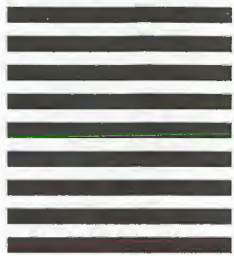




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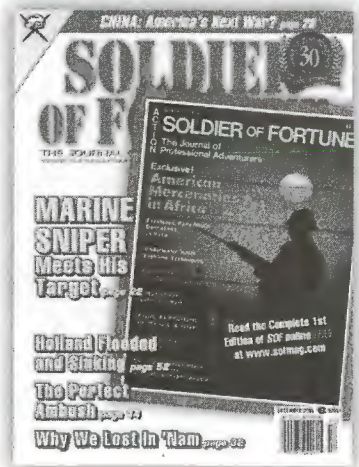
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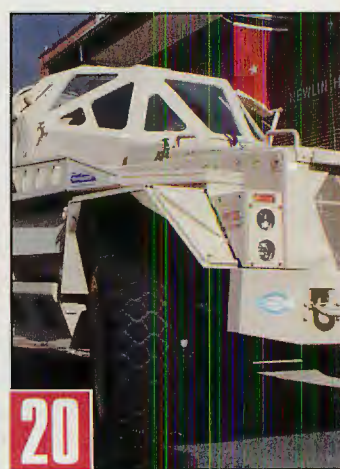
Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Watkins-Koough www.army.mil



On The Cover
Staff Sgt. Christopher Hartl provides security during a mission in Jikdalek, Afghanistan. Hartl is assigned to the 34th Infantry Division’s 168th Infantry Regiment.



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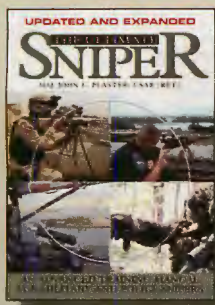
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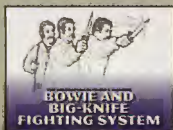


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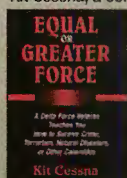
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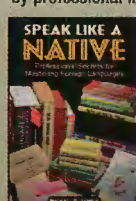


SPEAK LIKE A NATIVE

Professional Secrets for Mastering Foreign Languages

by Michael D. Janlich

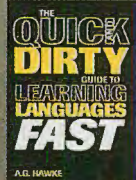
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Bob Sanders, Esq.

Promises To Keep

"Were it not for your involvement, it is safe to say that my brother would not be President of the United States."

— Florida Governor Jeb Bush, at the NRA's 2003 annual convention in Orlando, Florida

The above statement drew a standing ovation from more than 3,000 NRA members gathered to hear the keynote speaker. And, reflecting upon human nature and factors which drive human behavior, it is perfectly normal to expect our President, to embrace the positions of those who elected him.

Our history is replete with great polarizing issues: slavery, cessation, woman's suffrage, prohibition, a tax on income, the labor movement, isolationism, the Cold War, Vietnam, abortion, Iraq, and for many of us, gun control and the preservation of individual freedoms. Indeed, the last issues in this list are first among gun owners and the growing number of those committed to self-help against those who would harm us.

However, the positions and issues that we place first may be of little interest to those appointed by the President to steer policy. Some agency rulings are interfering with our right to fully address issues of our own safety. We feel a greater need to be prepared to engage in individual self-help: defense of self, defense of family and defense of this Nation and the principles for which it stands. Our government is doing its best to prevent us from fully protecting ourselves as evidenced by the failed attempt to confiscate firearms from law abiding citizens during Katrina,

Ensuring the safety of individuals is first and foremost the adherence to the principles of the Second Amendment. At the highest level of our government these principles often appear to be ignored, disregarded or violated. Subordinate agencies reflect this same posture. For example, when the sunset of the semi automatic assault weapon ban occurred in 2004, our President, rather than come out in blazing support of the sunset, he stated that he would not veto but rather, publi-

cally sign into law a bill extending the ban – if it were to come before him.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, heads the Department of Justice which supervises ATF, the Agency responsible for administration of the federal firearms laws. Gonzales testified in his confirmation hearings that he supports legislation to reinstate the assault weapon ban.

Does anyone expect that a man in favor of reinstating a worthless statute will be able to oversee the enforcement of firearms laws in a manner that will not interfere with the lawful possession and use of firearms by law abiding citizens?

Actions of the ATF continue to erode our Second Amendment freedoms. A recent ATF/Task Force Richmond Gun Show operation included interrogations of those purchasing guns at the show. Furthermore, ATF implemented an arbitrary ban on the importation of barrels. Importers are no longer able to obtain permits to import barrels, and all approved permits were revoked. The intensive Customs "inspections" and detentions of all imported firearms and firearms parts continue to run up costs.

ATF is not the sole agency involved with these questionable actions. The Department of State is prohibiting commercial companies from exporting firearms, making it impossible for American industry – many of whom are small businesses – to compete with foreign manufacturers.

Although only a small percentage of us are dealers, manufacturers, or importers, the continuing assault on the legal gun industry affects each of us. From the top down, the interests of gun owners appear to be somewhere near the bottom of the list of priorities. Our ability to protect ourselves is being thwarted at all levels of government.

It is important to remember that agency heads serve "at the pleasure of" the President; and in a sense the President serves at the pleasure of the voters. Perhaps President Bush has forgotten and/or is ignoring his base. ☒

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Soldiers' Angels

"May No Soldier Go Unloved"

www.soldiersangels.com

In the Bulletin Board section of the March '06 issue, you carried a recommendation to support this organization.

I couldn't agree more.

I have been down here on the security mission with a cavalry troop for about a year now, and signed up with Soldiers' Angels on line, and within about a month was contacted by a member of this network of fine ladies.

Soon, I was in contact with a whole bevy of folks from all across America, who took the time to send cards, care packages, mail, e-mail, or just a kind word on a post card.

I've been soldiering around for a long time, and I can tell you that although this isn't an area where the action is hot and heavy, but these folks helped us make it thru, what would have been a much longer tour without them. I don't expect you'd allow me to say thank you to them by name, but these ladies put in some awfully long hours and all for us.

I can't thank them enough for what they do. The readership could do worse than giving them some support, any way they can.

I love them all!

SSG James Dolan
B Troop, 1/18 Cavalry
JTF-GTMO
Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay,
Cuba

Heroes: They Give Their Life for Liberty

On Jan 13, 2006 my husband became an American Hero. My name is Betsy Jackson. My husband, CW2 Kyle E. Jackson, was a huge fan of your magazine. He said it was the only thing he looked forward to monthly in Iraq.

Kyle got shot down in his helicopter on Fri the 13th of January. He was helping the Iraqi police. Like our two-year-old daughter says "My Daddy is a heho"

(hero). I am saddened, but I know Kyle always wanted to be a hero. That pulls me through the days.

I just wanted to thank your staff for making my husband happy for those months. Please keep up the informative information. If you do a piece on the Kiowa helicopter that went down on Jan 13, 2006 PLEASE let me know.

Thank you!
Betsy Jackson

*Dear Mrs. Jackson,
Please accept our most sincere condolences. All men who sacrifice their life for liberty are heroes in the truest sense of the word. And those who sacrifice their life for the liberty of others, are the most noble of all.*

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

IEDs: The Common Enemy

My Name is Major Denny Neave and I am a serving member of the Australian Defence Force. I am currently responsible for publishing the "Australian Infantry Magazine." This magazine is produced biannually and distributes to all Infantry Corps soldiers for free.

I was reading your magazine dated July 2005 and request use of an article in this edition to be published in our magazine. The article in question is "Roadside Rendezvous with Death" by Col. Frank van der Waal, Pg. 22.

I would obviously pay the respecting credits to your magazine. If agreeable I could send you a copy of our magazine each time it is produced and you may be able to use some of our articles. All of our articles are submitted by soldiers on operation or past serving members and provide a wide range of topics.

If I am able to use this information it would be much appreciated and I would simply require the pictures of each ambush as well as the back ground pictures we can retype the article ourselves if you did not have a copy in word.

Our next edition is in April and we are closing this magazine within the next 2 weeks so it would be great if I could get an answer by then. I have enclosed our media kit just so you can see the magazine and get a little more information on it.

Denny Neave
Major, Editor
Australian Infantry Magazine

Editor's note: Articles from SOF are frequently reprinted by Free-World military journals. Reprint requests should be addressed to: editor@sofmag.com

SOF: Fine in Finland

May I say that your mag is well known in Finland, and I am a subscriber here in the minus zone of Europe. The latest guy to take interest in my SOF mags is my 17-year-old cousin who especially drools over the knife adverts. I, as a target range shooter, drool over the gun ads, but also feel that the articles are staying good, although the high adrenaline articles of the initial battles of "going into Iraq" stories have now naturally gone. Still, it's good to read what is actually going on, as most media don't give a diddly about US & EU troops fighting for their lives to give good living conditions to the Afghan and Iraqi people.

Talking of EU troops, I am very happy that you have featured European units and weaponry (like the one about the Marines learning Russian/ex Soviet weapons, a great article)! I wish for more like that, featuring weapons in a short concise way (perhaps a regular article for each country's military's weapons)? But my main favorite about the EU troops was the short but brutally honest account of the SAS team taking out the bomber insurgents.



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I believe that as the UK has been such a loyal ally to the US, that even though getting domestic insurgency as a result (but unlike Spain not splitting the program), there should be more focus on the British Army's goings on in Iraq and Afghanistan. The story of those troops doing a bayonet charge that I read briefly about in the Bulletin Board of an older SOF mag, would be excellent to hear about in detail, like you describe many of the US forces engagements. Otherwise I love your mag, and so do some of my friends, who always like to borrow an SOF, off me. The flak piece about Corporal Jeff Starr, and the article about the media's feeble interest in heroes, and the Congressional Medal of Honor, is poignant. I feel that the US and UK military of today, doesn't give enough of the highest medals to the brave men and women who have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. I mean, almost always they are posthumous, not so in WW II, or Korea or Vietnam... Are our modern generations soldiers deeds worth less just because we have computation and lasers to aid us? I myself think that a few more Congressional medals, or VC's awarded to living soldiers, would make the modern combat

troops feel more worthy and that they are appreciated, even if they did survive against odds!

Thanks, and keep on keeping on.

Neillson Koch
Helsinki, Finland

Happy 30th from Lebanon

Dear Sir, it is with great joy that I send this message to congratulate you on the great work you have done until now and wish best of luck for the next hundred years, for evil will not stop finding ways to demolish human kind; I thank you also for all the support you have given us through the war years in Lebanon your countrymen paying the price also. We will keep the watch on the front all the time, something you have helped with in support all over the world, especially towards some bad administrations you faced yourselves. Thank you again, with all hope that freedom will always be our goal: DE OPRESSO LIBER.

S.A.
Beirut, Lebanon

Looking for Information

My name is Anthony Armstrong. I served in the H.V.O during 1993-94. My platoon commander for a short time was Andy Myers. I understand he was killed in Sierra Leone on 24 Feb 1995, alongside Col. Robert Mckenzie. Since I left Bosnia Herzegovina I have had absolutely no contact with any of my former comrades – Australia is a long way from anything. Would somebody from your organization please give me some details on Andy's death? He was a great bloke and a true leader of men and I have wondered about him for years.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Armstrong
(Vojna Iskaznica broj 41922
Kralje Tomislav Brigada H.V.O.)
adama13@hotmail.net.au

Tony, we have no direct knowledge of Andy's death, but are publishing your email address, and hopefully someone from the Old Boy's Network who knows, will contact you if they have information on the circumstances. ✕

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BULLETIN BOARD



A collection of Good Guys at SHOT Show: left to right – SFC Sammy Davis (MOH), President of Gerber Legendary Blades Jason Landmark, Military/LE Liaison for Gerber Mark Schindel, and SFC Dillard Johnson, C Troop, 3-7 Cav, 3rd ID.

Davis received his MOH from President Johnson for actions in 1967, and he comes to the SHOT Show as a guest of Gerber where he autographs pictures of his inspiring citation. Trivia freaks would know that the Medal of Honor ceremony in the movie Forrest Gump was actually Sammy's ceremony: Hollywood superimposed Tom Hank's head on Sammy.

The flag was flown over TF Clownpuncher's headquarters in the international zone of Baghdad. The Gerber blade being returned with thanks to Schindel, was used by SFC Johnson to save his life and his spotter's life by cutting two 220 volt lines that ran from a generator to a large bank of spotlights, being used by the bad guys who were looking for them. "He took me at my word when I said the over molded rubber handle was insulated to prevent shock....thus the quote on the bottom of the plaque, 'in Mark We Trust.' Giving it back to me was his way of saying Thanks," Schindel told SOF. Photo: Andre' Dall'au

Cop Killer at Work: Non-Lethal Lethal Force

State Senator David Paterson has proposed a bill that would compel police officers using gunfire when defending themselves and innocent third

parties to "shoot to wound," rather than shooting in a way that will produce fatal wounds. His bill would, in fact, manufacture a new crime: a new, second-degree manslaughter felony that would be reserved specifically for officers who "use more force than the minimal amount

necessary." No word on who determines what is "necessary."

Oh, the politicians who would disarm us all, including police. Only in NY! – John Farnam

Reach Out and Touch Whom?



Iran just got itself, and Austrian rifle maker Steyr-Mannlicher, in trouble when the Austrians sold 800 HS50 12.7mm (.50 caliber) sniper rifles to Iran. The Austrians believe that the Iranians want the rifles for use against Afghan and Pakistani drug smugglers. The United States sees the weapons as migrating across porous borders to be used against U.S. troops.

While Iran has been under an arms embargo for decades, and is currently under pressure to halt development of nuclear weapons, and ballistic missiles to deliver them, the country does have some legitimate weapons needs. For example, Iranian troops have been fighting an increasingly bloody war with drug smugglers along their border with Afghanistan and Pakistan. This fighting gets particularly nasty because the drug smugglers are from Sunni tribes (usually Pushtun or Baluchi), that often believe the Shia Moslem Iranians are heretics. That makes the fighting about religion, as well as money. The fighting picked up after the Taliban were taken

down in late 2001. After that, the drug business grew larger, and the smugglers saw Iran as a prime access route to European and Persian Gulf customers, as well as a good market in itself. With so many Iranians rapidly becoming drug addicts, the government sent thousands of troops and police to the Afghan and Pakistani borders, to try and stop the smugglers. This soon turned into a fierce battle, as the smugglers would often try and fight their way past Iranian patrols, or even ambush Iranian forces. The smugglers also tended to have better weapons than the Iranians, as well as night vision devices and satellite telephones.

The United States recently slapped sanctions on nine companies caught supplying weapons to Iran. Six of them were Chinese. But the Austrian firm was providing equipment most likely to end up in the hands of terrorists attacking American troops. Steyr-Mannlicher

insisted that the deal was legit. If Steyr-Mannlicher cannot get out from under the sanctions, it would not be able to sell goods inside the United States.

Wanted, Dead or Alive: Sunni Snipers

Increasingly effective Sunni Arab snipers are becoming a problem in Iraq. They are usually former members of Saddam's elite forces, looking to score a payday by killing Coalition and Iraqi forces. To encourage them into early retirement – the earlier the better if they're any good – Uncle Sam sometimes puts a price on their head. Last year a Sunni sniper in Fallujah was put out of business via a \$100K reward. So far this year the top reward offered is for \$11K for a free-lancer operating in Haditha, a town of 200,000 about 300 clicks west of Baghdad. Although there are no official comments on the reward offerings, they have been publicized using posters and sound trucks. And word

is, the occasional sniper falls heir to a 500-pounder.

www.soldiersupport.net

Here's another excellent website for supporting the troops: by Veterans for the Troops. Great guys doing a great job. Check it out on the web, or contact them by mail at:

Support Our Troops
2331 East Lily Lake Road
Harrison, MI 48625
Email to:
martin@soldiersupport.net

Farnam's Friends for Leathernecks

Capt. Jim Newman has rotated home in good health. The new contact for parcels for Leathernecks in Iraq is:

S/Sgt Chad A. Huffman
Support Co., MP Plt
MWSS 374
Unit 41730
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You know what they want [they de-

serve good stuff only]: multi-tools, large folding knives, small (non-aerosol) toiletries, socks, small first-aid items, individually wrapped hard candy, munchies in rigid containers, beef jerky, you get the idea. And maybe a thank-you note.

Walk A Mile for a Llama?

The faithful and sure-footed llama of the Andes is, of course, a camelid – but a stranger to North Africa and the Middle East where its dromedary and bactrian cousins have been carrying war materiel ever since the first blade was forged. This is about to change, if the recommendations of Israeli SF guys who have been testing llamas in the Golan Heights are followed. During these exercises, llamas carried more than 100 pounds of materiel over mountainous terrain, quietly and with discipline – just the vehicle needed for low signature missions outside the wire in Syria or Lebanon. Sources indicate plans are to train upwards of 100 llamas for such missions, where they perform better – and eat less – than the familiar donkey. Sure-footed, quiet, hardy, eats every other day, good personality, carries the

load, split hoof, chews a cud: Oy! How good does it get?

Precision Laser Could Eliminate Collateral Damage

Work continues on the Advanced Tactical Laser by Boeing Missile Defense Systems and the Air Force. At present Boeing is modifying the C-130H transport for its airborne platform, and work is progressing on the high-energy laser in Albuquerque. This year, Boeing is slated to test the C-130H platform with a surrogate lower-energy laser, and ground tests will be made of the high-energy laser. Range of the weapons system is projected to be about 10 miles, and it would bring decisive power and pinpoint accuracy to urban warfare in theaters such as Afghanistan and Iraq. "It's the kind of tool that could bring about victory within minutes," an official was quoted.

The program is regarded as complementary to the Airborne Laser program being developed for the Missile Defense Agency, which rides on a Boeing 747-400. ☒

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The Ultimate Sn



Exploiting the slight rise of an Iraqi railway as a Final Firing Position (FFP), Marine snipers Sgts. Adam Scheele (L) and Sean Little prepare to engage a distant target.

Sniper, But Better

By Gary Paul Johnston
All Photos Courtesy of
John L. Plaster, USAF (Ret.)

Having met John L. Plaster at Gun-site in 1993, he instantly became a man I am honored to call my friend. Major John L. Plaster USAF (ret.) served three 1-year terms in Southeast Asia with the top secret Special Forces covert operations unit, MACV-SOG. A Green Beret weapons and communications NCO, Plaster led strategic intelligence gathering teams deep behind enemy lines in Laos and Cambodia on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Wounded once, Plaster was decorated four times for heroism. Because of his extensive experience, John Plaster received a direct commission as a reserve officer upon leaving Vietnam.

Much of Major John L. Plaster's experience is in the art of sniping, and these skills prompted him to write what was arguably the world's most complete book on sniping, *The Ultimate Sniper*. However, like most other art forms, sniping is a constantly evolving science, and John Plaster has evolved with it. Because of this, he has revised *The Ultimate Sniper* for the 21st Century.

While many aspects of sniping remain as the foundation of this art,

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Author John Plaster uses his poles for support while shooting from skis. Note how the wrist straps are interlocked.

Author John Plaster firing a suppressed .308 rifle fitted with a compact AWC silencer.



technology marches on. The updated and expanded *Ultimate Sniper* brings it all to the table, not only for the military, but also law enforcement.

Consisting of twenty-three chapters, *The Ultimate Sniper* outlines unit organization and equipment, basic and advanced marksmanship, unique shooting situations, binoculars and spotting scopes, spotting targets, range and wind estimation, camouflage techniques, stalking and movement, the hide, tracking, offensive and defensive tactics, night sniping, counter sniping and much more.

