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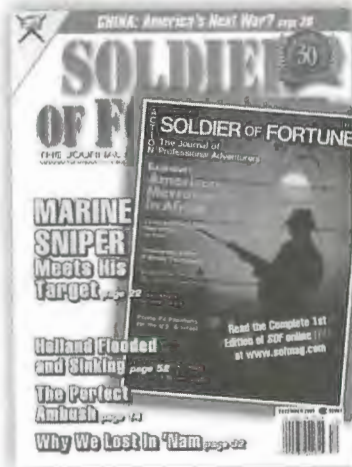
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

July 2006 • Vol. 31 No. 7

AMERICA AT WAR

THE BATTLE OF SALAR BAN by SGT Joe Lindsay USMC Bomb-Building Insurgents' Costly Lesson: Don't Mess With the Marines _____	14
3/7 CAVALRY: FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT by SFC Dillard J. Johnson ... and fighting it well, with a little help from the cadre of American industry _____	18
WORLD SITREP by Dr. Martin Brass N. Korea threatens preemptive "human Bomb" attacks, captured docs reveal pact between Saddam and Osama for "joint operations" against USA _____	40
HELPING MARINES KILL... One Shot at a Time by CPL Mark Sixbey USMC New riflescope proves its worth with Darkhorse snipers _____	42
REPORTING FROM THE FRONT by Michael E. Marks A lyrical view of the war as seen through a sniper's scope _____	70
COMMON SENSE by Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.) Looking for leadership to contain the new nuclear threat _____	82

FEATURES

YOUR FRIENDS WILL NOT FORGET YOU by Justin Woodruff How a single <i>SOF</i> reader helped turn the tide against tyranny in E. Timor _____	22
"THEY'RE ALL MURDEROUS BASTARDS, YOU KNOW" by Nat Helms Trying to find some good guys in the Balkan war, Part II _____	28
SHOT SHOW 2006: More Guns and Gear than Ever Before by Gary Paul Johnston A walking-catalog tour of all that's new and exciting in the industry _____	44
NEW SALES IN THE SUNSET, What You May Own Again - and For How Long by Gary Paul Johnston When the "assault rifle ban" proved itself to have no socially redeeming value, it died a natural death in 2004. Here's a rundown on what is again legal to own _____	46
IMMIGRATION WAR HITS THE STREETS by Dr. Martin Brass The largest demonstrations in U.S. history paralyze the streets of major cities _____	54
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FLOOD MARINE CORPS BASE by Dr. Martin Brass Human waves shut down Leatherneck's training _____	60
UTAH HIT HARD BY ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION by Dr. Martin Brass From voter fraud to crime and drugs, Zion is paying the price for its hospitality _____	66

COLUMNS

COMMAND GUIDANCE by Lt. Col Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.) Anger of the Legions _____	6
FLAK Ooops: Mea culpa, plus ways to help the troops, AOL=AWOL? _____	8
BULLETIN BOARD Hanoi Jane honored by Georgia Not! Saluting by Veterans, VA Warning to Vets _____	12
NATIONAL SECURITY HYPOCRITES by Officer James J. Fotis (Ret.), Executive Director, LEAA What's worse than handing over U.S. ports to Dubai? <i>Leaving our borders open to every terrorist or criminal in the world.</i> _____	68
ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER Starline .30 Match Case, Spec-Ops Brand Battle Buckles, J&T Six-Position M4 Buttstock, Slip 2000, Advanced Technology Replica AK receiver, Blackhawk Products Group™ Warrior Wear™ _____	72



On The Cover

Command Sergeant Major Michael "Todd" Hibbs, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment atop building while in over-watch during joint operations with the Iraqi Army, which was searching target vehicles. CSM Hibbs has served in the Army over 21 years.



