this: Watch the tapes, at your own pace, in your own home, and learn everything he has... for a full 3 months without risk. If within that time, you aren't 100% convinced you've just been training in the most advanced fighting skills you could ever have, simply return the package and Chris will see that you get an *immediate refund* of your purchase price. No questions asked. No nonsense... and Chris will still

consider you a friend. He respects you enough to let you decide for yourself.

That's more than fair... and if you're serious about learning fighting skills you can use, wherever you find yourself in trouble... *this is a must-have course!* So far, only a handful of "insider" students (with deep pockets) have gotten this kind of acute attention from Chris.

Here's your chance... if you believe you've got what it takes... to become a master of that same secret fighting technique. **Call now.**

Sincerely,



Robert Pierce

President, TRS Direct

P.S. I just want to clarify the insanely generous deal you're getting. You'll receive a total of 5-videos (over 5-1/2 hours of rock-solid training) including "Combat JKD", "Comhrac Bas", and "Rosetta Stone", at a price NO ONE else is getting. This is likely the first and LAST time you'll ever see this offer, so hurry, okay?

P.S.S. WAIT... I've got a very special FREE bonus that Chris wants you to have and KEEP as his gift. It's a hour-long video he shot about knife-fighting — and, just like everything else he teaches, it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. Chris has been in knife fights... and he learned crucial new information that no other knife-fighter on the planet even has a clue about! No one wants to get in a knife fight... because your chances of surviving without getting cut are not good. But the knife has become such a common "tool" of the criminal attackers, you *absolutely need this advanced look at fighting with knives...* including bare-hands against a knife, and knife-against-knife.

But — even if you decide to return the tapes for a refund, you can still KEEP the bonus tape on Knife-Fighting (worth the price of the entire package just by itself!)... as Chris's gift to you, just for giving his videos a look.

You Save \$133 NOW!
that's 3 for the price of 1



Priority Order Form For fastest service use your credit card and Call Toll-FREE 1-800-899-8153 (Dept CC-31)

YES! This sounds exactly like the kind of fighting system I've been searching for — easy to learn, simple to execute... and so brutally-effective that my confidence levels will soar beyond anything I've ever dreamed! Plus, I have nothing to lose by ordering now — with your 100% Money-Back No-Risk Guarantee, I get a full 3 months to use these videos as my own... and if I'm not 100% happy I can return it for a full refund of my purchase price. So please rush me the 2-video set (over 3 hours of intense fighting secrets!). Here is my address and how I wish to pay:

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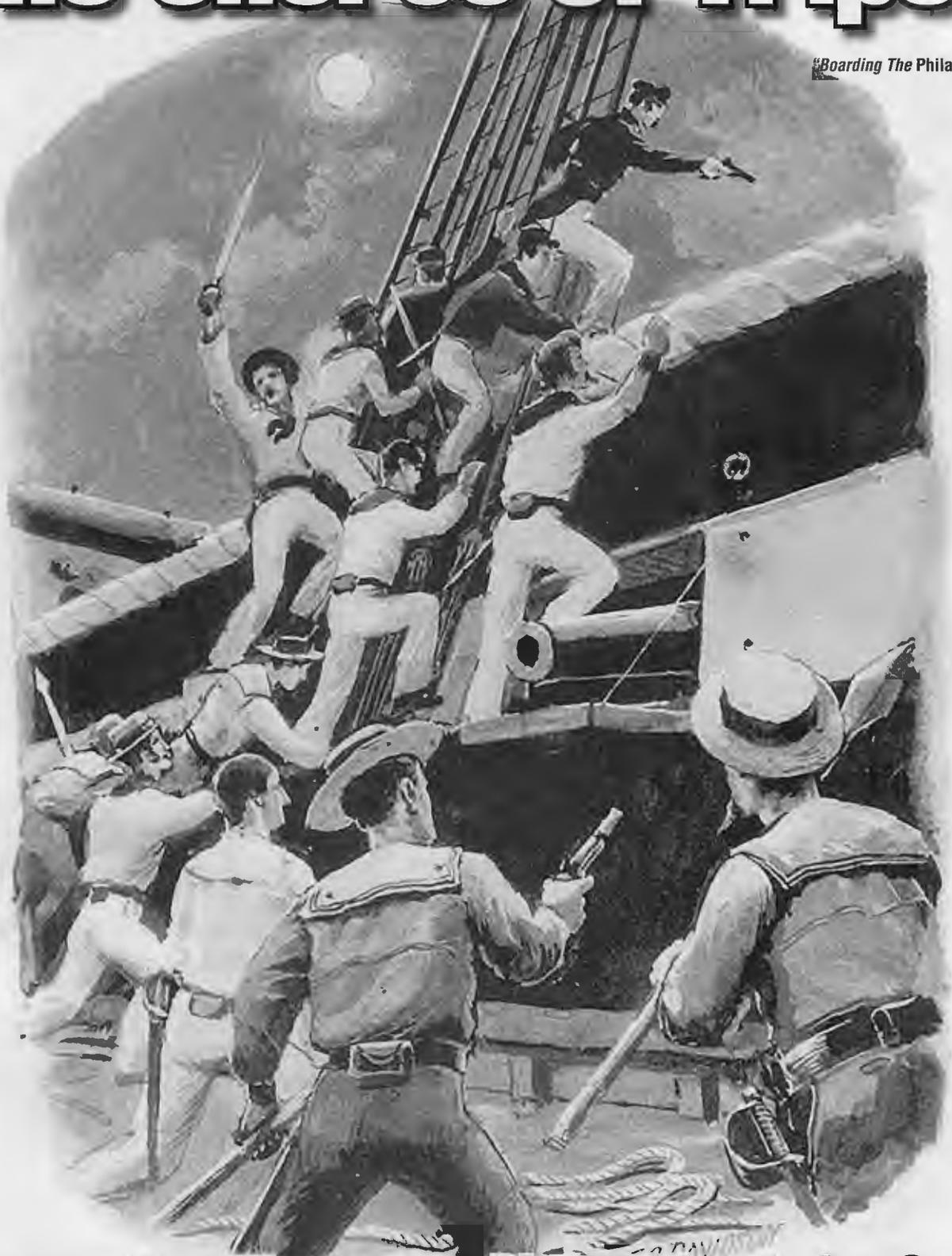
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The Shores of Tripoli

"Boarding The Philadelphia"



The Tripolitan War and the Birth of the Marine Corps

"To the shores of Tripoli" is the second line of the immortal Marine Hymn. Every new recruit can recite it from memory, although few actually know what that line means. That infamous line refers to America's limited engagement against the Barbary pirates at the dawn of the 19th century. It was our fledgling nation's first attempt to exert its authority overseas. It was also America's first conflict with an asymmetric opponent in the Muslim world. This conflict, which came to be known as the Tripolitan War, eerily foreshadowed the modern war on terror. It was also the trial by combat for a new branch of the American military known as the Marine Corps.

The Barbary States consisted of four small backwater countries on the northern coast of Africa – Tunis, Tripoli, Morocco and Algiers. These outlaw Muslim nations had been preying on Christian shipping in the Mediterranean since the 8th century. Their location along the major Mediterranean trade routes was ideal for piracy, and they routinely attacked European and American merchant vessels. The Barbary Pirates' favorite tactic was to seize a merchant vessel, steal its cargo, and then ransom the ship and crew for a tidy profit. They also used the threat of future piracy to extort protection money, ships and trade goods from America and Europe. Their piracy was so pervasive that, by the close of the 18th century, they had effectively closed the Mediterranean to American shipping.

In September 1800, the frigate *George Washington* was commandeered in Algiers and forced to sail to Constantinople. The American government was outraged when it learned that one of its own naval vessels had been forced to sail under a foreign flag. Calls for war echoed across the country, and the president dispatched a man named William Eaton to negotiate a new treaty with the Tripolitan Bey. Eaton, a former soldier, spy and diplomat, had ambitions of his own. He saw the mission to Tripoli as an opportunity to further his goal of one day rising to command his own army. He accepted the assignment, and set in motion a series of events that changed America, North Africa and the Marine Corps forever.

The Wrong Brother

Tripoli was a backward country, even by the standards of the other Barbary States. It had been the scene of countless coups, revolts and assassinations over the years. A coup occurred in 1795 when the three sons of Bey Ali struggled for power. Yusef, the youngest son, eventually succeeded in assassinating his oldest brother and driving his second brother Hamet into exile. With his position secure, Bey Yusef increased Tripolitan attacks on American shipping and demanded ever-larger tribute payments from the American government. When William Eaton arrived in Tripoli

"Burning The Frigate Philadelphia"
by Edward Moran



in January 1801, the situation between the two countries had deteriorated and war was looming on the horizon. However, before Eaton could complete his negotiations, Bey Yusef took matters into his own hands. On May 14, his men entered the U.S. consulate in Tripoli and chopped down the American flag. The small Barbary nation had officially declared war on the United States.

Yusef's actions left the incoming administration of Thomas Jefferson with little choice but to act. On May 15, barely two months into his presidency, Jefferson authorized America's first attempt to show its strength overseas. A squadron of three frigates and one sloop departed for the Barbary Coast on June 2, 1801. Along with sailors, each Ameri-

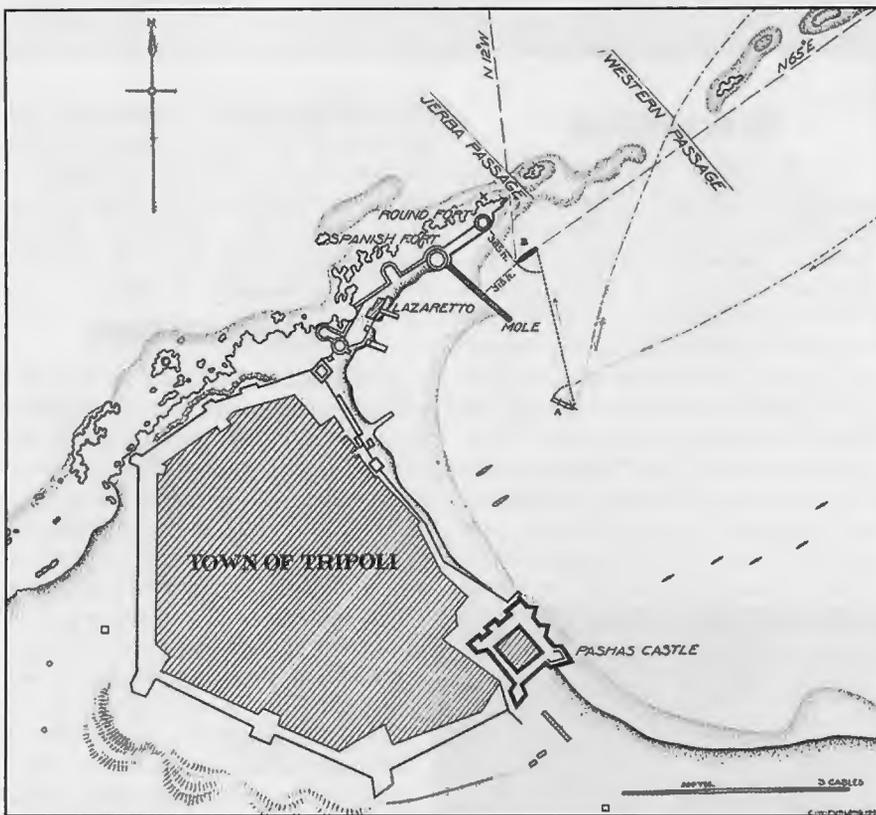
can ship also carried a complement of marines. The Marine Corps was a new venture for the American military, having been officially created only three years earlier. The expedition against the Barbary pirates would be the new Corps' first real taste of combat.

Fleet Marines Go Ashore

The marines stationed on the vessels were not intended as an invasion force. Instead, their purpose was to assist the naval squadron during ship-to-ship combat. When a naval battle commenced, the marines were stationed on platforms in the rigging to snipe at enemy officers. They were also used for hand-to-hand combat when repelling boarders or boarding enemy vessels. In addition, they could also carry out limited raids on the mainland, although the squadron's complement of 120 marines was too small to be effective in prolonged engagements against the Bey's forces.

The American squadron blockaded the harbor at Tripoli. However, with only a handful of ships, the blockade was mostly a symbolic gesture. Bey Yusef continued to show his disdain for American naval power by attacking U.S. merchantmen at will. Eaton, frustrated by the timidity of the American gesture, called for a firmer response. That response came in April 1802 when President Jefferson dispatched a new squadron of eight warships to the Mediterranean. It was an impressive force for the young nation, and Jefferson hoped that it would finally strike a fatal blow against the upstart Tripolitans.

Halloween, 1801 turned out to be an ominous day for the new squadron. While chasing a Tripolitan corsair, the frigate *Philadelphia* ran aground near Tripoli harbor. The helpless ship was captured, and her crew of 307 sailors and marines was taken prisoner. When the news reached Washington, it sparked a wave of outrage in Congress and throughout the country. Raiding American shipping was one thing, but holding American sailors and marines hostage was beyond the pale. Bey Yusef compounded the insult by leaving the *Philadelphia* afloat in Tripoli harbor as a prize. It was a flagrant affront to all American vessels in the region. Yusef's outrageous act required an equally outrageous response. The retaliation



Destruction of USS Philadelphia, 16 Feb 1804. Chart by C.W. Furlong.

for the capture of the *Philadelphia* became one of the most celebrated acts in American naval history. It also provided the catalyst for Eaton's grand campaign against the Tripolitans.

Let the Games Begin

On the night of February 16, 1804, the *Intrepid* slipped silently into Tripoli harbor. Hidden in her hold was a raiding party of marines and sailors led by Lieutenant Stephen Decatur Jr. When the *Intrepid* closed with the *Philadelphia*, the raiding party burst out of the hold and the marines engaged in a running swordfight with the Tripolitans. After a brief but bloody struggle, they secured the *Philadelphia* and prepared to destroy it. However, the sound of the battle had alerted the Tripolitan shore batteries of the American presence. Under a hail of cannon fire, the marines set fire to the ship and escaped back to the *Intrepid*. Living up to its name, the *Intrepid* then slipped into the night past the burning wreckage of the *Philadelphia*.

The destruction of the *Philadelphia* was widely hailed in America and the rest of the world. The legendary British Admiral Horatio Nelson called it "the most bold and daring act of the age." While this daring deed was taking place, Eaton was planning a bold stroke of his own. He had struck up a friendship with Hamet Karamanli over

the previous year. Hamet, the deposed brother of Bey Yusef, had been living in exile in Tunis. Eaton saw in him a chance to depose Yusef and install a Bey who would be far friendlier to American interests. Unfortunately, his grand scheme required the funds and backing of the American government, and Eaton possessed neither.

He used the fervor over the capture of the *Philadelphia* to pitch his plan for overthrowing Bey Yusef to the President. Jefferson was interested, and Eaton was given \$40,000, a thousand rifles and the dubious title of United States Naval Agent on the Barbary Coast. Hamet was in hiding in Egypt, so Eaton and a handful of marines landed at Alexandria on November 26 to find him. Unfortunately, Hamet was not the dashing figure that Eaton had painted in his reports to Jefferson and the State Department. He preferred a life of ease and comfort to the rigors of the campaign trail. Although he was surrounded by dotting sycophants, his actual popularity in Tripoli was questionable. His brief reign had been problematic, and no one back home was clamoring for his return. However, Eaton saw past all of his faults. He was intoxicated by the prospect of achieving his own command and he even began to refer to himself as "general." It was a bizarre beginning to one of America's strangest military campaigns.