Of course any book on sniping will showcase the sniping rifle and John Plaster examines virtually all of the best sniper rifle platforms available today, both repeating and semi-automatic. In-depth discussion is conducted on the advantages and disadvantages of various systems along with the basics of the sniper scope

and how to use it. There is also an excellent chapter on bullets and ballistics.

An excellent chapter is that on sniping in an urban environment. This section covers the unique problems encountered by law enforcement

officers where ranges and rules of engagement can be far different from those faced in military operations. This is an especially important chapter for law enforcement marksmen.

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Continued on page 74



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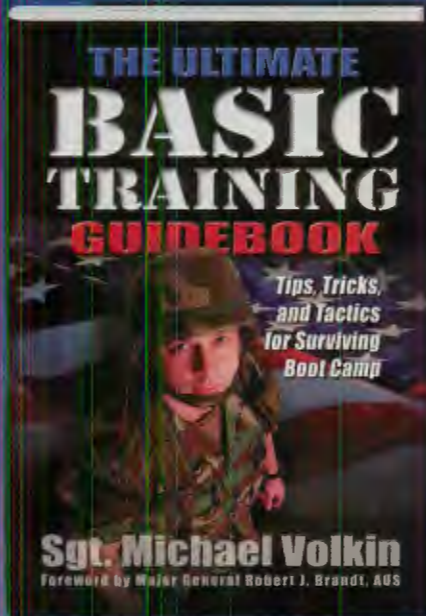
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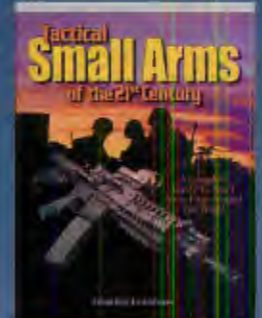
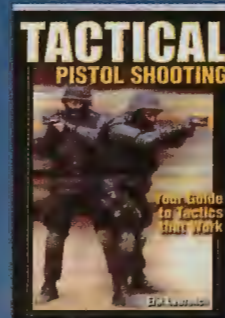
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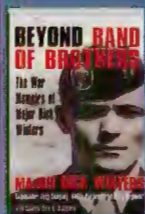


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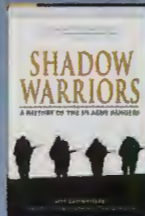
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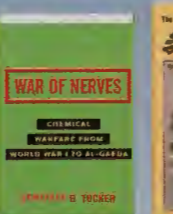
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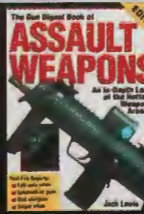
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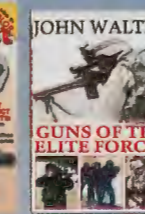
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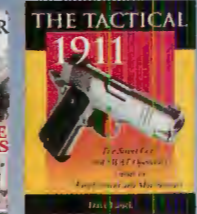
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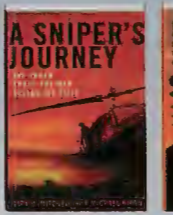
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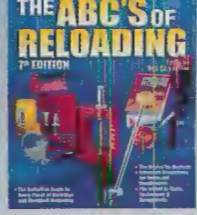
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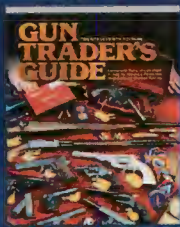
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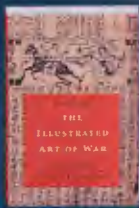
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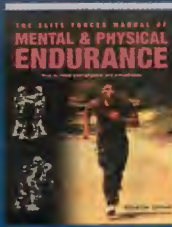
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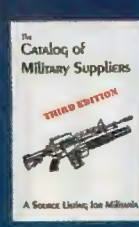
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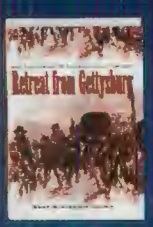
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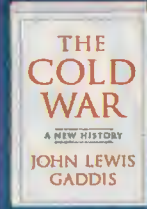
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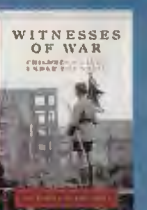
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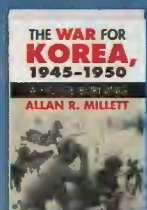
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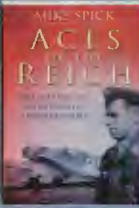
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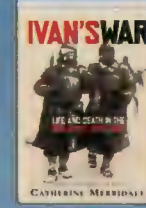
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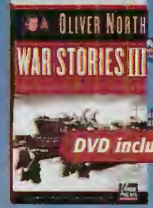
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Requiem For a Fighting Vehicle

Ground-Pounders Look To Replace An Old Soldier

By Dale B. Cooper



"We're asking the Humvee to do what it wasn't designed to do."

— Dr. Gary W. Caille, Ph.D., P.E., Georgia Tech University

The Marine Corps is looking to replace the High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle, or "Humvee."

The new vehicle is officially known as the CTV. The Combat Tactical Vehicle is part of the family of Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, or JLTVs, that are being jointly developed in conjunction with the Army.

"We're going through the requirements process right now with an eye toward production around 2012," said Lieutenant Colonel Mike Micucci, JLTV project manager for the Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Virginia.

Micucci told SOF the Marine Corps has an acquisition objective of 19,000 JLTVs. Because of the cost involved, the Marine Corps is pooling its resources with the Army to determine its requirements and quantities. Army and Navy versions would have 80% parts interchangeability, said Maj. Gen. William Lenaers, commander of the Army Tanks and Automotive Command.

The war in Iraq has painfully demonstrated to both the Army and the Marine Corps that the venerable Humvee has had it as a combat tactical vehicle. "I think we are finding that the Humvee with all of the attachments and all of the armor that we've put on, the vehicle is pretty much maxed out," said Micucci, a combat engineer officer whose battalion from Camp Lejeune cut breaches in sand berms separating Kuwait and Iraq so that First Battalion, Fifth Marines, the unit this reporter was embedded with in 2003, could spearhead Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Humvee worked very well in the initial phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, but Colonel Clarke R. Lethin, G-3 for the First Marine Division in Iraq and also involved in Task Force 58 that took down the Taliban in Kandahar, says the enemy also has a vote in how we fight: Lethin says what we are seeing in Iraq with IEDs is going to be the wave of the future on the battlefield.

(opposite page) EOD technicians, Sgt. Jason Tinnel and Sgt. E.J. "Hondo" Weiss uncover buried weapons along a road outside Fallujah before destroying them. Their "Cougar" hardened engineering vehicle sits a few feet away. Photo: USMC, by Lance Cpl. Lill Latrop



Staff Sgt. Michael F. Barrett, a military policeman assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, is still recovering from wounds suffered on 29 Sept. 2004 when his Humvee hit an IED. Photo: Courtesy SSgt. Michael F. Barrett

"The key to this [new] vehicle is survivability. That's our Number One Priority," said Lt. Col. McCucci: Both the Army and Marine Corps are looking for a mine-IED-resistant vehicle that has underbody protection, something the up-armored M1114 Humvee does not have. There have been 341 Marines killed in action and 4,099 wounded in combat in Iraq since February 2004 when the insurgency shifted from RPGs [Rocket-Propelled Grenades] to IEDs, Improvised Explosive Devices.

Like a turtle, the underbelly of a Humvee is its most vulnerable spot. It is not uncommon for five Marines or U.S. soldiers to be killed in the twinkling of an eye if an IED explodes beneath their seats. For that reason, the Marine Corps is looking for ways to develop some "Six Pack ABs" in the belly of its combat vehicles.

Harder Body, Longer Range

"We're looking at A and B Armor Kits. The A-kit is your underbody protection for hard to reach areas like the firewall. The B-kit is additional armor that we would add on to windows, doors and tops of vehicles," McCucci said. Those kits are being developed right now as an immediate fix to the increasing IED threat in Iraq. No word when they'll be available. On the new family of vehicles, an A kit will stop

7.62mm rounds at 30 meters; a B kit will stop 14.5mm rounds. An A kit will withstand a 155mm shell burst at 100 meters, while a B kit will withstand the same at 60 meters.

Col. Lethin says fuel consumption is another requirement. "The vehicle we are designing has to be able to go farther than a Humvee on the same amount of fuel," Lethin said.

Humvees currently have a fuel capacity of 25 gallons – enough diesel to take them 350 miles on hard-surfaced roads. Off road, the operating range drops considerably.

Lethin says hybrid-electric power plants might increase the range of the next generation Humvee, thus reducing the number of convoys placed in Harm's Way to keep them "humming."

The ability to generate on-board power is another major requirement for future combat vehicles. The current Humvee has a 24-volt, negative ground, 60-amp electrical system. This is not enough juice to power up systems being developed to address the IED threat, such innovations as IED jamming and pre-detonation systems, and even remote-controlled automatic weapons to insure the survivability of gunners who are most at risk standing in open turrets on the battlefield.

"At a minimum on the JLTV, we want to have exportable power on board the vehicle, in the range of 15 to 30kw," said McCucci, "but we

A Humvee carrying Marines with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment hides from snipers in a blanket of smoke on 25 July 2005 in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province, during 1/5's third deployment to Iraq. Photo: USMC by Cpl. Tom Sloan



don't have a preconceived notion as to what the replacement Humvee will look like when it hits the battlefield in 2012."

Other system requirements include rollover protection, greater reliability, enhanced towing capacity and a design wish list that includes the ability to detect and respond to small arms fire, allow gunners to fight from cover, have run-flat tires, fit inside a CV-130 or even a CH-47, and so on. The requirements are many, varied, and all predicated on combat experience.

However, one thing is certain. This time around, the military is going to build a combat vehicle first and then create a utility vehicle, not vice-versa as it did with the Humvee.

Born in the 1970s when the United States Army concluded that militarized versions of civilian trucks in use no longer satisfied their requirements, HMMWVs have become the backbone of U.S. forces around the world. More than 10,000 were used during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, but they are very vulnerable to rocket propelled grenades, or RPGs, and they offer only minimal protection from small arms fire.

The Search for A Replacement

Shortly after the United States invaded Iraq in March 2003, the Georgia Technology Research Institute was tasked by the Office of Naval Research to develop a vehicle that was about the

size of a Humvee that could generate a mega-watt of power, enough electricity to power a small city or a small hospital.

Dr. Gary W. Caille, head of the Systems Program Office, was contracted to do a feasibility study, but his marching orders were changed a year later in May 2004 when the IED threat surfaced in Iraq.

Admiral Jay Cohen, who headed ONR at the time, ordered Caille and company to come up with an armored patrol vehicle that can accommodate two to four people, provide integrated blast/ballistic protection, and go 60 miles per hour. "And..... By the way, we needed it yesterday," said Admiral Cohen.

Without a lot of time or money, undergraduate and graduate students at the Georgia Technology Research Institute, and consultants including the chief engineer for Corvette, took an artist's conception of a CTV [Combat Tactical Vehicle] and in conjunction with Techno Sports, a fabrication shop in Livonia, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, produced a prototype called "Ultra."

At first glance, the vehicle looks like something out of a "Mad Max," movie starring Mel Gibson. "We tried to take a systems approach to what causes significant injury and death in vehicles," Caille told SOF. In other words, the vehicles are expendable, the personnel inside them are not.

Since weight was a factor, the stu-

dents at Georgia Tech only armored the passenger compartment. They came up with a unique way to mold the armor around hard-to-reach places. That's how the "blast bucket" concept was conceived.

"We also developed seats that will slow down the acceleration force on the human body during an explosion, and arranged those seats in a back-to-back 360-degree configuration so that four personnel have increased situational awareness by facing outboard," said Dr. Caille. By bringing personnel closer together, Caille discovered they could communicate easier.

Sophisticated Answer to Sophisticated Threat

"We also wanted to get people farther away from the tires, because IEDs and mines can turn wheel rims into shrapnel," Caille said, "but let's set the record straight. These devices being used against our troops are no longer 'improvised'."

Time and funding constraints forced Professor Caille to purchase an off-the-shelf frame, a Ford F-350 chassis, for his concept vehicle, so he could get Ultra rolling, but the prototype has no off-road capability.

"That capability has yet to be defined by the military," said Caille, "but the real nugget here is the blast bucket crew configuration." Col. Lethin agrees. "The configuration, the angles, the blast bucket concept is very interest-

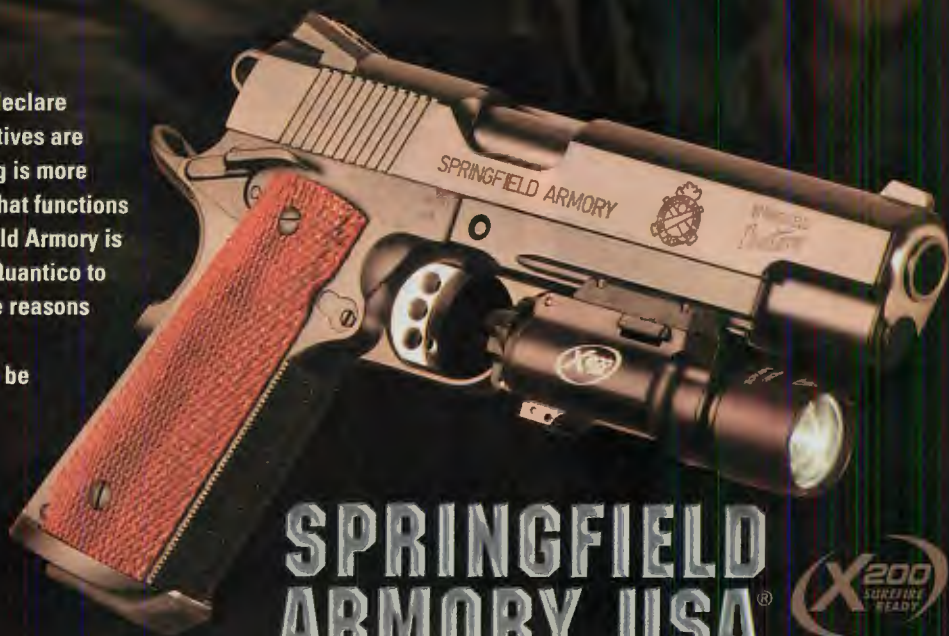
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ing, but we need to do some modeling and simulation to find out what kind of advantages that may give our personnel in terms of protection from mines and IEDs," said Lethin.

For example, sitting in seats facing outboard can be beneficial in a firefight, but Lethin says there is evidence that sitting sideways in a vehicle can cause a person to become disoriented, especially during long periods of time spent staring at landscape passing by on a horizontal plane. That's why Lethin is not looking at Ultra as a whole system, but a concept that can provide crucial components for the vehicle that replaces the Humvee.

Ultra's shock-absorbing seat design also looks promising, but Lethin says six-point harnesses will only be effective if Marines use them. During the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 40% of the casualties, some 100 troops, involved accidents such as rollovers and wrecks. Now more than 75% of the casualties can be blamed on IEDs.

Hollow tube construction in Ultra's undercarriage allows for fire and flame from a blast to be vented, and thus reduce the blast effect of an IED. But Lethin won't know if it works until Caille and crew put Ultra to the ultimate test. They plan to blow up Ultra next year.

Lethin also told SOF the fire retardant system being built into the Marine Corps' new Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, which will replace the Armored Amphibious Assault Vehicle, is another area worth exploring since so many of the Humvees that are hit by IEDs explode and burn.

Interim Solutions

Combat engineers in both the Marine Corps and U.S. Army are employing new vehicles against IED threats in Iraq. The Cougar Hardened Engineer Vehicle [HEV] and the Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Rapid Response Vehicle, or JERRV, can serve as a mine-proof troop transport, a weapons platform or an escort protection vehicle. "They can survive a larger blast from an IED or mine than your typical Humvee," said Lt. Col. Micucci.

"What really separates these vehicles is their level of survivability," Micucci said. The Cougar and JERRV are larger than the RG-31 that is currently being used in Iraq by Explosive Ordnance Technicians and Combat Engineers. Three variants of each vehicle are being produced: a 4x4 EOD vehicle, a 6x6 EOD vehicle and a 6x6 engineer vehicle. EOD vehicles usually carry four troops while the engineer vehicles carry 10.

There are minor differences in the two vehicles. The Cougar has firing ports while the JERRV has a ring mount for crew served weapons.

Combat Field Tests

The Marine Corps purchased 27 Cougars for use in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The Pentagon's Joint IED Task Force designated the Marine Corps as the lead procurement agency to buy 122 JERRVs to be distributed among the Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force. The Corps is receiving 38 vehicles.

Continued on page 80



The Ultra Armored Patrol Concept Vehicle on display for senior acquisition officers in front of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory at Quantico, Virginia. Photo: USMC by Cpl. J. Agg

World-Class Handgun Champion And SWAT Trainer Reveals Little-Known Shooting Secrets That Will Save Your Life If You Ever Use Your Gun In Self-Defense!

If you own or carry a handgun for self-defense,
this is probably going to be the most important letter you've ever read!

By: Bob Pierce, President TRS Direct

Re: Ben Cooley, SWAT Team Trainer; World Champion Competition Shooter

Dear Friend,

It's true! If there's even the slightest possibility that you'll have to use your gun some day for self-defense, then this is going to be the most important letter you've ever read. I'm not kidding.

I want you to carefully absorb and consider what I'm about to share with you. It really could save your life someday.

So let me begin. First of all...

I Have Some Good News And Some Bad News

The good news is, you're very smart if you own AND CARRY a handgun for self-defense -- because today, the gun is the "martial arts" of the 21st Century. All the criminals and gang-bangers are carrying. If you're not...

You're At A Serious Disadvantage!

But that's not the bad news. No. The bad news is, even if you carry, chances are you don't know how to use your gun properly in a real life-or-death confrontation!

I don't mean to offend you. I'm only saying this for your own good. Bennie Cooley knows what he's talking about. He's trained with SWAT teams, for a living. He's also a 3 time World Champion handgun shooter at the Soldier of Fortune competition and other high-level competitive events.

So please believe me when I tell you that there's a lot more to combat shooting than sight-alignment, target identification, stance, and trigger pull. A lot more!

In fact, all your training at the range shooting paper targets will do you no good if you're missing the key element I'm going to explain in this letter, and which you will learn on my new video/DVD training course, "The Fighting Mindset".

You see, what's more important in combat is what's going on in your head -- and how you convey that in your words, your physical movements, your attitude toward your adversary, and your willingness to shoot him.

Hollywood Will Get You Killed!

Tragically, almost everyone alive today learns their so-called "fighting skills" from what they see on TV and in the movies. I say "tragically" because everything you see on TV and film is absolutely the opposite of what you should do in a real-life armed confrontation!

And yes, I know it's almost "heresy" to say it, but...

These Hollywood Hotshots Wouldn't Survive The First 2 Seconds In Real Life

How does Bennie Cooley know? And who is he to be attacking the revered Hollywood dream factories?

As I mentioned a moment ago, Bennie has over...

- 21 Years in SWAT Operations

- 3 Time Soldier of Fortune 3-Gun World Champion
- 5 Time USPSA National 3-Gun Champion
- ...and numerous other titles that are too lengthy to list here.

When Bennie is not working with elite soldiers, he travels around the country as one of the top competitive 3-Gun shooters in America.

And Now Bennie Cooley Can Teach It To You!

The reason I'm writing to you today is because Bennie has completed a life-long dream of his: To take everything he knows about combat shooting and teach it to the average, hard-working American guy who carries a gun for self-defense and the protection of his home and family.

And these days, let's face it... you have to carry. Crime is so out of control that you can't even take your children to the local park without being in fear of some gang-bangers coming in and shooting innocent people. It happened just recently in a small town in Central California. Two people dead, one little girl wounded because a 15-year-old gang member started squeezing off rounds at someone he didn't like!