54



14



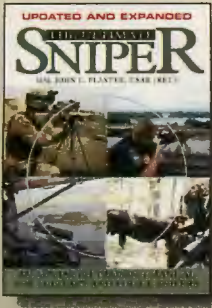
46

ADVERTISEMENTS

Supply Depot	56
Advertisers' Index	56



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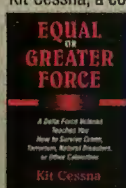
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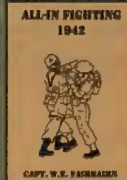
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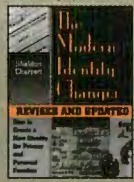
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

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

The Anger of the Legions

Jake Jacobson, Executive Administrator for the Special Operations Association website, of which I am a proud member, shot this through cyberspace to me and I decided it would strike a cord with SOF'ers. The photo of me trying out one of the new tricked out M-4's, was taken with the Marines down in the Yuma area. (More on that next month)

"We had been told, on leaving our native soil, that we were going to defend the sacred rights conferred on us by so many of our citizens settled overseas, so many years of our presence, so many benefits brought by us to populations in need of our assistance and our civilization.

"We were able to verify that all this was true, and, because it was true, we did not hesitate to shed our quota of blood, to sacrifice our youth and our hopes. We regretted nothing, but whereas we over here are inspired by this frame of mind, I am told that in Rome factions and conspiracies are rife, that treachery flourishes, and that many people in their uncertainty and confusion lend a ready ear to the dire temptations of relinquishment and vilify our action.

"I cannot believe that all this is true, and yet recent wars have shown how pernicious such a state of mind could be and to where it could lead.

"Make haste to reassure me, I beg you, and tell me that our fellow-citizens understand us, support us and protect us as we ourselves are protecting the glory of the Empire.

"If it should be otherwise, if we should have to leave our bleached bones on these desert sands in vain, then beware of the anger of the Legions!"

- Centurion Marcus Flavinus, Second Cohort, Augusta Legion to his cousin Tertullus in Rome. ☘



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

EDITOR/PUBLISHER

SENIOR EDITOR **Don McLean**

DESIGN **Thundercloud Graphics**

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Senior Contributing Foreign Correspondents

Dale B. Cooper • Peter Douglas

Dr. Tom Marks • Maj. Mike Williams

Mike Winchester

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Aviation **Dana Drenkowski**

Bail Enforcement Operations **Bob Burton**

Defensive Firearms **John Farnam**

Edged Weapons **Bill Bagwell**

Explosives/Demolitions **John Donovan**

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Outdoor Affairs **Galen Geer**

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Skydiving **Kitty Baran**

Sniping/Countersniping **Maj. Dick Culver, USMC (Ret.)**

UDT/SEAL **Larry Bailey**

Unconventional Operations

Brig. Gen. Heinie Aderholt, USAF (Ret.)

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CIRCULATION

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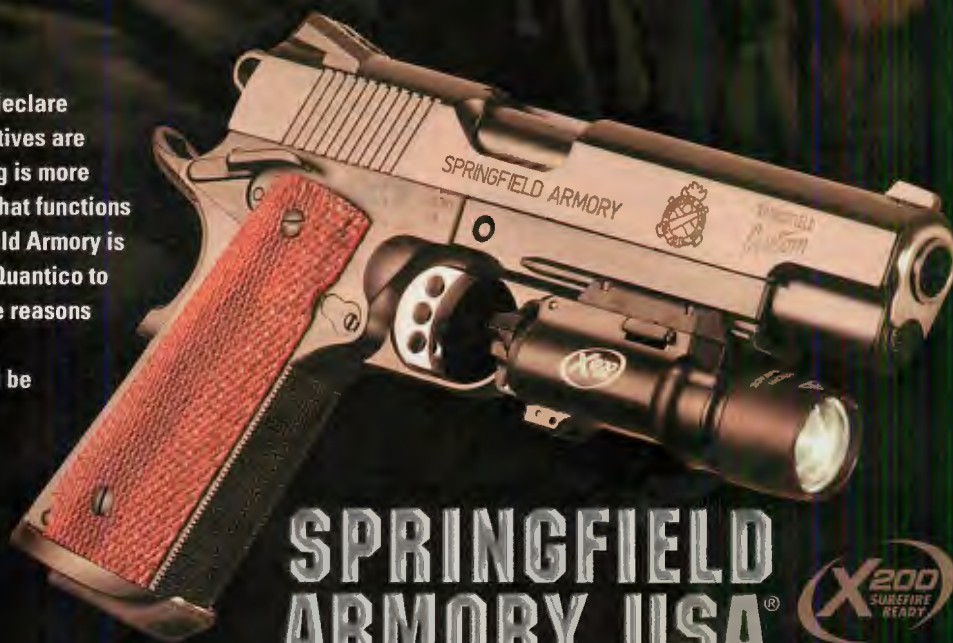
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Wrong Troop, Wrong Rank, Wrong Branch...