For Want of An Army

However, before Eaton could start his campaign, he needed an army. Hamet had arrived with roughly 100 followers, although their fighting ability was dubious at best. Eaton had requested a contingent of 100 marines from the American naval squadron, but his request was denied. This left him with only the eight marines that had accompanied him on the search for Hamet. They were led by an able young Marine lieutenant named Presley O'Bannon. O'Bannon would become one of Eaton's most valuable commanders, and one of the first true heroes of the Marine Corps. O'Bannon and Eaton immediately set about recruiting mercenaries in Alexandria. They soon assembled a rogue's gallery of Turkish, Greek, French, English, Spanish, Indian and Eastern European mercenaries.

This polyglot army set out for Tripoli on March 8, 1805. Their first target was Derna, the second largest city in Tripoli. The original plan of attack had been to approach Derna by sea. However, Hamet insisted on taking the overland route in order to remain close to his followers. The overland route to Derna was long and arduous, leading across hundreds of miles of scorching desert populated by hostile Bedouin tribesmen. In addition, the expedition's varying nationalities made communication difficult, and it took all of Eaton's and O'Bannon's abilities to keep the rival groups from killing each other.

Continued on page 54



Decatur leading his men to drive the pirates off the captured USS Philadelphia.

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Those Who Can, Do... And Those Who Really Can,

TEACH

Barrett's Jon Weiler Brings Combat Smarts to the Classroom



During a training class, Jon Weiler demonstrates the prone position with the M107.



Sgt. Jon Weiler sights his M107 Barrett over a parapet in Iraq. A dust bag keeps blowing sand out of his barrel. Weiler not only shot-out an M107 barrel while in Iraq, he also made two confirmed kills at the extended range of 1,200 meters.

If there's anyone in the world qualified to provide instruction on Barrett rifles, it's Jon Weiler. In one of the best-ever matches of a man to a mission, Weiler is now Training Manager for Barrett Firearms.

In 1997, Jonathan Weiler joined the United States Army. After Basic Training, AIT and Airborne School, he was assigned to Ft. Drum, NY. In 1999, Jon graduated from Sniper and Air Assault Schools. During this time he was awarded two Army Achievement Medals and the Army Commendation Medal.

In 2000, Weiler left the Army to attend college, but in 2001, he quit college to re-enlist right after 9-11, and he was assigned to the Long-Range Surveillance Detachment of the 82nd Airborne Division. In 2002 Jon grad-

Sgt. Jon Weiler sights his Barrett M107 through the window of an abandoned Iraqi building. The gun rests on its folded forward bipod legs to reduce the chance of enemy observation.



Of this 5-man sniper squad, four are armed with M4A1 Carbines, while the man on the right has a Mk 12, Mod 0 sniper rifle, the first version of the SOCOM Special Purpose Rifle (SPR) rushed into service after nine-eleven. This rifle is issued with Black Hills Mk 262, Mod 0 77-grain OTM 5.56 ammunition. It has a Leupold TS30-A2 Sniper Scope, ARMS/PRI handguard, AN-PEQ2 Laser Designator and a Harris Bipod. Snipers have made kills with this rifle out to 600 meters.

uated from the Airborne HALO Jump School.

In 2003, Jon was assigned to the 3-325 ABN INF REGT as a scout/sniper, and was soon deployed to Iraq as an M107.50-caliber sniper for the battalion. While in Iraq, Weiler was promoted to Sergeant and was in the thick of the action with his M107. In fact, he is one of the few people ever to wear out the barrel of a Barrett .50 caliber M107 rifle – and he made two confirmed kills at 1,200 meters with the big gun. During this time Sgt. Weiler was awarded two more Army Commendation Medals, these for Meritorious Service during combat operations. In 2004, Sgt. Weiler was redeployed to Ft. Bragg. He left the Army in November to go to work for Barrett Firearms as the company's Training Manager.

Jon Weiler conducts two Armorer

This 82nd Airborne sniper squad poses at Baghdad's Crossroads with their M4A1 Carbiners.



Courses each month at Barrett's, for Military and Government personnel, and after a successful year providing civilian courses at Whittington Center, Jon has scheduled two more in 2006, on 1 April and 1 September. Whittington's excellent classroom facilities and 1,000-yard known-distance range make it an ideal location to instruct new .50 caliber competitive shooters. These classes may also be offered at Barrett this year. ✕

82nd Airborne scout snipers pose with their M107 Barrett and a 7.62x51 sniper rifle.

Capable of destroying materiel targets, such as vehicles or ordnance, as well as those on two legs, the M107 is one of the most formidable weapons issued to ground troops in the GWOT.



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By Dr. Martin Brass

AMERICA AT WAR

1. BANGLADESH **TERRORIST**

TRAINING: United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has thriving effort of terrorist recruiting, training, and fund raising. The Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam and Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam smuggle guns through the safe haven.

2. PHILIPPINES **RAPE CHARGES**

brought against four U.S. Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Force stationed in Okinawa, Japan. A 22-year-old Filipina brought the charges. U.S. troops not welcome in Asia since war on terrorism.

3. UNITED STATES **DISPOSABLE CELL-PHONE SALES**

surge in the Middle East. Phones anonymously purchased in bulk quantities are used by terrorists. Cell phone records are sold to criminals who trace calls from informants to law enforcement. **ASSASSINATIONS FORBIDDEN:** Navy SEALs ordered that "Under no circumstances shall any Department of the Navy personnel condone, support, encourage, engage in, or conspire to engage in the assassination of a specific individual or individuals." **35-FOOT UNDERGROUND TUNNEL** used for illegal immigration along U.S.-Mexico border caves-in near San Ysidro. Twelve tunnels have been discovered in last few years. **ASSASSINS** target Border Patrol Agents. **EXODUS** of U.S. Army Special Forces who quit or retire to high-paying private security jobs, drives army to offer incentives and bonuses.

4. COLOMBIA **FARC SLAUGHTERS 29** Colombian

soldiers while they were sleeping, deployed to protect the manual coca eradication in national parks: 1,500 cops deployed to the same area to protect the 1,100 workers while they uproot 4,000 hectares of coca plants. The project will cost 17 to 19 million U.S. dollars, take six months. **COLOMBIAN DRUG IMPORTS** to the United States are on increase, despite vicious 5-year hattle against the narcos.

5. VENEZUELA **CHAVEZ ARMS-SHOPPING** In Russia for 100,000 AK-103 and AK-104 automatic rifles, four dozen helicopters and MiG-29 fighters.

6. SURINAME **COACH and POLITICAN** Ronnie Brunswijk threatened referee with pistol. His party has five seats in parliament that represent bushmen--he brags of having 84 kids with 38 women. (SDF source in Holland)

7. NETHERLANDS **RECKLESS SECRET SERVICE** agent leaves file with confidential info in car he sold. Previously an agent left a laptop on the train.

8. FRANCE **THREE AL QAIDA SUSPECTS** arrested. Explosives, AK-47 and Famas assault rifles, revolvers, ammunition, balaclavas and bulletproof vests confiscated.

9. SPAIN **MOROCCAN TERRORIST ARRESTED:** Suspect is leader of two cells that recruit jihadists for Iraq. Groups were networked throughout Europe and Turkey, Morocco. Twenty arrested, linked to suicide bomber who killed 18 Italian soldiers and nine Iraqis at an Italian military base in Iraq.

10. IRAQ **INSURGENTS ATTACK EOD** detachments that try to intercept improvised explosive devices, the weapon of choice of terrorist elements. **SUPREME COUNCIL FOR THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION**, its paramilitary Badr Brigade, the Al Dawa party of Prime Minister Jaafari, have been busy putting together a government that excludes the Sunnis. *Tompaine.com*

11. IRAN **NUCLEAR CRISES:** President Ahmadinejad allegedly calls for Israel to be wiped out of Middle East and moved to Europe, denies the Holocaust ever happened. Israeli General Dan Halutz made it clear Israel reserves all its military options.

12. AFGHANISTAN **TALIBAN RECRUIT** foreign fighters and threaten more attacks. U.S. to begin troop cuts by next year. **2005 DEADLIEST YEAR** for the U.S. military since the invasion. NATO to deploy troops to Drug-Lord territories.

13. SRI LANKA **LIBERATION TIGERS** OF TAMIL EALAM rage war of independence. Suicide bombers kill 70 military from December to mid-January. Sixty Five thousand have been killed in 20-year civil war.

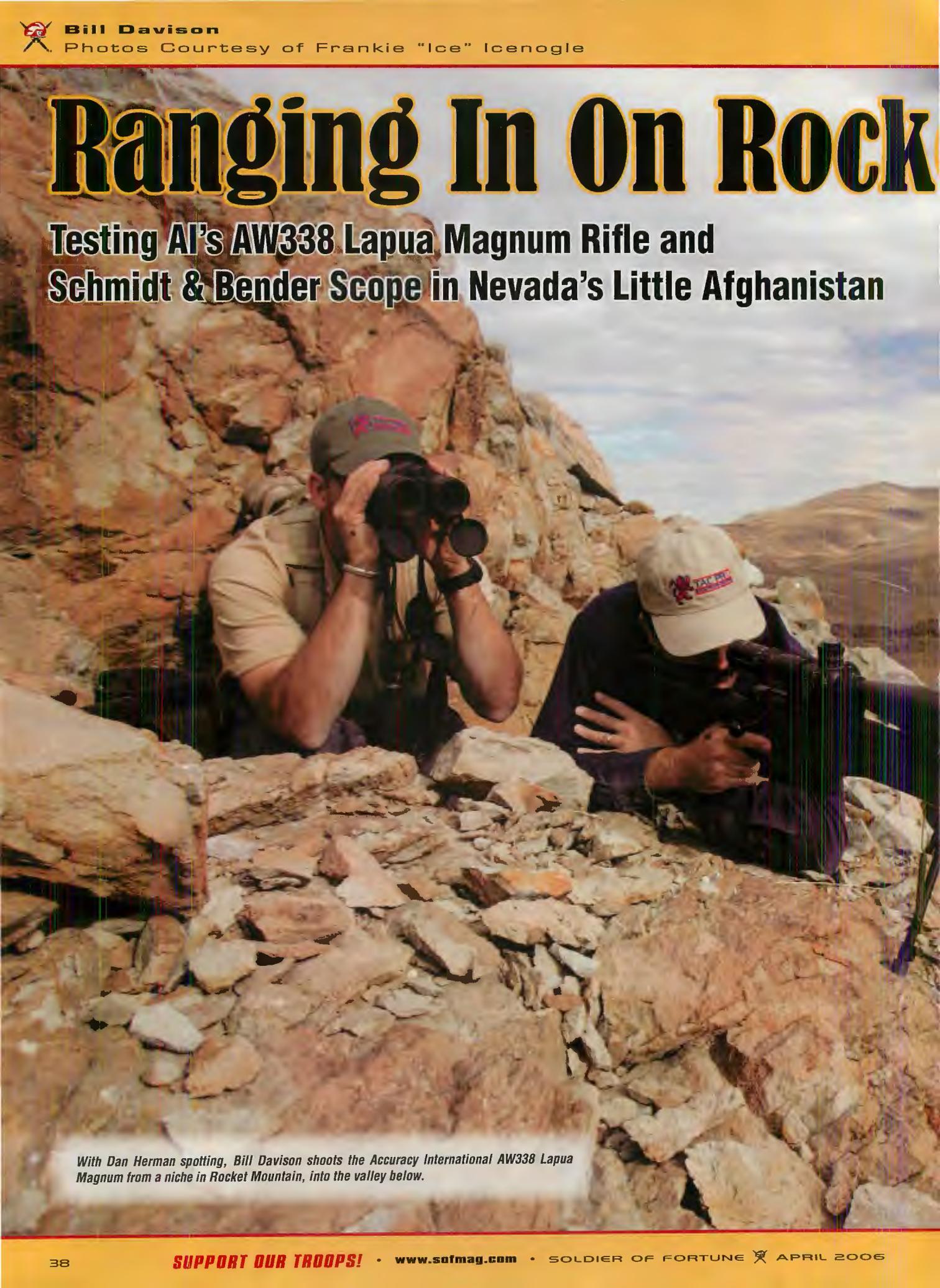
14. SOMALIA **PIRATES** **RANSOM** medical relief and food ships for tens of thousands, Interrupting flow of aid results in starvation of the population.

15. SUDAN **NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS** in the works. Front companies and third countries import machine tools, gauges and hi-tech processing equipment from Western Europe for military industries. Officials fear equipment is being traded by Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear proliferation racket. Dual-use equipment has disappeared, said the Guardian.

16. NIGERIA **MARTYRS BRIGADE** brags it bombed Shell oil pipelines in the Niger delta valley. The group promised more sabotage of oil establishments as revenge on oil moguls who don't take care of the poor.

Ranging In On Rock

Testing AI's AW338 Lapua Magnum Rifle and Schmidt & Bender Scope in Nevada's Little Afghanistan



With Dan Herman spotting, Bill Davison shoots the Accuracy International AW338 Lapua Magnum from a niche in Rocket Mountain, into the valley below.

et Mountain

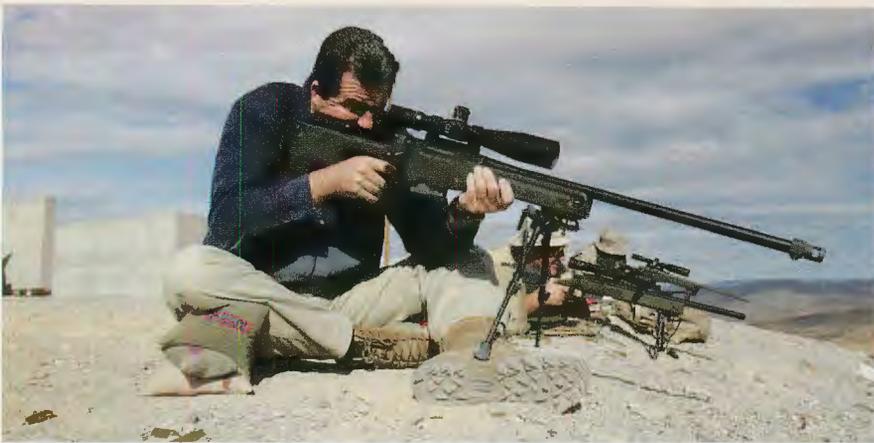
As it is fine gear by any standard, Davison is proud to be the main distributor/importer of the AI rifles, and dealer for Schmidt & Bender riflescopes.



After waiting for months it was finally here – my new Schmidt & Bender 5-25x56 scope with CM clicks and the new P4 reticle. I had been keeping my Accuracy International AW338 Lapua magnum rifle “scope-less” just for this, so I put the two together and started to be amazed. In my opinion, the AI AW338 is without doubt the worldwide king of the battle-proven sniper rifles. It is the standard British Royal Marines Sniper Rifle as the L115A (for how the SAS uses this rifle in Iraq, see “Three for the Money,” last issue).

It is still light enough to carry and climb into battle with and the ammo is not so heavy, so you can still take enough to be effective, and as those of us who have AI rifles know – they are as strong as an ox and never let you down: What a perfect platform to mount the new Schmidt & Bender 5-25 scope on.