In another incident I saw on the news, an elderly man was taking pictures of his grandchildren at a playground. Two thugs walked up to him, demanded he give them the camera, and proceeded to beat the hell out of him -- hospitalizing him with severe head injuries!

I'm sure you see plenty of this on the news wherever you live. It's everywhere -- not just in the big cities anymore.

It's Enough To Turn A Regular Guy Into A Raging Vigilante!

No, I'm not suggesting you do that. But I am saying that your best choice is to protect yourself. The police can't protect you anymore. Just ask them!

And these days, the gun is the martial arts of the 21st Century. Don't let anybody tell you that you're "over-reacting" if you carry a gun. It's the smartest thing you could ever do.

But to be really smart, you have to know how to properly use that gun in a real-life hostile confrontation. And as I said, unless you've already received special training from someone like Bennie, chances are you're going to act the way you see "Hollywood cops" move around and shoot their guns on TV and film.

And if you do that...

You Might As Well Call The Mortuary And Make Your Funeral Arrangements Now!!!

I'm not kidding. Unless you've already been trained, chances are you don't know how to act and react in a hostile life-or-death confrontation with an armed aggressor.

The truth is, there are some very special skills you need to know. They don't come naturally. In fact,



3-Time World Champion Shooter and SWAT Team Trainer Mr. Ben Cooley Jr. reveals advanced handgun tactics to be used with the most powerful weapon you have available... your brain!

what comes "naturally" is what will get you killed. You actually have to train yourself to overcome your natural instincts, fears, hesitancy, desire to escape, etc.

In all honesty, there's nothing "magical" about these skills. They all make perfect sense. But unless you're trained by an expert, you'll probably never figure them out on your own.

That's why I'm so eager to share Bennie's new training DVD's with you. This 2-DVD, 4.5-hour video "training course" where Bennie explains everything you need to know to survive and fight successfully in virtually any hostile confrontation you find yourself in.

Taking the skills Bennie teaches to SWAT and Hostage Rescue Teams will give you a no-holds-barred "crash course" in the physical and mental aspects of combat shooting. He calls it...

"The Fighting Mindset"

You see, what really makes the difference in a lethal struggle is your mindset. If you don't have the emotional structure to be able to fight in a lethal confrontation, you're going to lose. That's the honest truth.

No matter how big your gun is... no matter how many rounds it holds... no matter how much money you had to pay for it or how accurate it is, you need this specialized training.

And you can't get it anywhere else that I know of, because this is the first video of its kind where someone with Bennie's background comes right out and "tells it like it is" on tape so you can know what SWAT teams across America know about combat shooting.

What Will You Learn?

Plenty. More than you could ever imagine. More than I could even describe in this letter. But let me give you some of the more important highlights...

First, Bennie starts off with Equipment Selection. You'll be amazed that the vast majority of expensive,

"sophisticated" guns on the market today are actually bad for you in combat. They'll cost you valuable reaction time!

And you'll discover what Bennie regards as the single most effective weapon to use, bar none. It's used by the best combat shooters in the world, as well as by hostage rescue teams...you name it. Anybody who knows what they're doing uses this type of gun. So should you.

- Bennie gives you the most important rule to remember in a gunfight.
- Should you carry a revolver instead of a semi-auto? Bennie gives you the general rule on how to make this crucial decision.
- You'll learn why you should be able to function your weapon with only one hand. It shouldn't take two.
- Bennie explains what a good holster should and should not have. Officers and soldiers have gotten killed because they had the wrong equipment. Bennie gives you 7 "MUSTS" for any holster and magazine pouch you buy. This information alone is extremely valuable.
- There are no one-second "quick-draws" on the street. Bennie will show you what to do instead.
- The best, most effective kind of tactical flashlight to use -- and why it's so important to have one.
- The right way to hold your flashlight and your gun at the same time. Other ways are simply not effective. They're too hard to do, and they cause you to waste too much time getting your sights aligned on the target. But the method Bennie will teach you lets you illuminate your target and keep full control of your gun at the same time. This one little technique alone could save your life in a night fight.
- He will even show you the right kind of ear protection to use during practice and for real-life situations in your home. You might think earmuffs don't matter, but these are especially important to have when an intruder is in your home and you have to investigate the noises you hear.

As you'll see when you watch Bennie's video, he has a very important rule when it comes to equipment: Don't rely strictly on your equipment! The most important weapon you have -- and indeed, the most dangerous weapon you have -- is right between your ears. If you don't learn how to use that in a real fight, you can have every gadget in the world and you're still going to lose.

That's why, throughout the rest of the video training course, Bennie meticulously explains everything you need to know to overcome any mistakes or misconceptions you're now carrying around in your head.

Bennie will also train you in the proven techniques of gun-retention and gun take-away methods.

For instance, if someone tries to take your gun away from you, he will show you an unbeatable way to keep control of the gun. It surprises the hell out of the person attacking you. Many other methods currently taught to people are extremely dangerous and ineffective. But with this simple method, you will win every time you use it. You can even use it if someone attacks you with a knife.

Bennie also teaches you how to take their gun away -- even if they're holding it in your back or if they have you kneeling on the ground, "gangland execution" - sryle!

Plus...

- Even though criminals look for victims instead of opponents, sometimes it's smarter to look like a victim! Bennie demonstrates in detail how to do this and fool your adversary so you can take his gun away from him before he even knows what hit him!
- To help you become better at shooting, he will show you how to master the details -- even the "small" stuff such as a proper grip. Bennie also shows you a "natural" way to grip the gun that automatically increases your accuracy without any effort on your part!
- He teaches you how to keep from accidentally putting the gun on "safe" when you're under

pressure in a gunfight! (It happens more often than you think -- and it has cost a lot of people their lives!)

- The tactical reload: Proper techniques that allow you to safely and reliably change magazines under pressure without skipping a beat.
- Action vs. Reaction: It takes the human brain two-tenths of a second to process the information and react in response to someone else's action. You will be taught, in detail, how to use this "natural law" to your advantage in any hostile situation.
- Most criminals travel in pairs. Here's how to take this fact into account when attacking the first one.
- In any type of conflict, your mind will operate at "light speed" beyond your physical capability. Bennie breaks down this fighting and teaches you how to make sure this doesn't work against you in a real fight.
- How to go from fear to controlled anger in your response to a hostile threat.
- How to train your subconscious mind to act properly under the pressure of a surprise attack.
- How to get your enemy to immediately do things for you that he doesn't even know he's doing. You'll use his human nature against him!

This is all good stuff. But one of the most crucial things you'll learn from this video training course is...

The Vital Importance of the Reactionary Gap!

Here's what it means: The average person can travel 14 feet in one second, and yet it takes a second and a half for you to react to their initial action. Bennie shows you how to train with this lethal "law of nature" in mind.

For instance, you might think that the guy with the knife in his hand is far enough away from you that you'll get your gun out in time to shoot him while he's running toward you. Think again! On this tape, you'll witness a dramatic demonstration of the eye-opening reality of "the reactionary gap".

And since everybody's reactionary gap is different, I tell you how to know what yours is!

From here we move into...

The Blood-Chilling Realities Of Room-Clearing!

And yes, it is blood-chilling. As stated by Bennie, *"The hardest thing we ever have to do in a hostage-rescue operation is walk up to that front door, ready to go into action. No one wears a cape in our business. We're all human. We all want to live to see our families, or see the next day. So what we do for a living -- coming up against bad guys who want to kill us -- requires that we damn well better know what we're doing!"*

Here Are Some Of The Key Things Bennie Teaches You

- NOISE: What to listen for before you enter a room -- and what to do when you don't hear anything. (WARNING: In this case, silence can be deadly!)
- How to "pie" a room -- the one right way, and several wrong ways that would get you killed.
- What to do once you see the intruder in your home. How to engage him properly and still protect yourself against a "surprise" threat from his partner.
- The truth about "double-tapping": Should you or shouldn't you fire two shots at each person?

In one segment, Bennie actually shoots the camera in order to demonstrate the proper technique and effectiveness of the room-clearing methods I teach you!

Now, some of these techniques are "obvious." But most are what we call "counter-intuitive." That means they're the opposite of what you think you should do.

Further along in the course, Bennie devotes a considerable amount of time to teaching you...

The All-Important Rules Of Action Vs. Reaction!

In this fascinating section, you'll get to see a studly, 6'4", 240-lb. asskicker turn into a quivering tower of jello as he comes into the room in a simulated attack that dramatically demonstrates how you should employ the very same methods I teach you on this life-saving video.

You'll also see a 3-man test that demonstrates the proper use of my techniques: 3 "bad guys" are standing together on the street, the way gang-bangers do. One of them has a gun. How do you deal with them? It makes all the difference in the world -- whether you live or die. Watch this segment over and over again and ingrain it into your subconscious, and practice it with friends.

You'll also receive a "crash course" on the laws regarding the use of deadly force by civilians, such as...

How To Acquire The Survival Mindset!

Basically, you're in a survival situation right now.

That's how bad crime has become in our society today. You have to think about survival virtually every hour of every day, whether you like it or not. That means you have to prepare yourself for any possibility. Unfortunately, nobody is going to come up and tap you on the shoulder and say, "Hey, two weeks from now, there's going to be a guy down at the convenience store and he's going to pull a gun on you and try to shoot you." Or "He's going to break into your car and try to rape your wife."

If you don't start preparing for these things today -- both mentally and physically -- then you're losing already. Your attitude is too passive, and it will get you killed. So on my video, I teach you...

- How to obtain "the survival mindset" that will enable you to act and react properly when the \$#@ hits the fan.
- Two lethal attitudes that destroy the survival mindset. How to keep yourself from falling victim to them.
- The number one thing you have to do to win any fight.
- How to react properly to pain and not let it defeat you.
- Once the "losing" mindset has set in during a bad situation, you cannot reverse it. Here's how to prevent it from taking hold in the first place. He'll show you things you're doing with your gun and with your physical movements that directly sabotage your chances for survival during a hostile encounter. You're doing them and don't even know it, because it's human nature.

You must learn what these are, understand them, and then purposefully avoid them in training so you don't commit these fatal mistakes in real life.

That's what Bennie's DVD course is all about. He has put virtually everything he knows into it to make you a highly-competent individual in the area of armed self-defense.

For instance, he also trains you in...

The Highest-Level Skills Of Tactical Survival!

- How to be alert to your environment at all times without being paranoid. Bennie explains the "color code" system which you can use in your everyday life for optimum security and self-reliance.
- The most important thing to pay attention to when observing a stranger and something doesn't "feel" right.
- How to tell if someone is packing a gun.
- The proper psychological and physical response to the threat of violence.
- Why you should ALWAYS "draw a line" for your adversary to cross.
- FACT: Criminals will normally attack you first. They have the initial surprise. But I show you 3 ways to surprise them and re-gain the tactical surprise.

Nobody's "super-human" -- not the criminals, not SWAT teams...no one! We're all subject to human nature. Most people unknowingly allow it to be used

against them. But once you watch these DVD's, you will understand where the "pitfalls" are -- and how to use human nature (yours and your enemy's) to your advantage.

You Get To 'Attend' One Of My Rare Training Courses - Free!

Finally, for the advanced Room-Clearing section of the course, you'll be taken inside one of Bennie's rare Training Courses for civilians.

People just like you paid thousands of dollars to attend the Training Course that you're going to see on this video. But you get to "be there" for a fraction of what it cost them.

You'll see the students going through exactly what he teaches on the tapes. You'll learn from their mistakes. You'll see Bennie teaching them, which is the next best thing to being there yourself and going through the course.

You'll see Bennie going through the drills, showing the exact right way to do the room-clearing techniques he teaches you, including...

- The best way to secure your child's room in your house.
- How to use cover and concealment in your house -- and how to assess your house and know the difference. What you can rely on, and what you can't.
- The most fatal mistake people make (thanks to TV and movies) when entering a room with a gun.
- Why SWAT teams, hostage rescue teams, and anti-terrorist soldiers wear ski masks -- and how to use this fact to your advantage.
- What cops are required by law to say to a suspect -- but you AREN'T! Once again, TV and movies teach you the wrong thing. If you do it in real life, call the mortuary.
- The right way to move when confronting someone if you've got a gun in your hand. Most people do it all wrong, and they'll get killed because of it.

As part of the Room-Clearing session, I also give you in-depth training on...

The Do's And Don't's Of Doorway Entries!

Let's say you come home late at night and you think someone's inside your home who's not supposed to be there. What do you do? He'll tell you the surprising answer on Disc 2.

- He shows you how to properly open a door if you have to enter with your gun. Most people make several critical mistakes because of TV and movies. But Bennie shows you the way he trains SWAT teams and police officers to enter the room to gain the maximum advantage over anyone who's inside, and get immediate control over the situation.
- What to do if someone grabs your gun. This simple technique will enable you to keep control of the gun, fire two shots at your attacker, and then finish him off!
- The pitfalls of entering a room slowly.
- The legal aspects of who you can and cannot shoot, when, where, and why.

The bottom line is that you will be in control of the entire situation, from beginning to end. And that's what it's all about.

Listen To What Experts Say About This Top-Level Training

How good is the training you'll get from these video tapes? Here are some comments from respected individuals whose lives depend on proper training...

"This stuff works in the real world. I am a firearms instructor, and I try to impart Ben's techniques and philosophy to the officers I teach. I highly recommend The Fighting Mindset to civilian and professional alike." - Gary Clark • Police Officer and Investigator • California

"I've seen almost everything in police tactical training, and not a lot of things impressed me -- until Ben Cooley came along. I was very impressed and saw a lot of new techniques and ideas. Ben's ideas are groundbreaking, new, and unique, and he always gives the reasons behind them!" - Jerry Lites • Police Officer and Leader of Special Response Team • Sebastopol,

California

"I've been a police officer for 32 years, and I have been through a lot of courses. None of these have compared with Ben Cooley's course on The Fighting Mindset. Learning these techniques could save your life in many life-threatening situations. It already has for me!" - Steve Abbott • Police Sergeant and Rangemaster • Visalia, California

"I found that Ben Cooley's course dealt with real-life situations in a practical manner. His teaching deals with the brutal realities of confrontation scenarios and house searches. It has given our SWAT team valuable and proven techniques that work for real and save lives. I can't recommend this course enough!" - Daryl Smith • Police Officer and SWAT Team Leader • Fayetteville, North Carolina

"Many instructors are knowledgeable and competent, but Ben Cooley truly knows how to communicate and inspire." - Jim Wall • IPSC Shooter • Parma, Idaho
"The biggest change Ben Cooley internalizes in people is that the mind is the best and foremost weapon. A lot of courses tell you that if you have certain tools, you'll win. Ben comes around from the other side and shows you that your mindset makes all the difference. You'll learn to be in charge of the situation from the beginning. Nobody comes close to teaching what Ben Cooley teaches!" - Mike Voight • Professional Shooter and Teacher • Mesa, Arizona

With statements like those, I hope you will give Bennie's new DVD training course, The Fighting Mindset, an honest try.

It's 2 DVD's, 4-hours+ long, and it's available normally for \$129.97 plus \$7.00 shipping and handling (total: 136.97). But for this special one-time introductory offer to Soldier of Fortune readers we're offering the complete set for only \$97. That's over \$30 OFF! (This offer will not be repeated).

No doubt you've spent several hundred, even thousands of dollars on your weapons and equipment. Doesn't it make sense to invest a little bit and get the training that will make those weapons pay off in real life? It's a small price to pay for saving your life.

Even so, you take no risk when you order because of...

My 100% Money-Back Guarantee Of Satisfaction

When I send you these tapes, I want you to watch them over and over until the things I teach you become second-nature to you.

You're going to be thrilled with what you learn. But if for some reason you're not, I don't expect

you to pay for them. In fact, you can take up to 90 days to decide if what I teach you is "the real thing" or not.

Train with these techniques. Practice them and see how they feel. If you don't believe they're worth many times the price you've paid for the course, you can return the tapes within 90 days and I'll send you a complete refund of every penny you paid.

I can't be any fairer than that. I want you to be completely satisfied, or you don't pay.

So frankly, you have nothing to lose by giving this course a try. Place your order today by calling TOLL-FREE, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week...

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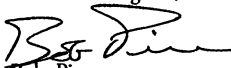
Your tapes will be shipped out to you within a few days, and I urge you to start watching them as soon as they arrive. You never know when you're going to have to use the life-saving techniques and strategies Bennie teaches you.

If you employ what you'll learn on these tapes, you won't make mistakes that can cost you your life (or the lives of your loved ones).

It's all about the tactical use of your MIND instead of just your equipment. That's why I call the video "The Fighting Mindset."

You'll call it the most valuable set of videos you've ever owned. Call now.

Sincere best regards,



Bob Pierce

P.S. Here's another testimony from one of Bennie's students on how effective this training is...

"In the second day of Ben's course, I got called out on a search warrant with the Special Response Team unit. I was the scout lead-man and the first one into the residence. When I went in, I encountered two men, one of whom held a bottle of crack cocaine. Because of what I learned from Ben Cooley, these guys were totally helpless. They were immediately on the floor, and they knew I was serious!"

- J. Taylor • Police Officer and Trainer • Whiteville, North Carolina

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MIPs Re To The



Members of Military Police Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group, fire their shotguns during a week-long exercise taught by the National Rifle Association. The Marines learned pistol and shotgun techniques to help them prepare for their spring deployment. Photo by: Lance Cpl. Ryan B. Busse

Each Out NRA

By Lance Cpl.
Raymond D. Lewis

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (17 Jan. 2005) – With some fancy footwork and phone calls, military policeman Gunnery Sgt. Robert G. Porter, company first sergeant for Military Police Company, Battalion Service Support Group 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was able to recruit two representatives from the National Rifle Association to teach his 19 Marines weapons techniques before their deployment to Iraq this spring.

For more than 100 years, the association has provided generations of Americans with programs focused on weapon safety, education and responsibility.

Now the organization has extended its services to include Marines aboard Camp Pendleton.

“The course trained my Marines to give instruction on the pistol and shotgun,” Porter said. “Now those Marines can train other Marines (in weapons handling) and, if need be, Iraqis.”

Porter said it would give his Marines the proficiency and confidence they need once deployed.

“I wanted to send some Marines to Quantico, Va., for the Small Arms Weapons Instructors Course, but it’s difficult to send them,” Porter said. “Then I looked into civilian agencies, and I found the NRA.”

The NRA is an organization with a reputation for having weapon-savvy representatives, according to Porter.

The two representatives who taught the course were former Marine and FBI agent Dave Webber and former soldier Shawn Lewis.

“Lewis brings real world Iraqi experience as a NRA instructor,” Porter said. “He was ambushed by insurgents when he was in Iraq as a civilian and fought back. When he says a weapons technique works, he’s saying it because he went through it.”

Many Marines said the training they received was different from the

David Weber demonstrating "bowling," the term used when you extend your arm and lift it instead of punching it out (Inset) Weber talking about a tight grouping if you follow all the fundamentals



stationary, known-distance courses they encounter at the rifle range.

"On the range we did practical application on cover and concealment, night shooting, and strong and off-hand shooting," said Sgt. Rodney S. Bistham with MP Company.

Bishman added that what they did was a good change of pace from the humdrum of shooting at the range.

Although the Marines learned on the shotgun and pistol, the techniques

they learned can be applied in other training opportunities.

"I love it. It's excellent training that can be applied to every weapon system," said Cpl. Justin R. Bowman, military policeman, MP Company, Battalion Service Support Group 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

"The training can be used on our (M-16A2 service rifles) and pistols," Bistham said.

More importantly, the training can be applied to a desert environment.

"We can use it for enemy prisoners of war, Iraqi guard and military operations in urban terrain," Bowman said.

Combat Skills Training instructor Sgt. Samuel Guardiola with 1st MLG said the training could help anyone before they deploy.