(EGREGIOUS ERROR #1)

I am 1LT Matthew O. Miller of the 9th Engineer Battalion in Schweinfurt, Germany. I wanted to write and let you know the Soldier on the cover of the May 2006 issue is SSG Avila of 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Bamberg, Germany. The caption on page 4 incorrectly identifies him as SSG James M. Hussey. After the 82nd EN BN returned from Iraq I was his Platoon Leader for a short time before he PCSed. SSG Avila served in Fallujah along side the Marines during the initial assault on the city in 2004 and I can say from personal experience he is truly an outstanding NCO. I know he would love to see his name printed in your magazine. I recognized the picture from the cover because I have a copy of the original on digits, which I have attached to this email. Thank you for your time.



Very Respectfully,
1LT Matthew O. Miller

Lieutenant, thanks for taking the time to write. We hope that as long as Finance keeps them straight at the pay line, SSG Avila and SSG Hussey will forgive us. The "on the cover" info that should have run with this cover shot of SGT Avila (above) is:

Army Staff Sergeant Donoval Avila, of the 82nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, patrols Fallujah, Iraq as Marines clear away rubble with their D-9 bulldozer. Photo: U.S. Army by Pvt. Brandi Marshall

The candidate cover shot that would have run with the "on the cover" information of: SSG James M. Hussey, platoon sergeant for 4th Platoon, A Co., 1st Bn, 5th Marine Regiment, leads a dismounted patrol through the streets of Ramadi, is this:



Hey, Martial Dillon...

(EGREGIOUS ERROR #2)

Sir,

As my international book project on SWAT Collectibles nears completion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to your magazine and its loyal readership for the input received as a result of a classified ad that I placed in your August 2004 issue. Among the tactical collectibles that will be featured in this hefty tome will include some rare items from the Columbian Police elite COPES Antiterrorist Unit.

And so, it was a pleasant surprise to read the excellent article about this Unit featured in your May 2006 issue. I don't wish to nitpick, but I offer the following correction to this piece. On page 64 of that issue it states "United States Special Operations of the Martials [sic] from Baton Rouge. One American special operators group conducts anti-terrorism training," and what they mean and are actually referring to is the "United States Marshals Service (SOG) Special Operations Group, that Agency's SWAT element, and the U.S. State Department's Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATAP) both of which are situated on the grounds of the academy facility owned by the Louisiana State Police in Baton Rouge, Louisiana."

Anyway, all the best, and continue to maintain that razor edge to your coverage of the world's hot spots.

Dan
meanstreets9@aol.com



And Long May it Wave

(EGREGIOUS ERROR #3)

Hello,

I'm a SF Major and OEF vet. I read my XO's SOF magazine every month after he does.

I've noticed an error every month in the "Terrorism SitRep" by Dr. Brass:

The Afghanistan flag you show is the pre-war one. They've had a new one for several years now. You should can the old flag artwork and put the new one in there.

Thanks,
Mitch Utterback



Wrong Cat

(EGREGIOUS ERROR #4)

In the May issue article about IEDs the blast damaged armored vehicle pictured on page 20 is identified as an RG-31 Cougar. The vehicle is in fact an RG-31 but is not a Cougar. The vehicle

is an RG-31 Mine Protected Vehicle manufactured by BAE Land Systems MC in South Africa. The RG-31, known as the Nyala in SADF service, is an outstanding vehicle that has seen combat service around the globe. Canadian based General Dynamics Land Systems, in cooperation with BAE, provides program management and logistics support for the RG-31s in service



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with the U.S. and Canadian armed forces. The Cougar 4x4 and 6x6 models and the Buffalo series Mine Protected Vehicles manufactured by Force Protection in Ladson, South Carolina are robust armored vehicles built on Mack Truck drive trains. They also benefit from a system of armor

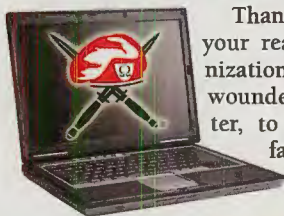
engineered with lessons learned in South Africa. The most important thing that can be said about any of these vehicles is that they work really well and U.S. and Coalition forces need more of them.