So off I went down the range to zero and see what we had. After setting the scope up and doing my break-in procedure, I was pleased to see that the Schmidt & Bender was exactly what Hans Bender had told me it would be at the Shot Show 2005: Basically the best of everything they do, in one package. I shot groups at 100 to 1000 yards and was very pleased, although it didn't



(top) Davison gave a good workout to an AI AW in .308 and mounting a Schmidt & Bender 4-16-50 double-turn metric scope, found it also good to go. **(above)** Marty Bordson of Badger Ordnance (left) spots as Davison shoots the AI AW in .338 Lapua magnum at targets twelve hundred yards away in the valley below. **(bottom)** Mounting a Schmidt & Bender 5-25x56 scope with a CM P4 reticle, the AI AW in .338 Lapua magnum would consistently deliver first-round hits past a thousand yards.

seem to be very hard to do. I decided that this combination needed to be tested in a much harsher environment.

I knew the U.S. Marine Scout Snipers were changing to the Schmidt & Bender 3-12x50 scope and that Badger Ordnance was making the mounts and bases, so I called Marty Bordson at Badger and had a chat. He told me that he was going to Rocket Mountain, the military training base at Hawthorne Nevada, to test and evaluate the mounts and bases in the harshest terrain possible. It sounded just what I was looking for. The area where they do the Mountain Scout Sniper course is very similar to the mountains and terrain of Afghanistan and the current theatre of war – mountainous, rocky and bare, an unforgiving place.

We started at around 6,000 feet above sea level on top of Rocket Mountain, with the closest target at about 400 yards at a 30-degree angle – which may not sound like much, until you have to hang off a cliff to shoot it! I don't remember being able to get into a perfect position on any of the targets.

Many other targets went all the way out to 1405 yards but because of the angles you had a true-flat-ground range of 1212 yards, so that's what I dialed in for. Dan Herman, NCOIC of the Mountain Warfare School for Sniping

Continued on page 74





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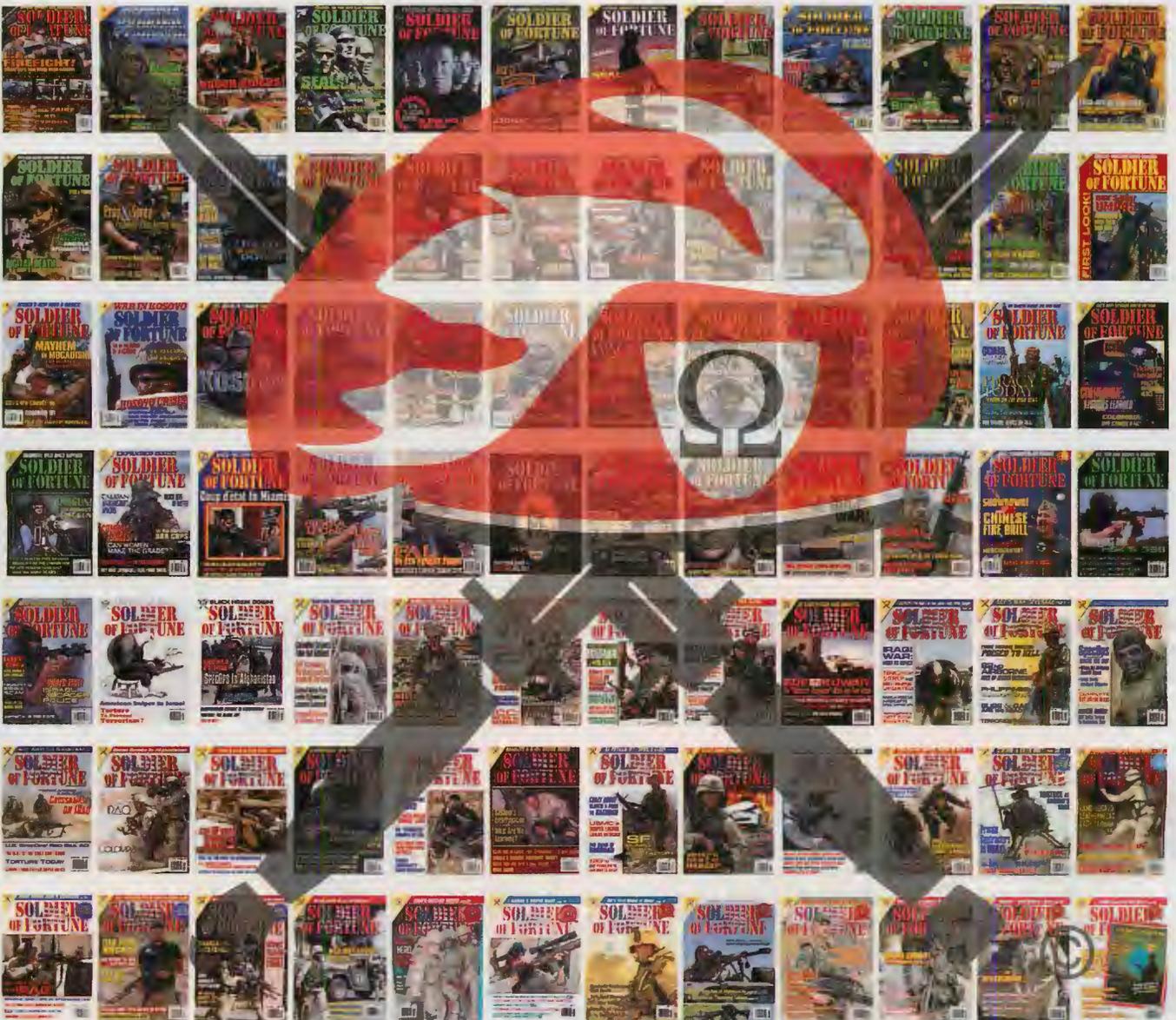
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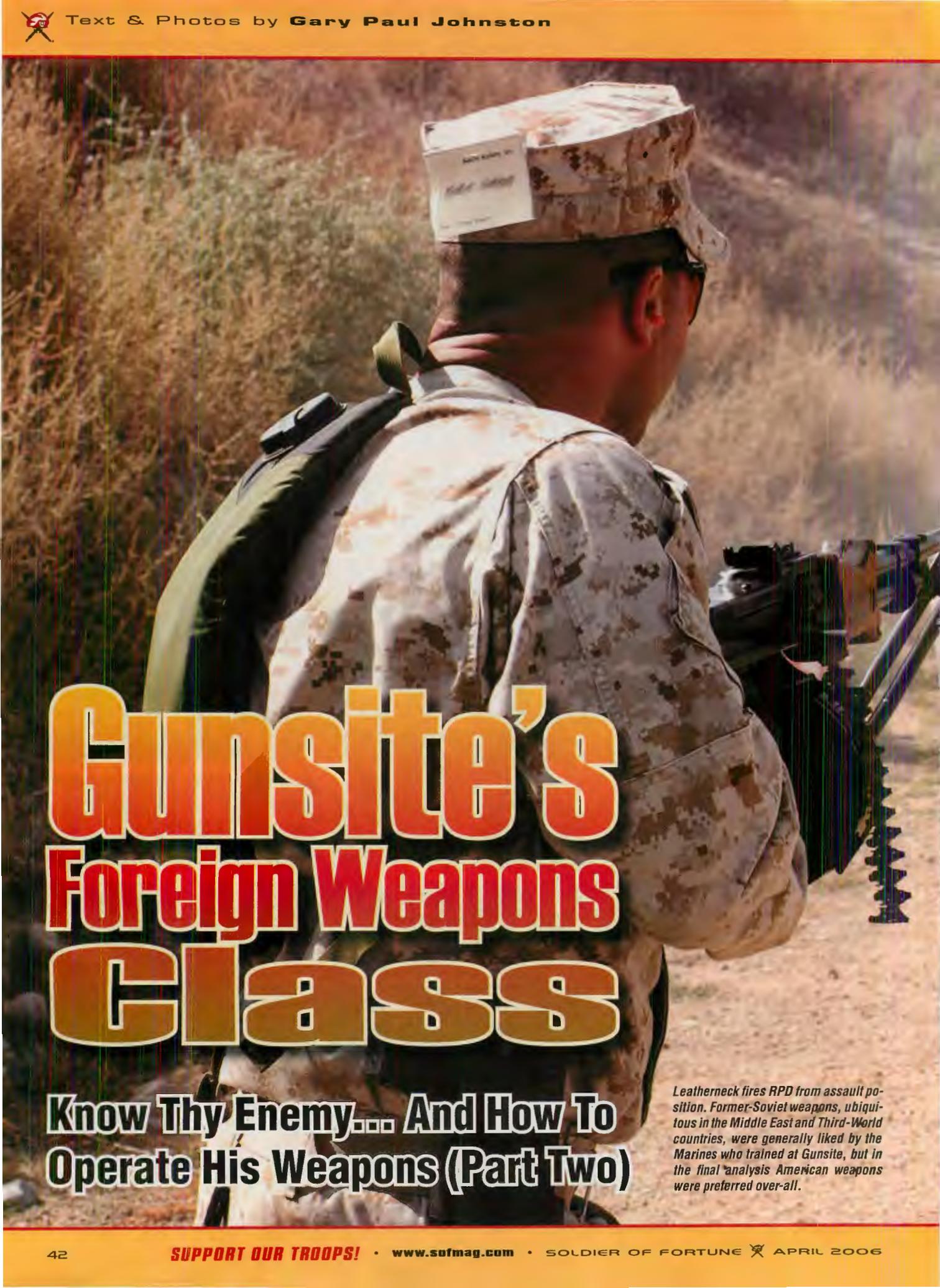


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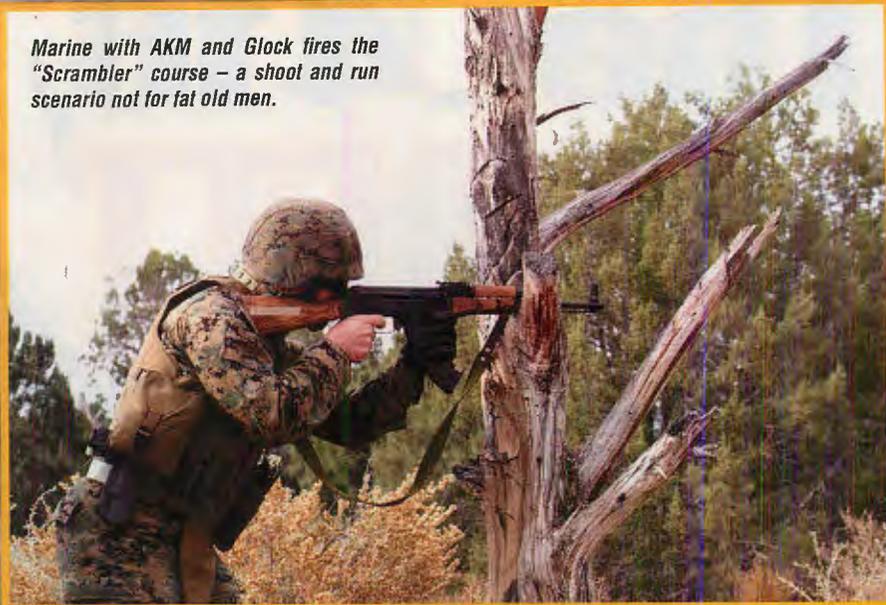


Gunsite's Foreign Weapons Class

**Know Thy Enemy... And How To
Operate His Weapons (Part Two)**

Leatherneck fires RPD from assault position. Former-Soviet weapons, ubiquitous in the Middle East and Third-World countries, were generally liked by the Marines who trained at Gunsite, but in the final analysis American weapons were preferred over-all.

Marine with AKM and Glock fires the "Scrambler" course – a shoot and run scenario not for fat old men.



Last month Johnston dealt with the weapons that Leathernecks are likely to encounter in the Middle East and SW Asia, and this month Gunsite's capable cadre puts the troops through their paces with thousands of rounds of hands-on training that may well save their lives.

The Training

The instructors for the Foreign Weapons class were Rangemaster, Bill Dreeland, Cory Trapp, Eric Olds and Steve Hendricks. All five of these men are Rangemaster qualified and Cory Trapp is Gunsite's on-site Gunsmithy, and is also an expert in automatic weapons. With this skill, Cory handled the main block of familiarization with, and the operation of, the above weapons both in the classroom and on the ranges. Beyond that, Dreeland, Olds and Hendricks handled most of the drills with the guns. The Wolf and Silver Bear ammunition for the various weapons was supplied by J&G Sales, of Prescott, Arizona, where an infinite assortment of specialized ammunition is available.

In addition to historical notes and safety procedures, the Marines were

taught proper disassembly and cleaning of the guns in the classroom, by using both the actual guns and in an excellent slide presentation. In this, Cory Trapp provided a mountain of valuable information about each weapon.

All of the initial live-fire was conducted on several of Gunsite's square ranges and some of it was done there exclusively. Firing of the AKM began with sighting in each rifle by the Marine to whom it was issued. The Marines then went through a series of drills with the AKMs, including speed reloading using a fresh magazine to remove the spent one, and transitioning from the AKM to the Glock pistol.

The SVD Dragonov sniper rifles were fired for familiarization on Gunsite's York Rifle Range where I got some interesting input from one of the Marines we'll call M1.

GPJ – "What do you think of the SVD?"

M1 – "Well, Sir, it's a pretty impressive rifle all right, but it's not too comfortable. I'd hate to be on the wrong end of it, but I'm glad they have to use it instead of me."

GPJ – "I see that some of you are wearing the woodland style green camouflage and others are in desert cammies."

M1 – "Yes, Sir, it just depends on where we were stationed just before we were assigned here, but we'll all be wearing desert cammies when we get to the box."

On Wednesday the Marines got to shoot the machine guns for familiarization. Here's what one of them had to say about the Krinkov. We'll call him M2.

GPJ – "How do you like this little AK?"

M2 – "I guess it's their answer to our M4. It's fun to shoot, but I don't like the metal stock much. It could also use a rail to mount optics. I saw some of these on my last rotation in Iraq, but we didn't get to shoot them, so I'm glad I got to shoot it."

In shooting the PKM LMG's, Cory had the 100-round belts interrupted every 25 rounds with an empty link, so the gunner's assistant would have to open the top cover and re-position the belt just like the reloading procedure.