"I feel more confident in my job than I did before this course," Bowman said.

"It's a tremendous feeling to instruct Marines," Webber said. "I'd do this for free to make sure these Marines come back."

SOF took the opportunity to ask the Gunny some basic questions that we thought might give our readers more insight to this Course:

Continued on page 34



GySgt Porter enjoying the classroom instruction portion of the course.

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United States - Navy SEAL Testimonial: "My team members and I have been privileged to train in all of the so called best martial arts and police systems the US government can afford! Bottom line is when it comes to combat fighting for my life (not training but real front line duty.) I use only what works 100% of the time, SCARS! Thanks Jerry, for saving my butt!" John D (Rank and Team withheld under security agreement)

MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AROUND THE WORLD

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WHY NOT YOU?

So You've Trained With The Best?

However, The Question Is, Best At What?

Life And Death Fighting Skills Or

Sport Fighting Skills. They Are Worlds Apart!

Please, take a moment of your time to read this article. As you do, remember that the development of this information came directly from personal experience in surviving front line duty in modern warfare both as a covert operator and as an overt operator. Let's get you in the right mind set with the following statement from Mr. Peterson, "Remember there are tricks to being a world class sport fighter, some men are smarter than others and become great champions. However, men that have killed to survive have knowledge and experience far beyond the world of sport fighters. When there is no one left on the battlefield but you, and the enemy, all rules are simplified down to just one, kill to live, giving up is simply **NOT AN OPTION!**"

Give this system a hard look. It will save you time, money, and possibly the life of a client, yourself, or above all your loved ones!

What Is So Special About The SCARS System?

Who Is Behind It?

OK, this is the condensed version. Mr. Jerry Peterson is a former US-ARMY 173rd. Airborne C/4th/503rd Inf. (68-69) Vietnam Vet and the sole founder of SCARS.

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

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

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

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

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

Say what you will, that's impressive!

Our Training System Has Been Tested And Used By Military And Law Enforcement Personnel Around The World. If They Use It To Save Their Lives...

WHY NOT YOU!

If you would like more info on SCARS or any SCARS Products go to www.scars.com or www.dachq.com It's all there. Once you are satisfied as to our credibility and find the type of training you want then just logon and buy the product online in our secure store 24/7.

Our sign up for hands on training with the Knights of SCARS!

Please...

Don't Lose Your Head! Don't Be Another Headline!

Remember Hurricane Katrina? Many innocent people died in the aftermath because they lacked basic survival and protection skills that they could have easily learned in 48 to 72 hours of SCARS training! Such as, how to protect their homes, possessions, and lives from looting and riots. Don't let this be you!

Learn To Protect Yourself Against All Threats With Proven Combat Training!

All SCARS knowledge is taken from real world combat on the modern day battle field, not from a dojo or in a sports arena! If you have a threat you will find a solution for it on our website. Whether it's through the following DVD packages-Official Navy SEAL / Combat Fighting Course, Lethal Weapon Fighting Skills, or the Official Law Enforcement P.A.C.T., DT Training Program-you'll find a solution that fits your needs!

SCARS DVD Training Programs Have Saved Lives Around The World.

So you owe it to yourself to at least experience the System of SCARS via our DVD training products. We have carefully developed a single DVD taken from over 400 lessons to introduce you to SCARS. All lessons are taken from larger packages, to give you a complete selection of powerful and devastating lessons, we call it...

"SCARS 05 Lethal"

It's A Visual Index Into The World Of SCARS!

All lessons have been used either in combat or on the streets; fighting everything from **terrorists, gangs, robberies, and the common thug!**

This DVD includes lessons taken directly from the Official Navy SEAL / Combat Fighting Course.

"SCARS 05 Lethal" DVD will allow you to see, learn, and do hand-to-hand and hand to weapon fighting skills the right way **within 15 minutes!**

If you watch just one lesson from this video, you'll be able to do it for real in **5 minutes**. You won't look pretty, but you'll damn sure be the one walking away. Remember what you're getting is part of the SCARS Lethal Tradecraft so it does have lethal lessons and a few non-lethal lessons for our law enforcement officers. After all, we must give you a choice!

Frankly 50% of you will never need anything more to protect yourself! You'll find the DVD called "**SCARS 05 Lethal!**" order form on the next page. It's just \$29.95 plus shipping. You can bet it will handle 90% of any threat and if you're an average civilian, 100% of any threat!
Now if you want more...

How About A \$3,200 Dollar Sponsorship To Get Into A Live Training Event!

When we receive your order for the "**SCARS 05 Lethal!**" either through this ad or www.scars.com, we will give you a limited **one time \$3,200 sponsorship**. We'll even give you one full year to use it! You'll need to go to the www.scars.com to get the full details.

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

This is a special training event, which Mr. Peterson personally conducts. Just so you know, anything that Jerry or Blake teaches starts at a minimum of **\$5000 per person**, and that's a group rate! You can see why **Men's Health** and **Forbes** were interested. This sponsorship is intended to give everyone at least **one** chance to learn the lethal science of SCARS, and to meet and train with the men that started it all!

Remember! All you need to do is take a chance for just \$29.95. If it's crap, then you lose nothing but a lunch. Isn't your life worth that?

ATTENTION PROFESSIONALS: If you're a civilian contractor in security or infrastructure support, and you are not fully satisfied that you can personally handle a lethal assault due to the low standard non-lethal police training, please read this article. If you want a proven combat training program, then Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary Systems® SCARS™ is a must have!

WANT ACCESS TO HANDS ON TRAINING? THERE'S ONLY 2 WAYS!

UNITED STATES DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OR...

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To check out the NEW "Fraternal Order of the Knights of SCARS ©™" you need to go to www.scars.com. You may very well qualify to receive sponsorship in to the Order of the Knights allowing a lifetime of personal one on one training from Jerry and Blake Peterson. Remember, they have trained the United States Special Operations Forces! **So why not you?** It has taken years to set up the "Fraternal Order of the Knights of SCARS" we have sponsored over **\$1,800,000.00 worth of memberships!!!** Now, those very men have voted to open the doors to you with a limited number of sponsorships. Shouldn't you have a chance to at least experience one awesome event? Coming to a training event doesn't obligate you to join the Knights. **Please don't miss out...**

Our newly formatted DVDs are a thousand times better than the past VHS format...

All our loyal SCARS customers that have purchased the outdated VHS products, it's time to switch to the newly formatted DVD! These newly formatted DVDs come with a complete quick scan lesson index to jump right to the lessons of choice or freeze frame at any point with perfect clarity. This DVD format is the absolute best in review training! Now is the time to get the complete revised historic combat fighting system that still to this day is preferred by those going to, or in high risk areas of the world where lethal action may be the only way you will survive. **Make the switch Today!**

If you're hesitating, that is to be expected. Further, you're not at all alone. Most trained professionals act in disbelief when we state it is 100% effective.

PLEASE Don't think this is just another exaggerated advertisement!

In All Honesty intelligent people will go through the following decision making process when confronted with a revolutionary idea. It's just the science of psychology.

1. Total Disbelief that SCARS is undefeatable and works 100% of the time!
 - A. Can be learned via a DVD!
 - B. Efficient to the point of saving one's life!
 - C. Totally wipe out FEAR from the Mind!
2. Acting in a Rhetorical fashion, unsupported ridicule, saying to yourself this has to be Bull Sh#, and other colorful statements!
3. Reading our website and reluctantly understanding it.
4. Taking a leap of faith and purchasing a DVD training package.
5. Being highly impressed by the results and purchasing more of SCARS and signing up for Live Training.
6. Becoming a SCARS enthusiast and trying to persuade others by telling them it really works! The damn stuff really works!
7. Being ridiculed and ignored by the friends who think you've lost your mind.
8. After just days of using the SCARS program your friends admire your knowledge and abilities and your positive mind set!
9. You're telling them (again) that SCARS is 100% effective!
10. Those friends reluctantly buy their own SCARS DVDs program and the cycle starts all over.

WARNING: There are people that never get beyond step 2 above. They are stuck within their own rhetorical action supported by unfounded and unsupported ridicule. **THEY FEAR.** Thus they suffer from **SCARSOPHOBIA.** Like anyone at the top, we have our share of these nuts!

IT'S JUST THE WAY REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS ARE, AND SCARS IS REVOLUTIONARY!!!

Note: Only one sponsorship per person-terms and conditions of this offer subject to change without notice.

Send Me the DVD

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What's in it? Navy SEAL Lethal/Non-Lethal Hand-to-Hand, Knife Fighting Lethal, Rifle and Pistol Disarms, Club Usage and Takeaway, Compression Fighting, Grabs, Holds, Choke Outs, and much more! All lessons taken from their individual complete fighting packages. That way you see it before taking the big plunge. This DVD alone could save your life!

Don't wait, it's just **\$29.95** plus **\$7.00** for shipping in the USA. AZ only add **\$2.55** for Tax. Please call the toll free number below.

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Author of *ON INTELLIGENCE: Spies And Secrecy In An Open World*

more ammunition than they were allotted. A Marine is allotted 15 "00" buckshot per year to fam fire. We shot much more than that, we even fired slugs. Each Marine fired 900 rounds of 9mm pistol ammo, 50 12 gauge Slug, and 120 00 Buckshot rounds.

SOF: Shotgun and pistol only?

GySgt: Yes, Pistol and Shotgun only. Had I the time, money and ammunition, I would have liked to have had my Marines go through as many courses of Instruction as the NRA provided. The NRA Instructors were very professional, and extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of the use and employment of the Pistol and Shotgun.

SOF: How long was the Course?

GySgt: The Course was five full days and one night fire. During the night portion the Marines learned how to properly use a flashlight while firing the weapons.

SOF: How were instructors selected? How were they obtained? Were they paid and if so how much?

GySgt: The NRA provided the Instructors; David Weber (Former Marine and FBI) and Shawn Lewis (Former Army), they selected two individuals that had prior military expe-

NRA • Continued from page 30

SOF: How did this training all come about? Who contacted who?

GySgt: I contacted the NRA first. I had discovered that my Marines had not conducted the required annual shotgun Familiarization Fire (Fam Fire) per our MOS's Individual Training Standards (ITS). I asked our Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) to provide the training, but they did not have a Marine Qualified as a Small Arms Weapons Instructor (SAWIC) Course. I was unable to get a Marine qualified as a SAWIC due to operation and deployment tempo. I then requested to have the NRA come out and provide the instruction. The request was approved, but due to budget restraints I was unable to do it. The next Fiscal year came around and I requested the course again. It was approved and I got the funding \$8,700.00 to train 20 Marines as Pistol & Shotgun Law Enforcement

Instructors. NOTE: it would have cost approximately \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 to send one Marine to the SAWIC. I think we got a good deal training 20 Marines through the NRA for the same price as 1 SAWIC.

SOF: How many rounds fired?

GySgt: The Marines fired

Continued on page 70



(inset) Firing from the right side, strong side, prone. (bottom) Sgt. Samuel Guardiola and Sgt. Rodney S. Bisham. Here Bisham is "challenging" a suspect to get down.

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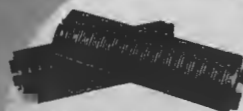
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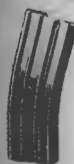
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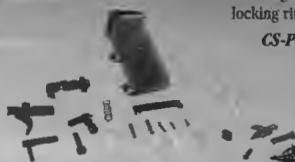


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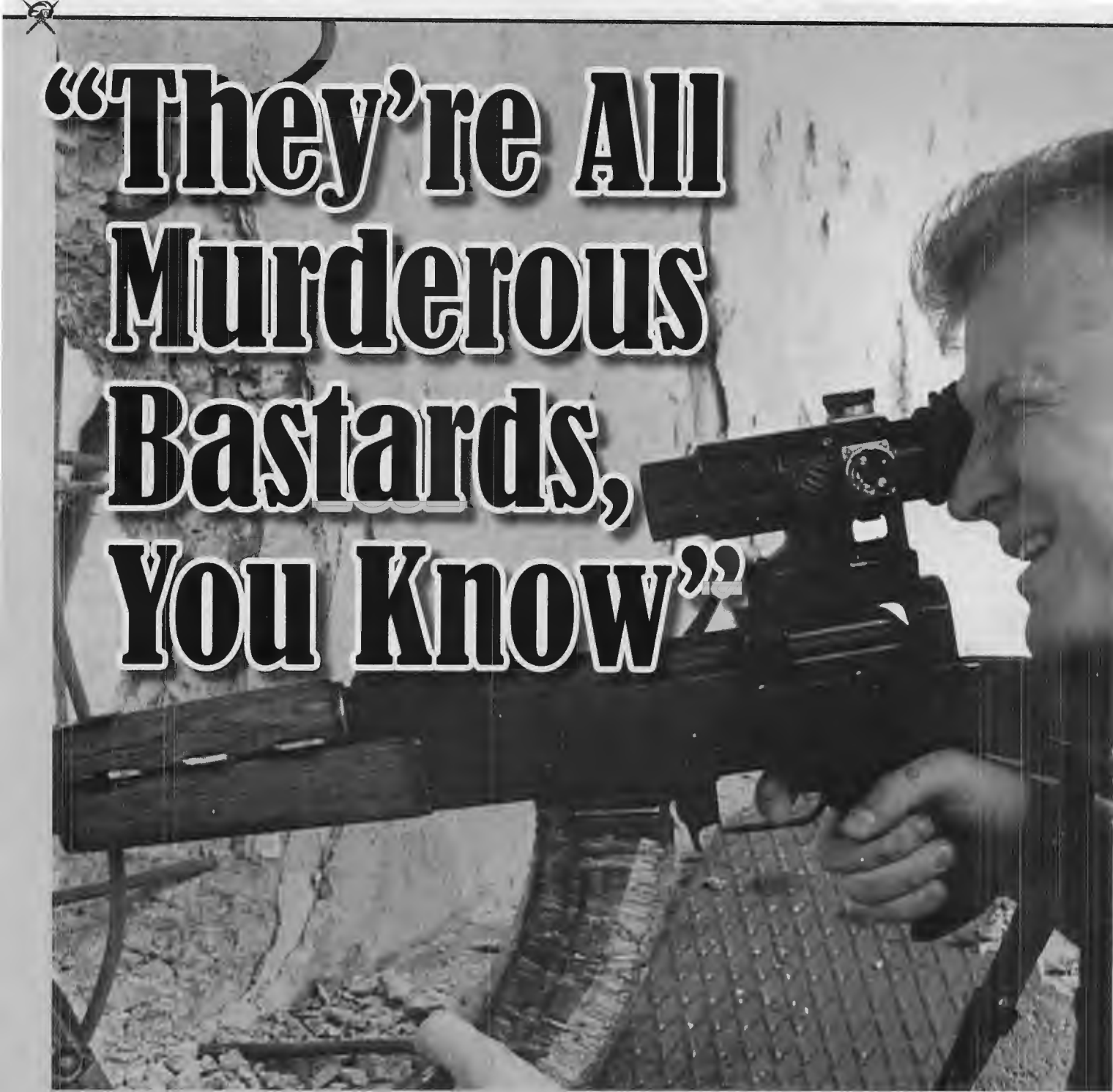
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“They’re All Murderous Bastards, You Know”

Trying to Find Some Good Guys in the Balkan War – Part One

By Nat Helms

I went to Zadar, Croatia in March 1993 looking for HOS, the black-shirted Croatian paramilitaries from the Party of the Right who modeled themselves after World War II Nazi storm troopers. Among other eccentricities, they engaged in bizarre ceremonies that include secret handshakes and all sorts of weird Teutonic rituals that gave me the creeps. The Yugoslavian civil war was raging and the entire region was on fire: As a journalist I wanted to get up with HOS, as they

liked to stand near the flames.

HOS soldiers were tough fighters well armed with Russian, Czech, Israeli, German, and Hungarian weapons. Their gear was modern, neat and clean, and their ability to fight was well known. Many of them were self-declared Nazis and right-wing extremists from all over Europe and some of them simply liked to fight. Whatever their personal reasons, HOS looked for trouble and reveled in it wherever it was found.

I was specifically looking for 1.4 Brigade of “HOS,” which is the Croatian acronym for the super-nationalistic soldier’s political sponsor. I was told I would find the short-staffed battalion-sized unit of strike fighters in Zadar, another embattled city on the Adriatic Sea on the other side of Croatia.

At the time I was living in an apartment in Osijek, a hero city that had survived a siege every bit as destructive as the agony at Sarajevo. I lived there because of the good graces of



His real name is Zoran, but he went by "Jan." This HOS sniper claimed he had killed more than 350 Serbians when I met him. When this picture was snapped, he was smiling because he had a Serb in his sights, not because he was mugging for the camera.

"Gospodin" Branimir Glavis, the *Jupan* of Osijek and eastern Slavonia and a kind of mayor, general, and grand poohbah all rolled into one. If he had not wanted me there I would have been ejected at best and dead at worst. Two Russian journalists had been buried in their car at the first line in a nearby city. The rumor was, Glavis had ordered their disposal.

Glavis wanted me to go to the Croatian capital city of Zagreb and find a former HOS commander from Osijek who was getting together replacements in the big city. He gave me his business card and instructions to

find a particular commander hanging out in Zagreb who would make the arrangements.

"Not," Glavis told me severely through his thick-tongued interpreter, "You need to go to the war there, Not, and then tell me what you see. Don't disappoint me."

Given that his very scary security chief, a guy named Franjo who acted like Peter Laurie doing his best work, was standing beside Glavis nodding gravely, I decided to give the offer serious consideration. Only the week before Franjo solemnly told me he didn't want to "put me in the garden," a Croatian version of pushing up daisies, but he would do whatever it took to save the Fatherland. He liked to show me his Browning Hi-Power 9mm with Glavis' name engraved on the slide. Only the most loyal fellows received such a wonderful reward. I quickly decided it was a good idea. I left on the 10:00 p.m. train to Zagreb.

Before I departed, Franjo instructed me to find an American named Gary Rex Lauek who was living in a hotel in Croatia's capitol. Lauek was a transplanted Nazi and an officer in the paramilitary "Black Legion" that fought so hard defending Vukovar.

The former Croatian city had its eyes plucked out the year before by Serbian Chetnik marauders that left it in ruins. After the fall of Vukovar, its Black Legion survivors who didn't die or desert had been folded into HOS to stiffen the line.

It was an ugly war in eastern Slavonia and folks were still sawing off heads, killing babies, and raping and pillaging like Attila the Hun on steroids. Only a week before my meeting with Glavis I barely escaped a severe beating or worse when Serb military policemen arrested me for trying to take the road to Vukovar.

"Serbia is where a Serb pisses," one of the MPs told me when I said I thought I was in Croatia. I knew I wasn't, but being dumb was an asset sometimes.

Only the timely intervention of a



Author - standing - with my HOS guide and two local Bosnians from HVO - the Croatian Nationalist Army inside Bosnia. The woman on the right is a Croatian journalist from Sarajevo who joined the HVO when the civil war broke out. The other woman in the picture is my Bosnian Croat interpreter. Our group was threatened with execution for coming into Bosnian Muslim lines without permission. The soldier sitting in front of me got us out of that jam. (inset) Jupan Branimir Glavis, the political and military leader of eastern Slavonia



Franjo, Glavis' security chief, was the fellow who "put people in the garden" when they were politically incorrect. He is standing next to a sign that says in Croatia that Osijek – spelled in the Roman alphabet – would never be Ocek – the Serbian spelling of the city.

Belgian officer from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) saved me from an unkind fate.

I never found Lauek in Zagreb. He had been replaced by an old, gray headed Australian Nazi of Croatian descent who showed me his World War II Ustashi membership card. The Ustashi was the creation of Ante Pavelic, an old-fashioned Fascist who kept a 40-pound basket of Serbian eyeballs on his desk to impress visitors. The Australian sincerely admired the guy.