On a more personal note, I routinely send care packages to adopted soldiers in

the Central Command AOR and copies of SOF are one of the items most requested. Keep up the good work.

Christian Shepherd
High Point, North Carolina
rcsmedia@hotmail.com

Laptops for the Wounded



Thanks for the great magazine. I just wanted your readers to know about a non-profit organization that helps provide computers to the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Med Center, to help them stay in contact with their families while they are recovering from their wounds. It's called Laptops for the Wounded. They can be found at

www.Laptopsforthewounded.com

Check them out and support them if you can.

SSG Brandon Peterson

AWOL AOL and the No. 1 GI Mom

Just wanted to update you on how things are going... Thanks again for the article, I am receiving letters and emails from people all over the U.S. wanting to send care packages. Only one fly in the ointment: AOL has declared me spam! I don't even eat the stuff! It seems there is a network problem in that AOL has stopped emails to their customers from any MSN or Hotmail addresses. Since many of the people contacting me were AOL customers, I had to get around them. I now have MSN and Yahoo email addresses... patatlikearock@msn.com,

www.soldiersupport.net

THANK YOU for the honorable mention in the June "Bulletin Board." We've been at this for well over two years now, and have shipped untold quantities (nearly one ton myself) of "grunt goodies" to the troops in Iraq and A'stan. We would ask your readers to simply click on our site, pick a couple names and ship away! Remember, these are CONTACT persons, so you are shipping for more than one person. You can also make tax-deductible donations and we'll do the legwork!

For more info on what, how and to whom, please feel free to contact me at sully607@webtv.net.

Jerry Sullivan

patatlikearock@yahoo.com, Unfortunately, I have not been able to get through to AOL addresses for a month, but I'm working diligently on catching up!

I have contact with boots on the ground in the 'Stan. One unit has boxes en-route. Tonight, I received emails from 3 CSM's so I guess the other units will be in touch soon.

We have expanded to send boxes to Italy, Germany and to a little PFC in Iraq. I sincerely appreciate all your help with the care package program and know that our guys do, too.

Pat Jacobs ✕

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Continuing The Legacy

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Listen to Ol' Top!

GIs' most important tools are their eyes. So listen to the Top Kick when he points out that battlefield injuries incur 16% to the eyes – even though the eyes represent about .5% of the soldier's frontal silhouette. It is estimated that 90% of military eye injuries are preventable. Don't want to listen to the Top Kick? Then take the advice of 1LT Anthony Aguilar, shown here with the pair of Revision Sawfly protective eyewear he credits for saving his eyesight and possibly his life: while on patrol with the 172nd Stryker Brigade in Mosul, Aguilar's vehicle was hit by a massive IED. The blast knocked him back into his vehicle, and a shell fragment knocked his eye-pro off his face, but did not penetrate. For more information on Revision Eyewear, go to www.revisioneyewear.com and for more on why you should wear eye-pro, see SFC Dilard Johnson's story "3/7 Cav Fighting The Good Fight," in this issue.



In Iraq, expressed the team's excitement over the Surge's screw-drivers, wire cutters, pliers, saw, files and scissors. To make a donation to the military dog handlers and their canine comrades, or to view their extensive handler's photo gallery from years past to present day, visit their website, above. Photo: Courtesy Leatherman

The "Guardians of the Night" in Iraq are getting some additional support from home, courtesy of Leatherman Tool Group (www.leatherman.com). Leatherman has sent its new Surge™ multi-tool to Air Force handlers at Ali Air Base, Kirkuk Air Base, and Forward Operating Base Warrior. The opportunity to make this donation was brought to the company's attention by the Thailand Dog Handlers (www.635thk9.com), who suggested the Surge because of its size and robustness – a 4.5" multi-tool with more than 20 useful features. "You can open either of the Surge's two locking knife blades with one hand, so it's perfect for emergency situations when your other hand is busy controlling a big dog," said TDH member Phil Carroll. SSgt Pablo Martinez, an Air Force K-9 handler attached to the 101st Airborne in