Continued on page 76

The .416 BARRETT

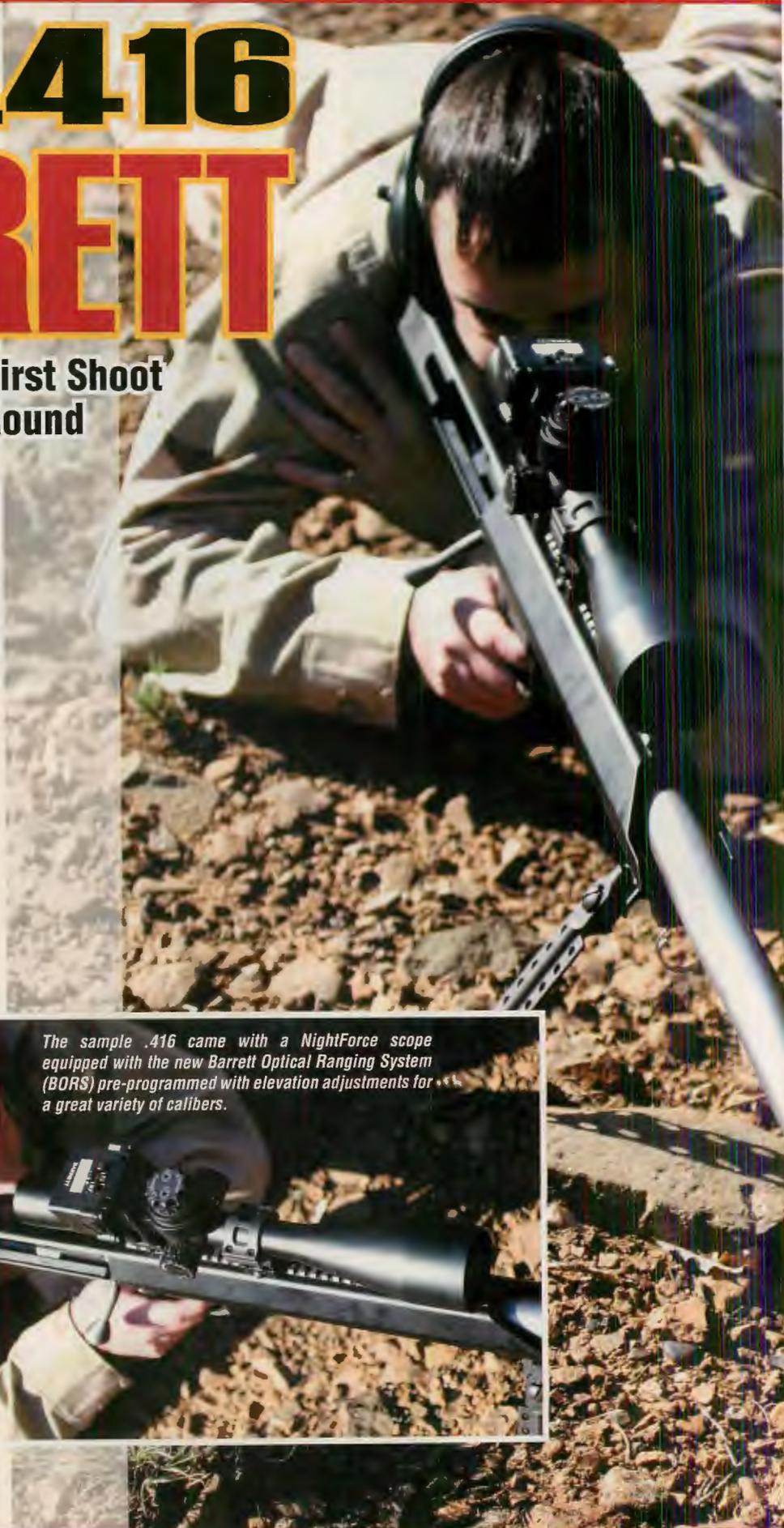
SOF Gets First Look, First Shoot of New Super-Sniper Round

Text & Photos by
Gary Paul Johnston

Early in 2005, I traveled to Barrett Firearms, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee to check out this company's production facility and to see and test some of their new products. Ronnie Barrett and his staff showed me a number of innovative new weapons, including the new Barrett Optical Ranging System (BORS), which was in its infancy at the time.

One of the things I got a close look at was the Barrett XM109 25mm anti-materiel rifle. Based on the proven Barrett M107 that is now standard issue with the Military, this is a 25mm version, firing a high-explosive payload. After I test fired a new short version of Barrett's M468 6.8mm SPC Rifle, Ronnie brought me into his office to discuss a few new ideas as well as a few engineering problems and solutions, and a number of new products.

After what was obviously some deliberation, Ronnie decided to show me one, then another and another prototype piece of gear as well as some fascinating one-of-a-kind prototype weapons being developed by Barrett Firearms. I gave Ronnie my word that I wouldn't photograph or mention any of these industry secrets until he gave me the OK. After more hesitation, Ronnie Barrett said, "OK, come in here." Following Ronnie into the prototype room I heard him tell one of his engineers to give him a round of .416. The engineer looked past Ronnie at me and



The sample .416 came with a NightForce scope equipped with the new Barrett Optical Ranging System (BORS) pre-programmed with elevation adjustments for a great variety of calibers.

Back from Iraq, former 82nd Airborne U.S. Army Sniper Jon Weiler, with the new .416 Barrett. This pre-production sample is built on a Barrett M99 bolt-action rifle.

asked, "Are you sure?" After getting the nod, the engineer retrieved a prototype cartridge and handed it to Ronnie who in turn handed it to me along with a standard .50 BMG round. "This is what I wasn't going to show you," he said. "It's our new four-sixteen Barrett."

As I took the cartridges, I could see that the new .416 was a shortened, smaller caliber round than the .50 BMG, but the headstamp read ".50 BARRETT." Its potential as a long-range cartridge was obvious. Because this was at the height of the .50 BMG ban in California, I asked Ronnie if he had developed the round as an answer to the ban, but Ronnie told me it definitely was not the case.

Ronnie told me Barrett had been working on the .416 project long before the California situation, and that the timing was simply coincidental. Ronnie had other plans for the .416 Barrett and took me back into to his office for a historical perspective.

First introduced in 1916 for use in heavy machine guns, the .50 BMG cartridge amounted to an enlarged version of the .30-06 cartridge. Interestingly, almost a half-century later, L. James Sullivan and Robert Fremont looked at the .50 BMG and scaled it down to create the 5.56x45mm (.223). The .30-'06 and .50 BMG were both developed when smokeless powder cartridges were evolving from higher-capacity black-powder rounds. Thus, both have

The Barrett Optical Ranging System (BORS) mounts directly on the scope and takes control of the elevation knob.



Pre-programmed with many loads, the BORS has a tiny TV screen for instant readout of elevation adjustment to make first-shot hits at extended ranges.

relatively large cases.

In the 1960's, the .50 BMG began its career as a single-shot long-range competition cartridge. The Military also began using this round for long-range sniping from scoped M2 heavy machineguns, even though it had not been designed to be a precision cartridge. Instead, the .50 BMG was a general purpose round and the bulk powders designed for it were never intended for match accuracy. In spite of this, the .50 BMG has done quite well.

However, with the quantum leap in technology in the past half-century, the short magnums have arrived and are proving superior to the older, longer, belted magnums. The same science has always applied to larger cartridges. Barrett took a different angle in developing a new cartridge. Instead of creating yet another short .50 caliber round with .50 BMG performance,



Johnston fires the .416 Barrett at Whittington Center while attending the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association's National Championships.



Ronnie Barrett wanted a new round that would out-perform anything on the block. His solution was to shorten the .50 BMG case and neck it down to .416 caliber. The caliber was chosen with an eye toward hunting and competition also, as there are myriad excellent .416 bullets already on the market. While there are also good selections of bullets in other calibers, such as the .458 – which Steyr chose in its new .460 Steyr – Barrett believes that the .416 is a better choice, as borne out by range testing.

On the Inside

Loaded with 200 grains of a special propellant, the .416 sends a 400-grain solid-brass, boat-tail, spitzer projectile more than 3,300 fps from the 29-inch match-grade barrel of Barrett's Model 99. Barrett settled on the 400-grain projectile because of its superb ballistic coefficient (BC). With a special molycoat, the projectile has a ballistic coefficient of .989. That's just under the 1.05 BC of a 750-grain .50 BMG bullet, but that's not the rest of the story.

With a beginning muzzle velocity of over mach 3, the .416 Barrett stays supersonic past 2,500 yards, or more than 1.3 miles. What's more, it is producing .5 MOA or better accuracy. Although Barrett is currently working with bullet manufacturers to produce hunting ammunition with controlled expansion projectiles traveling at Mach 3+ velocities, they are also looking at long-range competition, but there's much more.

Military Application

All applications to hunting and competition more than apply to the needs of the Military. Last year the U.S. Army adopted the .50 BMG caliber Barrett 82A1 as the M107, a long-range anti-materiel sniping rifle able to use all varieties of .50 BMG ammunition. However, using the .50 BMG against enemy soldiers violates the Geneva Convention. Thus, bullets of less than .50 caliber will probably take the place of the .50 BMG round.

On the other hand, bullets of less than .50 caliber *are* politically correct for the rehabilitation of these fanatics, and are in use now around the world with various countries. The most popular of these sniping rounds is the .338 Lapua with a beltless case based on the .416 Rigby, but the Lapua is being nudged by the .408 CheyTac, which uses a case based on the .505 Gibbs. Even more recent is the .460 Steyr, a .458 caliber round with a shortened case based on the .50 BMG. The .50 DTC is a French development aimed at the civilian competition market and, except for it, the .416 Barrett is competing with all of the above rounds and is counting on its extra long-range capability and accuracy to win.

Along with the established lead of the Barrett M107, the .416 Barrett is fully compatible with that rifle by simply changing barrels, an operation that takes only minutes. The M107's bolt face and magazine both work with Barrett's .416. What's more, according to Barrett the .416's terminal ballistics

are far more effective on living targets at longer ranges than are those of the .50 BMG.

So effective is the .416's 400-grain turned-brass bullet that Barrett has no plans to develop a different one, much less any other military variants, such as tracers, incendiary or armor-piercing bullets.

The BORS

Relax, this has nothing to do with the Dutch, but is the acronym for Barrett Optical Ranging System, and it's another one of the new secrets I saw at Barrett. As this is written, the BORS is so new that not a lot of information is available on it, but here's essentially the

way it works:

The computerized BORS mounts atop a given telescopic sniper scope with its control knob taking over the elevation knob of the scope. Pre-programmed with almost an infinite number of loads, the BORS requires only choosing the one being used, the range, temperature, elevation and etc., and it then instantly gives a readout of the come-ups necessary to make a first-shot hit.

Shots Fired

Ronnie Barrett promised me an exclusive test of the .416 when it was ready and when it was, so was I. For



Shown here are the pre-production 400-grain solid brass .416 Barrett bullet with its driving bands (right) next to the 700-grain .50 BMG projectile used in the Military's M107 Barrett Rifle. Late news is that the new .416 Barrett bullet weighs 400 grains.

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the opportunity, I drove all night to meet Barrett's Jon Weiler at the Whittington Center during the Fifty Caliber Shooter's Association (FCSA) National Championship Matches in Raton, New Mexico in August, 2005. A former U.S. Army Sniper with the 82nd Airborne, Jon recently completed a six-month tour of duty in Iraq before leaving the Army to go to work for Barrett (see story, this issue). The .416 rifle he brought to Whittington was a pre-production prototype.

Built on a Barrett M99 single-shot bolt-action target rifle with a 29-inch barrel, the sample .416 was equipped with a LightForce long-range scope, on top of which was mounted a BORS. Riding right on top of the scope tube, the BORS requires only a quick glance upward to read, to apply the information on its mini-TV screen, but we wouldn't need it at Whittington, as the ranges were all known distances. Because my trip was during the FCSA's National Matches, I was only able to shoot the .416 Barrett at 200 yards, and only during the five-minute breaks during the competition.

When we were out of .416 Barrett ammunition, our groups were just over 2 inches at 200 yards. In view of the 30 MPH gusting wind and the hurried constraints of shooting, stopping and shooting again, I was satisfied that the .416 is a sub-MOA cartridge/rifle combination as Barrett claims. However, dozens of other .416 caliber bullets also exist, many designed for hunting.

As this is written, Barrett has not yet divulged all pertinent information about its new .416 Barrett cartridge. When I asked about the bullet composition, I was told to describe it simply as solid brass, but I can also tell you that

it uses a proprietary-looking molly-coat and has integral driving bands, two of which are visible above the mouth of the case when it is loaded. The propellant, too, is totally proprietary, and is still secret and experimental as of December 2005. By my measurements the specifications for the .416 Barrett cartridge are as follows:

Cartridge OAL:	4.66"
Case OAL:	3.27"
Length of neck:	0.480"
Length of shoulder:	0.338"
Angle of shoulder:	25°
Shoulder to head:	2.490"
OD at shoulder:	0.735"

To date, Barrett's furnished data for the .416 Barrett is as follows:

Parent Case:	.50 BMG
Case Capacity:	200 grains of powder
Projectile:	Solid brass boattail spitzer
Projectile Weight:	395 grains
Projectile Length:	2.0 inches
Ballistic Coefficient:	.989
Cartridge OAL:	4.58"
Max Pressure:	62,500 PSI
Muzzle Velocity:	3,300 fps (remains supersonic past 2,500 yards)
Accuracy in Prototype:	0.5 MOA

The .416 Barrett represents a true 21st Century long-range cartridge that may outclass all other long-range rifle rounds. In addition, it's a friendly round both to shoot and for conversion of all existing .50 BMG rifles, not to mention all Barrett .50 BMG rifles. At the

performance level claimed, the .416 together with the Barrett Optical Ranging System would give U.S. Troops the ability to engage enemy personnel at distances beyond the capability of the .50 BMG and other rounds, and with greater effectiveness. Even though not designed for anti-materiel use, the .416 could certainly be effective in this role if required. However, what role it will have with the U.S. Military remains to be seen.

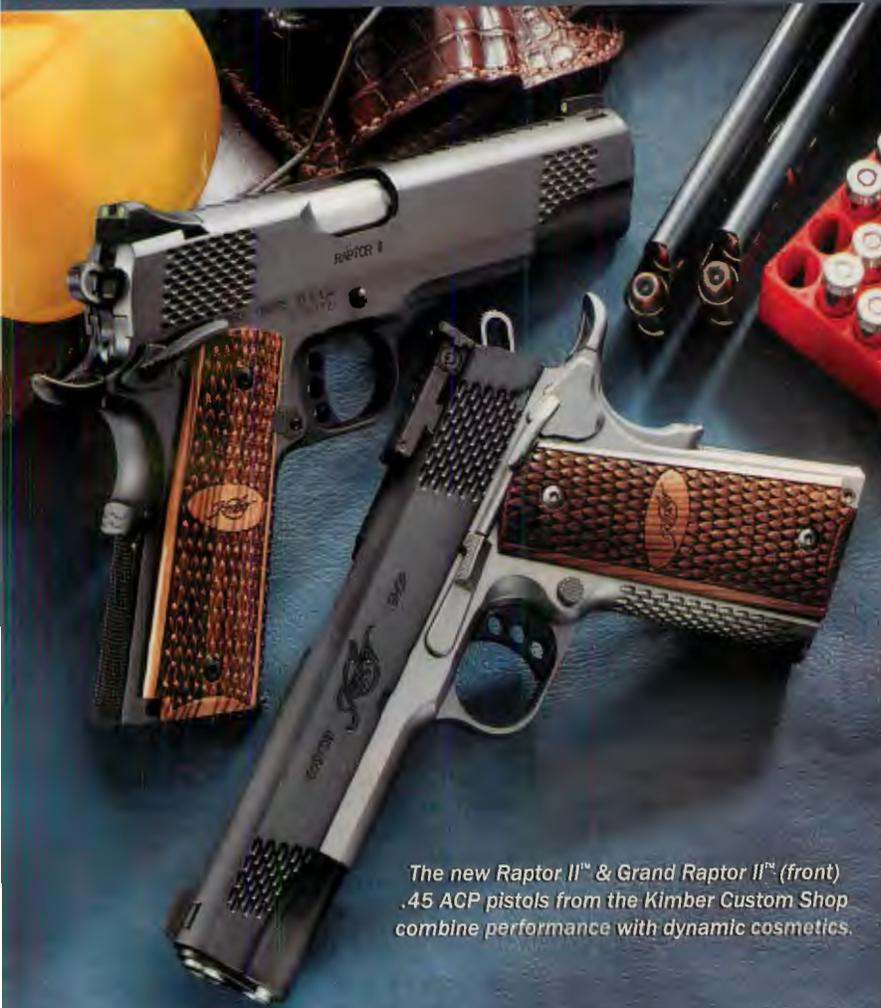
Whether your interests lie in long-range hunting, competition, or tactical use, you'll want to check out the new .416 Barrett. For information on all their fine products, contact Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1077, Murfreesboro, TN 37133; phone: 615-896-2938, on the web at www.barrettrifles.com. ☒

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The .416 Barrett represents a big step forward in long-range cartridges.