"...All Murderous Bastards Anyway"

"We had to," he explained in his conspiratorial way. "The Serbs want Greater Serbia and they had to be taught that it wouldn't do. They were all murderous bastards anyway."

Despite our philosophical differences – which I tried to underplay – the old Ustashi nutcase led me to the soldiers I was looking for. After an all-night train ride from Zagreb to Rijeka and then an all-day bus ride to Zadar that included several artillery barrages and a few sniper rounds, I finally arrived.

Eventually I found my way in front of the young Croatian toughs and foreign mercenaries from HOS who were fighting for the hell of it. Some were dressed in American-issue woodland camouflage uniforms and a unique kind of brimmed hat similar to a U.S. Marine's utility cover and others were wearing a variety of civilian clothes and mixed attire. Their officers were

former Yugoslav National Army (JNA) soldiers of Croatian



HOS battle flag circa 1993.

heritage, several Canadians, a reputed former French Foreign Legion Sergeant Major who was now a general, at least one Finnish company commander and an Albanian from somewhere around Kosovo. Most of them sported earrings, knives, grenades and pistols. They looked

like pirates.

The Albanian was a particular trip because he hated everybody and stunk of BO and the peppers he ate by the gross. The others constantly threatened to make the Albanian sit alone until he took a bath. When I met them he hadn't yet made that concession, although the soldiers who were crowded into a bar throwing glass ashtrays at a civilian policeman didn't seem to notice. The Finn, who reputedly fought in Afghanistan for the Russians, somehow got the duty and I was assigned to go to 4th Company – which he commanded.

The reticent Finn told me in good English the foreshortened brigade had been severely depleted by casualties and desertions in eastern Slavonia. While they were in Osijek their 32-

A Branimir Glavis "get-out-of-jail-free" card. With this business card I was able to move around the "forbidden zones" along the so-called "first line" where most foreign journalists were forbidden from visiting.

year-old commander Eduardo Flores, a handsome, brilliant, cruel, and vicious Bolivian who arrived from Spain, had made the soldiers into stars. Eduardo – already a legend – was gone when I stepped off the train in Osijek the preceding March. He had reportedly been shot in the head during an engagement with Serbian troops near Osijek, but his body had never been recovered. Despite his death the so-called "international brigade" – now designated a HOS brigade that he founded – was still on the first line killing Serbs the day I arrived.

The week before Glavis suggested I visit his favorite HOS unit, they had climbed on the same 10:00 p.m. train to Osijek I was to take. Remarkably, war-torn Croatia had good trains. For a week I had no idea where they had gone. It was disappointing because their fame had preceded them and I wanted to hook up with a first-rate infantry company that was actually fighting the war. For several weeks before their departure I had gone to Army headquarters every day seeking permission to go to the first line. Most of the local troops acted like the Army was a distasteful job to which they departed each dawn on the local trolley. I wanted to see somebody in action.

Two years before the Serbs had

Continued on page 48



Croatian police car ambushed while on routine patrol near Zadar, on the Adriatic coast. Four policemen died in the blown-out vehicle. It was reportedly struck by a rocket-propelled grenade that exploded the gas tank.

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By Dr. Martin Brass

AMERICA AT WAR

 **1. MYANMAR (formerly Burma)** **KAREN NATIONAL UNION** guerillas and the military dictatorship army clash near the Thai border five times in two months.

 **2. PHILIPPINES** **COUP TO OVERTHROW** president Gloria Arroyo fails.

 **3. UNITED STATES** **SOUTHERN BORDER: A WAR ZONE?** Two IEDs and components for 33 more, military-style grenades, 26 grenade triggers, large quantities of AK-47 and AR-15 rifles, 1,280 rounds of ammunition, silencers, machine-gun assembly kits, bullet-proof vests, police scanners, sniper scopes, narcotics, and cash seized, reports *Copley News*. **MARA SAVATRUCHA (MS-13) GANG** allegedly planning coordinated attacks on U.S.-Mexico border, says *Daily Bulletin*. MS-13 members to be massed along border and given order to attack to gain control of "areas, cities and regions within the United States." **VIOLENT REACTION** to the Bush Administrations plan that would allow a United Arab Emirates company to control six American ports triggers sale of ports by UAE. Two 9-11 terrorists were from the UAE. **PAKISTANI JAMAAT UL FUQRA**, N.Y based Pakistani group, uses Islamic schools in U.S. for training. *WorldNet Daily*

 **4. COLOMBIA** **SEVEN CIVILIANS MASSACRED** when FARC attacked the bus that crossed the thug's "armed strike" forbidden zone. FARC kills nine soldiers in firefight when an elite anti-guerrilla unit charged into the Dabeiba region, 350 kilometers (220 miles) northwest of Bogota, 35 FARC die in the offensive. Four officers arrested for torturing 21 military cadets.

5. RUSSIA SPETSNAZ' WELL-ORCHESTRATED operation, dubbed "emergency exit," designed to evacuate Saddam's WMD into Syria and Lebanon on ships and trucks, was executed before Iraq invasion, claims Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Shaw.

6. THE NETHERLANDS HOFSTAD GROUP CONVICTED under new anti-terrorist laws similar to the Patriot Act. American Jason Walters sentenced to 15 years, his brother Germaine was acquitted, Ismail A. got 13 years for the membership in a criminal and terrorist organization and for five attempted murders (throwing a hand grenade at a SWAT team that stormed them in the Hague in 2004). HOFSTAD'S CHIEF Mohammed Bouyeri is serving a life sentence.

6. BELGIUM NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY sale to Iran forces head of State Security Service to resign. "DISFUNCTION" when Koen Dassen's department failed to inform the Justice Minister of isostatic press transfers to Iran in November 2004 and forward CIA warnings that this equipment, which could be used for military purposes, was to be sold to Iran by Epsi Company.

7. ITALY PAPAL ASSASSINATION attempt of 1981 blamed "beyond reasonable doubt" on Soviet Union, a parliamentary commission rules. The Polish-born Pope, who supported the Solidarity freedom movement that threatened the Soviet Block, was to be silenced.

8. TURKEY TERROR STRIKES AGAIN. Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) linked to the PKK, bomb Internet café used by police. One dies, 15 injured.

9. LEBANON U.S. DEMANDS EXTRADITION FOR HEZ-BOLLAH terrorist Ali Hamadi, who killed U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem in 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847.

10. IRAQ WAR OF THE MOSQUES that takes out Shi and Sunni Mosques belies the "peaceful Islam" theory. TERRORISTS TARGET public utilities.

11. IRAN SUICIDE MARTYRDOM SEEKERS warn U.S. and U. K. that coalition military bases in Iraq will be blown up if they threaten Tehran's nuclear facilities.

12. PAKISTAN TALIBAN "ISLAMIC STATE" declared in North where thousands of recruits train on terrorist bases. AL-QAEDA BOMB MAKER and chemical weapons expert Abu Khabab al-Masri killed in U.S. missile attack. DNA proved that Bin Laden's #2 al Zawahiri escaped attack.

13. NEPAL MOAIST TERRORISTS kidnap high-profile targets and torture them to accept the Maoist doctrine.

14. INDIA FOUR ISLAMIC TERRORISTS KILLED. Government demands that Army report the official number of Moslems in its ranks.

15. YEMEN RADICAL SHIITE TRIBES and pro- al-Qaeda Sunnis declare war: 1000 troops and tribesmen killed in 2005, up from 400 in 2004. FUGITIVE TERRORIST CONVICTS escape prison through a tunnel that led to mosque 500 feet from prison.

16. SUDAN OROMO LIBERATION ARMY (OLA), armed wing of the Oromo Liberation Front OLF, accuses Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) of attacking its position in a joint military operation with Ethiopian troops: 30 Ethiopian soldiers and five SPLA combatants killed, 45 wounded.

17. ETHIOPIA FRONTIER FEUD Border tensions high as UN attempts border negotiation for stalemate. From 1998-2000, the border war claimed 70,000 lives.

18. KENYA TEN SOMALI PIRATES captured by U.S. Navy, on trial for attacking a vessel in the Indian Ocean, threatening the crew they held for ransom. U.S. deploys UAVs in search for terrorists.

The War On the Streets

by Officer James J. Fotis (Ret.), Executive Director, LEAA

Soldier of Fortune is proud to offer its readers the first in a series of regular feature columns from the Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA). For well over a decade, LEAA has led the fight on behalf of the good guys, from working to protect the Second Amendment rights of all Americans, to standing up for street cops who come under fire from opportunistic politicians and an ignorant media. If you're not a member of LEAA, you should be. For more info visit their webpage at www.leaa.org. —RKB

The Gun Grabbers Secret War Against Cops

When the gun control lobby sets out to rob law abiding Americans of their liberty, you can count on them to use photo-op cops to promote their agenda. The gun grabbers would have you believe that America's cops want to take away your guns; strip you of the tools of self-defense. For over a decade, LEAA has made great strides in exposing this fraud for what it really is: a bold-faced, media supported lie.

When the gun control lobby lined the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building with uniformed officers to greet Congressmen arriving to vote on gun control, LEAA uncovered the official teletype that illegally ordered these officers to appear, armed and in uniform. Orders that broke laws prohibiting taxpayer funding for lobbying, not to mention Washington DC's draconian gun control. When a small gathering of police chiefs (more politician than cop) asked Congress to pass more gun control, LEAA delivered to Congress the signatures of thousands of rank and file officers who know first hand that gun control is not crime control.

But hidden in the photo-op cop lie that is used over and over again to push for more useless gun control is a dirty little secret: the gun grabbers want to disarm cops too! Leaders of the gun control movement have admitted publicly that they don't even trust cops with firearms. Anti-gun zealots like Chicago's Mayor Daley have refused to obey federal laws that would allow qualified retired officers to carry concealed firearms. The NYPD has put out a directive stating that active and retired officers from out of state

carrying concealed firearms lawfully, under H.R. 218 (National Concealed Carry for Cops), be detained and have their firearms confiscated while the NYPD investigates them.

And this hatred of cops having guns is not new: well known gun control leader Michael Beard, president of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, revealed this little known secret back in 1995 when he said, "...certainly I don't trust the police more than the other person." He went on saying, "I would personally like to see the day when police officers do not carry firearms." And, "I don't believe that police officers with all of their training are any safer with their guns than we as private citizens."

Just recently I received a letter from an officer in New York who fears the department may confiscate his lawfully owned and privately purchased handgun because the NYPD brass disapprove of officers owning certain 'types' of legal handguns. And it's not just privately owned firearms or off duty officers that are targeted. The infamous North Hollywood shoot-out, where officers were "outgunned" by a pair of armed robbers with rifles is a prime example. These officers were not outgunned by the murdering bank robbers, but by city politicians who had ordered the removal of police carbines from patrol cars, suggesting that these so-called "assault rifles" had no business being used by law enforcement or law abiding Americans.

LEAA has long promoted the common sense slogan, "gun control is not crime control." In fact, the truth is worse, gun control promotes crime. Gun control targets law abiding Americans, and upon deeper inspection, American law enforcement officers as well. Gun control disarms the good guys and gives the bad guys a safer environment to prey upon law-abiding citizens.

After giving a speech to a Second Amendment audience a while back, someone came up to me afterwards and asked why more cops don't publicly speak out against gun control. That's an important question, with a complex answer. The hard truth is that for a lot of them, it can be career suicide. Their chief can attend all the gun control events they like because



the City Council or Mayor is often of the same mind when it comes to pushing the liberal gun control agenda. But an officer who appears in uniform at a pro-Second Amendment forum is likely to face disciplinary action.

There is hope: there are lots of ways these officers can speak out or take action without putting their jobs on the line. Joining LEAA is one way, and quite frankly, there are plenty of cops who are pro-gun, but who have not yet joined LEAA. But that's also something that cops and law abiding gun owners have in common. There are plenty of gun owners who value their right to keep and bear arms, but have not stepped up to support their choice of gun rights groups, from the NRA, to LEAA, to CCRKBA, the Fifty Caliber Institute and lots more.

Law abiding gun owners and cops have the same interest and belong on the same side when it comes to fighting gun control and pushing for real crime control. For well over a decade, LEAA has been bringing those interests together and we've achieved great results in doing so. The dirty little secret of the gun control lobby won't stay hidden as long as LEAA has anything to say about it! ✖

LEAA is a national, non-profit association of over 75,000 members and supporters. Unlike other police-based groups LEAA's membership is open equally to law enforcement, crime victims AND pro-law enforcement citizens who support the Second Amendment. For more information, or to join in the fight, please go to www.leaa.org



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PARA-ORDNANCE PXT 1911 7.45 AUTO

Looks Good, Shoots Well, Priced Right!

By Jerry Sullivan

Photos by SOF Staff

Going elk hunting with SOF publisher Bob Brown is like a firearms and outdoor equipment exposition held in the high country of northwest Colorado. One never knows who or what might show up, but a good time is guaranteed. With lots of good gear and firearms to evaluate and enjoy, mule deer and elk to be hunted and loads of camaraderie to go around, we set about establishing our camp and taking care of business. The best bit of business I came across was shooting one of the few Para-Ordnance Single Stack PXT 1911 auto-loaders to be seen anywhere.

Having just returned from Gunsite Training Center and being an experienced hand with M1911-type pistols, Col. Brown left me somewhat humbled. For years I've carried a European, high-capacity striker-fired double-action autoloader, on and off the job. While I have fired and been trained with numerous single action-pistols over the many years, I certainly do not consider myself "fully familiarized and qualified" with any of them. Other than my old Browning High Power, I had not even handled one for several years, and my performance at elk camp was rather dismal.

Worth a Very Close Look

When I got home it didn't take long to get my hands on a new PXT, Para's 7.45 Mid-Night Blue Single-Stack 1911 pistol.

Handling the new PXT with warm, clean hands in the comfort of my abode, rather than the harsh, cold, windswept Colorado high country

with cold and dirty hands, was a real surprise. It was smooth all over, no snag or sharp edge to be found, and the finish, Para's new baked-on midnight blue proprietary coating, looked and felt superb.

While the Para 7.45 is billed and

priced as an "entry level" 1911, the only thing I found lacking was a good set of fully adjustable night sights. I like Miniature Machine Corporation's adjustable sights real well, because at 50 feet or so, a good "6 o'clock" sight picture will give you a center punch every time. They are superbly constructed, exceptionally strong, snag-free and have plenty of adjustment and a lifetime

warranty. Those are my druthers!

The Para 7.45 package did include a coupon that entitled the owner to have a set of fixed night sights installed by Para-Ordnance for \$99.00. Other features of the package, aside from the excellent fit and finish,

RKB lights up the elk high country with a magazine of .45 Black Hills 230 grain FMJ. The ParaOrdnance 1911 single stack PXT was a pleasure to shoot. Brown is wearing a Wiggy Combat Desert Parka...uses Walker Power Muff ear protection which provides adjustable sound amplification and hearing protection as well as Wiley X sunglasses. In the background are two Kirfaru tents that once again proved their superior qualities.

NCE LOADER



The Para 1911 fit, finish and snag free surface make for a superb package. The eight round ACT-MAG magazines once again proved their reliability. The CamelBak hydration system was a necessary partner while tramping through the Colorado high country. The magazine are held in a SPEC.-OPS Op-Order Logistic Pouch attached to the SPEC.-OPS pouch.

on this Para 1911 are a skeletonized trigger and hammer, a flat stippled mainspring housing, checkered hardwood grips, an extended beavertail grip safety, steel frame and a fully ramped stainless steel barrel. Nice package! While not designed or presented as a “tactical” weapon as it lacks the obligatory front mounting rail, etc., it certainly qualifies as an excellent duty weapon for uniformed or plainclothes carry. Its sleek, trim lines, nicely radiused surfaces and silky smooth finish lend the Para PXT 7.45 well to even the CCW role for those who like full-sized weapons.

Good Guns Deserve Good Leather

While waiting for the Para-Ordnance to arrive, I called the good folks at DeSantis Gun Leather (www.desantisholsters.com) and they quite generously sent me one of their superb “Sky Cop” cross-draw holsters. The “Sky Cop” is a top-notch piece of custom leatherwork, which rides

midline, nice and tight to the body and possesses outstanding weapon retention qualities. Under a sport coat or field jacket, a better choice would be hard to come by, and presentation from the cross-draw position is lightning fast. It makes a perfect companion to the snag-free Midnight Blue finish of the Para PXT 7.45.

First, as always, I took the new Para-Ordnance to the shop for com-



The Para-Ordnance 1911 rides comfortably and securely in the fine DeSantis “Sky Cop” crossdraw holster. Under a sport jacket, field jacket or parka, it's an excellent arrangement for such applications.

plete disassembly, inspection and lubrication. No surprises here: typical Para-Ordnance quality through and through. Perfect fit and finish, and again the well-radiused metal work was superb – and I got my first close-up look at Para’s “Power Extractor.” Truly massive by comparison to all others. The PXT package even includes a barrel-bushing wrench, hex-head wrenches for the drift-adjustable rear sight, trigger adjustment (don’t fiddle with it if you don’t know what you’re doing) and one to remove the screws from the stock bushings. Para has it all together in one box.

So on a rare sunny but bitterly cold day, I set off with a trunk full of targets, several boxes of high-quality ammo, 50 rounds of reloaded 230 gr. hollow point and ball ammo and a smile on my face. A cold day at the range sure beats a hot day in the jungle, or the sandbox. No incoming fire today!

After running a couple mags

of ball through it to allow for everything to loosen up, I began attempting to induce a failure or stoppage. I limp-wristed it with my offhand, used my offhand index finger to cam the trigger which produced very high cyclic rates, and even fired it upside down with various reloaded ball and H.P. ammo. There was no stopping the Para PXT 1911.

Shots Fired

I placed one set of targets at 50 feet, simply because that is the maximum distance required by the state of Ohio for law enforcement qualification. Not an unreasonable distance to produce accurate, unsupported fire. In training, I use head and upper thro-

(left) Author tromped around with a Eberlestock "GS05M Gunslinger" pack which facilitates carrying military/law enforcement rifles with a quick draw removable top-cover to conceal weapon and converts pack to drag bag. Also, has MOLLE compatible webbing on key surfaces.



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All factory ammo, Federal Hydra-Shock, Speer Gold Dot and Hornady Custom +P hollow point ammo produced high hit ratios. The Gold Dot won out, with all 14 rounds landing in the lower cranium, point of aim with my 6 o'clock hold. At 50 feet,

Continued on page 50

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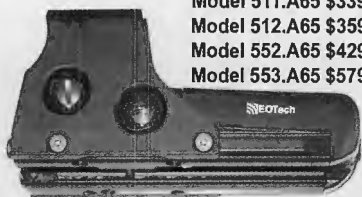
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nearly surrounded Osijek when the Serbian-dominated Yugoslavian government was trying to hold the break-away republics together. To do it, the Serb Army and Air Force had blasted Osijek into rubble with artillery, mortars, and MiGs. Between artillery assaults and MiG strafing the thinly spread Croat defenders had repelled commando attacks from Croatian Serb irregulars, armor attacks from JNA regulars, and Serbian Chetniks called "Arkan's Tigers" that were led by the butcher Zeljko Raznatovic - better known as Arkan. Between them they had inspired enough terror to encourage almost the entire population of 150,000 to flee west to the relative safety of Zagreb.

Night Sounds

In battered and blasted Osijek, HOS soldiers were heroes with legends and a following at the Valentino, the shabby bar between the university and the prison camp filled with captured Serbs. Getting toasted at the Valentino was the ultimate compliment for the drunken, drugged out, battle weary fighters who had slowed and then stopped the Serbian juggernaut at the same gate were the 16th Century Turkish conqueror Suleiman the Magnificent had met a similar fate. Between toasts we could sometimes hear the moaning Serb prisoners receiving their nightly tortures.