Hanoi Jane Not Honored by Georgia Legislature

Sen. Steen Miles, D-Decatur, proposed a resolution honoring actress Jane Fonda, an Atlanta resident, for her work as founder of the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, donations to Atlanta-area universities and charities and role as goodwill ambassador with the United Nations. The measure, which Miles said is one of several she promoted honoring Georgia women during Women's History Month, had cruised through the Senate before some members noticed it in a lot of mostly non-controversial resolutions approved because no one objected to them.

Sen. John Douglas, R-Social Circle, later asked that the vote be reconsidered. "I can think of no living American who is less worthy of this honor," Douglas, chairman of the chamber's Veterans and Military Affairs committee, said Thursday. "She is as guilty of treason as Benedict Arnold and Tokyo Rose."

The Senate voted 38-1 to reconsider the measure – a necessary procedure before Miles could withdraw it, but when the time came for her to officially withdraw the resolution, a member of the Senate's Republican majority objected, forcing a vote wherein the resolution lost 38-1.

Online DD 214, Other Resources

Check out <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>

Saluting by Veterans

Following is a letter that Maj. Gen. Vern Lewis, USA (Ret'd), asked be passed on:

I gathered some 16 of my old military friends who agreed to sponsor a movement for Veterans to salute rather than place their hands over their heart when honoring the flag, fallen comrades, and/or the country. I have some from each of the four principal services. Three of them were former Vice Chiefs or Assistant Commandants of their services, and several were former CINCs.

We refer to saluting when we do the pledge to the flag, when the National Colors pass or are presented, when the National Anthem or honors are played, or when taps are played and firing squads or guns render honors. We got MOAA magazine to ask veterans what they preferred, hand over the heart or saluting; [respondents] voted 81% favor of the salute... Obviously an overwhelming majority of the veterans

5.11 Tactical, Brigade Quartermaster Team for Training

5.11 Tactical Series has teamed up with Brigade Quartermaster to support the local law enforcement community through the 5.11 Training Alliance. These events are modeled after academy-level, train-the-trainer venues where pre-qualified trainers can learn from industry-respected and established law-enforcement training professionals such as Jeff Gonzales of Trident Concepts and Steve Tarani of the Operational Skills Group. The first event allowed more than 30 local law-enforcement professionals to attend a free weapons-retention training seminar. The next event is scheduled for September 6 and 7 of this year: 15 Officers will go to a firing range to work with Jeff Gonzales for two days learning tactical rifle and pistol shooting, and on September 7th they are opening a class for 40 officers to work with Steve Tarani on knife tactics, weapon retention, weapon removal, handcuffing, and one-on-one tactics. This is a free seminar available to police officers; Registration is between May 1st and August 15th. Contact Brigade Quartermasters, Ltd. Attn: Paul Basal 800-428-6870 via email at: store@brigadeqcm.com

want to salute.

There are no regulations telling us veterans what we can and can't do in this matter... It is a matter of personal choice. We've earned the right to render a salute. Now the challenge is to get the word out. I believe the unit and branch associations are the best way... If we can get this started it will take on a life of its own. Those who object can continue the hand over the heart thing. Gradually the custom will change, as well it should.

Just imagine thousands of fans saluting at NFL, NBA, and Major League Baseball games when the National Anthem is played. It will telegraph a message to all others of how many have served this country in the Armed Forces – it will be a positive and patriotic message.

You can help by putting the word out in your organizations, which are made up of patriots like you and me. Thanks, my friend.

Vernon B.

Be Daddy Warbucks?

Wall Street has launched a fund to invest in companies involved with military, defense, and homeland security. The product tracks the SPADE Defense Index and trades under the symbol 'PPA'. The website is www.spadeindex.com

A Worthwhile Site

Check out www.familywatchdog.us. When you visit this site you can enter your address and a map will pop up with your house as the small icon of a house and red, blue, green, dots surrounding your entire neighborhood. When you click on these dots a picture of a person will appear with an address and the description of the crime he or she had committed. You can show your kids and see how close these people live to your home or school. This site was developed by John Walsh from "Americas Most Wanted."