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The Ultra Raptor II (above) with 3-inch barrel weighs just 25 ounces. The Pro Raptor II (similar) features a 4-inch barrel and heavier full size frame.



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Continuing The Legacy



Special Forces Train The Dark Continent

**Green Berets Join Multinational Force
To Train Troops in Mauritania**



The trip north was one of the most grueling treks the U.S. Army Special Forces unit had ever made. Not the most dangerous, perhaps, but the 900-kilometer trip through the West African nation, in which the unit carried enough armaments to start a small war, covered territory as unfamiliar as the sight of fresh French bread in an MRE.

But while the trip wasn't glamorous, even for Army rangers, it was necessary. After three days crossing the dusty, red-clay desert on roads only passable by four wheel drive vehicles, the six rangers, none of whom had ever set foot on the Dark Continent, arrived at their destination. And as they tiredly began to unload food, water and training supplies from the back of their flatbed trucks late one night, they began to quietly open up a new front in the war on terrorism.

The Special Forces team that arrived in Mauritania, in early June, was participating in a broad, nine-country exercise in West Africa led by U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. Exercise Flintlock, as the drill was called, kicked off an effort in which U.S. Special Forces teams are training local militaries and give them the SF tools

they need to fend for themselves.

Flintlock follows other recent training the U.S. has conducted with foreign militaries in West Africa. Last year, Army Special Forces and Marines trained units in Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. Flintlock offers much the same, but this time it involved far more people and seven countries.

Despite the Pentagon's focus on Iraq and Afghanistan, senior Defense Department officials say West Africa is becoming increasingly relevant in their effort to defeat terrorism across the globe. With the "squeeze" being put on terrorists in the Middle East, many are finding safe haven in the open lawlessness that is West Africa.

Simply put, U.S. officials say they are trying to take a pre-emptive approach, teaching locals to fend for themselves by helping them to train and secure their own borders to keep terrorists out.

Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and other countries in Africa's Saharan and sub-Saharan regions are some of the world's poorest places, lacking the resources and the know-how to train their own people well enough to combat the outside forces gathering there.

It worked last year, when military

Senegal Army soldiers and U.S. Army Special Operations Command-Europe soldiers perform a static-line parachute jump from an MC-130 Talon above Dakar, Senegal during Exercise Flintlock '05 (inset) An Air Force crew chief communicates to the flight crew of a newly assembled MH-53 helicopter.

and State Department officials, working with local forces, captured Abderrazak le Para, a senior leader from Algeria who is connected to the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, or GSPC. Le Para is thought to have killed thousands of people there and his group is linked to al-Qaida.

"Our success in Afghanistan and our success in Iraq has engendered a diaspora of al-Qaida operatives and cells who are looking elsewhere to establish operations," Army Col. Vic Nelson, the West Africa regional expert at the Pentagon, said last summer. "If you squeeze them in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, they have to go somewhere."

Making Time for Tea

Enter small, autonomous units like the six-man SF team that pushed through the strange desert. Given its orders only months before, members of Operational Detachment Alpha Team 5, Bravo Com-

pany, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, or ODA 025, based in Stuttgart, rolled into Mauritania to begin training a company-size group of Mauritanian soldiers on how to shoot, patrol and take care of the business at hand.

The team isn't there to give the local soldiers fish to eat, officials explain metaphorically — they're teaching them how to fish — hence, fight the war on terrorism by proxy.

"I think we're still at the stage of 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,'" said Joseph E. LeBaron, U.S. ambassador to Mauritania, in an interview in his embassy residence last summer.

The SF team took over a modest, two-story barracks building on a military base on the edge of a small town called Bassikounou. Before dawn each morning, the six men, along with support personnel, a two-person civil affairs detachment and a mechanic, bounced across the desert in a combination convoy that included Toyota Land-cruisers, Humvees and an Army truck to a rifle range to begin the daily routine of battle drills, shoot-and-move exercises and individual movement training. Sometimes it was the local customs that through the rangers. Despite days that could top the mercury at 115 degrees, the unit accepted traditional tea in small glasses offered again and again by a "tea boy" using a makeshift tray that had previously been the top of an ammunition box. But making friends-winning hearts and minds, in Defense Department parlance — is what it's all about. And if that means drinking tea even when it's hot, so be it.

The Americans did their best to narrow the cultural gap.

"It's such an alien world for us," said Keith, the spirited detachment commander for ODA 025, which normally works in European countries but picked up the job at the last minute when 3rd Special Forces Group picked up a high-priority mission.

"On Day One, you don't know them and they don't know you and it's a bunch of Africans looking back at you.

"A week later, they're not a bunch of Africans you don't know. They are smiling and they're motivated."

But for the SF team, the hardest part was trying to fit all the required training into the two-week training period. Progress was hit or miss and, on some days, it was more miss than hit.

Besides the obvious language barrier — two officers from the Mauritanian Army translate the sessions into French and Arabic for a group of about 100 — there are vast professional and cultural differences between the elite SF team and the Mauritians.

Basic skills needed to be reinforced. Muzzle discipline, or lack thereof, was an issue the Americans harped on from Day One.

"Don't point your weapon at anything you're not comfortable shooting," Chris, the team sergeant, said in a constant refrain. The SF team members were permitted to be identified only by their first names under prior agreement.

The Mauritians, in their unique camouflage utilities, black-strap boots and boonie covers, are considered a professional military. They don't need the same amount of training that the U.S. is giving to raw Iraqi recruits.

But the Americans' work was cut out for them. The hardest part of mixing some of the elite U.S. units with soldiers from one of the world's most under-resourced militaries is the fact that in places like Mauritania, they simply don't have the money needed to conduct realistic, sustained training.

Through translators provided by the Mauritanian military, the soldiers in training said they shoot about 60 rifle rounds per year — just a small fraction of the thousands of bullets U.S. infantrymen fire each year.

During the first few hours on the first day of training, each Mauritanian soldier fired more rounds at the rifle range than he would normally shoot in two years' time.

Since each country that participates in Flintlock has varying abilities, training programs have to be tailored specifically to their needs, said Maj. Gen. Thomas Crsnko, commander of U.S. European Command's Special Operations Command.

"Each nation has to be looked at individually," he said. "You can't just take a peanut-butter-spread approach to it."

Crsnko expects, however, that within the next few years, the abilities of the various militaries in West African countries will improve dramatically.

Taking it Seriously?

Flintlock is a precursor to a broader training and civil affairs initiative in



In a blacked-out tent, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ryan Sith uses night-vision goggles to administer an intravenous saline drip.



Air Force Senior Airman Seth Lachowski and Staff Sgt. Allan Harris attach an external fuel tank to an MH-53 Pave Low helicopter.



A Malinese Air Force helicopter departs as U.S. Air Force Airmen from 352nd Special Operations Group assemble their MH-53 Pave Low helicopters.



A jump crew listens to the commands of Army Staff Sgt. Alex Medina during a parachuting dry-run.

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Africa that could cost the Defense and State departments and other agencies as much as \$500 million over the next five years if Congress grants the money. The program, called the Trans-Sahel Counterterrorism Initiative, aims to get the full funding for five years because it's all about creating long-term relationships, Nelson said.

But teaching Africans the lessons they and their new partners agree they need to learn may be a long haul. On the final day of training, members of ODA 025 wanted their charges to complete a relatively simple live-fire and maneuver exercise that would demonstrate what they learned over the past week.

But as the exercise began to unfold at dusk in the scrubby badlands just outside town, it became clear to the Americans that they hadn't been entirely successful.

The Mauritians had been told to "take that hill," or at least to occupy a makeshift objective at the bottom of a hill. They were then to establish a fire-support position to the east and conduct the assault from a point just to the north.

The problem became getting the locals to focus.

Just as the exercise to take the pretend objective was to begin, it was time for the Mauritians to pray. Men who were supposed to be performing rear security for one of the support elements weren't paying attention or even looking in the right direction.

The assault element in the exercise ran past the objective, taking up a position that would have put it in jeopardy if this had been an actual operation.

Earlier in the day, when the Mauritanian Army was to conduct a reconnaissance mission to plan for the afternoon exercise, they first stopped to build a fire and make their traditional tea.

Watching it all from the top of a berm, Keith had a pained look. "They just don't take it seriously," he said.

Mastering the Basics

The expectations of Keith and his men were, perhaps, a bit high. Highly trained to perform some of America's riskiest missions, many in secret, the teams are also experts in training foreign militaries. They had spent a week on the rifle range with the Mauritians, firing more training rounds than the army normally shoots over three or four years' time.

Nearly all the training the men received was on par with what an infantryman would receive during training

at one of the U.S. Army's basic training camps. It invigorated the men, and many were motivated to learn more from the Americans.

Most had shown dramatic improvements. But despite the fact that the local army was not particularly well-trained to begin with and had only received a week of training under the SF unit, members of the team said the fire-and-maneuver exercise this day should not confound the Mauritians.

"This is very, very simple, very basic," said Keith, another member of the SF team who shares the first name of the detachment commander. "So I guess the answer is 'yes, they can do it.'" In the end, the assault element failed to effectively take the objective — an enormous sheet hung over tent poles in which a cylinder of stolen, weapons-grade plutonium was supposedly being hidden.

The Mauritanian medics had treated patients on the battlefield where they themselves could have been killed in a real operation, and the fire support element hit their target only at the end of the exercise, when they were trying to use up their excess ammunition.

About 40 men were "killed" in the fight. But the real proof of the failure of the exercise came when the Mauritians huddled around the silhouettes used to represent the bad guys — targets that had been placed around the objective. There was only a sprinkling of bullet holes in any of the targets, despite the barrage of bullets the Mauritians had fired.

"Operation Teabag," as the exercise had been dubbed by the detachment commander, was a resounding failure, the Americans said.

In a tough-love lecture after the exercise, Chris, the SF team's team sergeant, told the men he was disappointed.

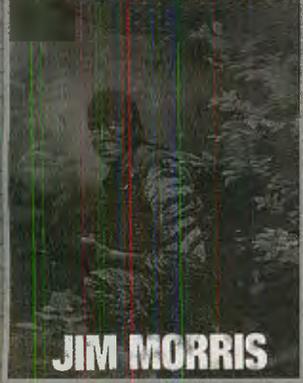
"You do that against the GSPC, they're going to shoot you and you're going to die and your mother is going to cry," he told them, to stifled laughter. "And when you die, that's one less gun in the fight."

The SF team left two days later; other SF detachments will return to Mauritania later this year to train another army unit.

Chris urged the group to take their lessons learned and get it right: the next time it might be for real, he told them.

"Think about your 40 comrades who are dead right now; the next time you train to fight," he said. "It's not a game." ❦

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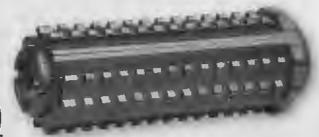
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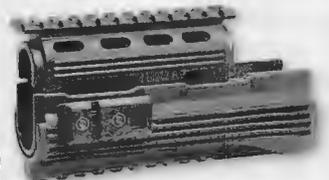
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Memorial ceremonies for the men killed on USS *Intrepid*, held at Tripoli, 2 April 1949.

By April 8, the expedition's supplies were nearly gone and Hamet's Arab followers were refusing to continue. Furious, Eaton ordered that no more supplies were to be distributed to the Arab cavalry. He hoped that their hunger would compel them to move forward, but it only added to the growing tensions inside the expedition. These tensions nearly boiled over into outright violence when a group of irate Arabs attempted to storm the supply tent. Anticipating such an action, Eaton had positioned O'Bannon's marines in front of the supply tent. Both groups now stared at each other with their weapons drawn. The vastly outnumbered marines held their ground, although they knew that the slightest provocation would result in a massacre. Eaton nearly provided that provocation when, in his usual blunt manner, he began insulting the Arabs and claiming that they were afraid to fight. He hoped that his taunts would shame them into backing down, but it nearly resulted in catastrophe. It wasn't until Hamet rode between the two groups that cooler heads prevailed. After a week of rest, Eaton and his army set off to cross the final 60 miles to Derna.

Combined Arms Attack

Derna, a city of roughly 10,000 inhabitants, was defended by a garrison of 800 troops. "General" Eaton's plan called for a two-pronged attack. An assault force of 60 marines and mercenar-

ies, lead by O'Bannon, would attack the city's barricades while Hamet and 200 Arab horsemen would attack the city from the south. The rest of the Arab cavalry would remain to the south of the city to act as a reserve and prevent any relief forces from reaching Derna. The operation would be assisted by covering fire from three American vessels, the *Argus*, *Hornet* and *Nautilus*.

The battle began the next morning when Derna's shore batteries fired at the American vessels in the harbor. The ships responded with broadsides, and soon the air was filled with cannon and musket fire. The opening rounds of the battle went well for Eaton's forces. The American ships succeeded in silencing the shore batteries, and Hamet's Arabs managed to capture an old castle on the outskirts of the city. However, O'Bannon's strike force was pinned down under heavy fire from the city's defenders. Eaton knew that the undisciplined mercenaries would flee if something wasn't done immediately. In his typical grandiose fashion, he decided to charge.

Amazingly, even though the defenders outnumbered the attackers by nearly 10 to 1, they retreated in the face of Eaton's insane bayonet assault. The marines stormed the barricades and took

possession of the shore batteries. Eaton was shot in the left wrist during the assault, but he and O'Bannon still managed to raise the American flag above the fort at the Derna harbor. It was the first time that the Stars and Stripes had ever flown over foreign territory.

The Prize

Eaton's men aimed the fort's cannons toward Derna and joined the American warships in shelling the city. Hamet's force pressed the assault from the south and managed to capture the governor's palace. With the fall of the palace, all resistance ended. The battle to capture the city was over. However, the battle to hold the city had just begun. It turned out that Hamet's fears of a relief force were well founded. An army sent by Bey Yusef was only a few days march away. The attack came on May 13 when Hassan, the commander of Yusef's relief column, led 1,200 men against Derna. They overwhelmed an outpost defended by Hamet's Arabs and rapidly closed in on the city. Eaton pointed the guns from his newly renamed Fort Enterprise toward Hassan's attacking column. The withering cannon fire, along with broadsides from the American ships, managed to drive back the attackers.

When news of Eaton's victory reached Tripoli, Bey Yusef became worried. With American ships blockading his harbor, and Eaton's forces approaching from the east, he was in an unenviable position. Yusef immediately resumed peace negotiations with the Americans. However, he also continued to dispatch reinforcements to the relief column outside Derna. By June, Hassan's army had grown to almost 5,000 men. On June 11, he renewed his assault on Derna.

This last engagement became a savage duel between Hassan's men and Hamet's Arab cavalry. The deposed Bey carried himself well throughout

the ordeal, bravely leading his men in repeated attacks and counter-attacks. Eaton watched the battle unfold from the city's battlements while he prepared the city's defenses. After four grueling hours, Hamet finally managed to drive off Hassan's forces. His courage under fire had finally justified Eaton's contin-

Continued on page 58



William Eaton

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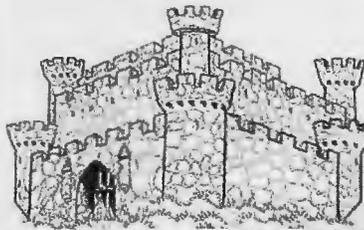
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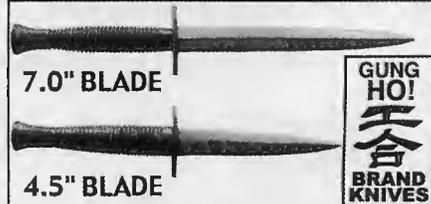
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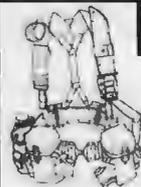
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ued faith in him. Unfortunately, it came too late to save the expedition.