Despite the distasteful moaning, the Valentino was a romantic place to sit and ponder the war. After dark the "night music" would compete with the blaring stereo for attention. First, the stuttering 23mm anti-aircraft guns would light up the sky around the city with tracers, then an occasional 120mm mortar would sound off, punctuated by the sporadic, rumbling explosion of an alleged collaborator's house blowing up somewhere in the night. Most of the time the folks who lived in the suspected house were tied to chairs around their candle-lit kitchen table, to await the inevitable explosion of the leaking propane gas the HOS soldiers devised to send them on their way. The drunken soldiers especially enjoyed the moment.

The Croatians have many folk expressions about the night. One of them is "the night will eat you." If that is so, there was a lot of dining going on in the wee hours of the night on the contested eastern border of



HOS soldier on the first line near Nadin, a small, contested village near Zadar. This fellow is armed with a Yugoslavian copy of a German WWII MG-42 7.92mm machine gun.

Osijek in the early spring of 1993. Sometimes two or three explosions would disturb the night.

The Serbs weren't doing many offensive operations by the spring of 1993, but both sides liked to clear their throats from time to time. Almost every night the incoming alarms would sound and everyone would rush outside to see where the rockets and artillery was going to land.

Continued on page 58



Another HOS soldier in Nadin holding a submachine gun, probably an Uzi or an MP5.

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any minor disruption of the sight picture could bring this result, and heavy clothes and cold hands helped little. I was satisfied that the Para 7.45 fired all the factory ammo quite well enough from the 50-foot line.

From the bench over on the rifle range side of our complex, I set targets with three-inch Birchwood Casey "shoot and see" targets at 20 paces, a good 40 to 45 feet. As I was limited to one box each of the high-end ammo, I had six rounds of each for the supported, precision fire exercise. Again, the Gold Dot ammo came out on top. I was lucky, as sometimes it takes some hunting around to find a brand of ammo a particular gun "likes." This Para 1911 and the Speer Gold Dot

seemed made for one another. From the bench, the Gold Dot was really quite impressive, literally impacting on top one another dead center. I was plenty cold as the sun was beginning to set, but I had accomplished my mission. A couple photos and I was loaded up, heading home.

The Para-Ordnance PXT 1911 7.45 had functioned flawlessly throughout, even with reloaded ammo out of non-PO magazines. I'd brought along a MEC-GAR and a factory Colt magazine just out of curiosity and to check interoperability of mags. Once I adapted to the nuances of the Para's crisp single-action mechanism, the gun's performance and accuracy were superb.



Rob Pincus, former law enforcement officer and manager of the upscale shooting facility, Valhalla, popped a deer at 407 yards with a .308 Steyr SSG Plik with a 20" barrel and topped off with a Leupold mil dot 4.5-14x scope. Pincus commented, "In the photo, the shot was taken from the ridgeline to the right of the barrel, under the first bush. I used the same techniques taught as part of Valhalla's sniper courses. (inset) Brown brought along his Springfield M1-A Sporter with a 2 _ Burris Scout scope, hoping to pop an elk with a "black" gun. It was not to be. The author's general purpose knife, used for "around" camp use, was turned out by Chris Owen based on an early Vietnam SOG knife design.

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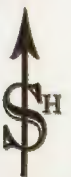
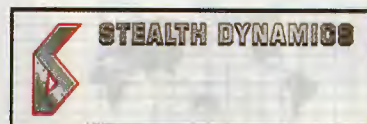
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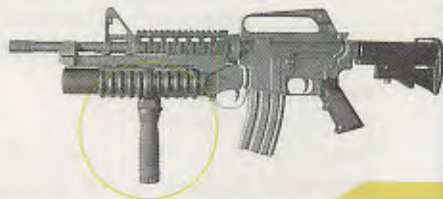
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The PXT 1911 7.45 is a superb weapon, reflecting well the Para-Ordnance reputation for quality and accuracy. With a "suggested" retail of \$750, one could spend a whole lot more on a 1911 style pistol, but a Ransom Rest would be required to squeeze out any better accuracy. Functionality was not an issue. I expect the PXT 1911 7.45 to be another real winner in the Para-Ordnance stable of superb offerings. ✕

Sully is a medically retired Army infantryman with a Vietnam combat tour and several other adventures under his belt. He is a sworn peace officer in the state of Ohio. He has written for several other magazines in the past, including Soldier of Fortune.

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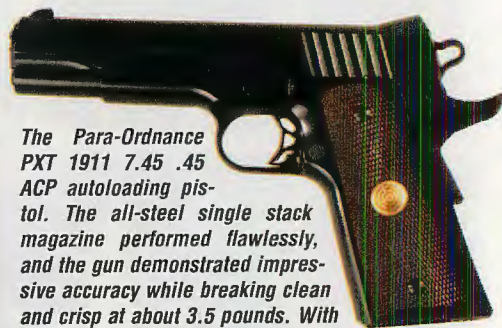
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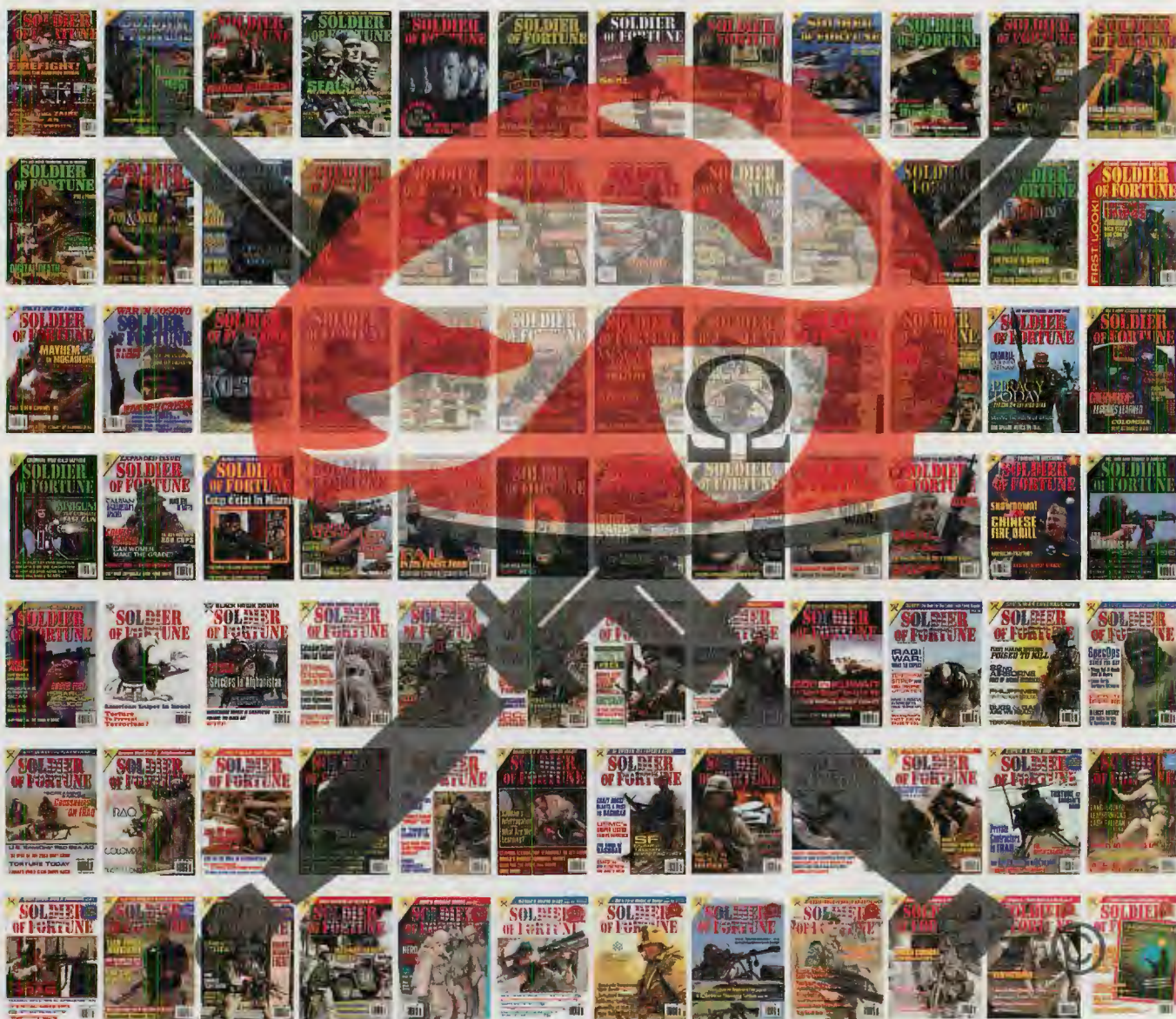
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ILLEGAL INVASION OUTRAGE

by Dr. Martin Brass

A Vicious Controversy Hits the Courts

The illegal immigration wars hit the ugly arena of the courts in a legal system out of control, one that results in outrageous judgments and allows obscene amounts of money to go into a number of lawyers' coffers. The legal battles are fueling the fires on both sides.

"Operation Falcon": How to Loose a Ranch to Illegal Immigrants

Jack Foote and Casey Nethercott, founders of Ranch Rescue, organized an operation to help Joe Sutton, the owner of a Hebronville,

Texas ranch to patrol his property that was constantly trashed by illegal immigrants.

The plan was to apprehend and hold the trespassers and call the authorities to come and pick them up.

The vigilantes spotted and detained two trespassers, El Salvadorian Mr. Mancía and Ms. Leiva. They notified the authorities, but when no one showed up after an hour, the men set the captives free.

The Salvadorans somehow found an attorney, or an attorney found them, and they filed a civil suit, claiming that Casey Nethercott threatened them and pistol-whipped Mancía. Foote and Sutton were named in the suit.

The plaintiffs claimed that they feared for their lives and fashionably claimed that they suffered from 'post-traumatic stress'.

We spoke with two journalists right after the incident in 2003, an American and a French journalist who were at the scene when the two were apprehended. The said that they observed no violence, rather they believed the two were treated humanely.

"The men were hung out as examples to deter the anti-illegal immigration movements," a prominent Texan told us. "The local authorities and community want the illegal immigrants to work jobs the locals wouldn't or couldn't do."

The Salvadorans did admit at one point, according to local media reports, that the men gave them a blanket, cookies, and something to drink, then let them go.

Nethercott and Foote, who insisted that illegal immigrants did not have the right to sue, did not respond to the lawsuit. Sutton settled for \$100,000.

In an unfortunate twist of fate, Nethercott was carrying illegally because of a previous conviction, according to *V-dare*.

The judge granted a default judgment against Nethercott for \$850,000 and against Foote for \$500,000, according to *NYT*.

Nethercott, who owned a 70-acre ranch, Camp Thunderbird, near the border worth \$120,000, gave the land to his sister after the judgment.

The left wing Southern Poverty Law Center sued Nethercott and his sister for a fraudulent transfer designed to avoid the judgment. Nethercott's sister, intimidated by the suit, turned the ranch over to the Salvadorans.

Morris S. Dees Jr., co-founder and chief trial counsel of the leftwing Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., who represented the plaintiffs, called it "poetic justice" that the Salvadorans owned the ranch.

Dees said the loss of the ranch would "send a pretty important message to those who come to the border to use violence," reports *NYT*.

Dees said that the border property would be used as a hub to aid other illegal immigrants entering the United States, according to Congressman Gary Miller (R-CA).

Mancía and Leiva applied for visas that are available to immigrants who are the victims of certain crimes and who cooperate with the authorities.

"Outrage of the week"

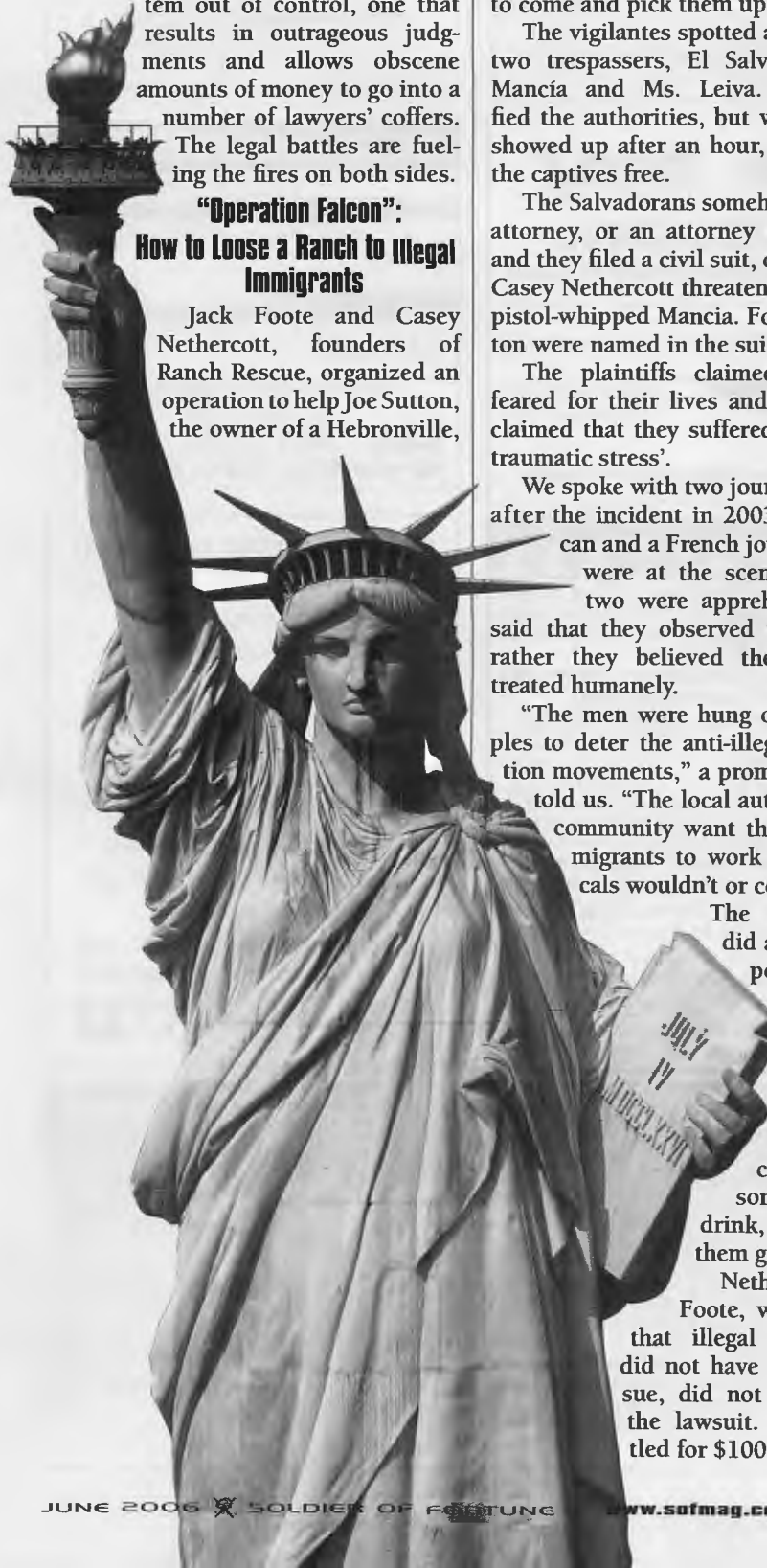
A California agricultural company was ordered to pay an illegal immigrant \$5.3 million after the car he was riding in crashed on the company's property. The court found the accident would not have occurred if Paramount Citrus had maintained better warning signs on their road. The plaintiff, Ignacio Garcia, was awarded money for lost wages and medical expenses for the next 50 years.

"But here's the kicker," Rep Miller writes,

"The court assumed Mr. Ignacio would live out the next 50 years in the United States at a cost of \$5.3 million.

"But if Mr. Ignacio was sent back to

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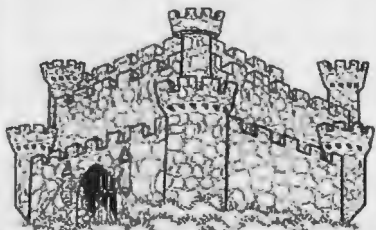
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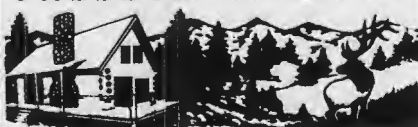
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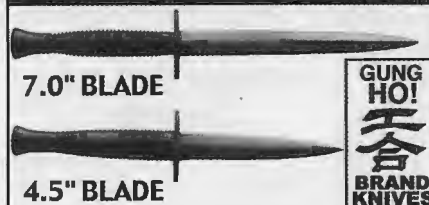
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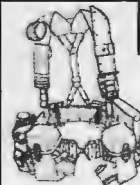
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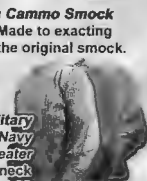
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(above) This soldier is standing in the front window of a café that had been destroyed during the fighting around Zadar in January of 1993. (right) Mines were always a problem. This particular blast reportedly killed eleven people driving from Zadar to another city in a van that was completely destroyed.

Meanwhile, the idle soldiers in the Valentino downed their bad beer and *schock*, the angry yellow plum brandy that was called by its Serbian name of *slivovitz* before the war.

"*Hravatska I bog - Croatia and God*" they would shout each time they slammed down their favorite beverage. It made the night music seem brighter. ✕

Next Month, HOS authorities link up the author with a quintessential "International Brigade" trooper, one of

many men who fought for many reasons – some even for liberty.

Nat Helms covered the civil war in former Yugoslavia from February to July 1993 while researching for his book *Journey Into Madness*, available at www.ebooks-online.com. Helms also wrote feature stories, news reports, and took pictures for a variety of media outlets, as well as being the guest commentator on a bi-weekly radio talk show on KMOX - 1120AM, a CBS radio affiliate in St. Louis, MO.



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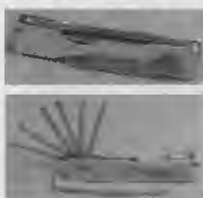
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I Got Into The Best Shape of My Life in Record Time... You Can, Too"

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*. Afterall, 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.
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9. You get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less.
10. You'll turn back the clock. Friends may tell you that you look 5-10 years younger.
11. You'll have an explosive type of strength that weights cannot give you. Your every movement will be lively and full of vigor.
12. Your muscles will be pliable and powerful, like a tiger's.

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Baghdad VBIED

This photo taken by one of the injured tank gunners shows the proximity of the attack to his location, less than 30 meters.

REVISITED

A Soldier's Boots-On-The-Ground Update To An *SOF* Story

By SSG Chad Rickard, Bravo Company, 1-184th Infantry (AASLT)
Photos Courtesy SSG Chad Rickard

We received this letter after we ran the story in the February issue regarding the VBIED assassination attempt on an Iraqi Interior Minister in Baghdad last October. It's always good to hear from the troops when they are home safe. —RKB

I am writing in reference to your February story regarding the assassination attempt on 4 October. I wanted to let you know that there was an American presence on the ground during the attack. I was working as the NCOIC of ECP #2 (the location of

the attack). At the initial blast, I had two soldiers injured from concussion and shrapnel. I was about 75 meters away when the blast went off. Two other soldiers and I rushed to the checkpoint entrance. Several times during the advance I found my self low-crawling to avoid being hit by an incredible amount of small arms fire that was coming into our location.

As we approached the front (Yaffa St.), a white Nissan truck came out of the smoke at a high rate of speed, traveling backwards. We thought it

might be a secondary VBIED so we opened fire to stop it, but not before it knocked over a jersey barrier. The driver was KIA.