DIRECT ACTION

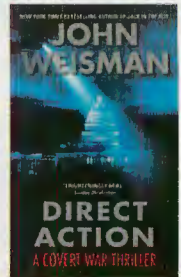
by John Weisman

AVON Books, \$7.99

During the Cold War, America had a ruthless, efficient, audacious intelligence-gathering network entrusted with guarding the nation from outside threats. But that was then...

Tom Stafford is an independent contractor, a former CIA case officer doing outsourced intelligence work for an Agency stripped of its assets and power and rendered impotent. An anonymous "shadow warrior," he must now slip below the radar to uncover, target, and neutralize an al-Qa'ida bombmaker – before the assassin launches multiple deadly attacks against the U.S. and the West. At the same time, Stafford must mount a clandestine war against the Company itself because, for some mysterious, seemingly inexplicable reason, the people at the very top of the Central Intelligence Agency want him to fail...

(John Weisman is SOF's Roving Contributing Editor) ✎



VA Warning to Veterans

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. (<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>)

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below. (Michael.Daugherty2@va.gov)

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The Battle of SALAR BAN



Bomb-Building Insurgents' Costly Lesson: Don't Mess With The Marines

By Sgt. Joe Lindsay, USMC

Sgt. Joe Lindsay, a Marine Corps combat correspondent from Danville, Calif., currently serving in Afghanistan with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, pauses for a moment following a recent firefight between Marines and Taliban insurgents near the remote mountain village of Salar Ban. Photo: Lance Cpl. Anthony Mitchell

Salar Ban, Afghanistan -- Moments after Marines discovered a "safe house" that stored more than a thousand pounds of explosives – plus an additional thousand pounds or so of fuses and components useful in the manufacture of IEDs, Lance Cpl. Brandon Benz-Marrs saw the back-blast from an RPG and watched the flying bomb head straight for them. "I dived down and thought, 'This is it. We're dead.' Then, somehow, it ended up landing about 15 meters from us. None of us were hit. We didn't have time to count our luck. We immediately started sending rounds down range," recalled the Wailuku, Maui native.

In conjunction with soldiers from the Afghan National Army, Marines from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently conducted a week-long, company-wide operation led by Charlie Company Commander Capt. Jared Spurlock in the Shuryak Valley of Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan. It was immediately followed by another weeklong mission manning an observation post along the Pech River Road in the often-hostile area between Camp Blessing in Nangalam, and Camp Wright in Asadabad.

"All told, Marines from Charlie Company's 3rd Platoon spent 15 days in the field, and along with the rest of the company, engaged in numerous firefights with the enemy during the company operation, while also placing 11 suspected Anti-Coalition Militia and ACM collaborators in the status of personnel under control," noted 1st Lt. Kevin Frost, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3.

The most significant of these battles, according to Spurlock, occurred near the remote mountain village of Salar Ban in the Shuryak Valley, moments after Marines discovered the

suspected safe house storing more than a thousand pounds of explosives potentially used for making improvised explosive devices, commonly known as IEDs.

Search and Destroy

"Our mission on this company operation was simple – to close with and destroy the enemy," said Spurlock, a native of Pocatello, Idaho. "The Shuryak Valley is a known enemy stronghold in our area of operations. We knew the enemy was out there, we just didn't know exactly where." The Marines of Charlie Company would find out soon enough.

"During our reconnaissance in force we searched numerous villages in the area, looking for Anti-Coalition Militia members and collaborators, as well as for weapons, and to gather intelligence," said Spurlock. "We had reports that there were enemy in the vicinity of Salar Ban, so we went to that village to talk to local residents and village leaders to get a feeling of enemy activity in the area." What the Marines found was a ghost town.

"The insurgents are like ghosts," said Gunnery Sgt. Paul Davis, company gunnery sergeant for Charlie Company, 1/3, and a native of Laurens, S.C. "They just disappear into the mountains and sometimes you see them and sometimes you don't."