Game Over

Unknown to the combatants at Derna, Bey Yusef had finally bowed to the growing pressure and signed a peace agreement on June 3. He even agreed to release the captive crew of the *Philadelphia*. The war was over, and Eaton was ordered to evacuate Derna. Anticipating Eaton's refusal, the American squadron had already dispatched the *Constellation* to bring him home. When the ship arrived with explicit orders to evacuate Derna, Eaton knew that his cause was lost. His supplies were running low and he had no hope of continuing the expedition without American military support. His dreams of conquest shattered, Eaton begrudgingly agreed to leave. Under the cover of darkness Eaton, O'Bannon, Hamet and a handful of men filed into the *Constellation's* lifeboats and rowed silently into the harbor toward the waiting ship.

Eaton's life went downhill rapidly after returning from Derna. He began drinking heavily and was seen roaming the streets of Washington in Bedouin

robes. In the eyes of many, the great conqueror of Derna had degenerated into a comic figure. He retreated into virtual isolation in Maine and drank himself into a stupor. His health deteriorated rapidly, and he finally succumbed from drink, depression and illness on June 1, 1811.

Foreshadowing Battles to Come

Although he came to a sad end, Eaton's capture of Derna showed that the fledgling Marine Corps could do more than snipe enemy officers in naval engagements. It could also hold its own in a land campaign against an asymmetric opponent. Although the entire conflict involved only eight marines, the lessons and inspirations of Eaton's campaign can be seen today in the modern Marine Corps. The conquest of Derna provided the inspiration for the famous second line of the "Marine Corps Hymn." In addition, Lt. Presley O'Bannon's courage under fire made him one of the first true heroes of the Corps. For the rest of his days, the grateful public referred to O'Bannon as the "Hero of Derna." He became so well known that the Mameluk sword awarded to him by Hamet

became the model for all Marine Corps' officer swords. O'Bannon died in 1850, and his grave in Frankfurt Cemetery is still a popular site for tourists and ex-marines alike.

If you want to understand the present, then you must first understand the past. That is true of any conflict, and the current war on terror is no exception. While a great deal of attention is paid to preparing young Marines for combat, not enough attention is paid to teaching them the lessons of past conflicts. The Battle of Derna is a perfect example of this. New recruits are often shocked, frightened and confused by the tactics of asymmetric opponents in the Muslim world. This need not be the case. After all, the Marine Corps has been down this road before. ✕

Mark S. Longo has spent years exploring the forgotten and overlooked aspects of world history for a wide variety of publications. He is currently compiling his most popular articles into one volume. "Giants, Myths & Devils: The Forgotten Heroes, Brutal Villains and Bizarre Misconceptions that Shaped Our World" should be on bookstore shelves later this year.



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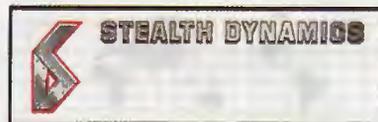
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This illustration is used for graphic purposes only... It does not accurately represent the real world. Note that the reticle on the scope does not represent a 12-foot holdover. SSG Gilliland is pictured here with a suppressed M4 carbine, not the M24 sniper rifle with which he made his magnificent one round kill on enemy insurgent.

SSG Gilliland's Three-Quarter-Mile Shot A Probable Record

Squinting through the telescopic sight of his M24 rifle, Staff Sergeant Jim Gilliland, leader of Shadow sniper team, fixed his eye on the Iraqi insurgent who had just killed an American soldier.

His quarry stood nonchalantly in the fourth-floor bay window of a hospital in battle-torn Ramadi, still clasping a long-barrelled Kalashnikov. Carefully allowing for wind speed and bullet drop, Shadow's commander held 12 feet high.

A single round hit the Iraqi in the chest and killed him instantly. It had been fired from a range of 1,250 meters, well beyond the capacity of the powerful Leupold sight, calibrated to 1,000 meters.

"I believe it is the longest confirmed kill in Iraq with a 7.62mm rifle," said Gilliland, 28, who hunted squirrels in Double Springs, Alabama from the age of five before progressing to deer -- and

then enemy soldiers.

Luck Favors the Accurate

"He was visible only from the waist up. It was a one in a million shot. I could probably shoot a whole box of ammunition and never hit him again."

Later that day, Gilliland found out that the dead soldier was SSG Jason Benford, 30, a good friend.

The insurgent was one of between 55 and 65 he estimates that he has brought down in less than five months, putting him within striking distance of sniper legends such as Marine Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock, who recorded 93 confirmed kills in Vietnam. One of Gilliland's men, Specialist Aaron Arnold, 22, of Medway, Ohio, has chalked up a similar tally.

"It was elating, but only afterwards," said Gilliland, recalling the 27 September shot. "At the time, there was no

high-fiving. You've got troops under fire, taking casualties and you're not thinking about anything other than finding a target and putting it down. Every shot is for the betterment of our cause."

All told, the 10-strong Shadow sniper team, attached to Task Force 2/69, has killed just under 200 in the same period -- and emerged as the U.S. Army's secret weapon in Ramadi against the threat of the hidden Improvised Explosive Device (IED) or roadside bomb -- the insurgency's deadliest tactic.

Above the spot from which Gilliland took his record shot, in a room at the top of a bombed-out observation post that is code-named Hotel and known jokingly to soldiers as the Ramadi Inn, are graffitied, "Kill Them All" and "Kill Like you Mean it."

On another wall are scrawled the words of Senator John McCain: "America is great not because of what she has

done for herself but because of what she has done for others."

The juxtaposition of macho slogans and noble political rhetoric encapsulates the dirty, dangerous and often callous job the sniper has to carry out as an integral part of a campaign ultimately being waged to help the Iraqi people.

Buying Time For Democracy, One Round At A Time

With masterful understatement, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Roggeman, the Task Force 2/69 commander, conceded, "The romantic in me is disappointed with the reception we've received in Ramadi," a town of 400,000 on the banks of the Euphrates where graffiti boasts, with more than a degree of accuracy, "This is the graveyard of the Americans."

"We're the outsiders, the infidels," he said. "Every time somebody goes out that main gate he might not come back. It's still a running gun battle."

Highly effective though they are, the Colonel worries about the burden his snipers have to bear. "It's a very God-like role. They have the power of life

and death that, if not held in check, can run out of control. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. "Every shot has to be measured against the Rules of Engagement [ROE], positive identification and proportionality."

Gilliland explains that his Shadow team operates at the "borderlines" of the ROE, making snap judgments about whether a figure in their crosshairs is an insurgent or and innocent. "[Even] hunters give their animals respect," he said, spitting out a mouthful of chewing tobacco. "If you have no respect for what you do, you're not going to be very good or you're going to make a mistake. We try to give the benefit of the doubt.

"You've got to live with it. It's on your conscience. It's something you've got to carry away with you. And if you shoot somebody just walking down the street, then that's probably going to haunt you."

Although killing with a single shot carries an enormous cachet within the sniper world, their most successful engagements have involved the shooting of up to 10 members of a single IED team.

"The one-shot-one-kill thing is one of beauty, but killing all the bad dudes is even more attractive," observed Gilliland, whose motto is "Move fast, shoot straight and leave the rest to the lawyers in 10 years." He signs off his e-mails with "silent souls make.308 holes."

Whether Shadow team's work will ultimately make a pivotal difference in Iraq is open to question. No matter how many insurgents they shoot, there seems no shortage of recruits to plant bombs.

Colonel John Gronski, the overall United States commander in Ramadi, said there could not be a military solution. "You could spend years putting snipers out and killing IED emplacers, and at the political level it would make no difference."

As they prepare to leave Iraq, however, Gilliland and his men hope that they have bought a little more time for the country's politicians to fix peace and stability in their sights. ✕

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The First Ever S&W 1911 Made Especially for GUNSITE!

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

When Smith & Wesson introduced its own version of the Model of 1911 .45 ACP caliber pistol, the gun industry shook. This then-new 1911 producer became yet another in a growing number that was approaching twenty. This new 1911 spawned questions like, "How many 1911 pistols can the market stand," and "Who will buy them?" My answers were something like "I don't know," and "everyone who likes 1911's."

Since its inception, the Model of 1911 has remained a popular pistol, even during the Great Depression, largely due to its adoption by the U.S. Military and others. Now, thanks largely to Col. Jeff Cooper, not only is this gun more popular than ever, there is an increasing selection from top-quality manufacturers. We're also in the third generation of "Baby Boomers," millions of whom are shooters who have grown up with the 1911 pistol, and are passing their fondness for it to their children and their friends.

Scandium

After producing variations of its 1911 pistol in stainless steel and carbon steel, Smith & Wesson introduced a compact version with a frame of Scandium alloy. A rare and very expensive element, Scandium is added to aircraft-quality aluminum in very

small amounts to create a lightweight alloy that has the tensile strength of steel. The result is an ultra lightweight frame that will show no wear after many thousands of rounds.

The initial S&W .45 ACP 1911 Scandium pistol was the SW1911PD, a compact model with a 4.25" stainless-steel barrel and a stainless-steel barrel bushing. The well-fit barrel also has a .0005" increase in diameter at its muzzle. However, while the entire fit-up of the barrel/slide/frame is excellent, tolerances are by no means so small as to contribute to malfunctions. Below the barrel is a full-length stainless-steel guide rod with a hollow recoil-spring plug, but more on that later.

Atop the slide is a dovetailed combat blade front sight with a white dot, and just behind it on either side of the slide are 16 front cocking-serrations that are identical to the same number found at the rear. While some actually dislike front serrations, I find them extremely useful for doing safe "pressure checks." At the rear of the barrel hood is a window to detect the presence of a casing in the chamber (if there is enough ambient light to see it). While this window amounts to a "poor man's" loaded chamber indicator, it is done primarily for liability reasons (love them lawyers), and nearly all modern 1911's now have them. However, I



Above the serial number is stamped SW1911PD. The serial prefix, FSP, stands for Front Sight - Press. Note the exterior extractor and GUNSITE Raven on the slide along with the genuine Novak LoMount rear sight.



(left) The Novak Front Sight on the new Gunsite Pistol comes with a brass bead. (top left) The SW1911PD's full-length guide rod was wisely left out of the Gunsite version. (above) Wayne Novak fires the new S&W Gunsite Pistol equipped with his sights.

strongly recommend using the pressure check instead.

The ejection port is nicely lowered and slightly flared at the rear. The extractor is rugged and reliable and operates via a coil spring. On the back of the slide is a genuine Novak LoMount Rear Sight, not some cheap foreign copy, but a real Novak Sight.

Behind and below the rear sight is an attractive skeletonized speed hammer with a rounded spur with an upward angle for cocking. The hammer's neck is also slightly narrowed to clear the slide cut. Complementing all this is a well-shaped "beavertail" grip safety with a raised pad on the bottom and an equally well designed extended safety. The slide stop is

wisely left unextended.

Checkered with 20 lines per inch (LPI) is a flat synthetic mainspring housing, this to reduce weight. An 8-round ACT-MAG comes standard in the perfectly beveled magazine well, and 30 LPI vertical grooves are also standard on the front strap. Above these is the checkered and slightly extended magazine release. It has a lightweight alloy long trigger that is adjustable for over-travel, and the SW1911PD comes with a set of Laser Grips that are standard equipment.

All external metal is beautifully machined and perfectly "melted" with all sharp corners de-burred, and all functions are tight, light and crisp like one would expect to find on a handmade custom 1911 pistol.

A Version for Gunsite

As testimony to the quality of the SW1911PD, it has been adopted by Gunsite Academy, of Paulden, Arizona, as the

The ACT-MAG Magazine

Furnished with each new Smith & Wesson Gunsite Pistol are two ACT-MAG 8-round .45 ACP magazines from PSI. The largest 1911 magazine supplier in the United States, PSI and ACT-MAG have nearly 20 years experience in designing and producing magazines. PSI also supplies the Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable Rear Sight for a number of pistols, and Wayne Novak had significant input in the ACT-MAG 1911 magazine.

According to PSI's President Jay



Hard, ACT-MAG had a high quality 1911 magazine, which Wayne Novak wanted to adopt, but first Wayne made modifications to the feed lips for optimum reliability. He also made a subtle change to the angle of the cut for the magazine catch, for better release during

magazine changes.

Made of a proprietary steel alloy, the ACT-MAG is heat treated to provide a surface hardness for long wear and optimum strength. After receiving a high polish, a patented hard-coat blue finish is applied to the body of

the standard magazine, which can also be had with a hard nickel or Parkerized finish. The hardened magazine follower is also finished in bright nickel and the spring is made of the finest music wire.

Also made of a proprietary material is the ACT-MAG's glass-reinforced base plate. Being nearly impossible to break, this base plate is quickly removable for cleaning. The ACT-MAG is now standard equipment with a half-dozen makers of 1911 pistols and is now being tested by the U.S. Military. The company also makes magazines for other models.

For information on ACT-MAG magazines and sights, contact PSI-LLC, 2 Klarides Village Dr., Ste. 336, Dept. SOF, Seymour, CT 06483; phone: 877-526-0980, on the web at www.precisionsights.com. ☒

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After pieing the door, Johnston engages a target with the S&W Gunsite Pistol. Photo: Andrew Blumenthal

New Gunsite Pistol. Smith & Wesson will make an initial production of 1,000 Gunsite Pistols. The pistol differs from the standard SW1911PD as follows:

- The Novak Front Sight has a brass bead.
- There is no full-length recoil spring guide.
- The famous Gunsite Raven logo is found on both sides of the slide.
- The frame bears a unique serial number range with a prefix of FPS.
- The walnut grips are called Tactical Oval and were designed by Wiley Clapp.

That's it. The .45 ACP SW1911PD proved so good that Gunsite essentially adopted it as it was. Incidentally, the letters "FPS" in the serial number stand for Front Sight – Press, the key to hitting where one is aiming, and seeing the front sight and pressing the trigger would mean the difference between hits and misses during the week ahead. The serial number range of the Gunsite Pistol began with FSP0001 and on the frame above the number is stamped SW1911PD.

Introduced by Smith & Wesson and Gunsite the last week of October 2005, the S&W Gunsite Pistol was the feature of a special 250 Basic Pistol Class to which I am honored to have been invited. For the class, 40 of the new S&W Gunsite Pistols were provided along with holsters, magazine pouches and light holders from Blade-Tech, SureFire Lights from SureFire, .45 ACP ammunition from Black Hills, 8-shot ACT-MAG magazines from PSI and cleaning accessories and other equipment from Brownell's. In addition to a long list of shooters, including SOF's own Col. Robert K. Brown, the Outdoor Channel was on hand to film the entire event.

This was my 6th class at Gunsite

and my second 250 Basic, that having been my first class in 1981. Gunsite has changed during those years and all for the better. In addition to many square ranges and automatic targets, there are multiple indoor simulators and outdoor trail walks resulting in no down time and multi-faceted training. Trigger time would amount to five days of intensive shooting leaving about 25,000 pieces of .45 ACP brass on the ground.

I found the S&W Gunsite Pistol lean and clean and a delight to use. The unique S&W Tactical Oval Grips provided good purchase and proved easy on clothing when carried concealed. On the right panel is laser engraved the Gunsite Raven logo with the Smith & Wesson logo on the left panel.