Next, we entered the street and located the Minister of Interior and his security element. We brought them to a secure position inside the checkpoint and began to treat casualties. Several of the Iraqi army soldiers that work with us were injured also, to include loss of limb. We set up a casualty collection point, maintained security with what troops I had left

and awaited the QRF. I had only 10 soldiers on the ground that day including myself. The men fought hard and maintained their composure and I'm proud of each of them.

That event was the start of a very long October for my squad, and unit. We lost a soldier one week later at ECP 12, and then my squad, the same 10 soldiers from ECP #2, were attacked while on patrol in the Karrada District of Baghdad on 27 October. I was the only one injured in that attack: A VBIED was parked along our patrol route and command-detonated on my humvee as we drove past. That same morning we lost our Battalion Commander, and two days later we lost several more soldiers in the Dora sector of Baghdad. It was a trying month indeed. ✕

(top) Bullet-riddled Nissan truck that rammed the checkpoint in reverse, knocking over a Jersey barrier. (bottom) SSG Rickard's squad: standing Left to Right, Spc. Shikibu, Interpreter "Johnny", Spc. Meadows, Sgt. Ziegler, Cpl. Butters, LT Sanders, SSG Rickard, Spc. Lawrence, Cpl. Quintanilla and kneeling is Spc. Fang. Absent when this photo was taken were Sgt. Giffether and Spc. Roy.



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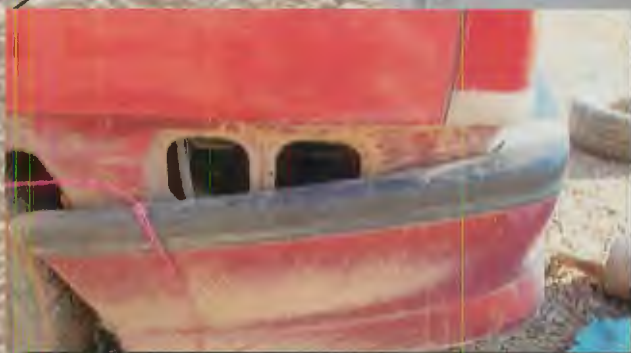
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Sniper

Photos Courtesy DoD



As seen here, the red cord made it possible to raise and lower the rear bumper thus enabling one to reveal the firing ports.



On 17 January 2006, A Co 3-172nd ISO TF 1-172 discovered a possible Sniper / Assault vehicle platform in 5 Kilo, Ramadi IVO Route Jackson and Route Briana. The driver's side, rear-driver's side, and rear windows were all broken before the discovery of the vehicle. The vehicle was towed

back to FOB Ramadi. Gunpowder tests revealed positive results for trace evidence of residue from the access ports on the rear-driver's side of the vehicle and also from the back window. A weapon rest / cushion was located in the trunk of the vehicle and was creased in the middle as if a

Vehicle



rifle once laid upon it. The trunk was accessible from the passenger compartment via removable panels and folding seats. A soldier was able to position himself in such a way as to utilize the trunk for concealment while aiming a rifle though access ports on the rear driver's side of the ve-

hicle. The rear bumper was held in place by wire that one could manipulate it to raise or lower the bumper thus revealing the firing ports on the side of the vehicle. The vehicle was previously struck by one bullet in the driver's side door that traveled through the door in and into the dashboard.

Shooting rest was in the trunk of the vehicle. The rest was created in the center as if a rifle had been placed on top of the rest.



Impact and bullet path of the round that impacted the door. ☒

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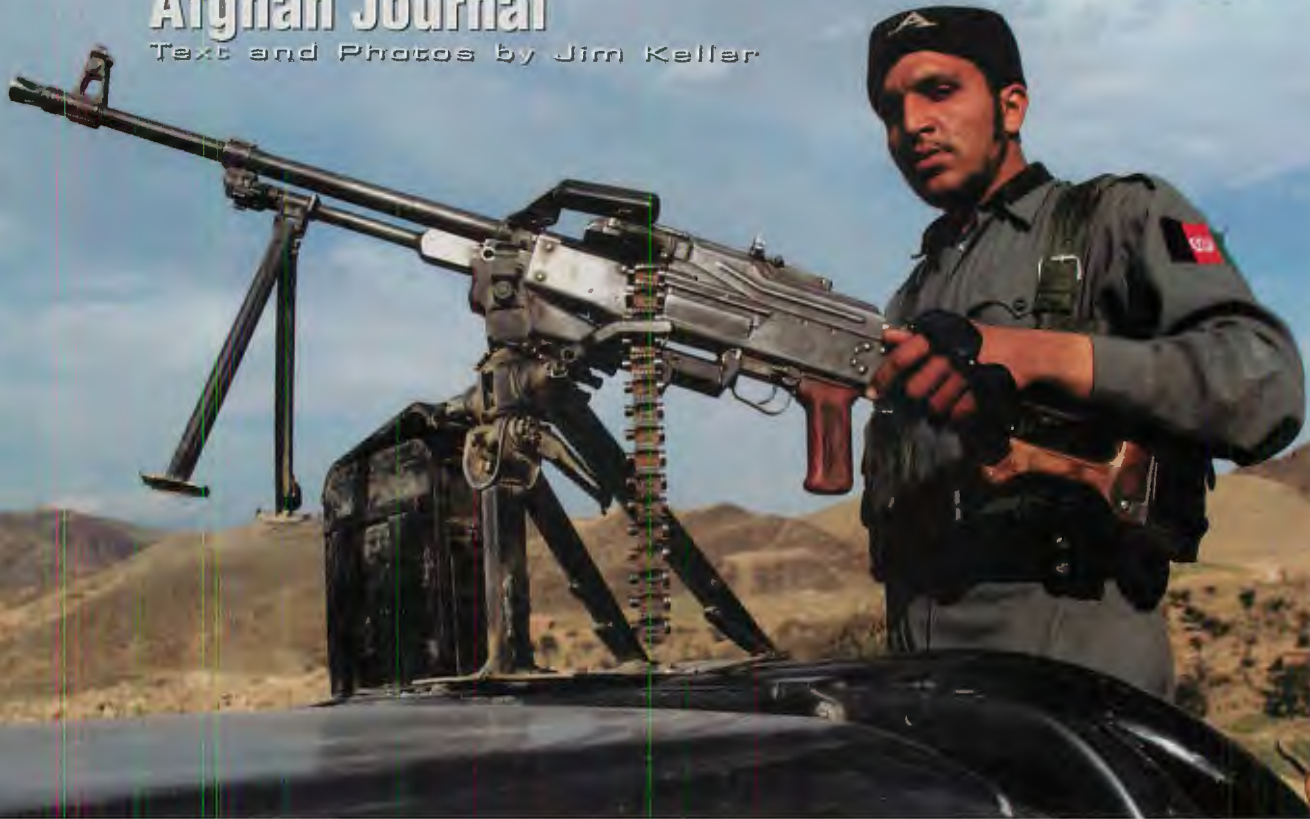
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Poppies 'R' US

Afghan Journal

Text and Photos by Jim Keller



During the Soviet occupation, journalists were very hard to find in Afghanistan — unless they were working for SOF, with a camera in one hand and a rifle in the other. The boots-on-the-ground combat reports filed by varied and intrepid journalists risking all to get their information first-hand became the hallmark of an SOF story, and SOF the go-to guys for the scoop on what was happening in-country — and in some instances even the go-to guys when intelligence agencies wanted samples of new Soviet ordnance. We are pleased now to have Jim Keller, the nom-de-plume of a freelance writer and former Special Forces captain in 5th Group, once again on the ground for SOF in Afghanistan. Keller will be filing monthly reports — hopefully.

(above) Border Police soldier mans PKM 7.62 machine gun mounted on a Toyota truck — the vehicle of choice in rural Afghanistan. (top right) A village elder in Ghani Khel, where the local crop is poppies.

Forget about the Taliban and al Qaeda, they're working out of Pakistan, everyone knows that, and this is Afghanistan. The only way to get up close and personal with them and get on the inside is to trudge up a trail toward the border, waving a big American flag, unarmed of course, announcing you're looking for the real story, the inside scoop. After your kidnapping and subsequent beheading, it'll be one helluva story all right, but the byline won't be yours. Family and friends, and your life insurance carrier, will like it better if you stick with poppies.

That's what Afghanistan is, isn't it, poppies and heroin? The way the United States, Britain and the rest of the Coalition Forces (CF) here would have you think, it's the little Afghan farmer who is supplying, what, eighty or ninety percent of the world's supply of heroin? And that's just plain got to stop. Yeah, S-T-O-P! Junkies, beware:

Without Afghanistan you would not have become junkies. And when the Coalition Forces stop the poppy production here, you won't be junkies anymore.

Anyone with half a brain knows that's a crock, but that's still not stopping the powers that be from throwing millions—no, wait, make that billions—of dollars/Euros into turning the Afghan poppy fields into fields of wheat, corn, cotton, saffron and just plain plowed dirt. Every foreign government entity here seems to have a drug department, be it Counter-Narcotics (CN), Counter-Poppy (CP)

or Poppy Eradication Program (PEP). They might as well hang shingles outside their doors—"Poppies R Us." With each of those departments and programs comes, of course, large staffs and big bags of money.

That's not to take anything away from the guys here doing the job for their foreign governments. Some, like the CN head of one of the bigger embassies, (sorry, no names, to protect jobs, incomes and careers), admitted to me that everyone knows that stopping poppy production in Afghanistan will only move it elsewhere, like Mexico and Bolivia. According to this person, the reason for stopping it here is, plain and simple, to take the power away from the local warlords, thereby strengthening the central government.

Warlords and poppies, that's like hotdogs and mustard, sure, so the guy has a point. No one thinks the warlords are going to go away peacefully, which probably best ex-

plains the Brits' commitment to send over 3,000 troops to Helmand Province alone. Helmand wasn't always such a huge poppy producer, until some semi-successful CN programs in world-famous-producer Nangarhar Province actually cut way down the kilos coming out of there. Junkies being junkies, the world demand didn't fall; production just switched to Helmand and elsewhere in Afghanistan. Gee, what's a CN director to do? Why, as a start, send the troops to Helmand.

Where the troops go, so go most of the big-name correspondents, so there's little chance of a fresh story there. I, instead, headed to Nangarhar, hitching a ride with a couple of intelligence guys working CN for one of the CFs, (again, sorry, no names). Experienced operators from way back, these guys have no illusions. It's a job, a paycheck, and more than anything, I think, they just wanted to get out of the office in Kabul, kit up in magazines and body armor, toting their M4's and 9mm Glocks, hoping like hell to see a little action. My kind of guys. They've got the body armor, I'll keep them in front.

Nangarhar is east of Kabul, with mountain ranges on its east and south (including the Khyber Pass) bordering Pakistan. The Kabul River runs smack through Nangarhar, making it a fertile place, and the snowmelt from the mountain ranges make the valleys running up them some prime poppy-growing real estate. Asphalt is virtually non-existent in the province, except for its capital, the boomtown city of Jalalabad, so those poppy-growing valleys are reached by hours of jarring, shocks-flattening riding on rutted, pockmarked, cratered dirt roads.



With 175 men and more than a hundred miles of mountainous border with Pakistan to patrol, Commander Naqib is a busy man. Manned and paid by the central government in Kabul, Naqib shows his loyalty with the Afghan flag on his desk and a photograph of President Kharsi on the wall.

These were intel guys I was with, so they knew where the poppies were being grown: They wanted some first-hand information and opinions from the farmers themselves. Even in Nangarhar, where poppy production is down, you can swing a dead cat and hit a valley where it's being planted. We went into the Ghana Khel district, south, heading up into the foothills of the Tora Bora. A courtesy, introductory call upon the area's Border Patrol chief, Commander Naqib, was mandatory to avoid getting scarfed up or shot at one of his checkpoints. Naqib's got just one hundred seventy-five men to patrol more than a hundred miles of some of the roughest borders in the world, so he can't be blamed that it's a smuggler's



(left) Border Police soldier shows young poppy sprout from February field. By April, (above) these were knee-high plants in full bloom.

paradise. Just look at the sieve that's the U.S. border with Mexico, and that's flatland, not mountains, and our military/police forces are the best trained and outfitted in the world. Naqib does the best he can with what he has.

Commander Naqib forced a couple of trucks full of his guys onto us as security, then it was poppy field a-hopping we went. The worst thing about the security was that, upon our arrival, the farmers would think we were coming to destroy their fields. Just a month or so old, as this was mid-February, the fields were mostly sparse sprouts of young sprigs, which, I knew from past experience, by April would be knee-high plants topped with a rainbow of lovely blooms.

Informed that we weren't part of the PEP and were there only to hear them out, the farmers turned from hostile to accommodating. And talk, talk, talk, they love to tell their story. And in the middle of discussion, in the middle of the field, out of nowhere always appears a large woven mat as a ground cloth table, and a pot of chai, glass cups and plastic dishes of almonds, raisins, and wrapped caramel candies. Say what one will of the country, and it can be one filthy, violent, miserable place, but the Afghans are nothing if not downright hospitable.

And what do the farmers say about the poppies? Oh, sure, they'd love to grow something else, but even though the warlords and strongmen make the most profit from the harvests, the farmers themselves

make far more than they would with other crops. And they'd love to get off the farm and get their kids off the farm, if only there were other jobs. Factories, they ask that America brings them factories. Factories for them to work in, so they would not have to produce poppies. As if you could just set down a factory in the middle of Nangarhar and, boom, they're going to be making semi-conductors or soda cans or even something as crude as rebar and steel fencing.

As for the last couple of years' drop in Nangarhar's poppy production and now a replanting of once barren fields with poppies, the farmers are as frustrated as they are angry, because they once believed the CN campaign's promise of a certain dollar-amount to be paid per acre not to grow poppy. They didn't grow it, they were then paid just a portion of the original promise or nothing, as the foreign government agencies gave the money to the local warlords, strongmen or mullahs to distribute, and golly gee whiz, it ain't hard to figure where that money ended up. Once bitten twice shy, even an illiterate far-valley farmer isn't going to buy that cash-not-to-grow line a second time.

As for that other successful method of killing the poppy production—using Afghan troops to plow the fields under just prior to harvest—it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what it eliminates in poppies it increases in new Taliban recruits.

The intel guys had a line on a place in north Nangarhar where the production had ceased completely, non-violently, with the farmers switching to other crops. Sure enough, a four-hour, kidney-punch-

ing, intestine-shifting ride later and we were a mile high in altitude in a valley of terraced fields of nothing but young wheat. Come to find out, over chai, almonds and sweets with the farmers, it was wheat this year, but it was saffron last year and they lost their shirts on that.

If the wheat fails this year, who knows what they'll try next year, but it probably won't be a return to poppy, because, (and here's why I don't reveal the location's name), this happens to be the hometown valley of a fellow who was once one of the prime Nangarhar warlords and is now a member of Parliament. With him now being such a distinguished part of the central Afghan government, it would not look good if poppy once again was king in his own back yard. Or so goes the theory, of why the CN success of this area.

As the intel guys were heading back to Kabul—three days in the "danger" of "hostile" rural Afghanistan had their office-bound bosses in a fret—I suggested they formally recommend that the ultimate and cheapest CN policy might be to make all the warlords and poppy kingpins members of Parliament and call it a day.

Me? I'm going to stick around here in Nangarhar a little while longer. Previous experience here reminds me that there are upper valleys south in the recesses of the Tora Bora where the marijuana grows as high and bushy as a ten-foot Christmas spruce. And, as a stringer correspondent for SOF, it's my duty to seek out the big stories... ❧

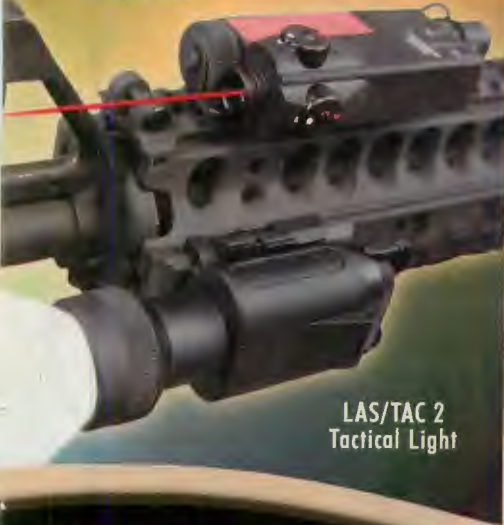


A poppy farmer explains the difficulty of surviving when growing crops other than poppy. Terraced fields of wheat (inset) grow in a high valley in north Nangarhar where, by the influence of a native-son warlord, now a member of Parliament, the farmers have switched crops.

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rience. The cost of the whole course \$8,700.00 covered all the costs of the NRA Instructors.

SOF: Who in the chain-of-command had to sign off on this project?

GySgt: Colonel David Richtsmeier, the Commanding Officer of Brigade Service Support Group - 1, 1st MLG, Camp Pendleton, Ca had the approving authority to fund the course. The Ammunition exceeded our yearly allocation several times over and that had to be approved by I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) for our use in the training.

SOF: Who came up with the idea of tapping the NRA for instructors?

GySgt: Once again, I did. I have been a member of the NRA for some time now and I knew they provided weapons training and so I contacted them.

SOF: Was this a "hot" range and if not why not?