"I knew there was something wrong when we rolled up and the village was basically deserted," said Sgt. Nathan Zechman, 2nd squad leader, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. "There was no one really in the village. I had a feeling something was going to go down," recalled the Hershey, Pa., native.

As it turned out, Zechman's gut feeling was right on the money.

"During our search of a home in Salar Ban, we discovered roughly 1,000 pounds of explosives with an additional 1,000 pounds of time fuses and other accessories used to detonate explosives," said Spurlock.

During the search, the explosives were discovered by two combat engineers attached to Charlie Company – Lance Cpl. Jordan Mills, from Louisville, Ky., and Lance Cpl. Daniel Johnson, from Salt Lake City.

"Almost as soon as we got the word that the explosives were found, I saw a back-blast from an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) and saw the RPG headed straight for us," said Lance Cpl. Brandon Benz-Marrs, assaultman, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3.



Gunnery Sgt. Paul Davis, company gunnery sergeant, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, leaves insurgent safe house while two of his Marines – Lance Cpl. Daniel Johnson (middle) from Salt Lake City, and Lance Cpl. Jordan Mills (right) from Louisville, Ky., both combat engineers, stand watch over their discovery—more than a thousand pounds of explosives—the largest such explosive cache found since coalition forces first came to Afghanistan in 2001. Photo: Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Punch-Up in Suryak Valley

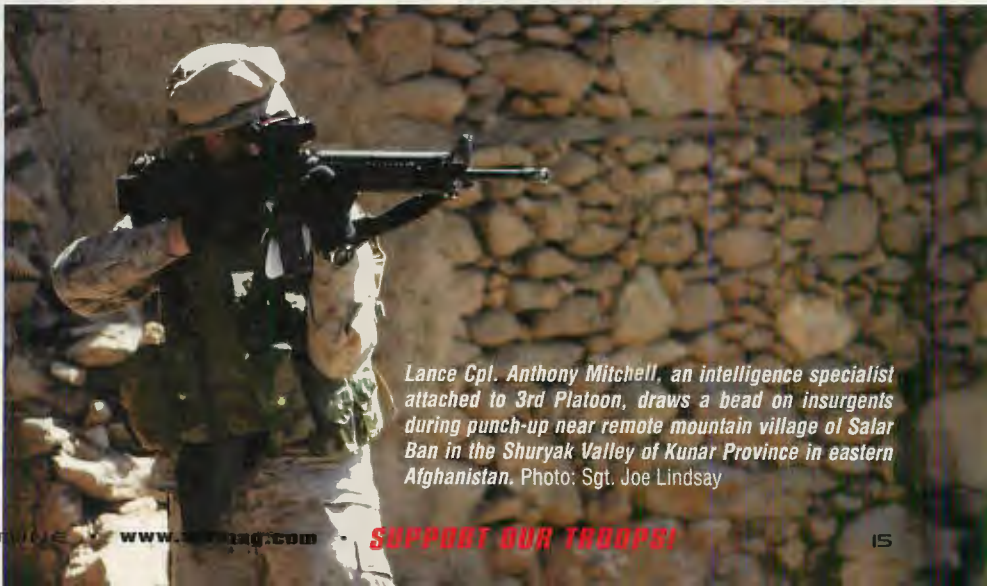
What ensued over the next 30 minutes was a ferocious firefight between Marines from Charlie Company and the ACM, the likes of which Charlie Company Marines hadn't seen since the battle of Fallujah in Iraq in November of 2004, noted Sgt. Michael Chambers, platoon sergeant, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. "The Marines who hadn't seen combat before got their wish today," said Chambers, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device medal recipient from Lexington, S.C. "The enemy had the terrain advantage. The potential was there for them to put a hurting on us, but the Marines did what they were trained to do and in the end, we crushed them."

Indeed, according to Spurlock, later reports estimated that upwards of 20 insurgents were killed in the firefight

and in the artillery bombardment and air support that followed.

"All told, including the initial firefight, the battle lasted over an hour, but once the big guns and air support came in there was nothing the enemy could do," said Chambers. "I heard we killed 20 of them. I wish it were 21. There is always room for one more dead Taliban who is trying to kill Marines, our ANA brothers and innocent Afghans."