Although recoil was more than from the SW1911PD with its full-length guide rod, I didn't mind it very much, but it became more noticeable as the week went on and our hands became more tender. In the accuracy department the new Gunsite Pistol shot better than any of us could hold it, although virtually all of the firing ran from timed to hammered shots. Being wider at the back, Wiley Clapp's Tactical Oval Grips soaked up a little more of the recoil than would be the case with standard grips. Incidentally, several styles of Wiley's Tactical Oval Grips are available from Herretts, of Idaho.

Holsters

The new S&W Gunsite Pistol will ride with pride in any holster designed for "Commander" length 1911 pistols, but they rode in their Blade-Tech Kydex rigs during the Gunsite 250 Class. The Blade-Tech accessories were all done in



Col. Robert K. Brown prepares to enter Gunsite's Fun House as Instructor Chris Weare looks on. Photo: Andrew Blumenthal

Smith & Wesson Blue, with the Gunsite Raven logo on the front and the S&W logo on the rear, making this one of the rarest holsters in the world. To keep my holster and pouches in place, I cinched them up on an Instructor Belt from Wilderness Tactical Products just down the road in Phoenix, Arizona.

Under the watchful eyes of Range Master Ed Stock, it didn't take long for most of us to get in the groove during the first morning. When we weren't shooting we were stuffing ACT-MAG magazines and drinking water under the bright Arizona sun. Designed by Wayne Novak, the ACT-MAG was created with total reliability as the goal. Wanting to see just how far my gun would go without maintenance, I never cleaned the pistol during the course yet it failed to completely chamber a round on only three occasions, requiring only a tap, roll and rack to get back into action.

On the fourth day we began shooting inside the indoor simulators and going

for tactical walks in the outdoor simulators left by centuries of desert flash floods. Here taking corners a slice at a time often revealed a hidden paper or steel target for us to identify and either clear or shoot, sometimes after giving it orders. In the indoor simulators our instructor, Chris Weare, would play the part of the target yelling "Don't Shoot, I give up," or telling us to stick it where the sun doesn't shine. In the latter case it would be one or two shots and a "clang" when the steel hit the ground. On the tactical walks, Instructor, Il Ling New, watched our every move, telling us when we were doing well, or not so well, as we carefully traversed the natural rocky terrain using anything available for cover or concealment.

Most reloads were of the tactical type where the partially empty magazine is retained as the fresh one is slammed into the pistol, but we also did many speed reloads. In this case the used magazine is allowed to fall to the ground as another is shoved up the

magazine well to get back into the action as fast as possible. Both methods are important to know.

Position shooting was also taught and practiced, and proved important in the simulators where unorthodox positions are sometimes called for. Expecting a lot of position shooting I brought along a set of KneePro knee pads from KP Industries, of California, in addition to this company's brand new elbow protectors that proved superior to all others I have used.

Sporting a few cuts and bruises I went into the final day with an open mind and a very dirty Gunsite Pistol. Some 250 rounds later I was tired when the last shot was fired and we headed back to the classroom for some final thoughts and our diplomas. How'd I do? I had a very good week and speaking of shooters, Col. Brown proved that he still has plenty of get up and go when it comes to operating a 1911 pistol. Some students, having never fired a 1911 pistol before, made great strides during the week to the point where they can now protect themselves with the big forty-five.

That's pretty much what Gunsite is all about – protecting yourself and your loved ones or the citizens you serve. Personal protection is more important now than it was when I first went to Gunsite 24 years ago, and I predict it will become even more crucial in the coming months. If you want to learn how to protect yourself with a firearm,

Specifications: SW1911PD

Caliber:	.45 ACP.	Muzzle Velocity:	900 fps.
Barrel Length:	4.25 oz.	Overall Length:	8.75".
Weight:	27 oz.		
Feed Device:	8-round ACT-MAG, or any 1911 magazine.		
Safety:	Thumb safety, firing pin block and grip safety.		
Sights:	Novak LoMount Sights.		
Grips:	Smooth Walnut Tactical Oval with Gunsight and S&W logos.		
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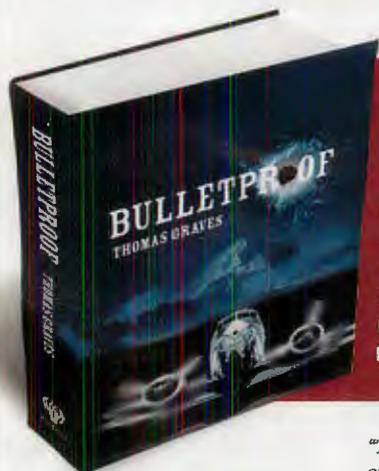
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stan, American Marines alone have been awarded eight Navy Crosses, 35 Silver Stars, 617 Bronze Stars with "V," 1,126 Bronze Stars, and 5,197 Purple Hearts.

For its part, the White House has made an effort to play up heroes. In his speeches on Iraq, the president frequently singles out soldiers and sailors. Last month in Annapolis, Bush cited Marine Corporal Jeff Starr, who had been killed in Ramadi. He left behind a message on his laptop and the president read a portion of it. "If you're reading this, then I've died in Iraq," he wrote. "I don't regret going. Everybody dies, but few get to do it for something as important as freedom."

Last July 4, Bush spoke at West Virginia University and mentioned two men who'd served in Iraq with the state's National Guard. One of them, Lieutenant James McCormick, had just written him a letter. "If needed, all of us would return and continue the mission," McCormick wrote. "It's a just and much needed fight."

Bill McGurn, the chief White House speechwriter, says the stories of heroism are easy to find. "There are gazillions of them," he says. "It's like dipping your hand in a barrel and pulling one out." And when the president mentions a brave American service man or woman, that person tends to get some press coverage, if only in a hometown paper.

There is an exception to the rule on heroes. Beginning in May 2004, CBS News

began running a short feature on "fallen heroes" on its evening news show - every night. A few sentences touched on the life and death of a deceased soldier. Despite the name, however, these stories did not focus on heroism. Then on December 5, 2005, CBS revamped the feature and began calling it "American Heroes." The segment was expanded to include, as anchor Bob Schieffer put it, "not only those killed in the war zones, but also those who display exceptional courage on the battlefield and beyond."

On December 8, the hero was Gary Villalobos. He and his lieutenant were ambushed during a house-to-house hunt for enemy soldiers. The lieutenant was killed. Villalobos didn't retreat. He fought off insurgents and risked his life to protect a fellow soldier. In all, the CBS segment consisted of only 67 words - but words rarely spoken by the media.

The CBS feature, as admirable as it is, won't create national heroes. The segments are too short and involve a different person each night. For a soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan to achieve national renown - to become a celebrity even - the media would have to dwell on his heroism. That didn't happen with Paul Ray Smith. So don't get your hopes up. ✂

Fred Barnes is executive editor of The Weekly Standard.

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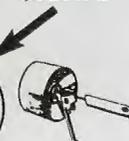
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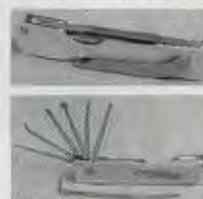


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MTM SPECIAL-OPS WATCH

The MTM Special Ops watch features a unidirectional bezel and is water resistant to 330 feet. The case of the MTM Special Ops watch is carved from a single block of dense 316L (surgical) stainless steel, which gives the watch its beefy, hefty feel and look. If you want a solid, substantial look, then this is the watch for you. When it comes to sizing the solid stainless steel band, MTM has taken away the inconvenience of having to go to a jeweler: The links are secured with Allen screws and are easily removed with an Allen key (supplied). The band also has a very secure double-locking clasp. What separates the MTM Special Ops watch from all the watches that have come before are its dial illumination features: Press the button at the 2 o'clock position once and three deep-blue LED's begin to internally envelope the dial face, making it possible to read the dial in complete darkness. Press again and three of the brightest orange LED lamps ever seen in a watch light up like a torch -- so bright that it can be seen up to one mile away in the dark and can be used to light up a map or signal to aircraft when in distress. Because of the amount of juice the lights pull on the battery, an electromagnetic charger is included that can fully charge the 10-year lithium ion battery overnight, just by placing the watch on the battery stand. Again, no need to go to a jeweler to change batteries for at least 10 years. If the light feature is used a couple of times a day you would need to charge approximately once a month, otherwise it would run for about 1 year before charging is required.

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at Bridgeport, California, was shooting with us. He is a great instructor, with vast experience in this difficult application of a sniper's role.

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Bill Davison is owner of Tac Pro Shooting Center, 35100 N. Hwy 108, Mingus, TX 76463; phone: 254-968-3112 (www.tacproshootingcenter.com).

(top) Frankie (Ice) Icenogle draws a bead on a target far away in the valley below. With their superb accuracy and good handling characteristics, the AI rifles were liked by all who fired them from the Rocket Mountain promontory. (bottom) From left to right, Dan Herman, Tony Icenogle, Bill Davison, Frankie Icenogle and Marty Bordson – the lords of Rocket Mountain.



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GPJ - "You looked like you were having a good time shooting this gun."

M3 - "Yes Sir, it's a pretty good gun...Very reliable."

GPJ - "All it needs is a rail on the top cover."

M3 - "Yes, Sir, a rail would be a good thing to have on it."

GPJ - "How does it compare with the M240G?"

M3 - "I'd like to see the 240 this light, but I'd take the 240 over it."

When one Marine fired the RPD he let out a yell of approval, so I asked him how he liked it.

GPJ - "That's a pretty slick gun isn't it?"

M4 - "Oh, yes Sir. That's what I call a neat little gun!"

GPJ - "Did you ever see one in Iraq?"

M4 - "No. When we took Fallujah, we found lots of these drums, but I never knew what they were for. I guess they left the drums and took the guns. Maybe we'll find 'em when we go back."



Skill in transitioning to the pistol makes carrying a sidearm worthwhile. Glocks were carried for this course as they represent the commonest handgun now issued to Iraqi police and military forces.

A SAD DAY FOR THE USMC

With the 200 hundred Marines having gone through Gunsite's Foreign Weapons Class, we received word that the Marine Corps has conducted a conference at Quantico on small arms training issues with many Marine firearms instructors and Gunners (Warrant Officers whose specialty is being an expert on small arms and small arms training).

It appears as if Gunsite stirred up a hornet's nest and stepped on some toes of people trying to protect their turf, this by offering this special training to the USMC. The outcome of the conference was to call training Marines at Gunsite "lunacy" and to ban all non-Marine Corps training for the entire Marine Corps by the Spring of 2006. These men either don't know or don't care that many Gunsite instructors are former Marines. The training pie is a big pie. Every trainer has a piece of the pie, but no one has it all. Gunsite's slice is a big one.

Those with hurt egos complained that they could have provided this

training and that Marines should only be trained by Marines! Our sources within the USMC report that, while there is a handful of people in the Marine Corps who could have provided such training, the Marine Corps bureaucracy would have made it impossible.

Gunsite created this class, bought all the weapons and ammunition, did the lesson plans and Power Points and created the 125-page training manual in less than six weeks. Will all their good intentions be turned against them? The Marine Corps will no longer send Marines to Gunsite for training, but we are told that individual units may spend their own money to send Marines, or they can pay their own way. Starting in February 2006, Quantico will start training Combat Marksmanship Instructors for the entire Marine Corps. As one source puts it, "They'll take Marines with little or no knowledge of Combat Marksmanship and make them instructors in two weeks - they must have one hell

of an instructor package."

The bottom line is that the range officers and some Marine Gunners who have never trained at Gunsite parochially believe they have all the answers, and that going outside the Marine Corps is a waste of money. They have been put on notice for not doing their job, so their reaction is to protect their butts. As one Marine source puts it, "These Gunners not only don't know what they don't know, but they don't want to know what they don't know."

As soon as I was informed of this I sent a full report to my Congressman and I urge all who care about our Marine Warriors to do the same. U.S. Troops have trained with other entities for decades. We can't help wondering how many magnificent Marines will have to die in order to sooth the bruised egos of a few, the oh, so proud!

Semper Fi? To whom? May God bless our Marines and keep them safe.
- GPJ

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The Scrambler

As much as the Marines got out of the class, it seemed that the thing they enjoyed most was Gunsite's running combat range known as the Scrambler, and they ran it in full gear. Situated in all natural terrain, the only human alteration to the Scrambler is the placement of semi-hidden steel silhouettes and the seven shooting stations, three of which are natural, using dead trees or stumps from which to fire, and most of the shooting positions necessary to make hits are makeshift. This requires the shooter to adapt and overcome.

The average time for running the Scrambler is about 1.5 minutes running from one point to the next and trying to hit each target twice with no more than three shots fired at each. Three of the stations are prone with one requiring the shooter to crawl into a tunnel-like box. When the second ding sounds, the instructor yells "HIT - GO," and the shooter runs to the next point.

However, much of what can go wrong does go wrong in the Scrambler - from dropped magazines, to missed shots, from being in too much of a hurry or too winded to hold steady, as the pressure



Marines fire a PKM LMG as Robert K. Brown looks on from behind.

builds enough to threaten concentrating on "SIGHT-PRESS."

Having run the scrambler with a number of weapons, I still feel the same pressure every time and I knew exactly what was going through the mind of each Marine. Hidden at different distances in the trees and brush are seven steel Pepper Poppers, each painted a different

pattern and color of camouflage.

The first shooting station is the easiest, as the shooter rests the weapon on a tree branch and gets on target, indicates ready and waits for the buzzer. It went something like this: POW! "HIT - GO!" The Marine ran to the first station and dove to the prone position. "POW!" "HIT - GO!" The Marine runs

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to the next point and rests his AK on a stump. "POW!" "MISS!" "POW!" HIT - GO!" Marine runs to next point, dives prone and crawls into a tunnel. "POW!" "MISS!" "POW!" "MISS!" "POW!" "HIT - GO!" The Marine runs and goes prone over a log. "I don't see it." "Scan, look and assess!" "OK, I'm on it - POW!" "HIT-GO!" "Son-of-a-bitch, I lost my magazine!" "OK, pick it up - watch your muzzle - GO!"

And so it went, but running the Scrambler with each Marine was a breeze for me. All I had to do was run along side, get in camera position, take my shot and jump out of the way. For the Marines the drill was filled with excitement and they were filled with adrenaline. They gave it everything they had in full gear and when it was over, they were breathing hard. I'd give 'em thumbs-up. "Nice run." "Thank you sir."

In following a dozen Marines through the Scrambler and returning to where they gathered, all I heard was praise for this combat simulator. It's long been one of my favorites too, so I asked a half-dozen Marines what they thought of the Scrambler and Gunsite in general.

M5 - "This is the best training I've ever received!"

M6 - "We don't get nuthin' like this."

M7 - "If it wasn't for this, we'd be goin' back to the 'box' not knowin' any more than we did before."

M8 - "Every Marine needs to come here!"

M9 - "This is the finest training I've received in my 22 years in the Marine Corps!"

M10 - "Thanks for treating us like men instead of children."

M11 - "Big Boy Rules... Gunsite rocks!"

M12 - "Thanks to Gunsite we have the skills to stay alive and kill the bad guys."

M13 - "Every Marine needs to come here."

M14 - "I hope I get a chance to come back. This is the best training I've ever had."

M15 - "This training will keep Marines alive."

This isn't me talking, and these young warriors weren't merely telling me what they thought I wanted to hear. They were genuinely excited and pumped about Gunsite. I was pumped to hear them talk, and I still am.