GySgt: The range was "Hot" from the time we got on the line till we completed the training at the end of the day and were cleared. This is a de-

Continued on page 78

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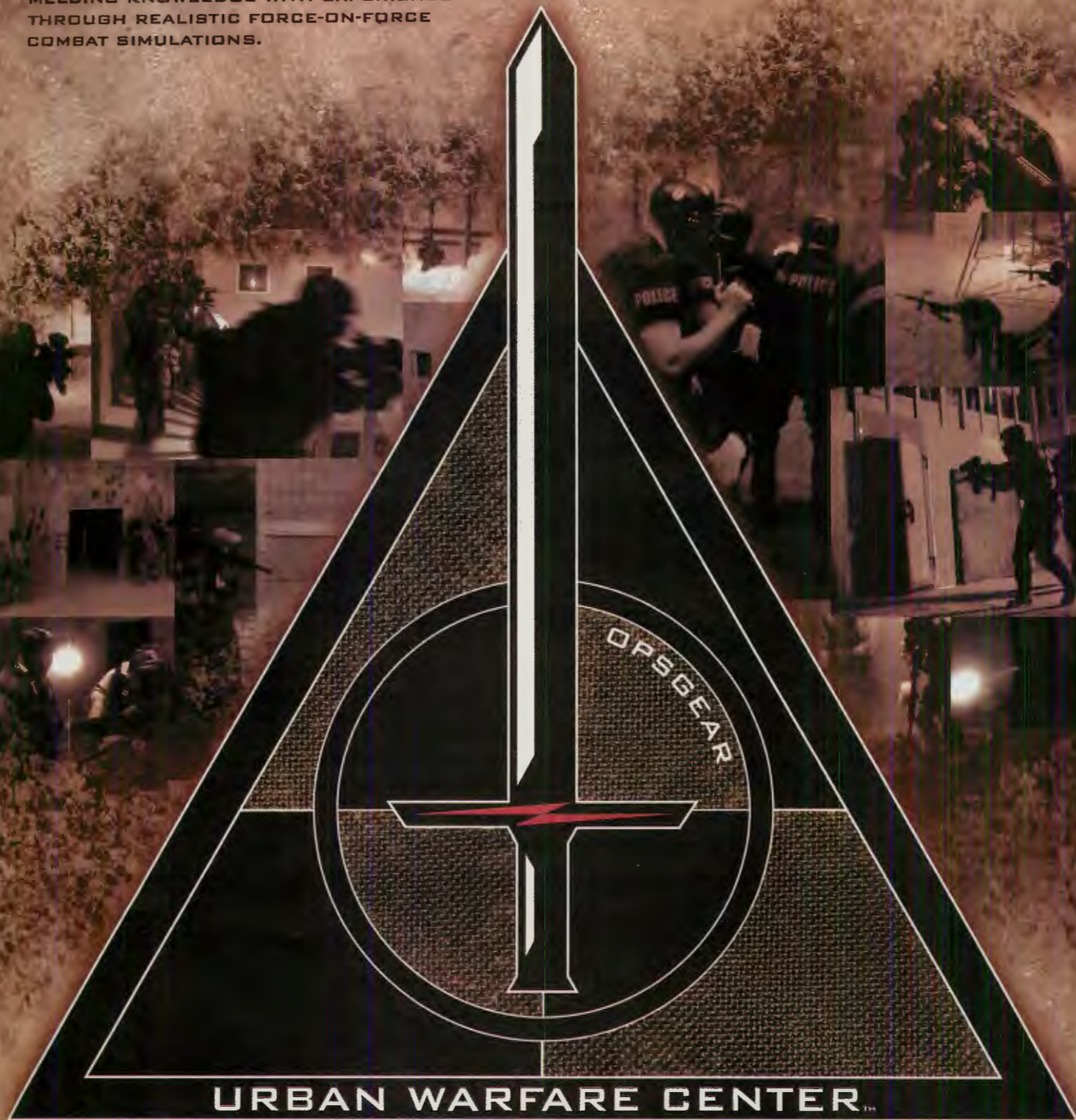
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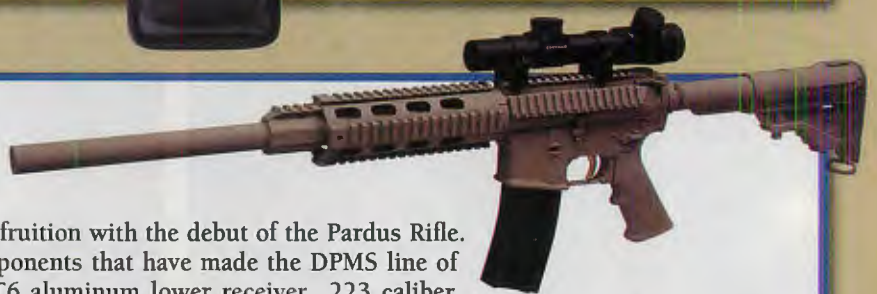
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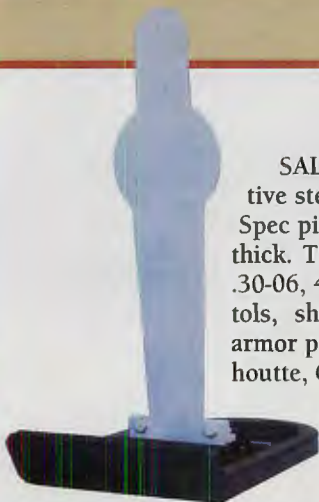


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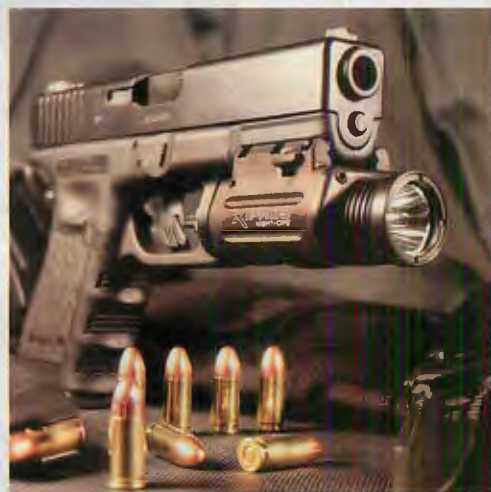
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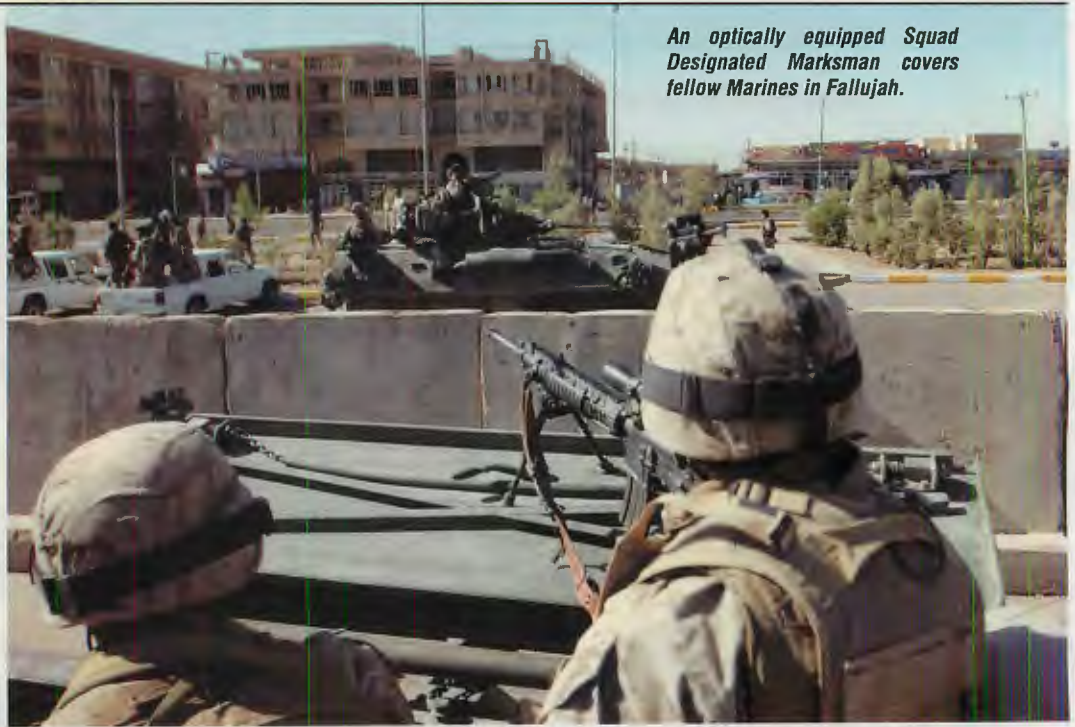
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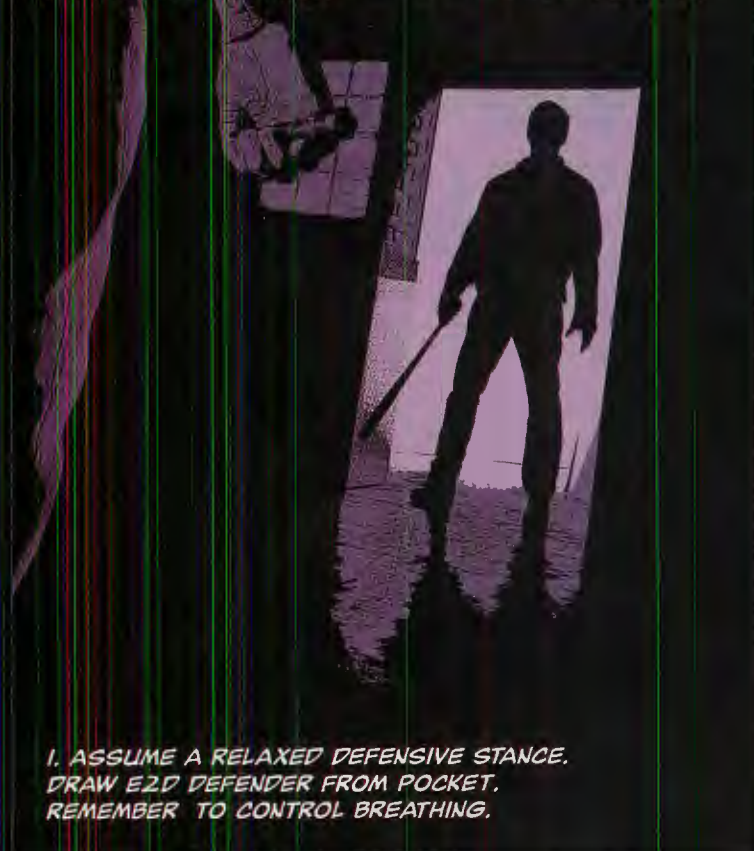
"Victims of a Crime"

Jorge and Eleuterio Rodriguez Ruiz, among other illegal immigrants, sued the U.S., demanding they be allowed to stay in the United States after they were "attacked" by a civilian vigilante in Maricopa County, Arizona in 2005. The brothers claimed that as "victims of a crime" they should be entitled to legal residency and benefits in the United States pursuant to the Crime Victims Act of 2007.

The "attacker" chased the brothers to their cars and held them at gunpoint until police arrived and arrested the gunman, according to the *L.A. Times*. The Ruiz siblings cooperated with the police, which they claim entitled them to stay in the United States.

Immigration officials arrested the Mexicans and released them, telling them to come back later for an immigration hearing. Instead, they hired a lawyer and sued The Department of Homeland Security last October. Out-

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“Wrongful Death vs. A Warning Gone Deadly Wrong?”

The father of an undocumented Mexican immigrant sued a South Texas rancher for \$15 million in the tragic shooting death of his son.

Reports were that the trespasser approached the elderly couple for water.

The Rancher, Samuel H. Blackwood Jr. appeared to have felt threatened.

The wrongful death lawsuit was filed six weeks after the Mexican government hired lawyers to seek damages from vigilantes near the border, according to AP.

“We have heard about the involvement of the Mexican government from the beginning,” Blackwood’s defense attorney said, “Sam Blackwood is caught right in the middle of this. It’s a political football,” the *Dallas Observer* quoted the defense.

The suit accused Blackwood of shooting 23-year-old Eusebio Espinosa from behind. It accuses Blackwood and his wife, Brenda, of failing to seek medical attention and leaving the man to die.

The 75-year-old Blackwood surrendered to police a day after the shooting. He initially was charged with murder, but a grand jury later indicted him on a lesser charge of deadly conduct, a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison.

A psychiatrist testified that Blackwood suffered chronic and severe post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of a one-year term on a military base in Thailand where he worked as a mechanic.

He received a suspended sentence, probation and a \$4,000 fine.

Many Mexicans and Mexican-Americans were outraged at the light sentence.

So are ranchers who are constantly menaced by the flow of illegal immigrants on their border properties.

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Maryland issues driver’s licenses even if an immigrant, whether legal or not, doesn’t have work authorization and Social Security in this country.

Thirteen immigrants sued the

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, saying the agency discriminates against foreign-born applicants by denying them driver’s licenses or making it more difficult for them to get the licenses, according to the *Washington Post*.

The plaintiffs claim that they had to show more proof of their identity and residency than those who were born in the U.S.

The argument was that the U.S. English speaking and bi-lingual citizen had to wait in line for hours while those who could not understand the language or process tied up the agents. In addition, the cost of hiring so many interpreters would cost the taxpayer unreasonable amounts of money.

Employers Hiring Illegal Aliens Beware

New York’s highest court ruled that an illegal immigrant hurt on the job is entitled to sue his employer for lost earnings, pain and suffering, and medical expenses, reports *NewYorkBusiness.com*

Continued on page 79



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David Weber demonstrates pistol from the prone, back.

parture from normal military ranges, like the Rifle and Pistol Range for qualification. But with proper techniques and supervision there were NO, not one, accidents or negligent discharges. I would like to add, that a "HIT" range was necessary to get the Marines into the "Mindset" needed to function in an environment like Iraq!

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Gorgonio Balbuena, an undocumented worker from Mexico, found a job with Taman Management Corp. in 1999. In 2000, he fell from a ramp while pushing a wheelbarrow at a Manhattan construction site. He suffered head and other injuries. Bulbuena sued for lost future earnings, pain and suffering, and medical expenses, claiming the accident left him incapacitated.

Stanislaw Majlinger, came to the United States from Poland on a travel visa and remained after his visa expired. According to court records, Majlinger said he was standing on a scaffold installing siding on a Staten Island building in January 2001 when the scaffold collapsed, dropping him 15 feet to the ground and causing serious injuries.

The ruling opens the door for undocumented workers to sue for lost wages if hurt on the job in that state.

Maybe that's a lesson to those who hire illegal immigrants and think they are getting off on the cheap.

Student Activists Fight Back

Forty-two college students from 19 states filed a class-action lawsuit representing 50,000 plaintiffs seeking hundreds of millions of dollars from officials for charging them significantly more than illegal aliens pay to attend state-run colleges in California. The state allows illegal aliens to pay in-state tuition, while making out-of-state U.S. citizens pay higher tuition fees, according to *Sierra Times*.

The Plaintiffs protest the fact that out-of-state students are paying \$20,000 more than illegal aliens per year to attend schools in the University of California system.

California is among the eight states that have laws charging lower in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens who qualify as in-state residents.

One angry student said, "These illegal aliens may live in California, but they broke the law to do it. Why should they get preferential treatment over citizens?"

Indeed.

These cases are only a few that show how the unresolved illegal immigration issue is being forced into a legal system that is as out of control as illegal immigration is. ☒

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




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The contract to produce the vehicles was awarded to Force Protection Industries of Charleston, South Carolina.

Weighing 52,000 pounds and costing \$600,000 per vehicle, neither Cougar nor JERRV have the transportability or cost effectiveness to serve as a replacement for the Humvee, Micucci told SOF.

"They're just too big and too heavy to airlift," said Micucci, "and they take up too much room on our pre-positioned ships." But the new vehicles are getting rave reviews from Marines and soldiers who ride in them.

Proven Survivability

Cougars have survived at least a half dozen IED attacks to date. One Cougar being used by Marines with Security Detachment, 8th Engineer Support Battalion needed to have the left front wheel assembly replaced. Of the Marines inside the vehicle, two had their bells rung by the blast, two others received minor burns, but all survived.

The IED detonated directly under the vehicle, pushing outward instead of straight up due to the "V-shaped"

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undercarriage. That spared crewmembers from serious if not life-threatening injuries.

"Ground clearance has a significant impact on mitigating blast," said Col. Lethin, but he believes Cougar sits too high off the ground, making it top heavy and too difficult to transport by air or sea.

As we wrapped up our interview, Dr. Caille noted that the military has known for years that the Humvee wasn't able to do what it was being called upon to do, and should be replaced. But he says defense dollars went into other projects like the F-22 Raptor and the Virginia class of nuclear submarines.

Caille says the slaughter of 18 U.S. Army Rangers from the 10th Mountain Division and the wounding of 73 other troops as Humvees ran through a gauntlet of RPG and AK-47 fire in the crowded streets of Mogadishu in early October 1993 should have been a wake-up call to replace the Humvee.

But the Pentagon apparently pushed the snooze button, and only now is waking up to the fact that Humvees can no longer take the kind of hits they're taking in Iraq and Afghanistan and keep on rolling. ❌

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

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – It began in the middle of the night, like so many other battles I've experienced. Here in the United States, it was still March 19 – but along the Iraq-Kuwait border, it was already the 20th. My hastily scribbled notes for that night, scrawled in my reporter's notebook using night-vision goggles, recorded what my video camera was capturing: "Aircrew Final Briefing ... fully-loaded Royal Marines waiting for liftoff ... heavy artillery fires to northeast of LZ," and the fateful, "Dash Two down in fireball. No survivors."

Inadvertently, my camera's night lens caught the event on videotape – the horrible image of the first 12 allied deaths in OIF – Operation Iraqi Freedom. Four U.S. Marine airmen and eight Royal Marine Commandos perished instantly – just minutes after the war started – when their CH-46 helicopter crashed en route to the Faw peninsula. For several hours afterward, I incorrectly believed that Griff Jenkins, my FOX News field producer and cameraman, had also been killed on the doomed bird.

Twenty days – and more than 100 "news feeds" later – Jenkins and I would cover the 5th Marines' final assault on Saddam's Palace, perched beside the Tigris in downtown Baghdad. The euphoria of the Iraqi people as they tore down the giant statue of the deposed dictator in Firdos Square was unmistakable. So, too, was the exhilaration of U.S. troops – for the capture of the dictator's capital allowed us to remove the hot and heavy chemical-biological protective suits we had worn nonstop since the start of the conflict. Then, seemingly within hours, nearly all of the "embedded" journalists disappeared.

The mainstream media – which had forecast "thousands" of U.S. casualties and predicted that it would "take months" to capture Baghdad – apparently didn't need to see any more. Thus, Jenkins and I were the only broadcast coverage team accompanying the 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor of the 4th Infantry Division as it advanced through Samarra and Tikrit to start reconstruction in that sector of Iraq. Since then, U.S. media outlets have increasingly depended on local "freelance" stringers

for videotape and written reports on the war.

Understandably, these "local" journalists are not invited to accompany U.S. military units on actions like "Operation Swarmer," conducted this week in and around Samarra by the 101st Airborne Division. Nor do the "locals" cover the local clinic, school, electrical grid and water purification system repairs being made by U.S. Navy Seabees, Army Engineers and Marine civil-affairs units. In short, about the only thing making its way into American homes is the bad news from the war.

That all wars have plenty of bad news is indisputable. War is ugly, nasty, bloody. Terrible things happen in war. Those who fight in war have horrific things happen to them. Anyone who has ever really been to a war can verify those descriptions. Yet, they can – if asked – also tell of extraordinary courage, remarkable acts of self-sacrifice, merciful compassion and epic examples of perseverance. Three years ago today, those of us who were fortunate enough to be embedded with U.S. and British forces as they crossed into Iraq had countless examples of these virtues. Some of them were even reported – but not any more.

In the three years since coalition forces charged into Saddam's despotic fiefdom, it has become the norm to report stories of misfeasance, malfeasance and incompetence, rather than the good that American troops have done. An errant bomb warrants more ink and airtime than the well that was dug or the child who was rescued by a U.S. medic and nursed back to health. This is not simply a perception of imbalance – it is reality in Iraq.

Since U.S. troops entered Iraq three years ago this week, the Iraqi people have held three nationwide elections, written and ratified a constitution and formed their first imperfect but democratically elected government. Yet, compare the number of Google or Lexis-Nexis entries for "Iraqi Elections" with the entries for "Abu Ghraib," and it is amply evident what American editors and publishers consider important news.

It should not, therefore, be a surprise on this third anniversary of OIF's "D-Day" that American public opinion



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.

on the war – whether it is winnable and how it is being managed – has fallen through the floor. Opponents of the commander in chief are pointing with glee at his sinking poll numbers. His "friends" are running for cover.

To his credit, President Bush is once again taking his argument on why winning in Iraq is of vital importance to the American people. Hopefully he will continue to do so – reminding both allies and adversaries alike that he has always said that this would be a long, hard fight.

And because this is indeed going to be a protracted struggle – not unlike the long-drawn-out "cold" war against communism – it is important that those who are doing the fighting be given greater recognition. Between now and the "Fourth Anniversary" of OIF, the administration must make a concerted effort to let the American people see the bravest of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Guardsmen and Marines who are fighting this war. They are called heroes. We're going to need more of them. ✕

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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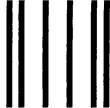
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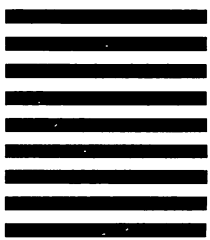
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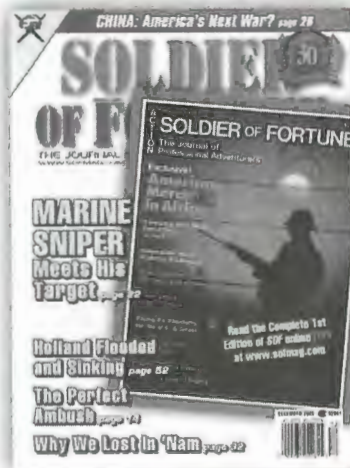


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