America and her fighting men and women didn't ask for this war, but it's

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here and we're in it for the long haul. Our magnificent kids continue to volunteer to fight for us all, but after basic training and AIT, most of the training they get is on-the-job. When these Marines return to Iraq much of their mission will be working with and training the new Iraqi Army. You can damn well

bet they'll take a lot of Gunsite with them!

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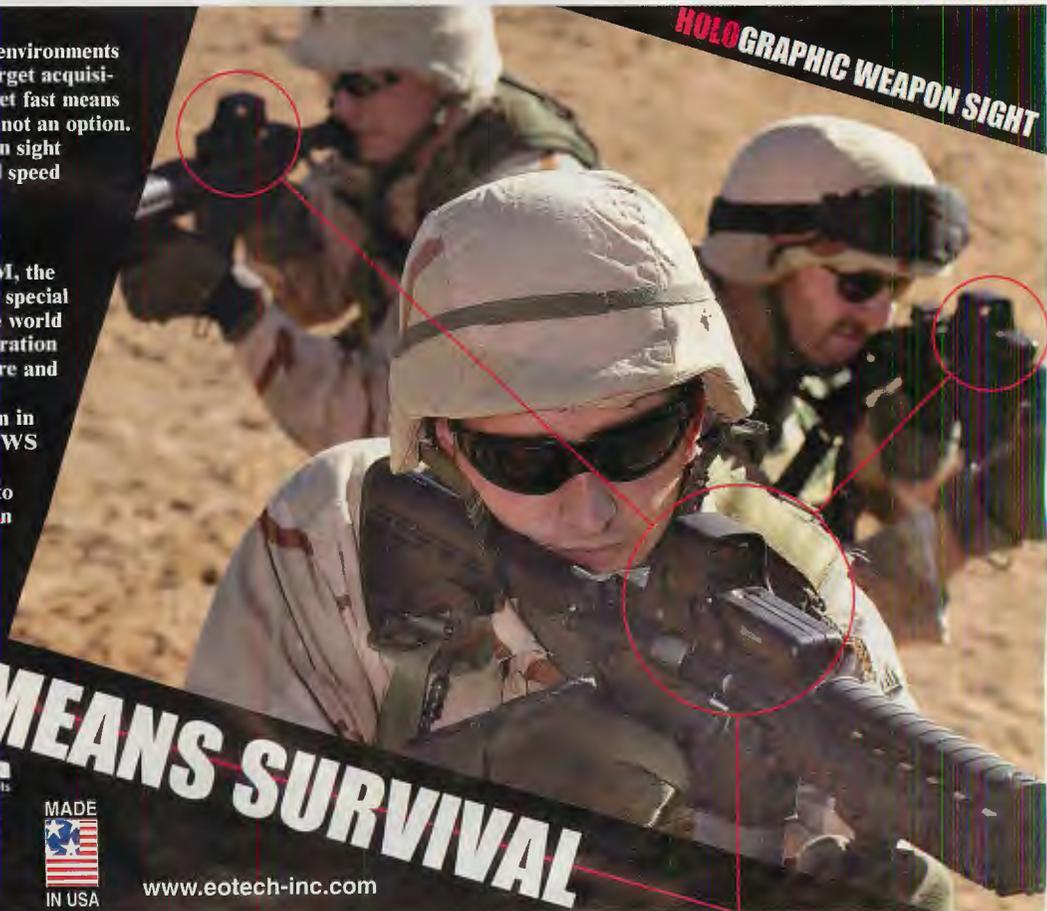


Marine hustles to the next firing station on the "Scramber." Students were enthusiastic about the practical courses of fire, saying "I hope I get a chance to come back. This is the best training I've ever had."

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into their location.

"We have autonomy in decision-making. In narcotics, we don't have to have a lot of red tape.

"The commanders are given hard copies of the presentation, including navigation maps

"We have competent paramedics on each patrol equipped with an M5 medical bag. But all recruits receive training on giving IVs and basic medic skills.

"Their medics are real good with great training," the Spec Ops agent said.

"Detailed grids on the maps show positions, in case they have to call for fire. The map squares give pilots the number on the grid where guerillas are. We know where the firing is coming from. It's simple but it works.

"We do have night capability and have done a few ops at night, but we are planning to move more to night ops.

Supermen of the Jungle

Sometimes the JUNGLAS operate with the Colombian Marines. A month ago three marines died in a botched operation, and the JUNGLAS went in and rescued 18 others.

"JUNGLAS get tagged more than the army's rapid reaction force. We get activated if there is an attack on a base. A section of 100 men can be ready in less than 8 hours. We operate 24-7," JUNGLA Commander A said.

"Last week on the east side of Colombia, the military was flying to an operation when a mechanical failure downed the helicopter in guerrilla territory. I was on that mission with 70 JUNGLAS that went to rescue the town that was bombed by propane cylinders and taken by the guerillas. One town in Choco was taken by guerillas. Twenty-nine police were killed and 29 were kidnapped.

Our U.S. agent connection in Colombia who the CNP respect as a heroic, seasoned specialist, was outraged at the inconsistencies of policies on Colombia.

"You remember the 29 Colombian soldiers that were killed while you were here (Dec 27th) the FARC caught them sleeping while protecting the manual eradication in the national parks. It is not PC to spray the plants in the Colombian National parks. The Pres. Uribe is sending in 1,500 cops to the same area to protect the 1,100 workers to pull up the 4000 hectors of coca plants, it is to cost 17 to 19 million US dollars and take six months.

"The spray program could destroy

the crop in four days at a cost of \$800 per hour, but is not P.C. because the NGOs are crying about birth defects. Funny—the spray roundup is used in a .1 percent solution to kill the coca bush while the crop owners use 10% solution to kill the weeds around the coca bush. No NGOs came out to protest the deaths of the 29 soldiers nor the use of Roundup by the farmers," he said.

The JUNGLAS go to AFGHANISTAN

"The police Department recently purchased a new training area three and a half hours outside of Bogotá for the Cabinaros and JUNGLAS to train," the JUNGLAS commander said with anticipation. "The new training ground is huge, around 1900 hectares, that includes all sorts of terrain including airfields, rivers. It is even hot and humid and has mosquitoes so the JUNGLAS can learn to survive those conditions. Right now there are no barracks so they sleep in pup tents.

"We are training pilot's technicians for operations in Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela and are planning to send people to Ecuador to train. DEA guys have been trained here."

The JUNGLAS are anxious to pass on their expertise.

"Four of us, beginning March 2006 are going to be working with the Narcotics Interdiction Unit of the Afghanistan government at the request of the U.S. government. We are going in with select British, American and German Special Forces and DEA agents in Afghanistan. We have been asked to go there and help them build the narcotics force. At first, we'll go for two or three weeks to make an assessment of how they operate and how we can train them. The U.S. thinks we have experience and training and the Afghanis can use our expertise in Kabul. We have to decide whether to bring them here to train or take a small group to train them there. We will train a small team at first to show them how a small team works," JUNGLA commander L told us.

"The Taliban are the equivalent of the FARC. In every village you can find poppy and everybody carries AK47s and RPGs left over from the war against Russia. After the U.S. invasion, the poppy cultivation went wild." ✕

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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.

THE NEXT CRISIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Official Washington has the attention span of a fruit fly. A “crisis d’jour” momentarily captures the attention of the so-called mainstream media, politicians and government bureaucrats. For a few days – occasionally for a few weeks – the potentates on the Potomac will focus on “the problem,” hold hearings, introduce some legislation, devise a way to spend more of our tax dollars, initiate an “investigation” – and move on when they are “shocked,” “stunned,” and/or “surprised” by the next catastrophe or scandal. Like a pan of soup on a hot stove, no one seems willing, willing or able to turn down the heat until the pot boils over.

Bush administration officials and lawmakers, preoccupied with leak and lobbying investigations, the Alito confirmation hearings, a mining disaster and the war in Iraq seem oblivious to what is happening south of the Rio Grande. Absent the urgent attention of some astute officials in our nation’s capital, the Latin-American pressure cooker won’t just boil over – it will explode.

Most Americans see the burgeoning crisis to our south as simply a problem of illegal immigration. Reflecting that sentiment, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to strengthen border enforcement before going home for Christmas. This week, most Latin American diplomats lined up to condemn the proposal. Mexico’s Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez called it “stupid and underhanded.” Few in Washington paid any attention.

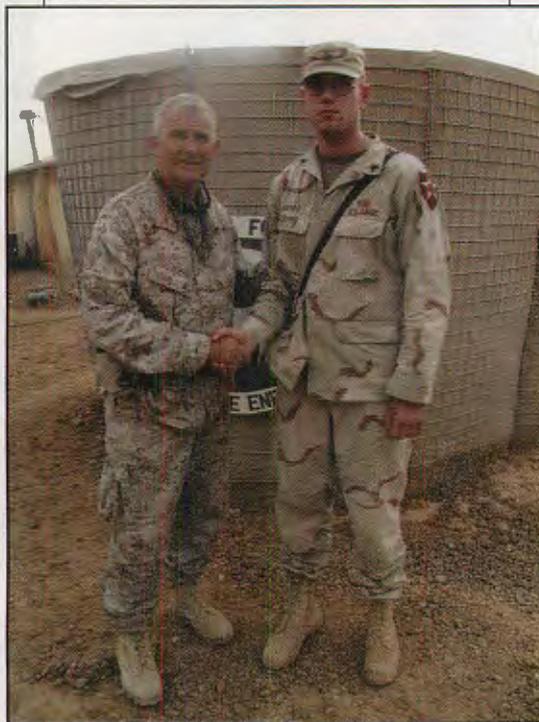
In fact, the flow of illegals across our southern border will only get worse if Washington continues to ignore the tell-tale warnings coming from the region. The most recent “leading indicators” of political turmoil:

The Dec. 18 election of socialist-cocoa grower Evo Morales as president of Bolivia was hailed in the European and Latin press as a great victory for “democracy.” In fact, Morales’ campaign for office closely paralleled the America-bashing tactics used so successfully by

Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez.

Promising to become Washington’s “nightmare,” Morales is now on a global “victory lap,” that began – appropriately – in Cuba. On arrival in Havana aboard one of Castro’s private aircrafts, the Bolivian told an obediently cheering crowd: “I dreamt of joining the anti-imperialist struggle of Fidel and the Cuban people.”

Morales, 46, then jaunted off to Caracas for a love fest with the equally militant Hugo Chavez, who pledged to invest \$30 million to develop Bolivia’s



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.

considerable natural gas reserves and strengthen socialist domestic programs. The Bolivian head of state then set out for Beijing, where he stood beside communist-Chinese President Hu Jintao in the Great Hall of the People and described his hosts as the “political, ideological and programmatic ally of the Bolivian people.” Morales pledged cooperation with Beijing, which wants access to the country’s gas reserves, making Bolivia the latest in a string of nations in our hemisphere to turn away from Washington and head East.

Not to be out-shone by his pupil, Chavez himself made news. Making

good on his promise to ship discounted home heating oil to “Americans made poor by Bush” – Venezuela’s state-owned oil company – Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. delivered another shipload of a promised 25-million gallons of fuel to New England. The gesture received far more publicity than his endorsement of Iran’s decision to resume refining nuclear material that could be used for weapons production.

Chavez – awash in American petrodollars – has not only sought closer relations with Tehran and Beijing – but is now actively supporting the cause of any anti-U.S. movement he can find in the southern hemisphere – not a tough task in a region where 61 percent of the people harbor anti-American sentiment. In Nicaragua, Chavez has found a kindred spirit in ousted Marxist dictator, Daniel Ortega. If the well-oiled Chavez money machine isn’t deterred, Caracas could well buy the next president in Managua. If that happens, expect the tsunami of economic and political refugees across our southern border to continue rising.

The “Chavez problem,” the Morales promise to promote cocoa harvesting, the growing Iranian and Chinese influence to our south, the potential collapse of democracy and free enterprise in Central America – all argue for immediate attention from Washington’s distracted policy makers. None of these conditions are intractable – yet. By far, the easiest “fix” is to focus on the upcoming elections in

Nicaragua – and help the real forces for democracy to flourish in the elections this fall. It could prove to be the first step in reversing a decade-long decline in U.S. influence – and help prevent the “next crisis” from overwhelming our southern border.

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

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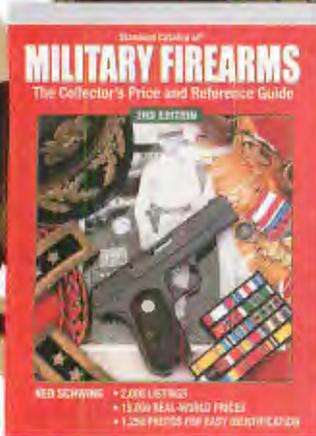
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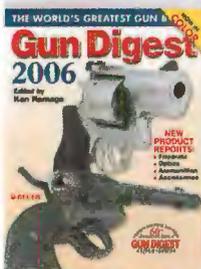
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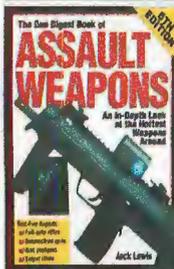
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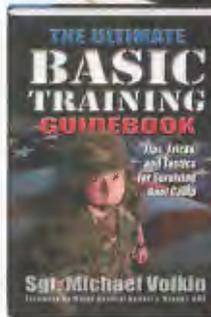
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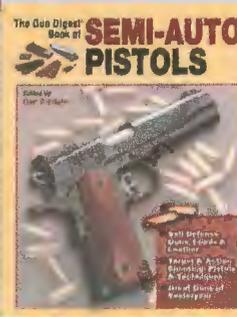
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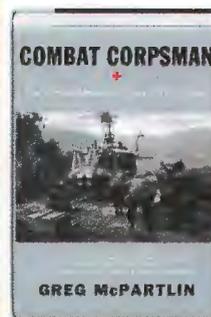
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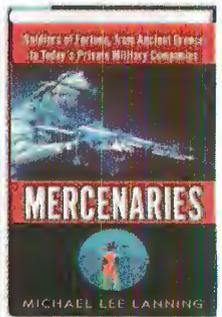
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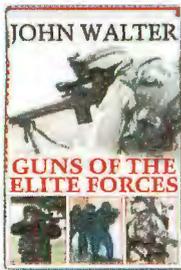
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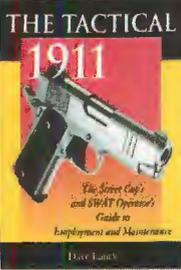
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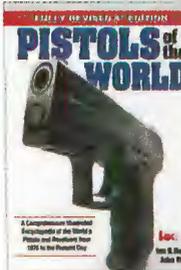
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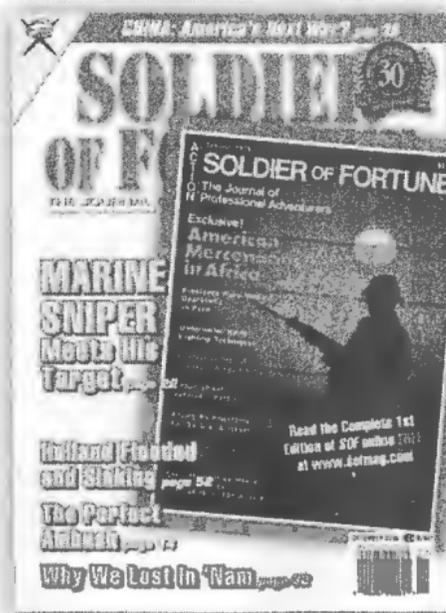
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