Many Lava Dogs from Charlie Company called it a miracle that there were no Marine casualties during the exchange. "I think it was a combination of a miracle by God and Marine Corps training that none of us were killed or wounded at Salar Ban," said Lance Cpl. Jose Romero, 1st Fire Team Leader, 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. "For a minute there I thought I was going to die, but I never felt fear. All I felt was the Marine



Lance Cpl. Anthony Mitchell, an intelligence specialist attached to 3rd Platoon, draws a bead on insurgents during punch-up near remote mountain village of Salar Ban in the Shuryak Valley of Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan. Photo: Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Corps training kicking in. It seemed like we were in one firefight or another every day on this operation, but Salar Ban was definitely the worst, or, if you think about it, the best.”

Others were a little less spiritual in their outlook on the battle at Salar Ban. “Yeah, I’m surprised none of us died at Salar Ban,” said Cpl. David Gordon, 3rd Squad Leader, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. “There were a lot of close calls,” continued the Bowling Springs, S.C., native. “It just came down to they missed and we didn’t”

“It was luck no Marines got killed,” said Mills. “Pure and simple good old-fashioned luck. The Marines are good. But I’d rather be lucky than good any day.”

“They shot crooked and we shot straight,” added Frost in his summation of the firefight.

Others chalked up the decisive Marine Corps victory at Salar Ban to neither divine intervention nor luck, but rather to the superiority of Marine Corps training and the fighting spirit of the individual Marines. “To have RPG’s and AK-47’s shot at you, you would think that the reasonable-man theory would kick in and you’d start spazzing the heck out and dive in a ditch or something,” said Davis. “These guys didn’t do that at all. They held their positions and immediately put lead back toward the enemy. The Marines did good. No, they did better than good. They were awesome.”

Marine, Ready-To-Eat

Some would say none more so than Davis himself. “Years from now probably most of the Marines who were at Salar Ban won’t remember how Gunny Davis steadfastly checked on the safety of his Marines or that he advanced on the enemy, but rather that it was he who first broke the tension of combat by cracking open an MRE immediately after the initial firing stopped and said to a group of Marines in his nonchalant way, ‘Combat makes me hungry,’” recalled Chambers. “That’s the stuff of legends.”

Countless other Marines distinguished themselves during the battle, according to Davis, but it was Frost that most Lava Dogs seemed to be talking about following the victory.

“He’s not the type of Marine leader who is yelling instructions from a distance,” said Cpl. William Graves, 1st Fire Team Leader, 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. “He’s gonna be right there beside his grunts

on the frontlines of the fight, like just like he was at Salar Ban,” observed the Bowling Green, Ky., native.

“It’s just basic human instinct that when you are getting shot at you take cover,” said Romero, a native of La Mirada, Calif. “It is even how we are trained in the Marine Corps – take cover and then return fire. I never saw Lieutenant Frost take cover. We were under fire and he was walking around barking orders making sure his Marines were OK and that they were doing the right things tactically. He was like an action hero from the movies. I never thought I’d see something like that in real life. His example inspired us and gave us all confidence.”

Frost, who was previously wounded in action during a firefight on 25 January by an AK-47 round, was quick to downplay any heroism on his part during the events at Salar Ban.

“All that stuff about me not taking cover, that’s not exactly true,” said Frost, a native of Zeeland, Mich. “I took cover just like everyone else when the first barrage hit, but once I figured out where the rounds were coming from I felt good enough about my location to walk around in certain areas. It might have appeared like I was just walking around like a madman, but that’s not exactly how it went down. I was just doing my job, finding my squad leaders, making sure they were good to go and ensuring that we had combined arms fire going down range.”

“During the fight I never felt fear and I never saw fear on the faces of my Marines,” continued Frost. “It’s only after the fact when you have some time to think about it when you go, ‘Man, I really could have gotten killed today.’”

For most of the Lava Dogs who served at Salar Ban, it was more than just a little coincidence that the enemy attacked soon after the explosives were discovered. “As soon as we found the explosives they pretty much instantly opened up on us,” said Chambers. “It doesn’t take a rocket-scientist to know they weren’t happy about us finding a stash of explosives that they had easy access to and could pretty much dip into any time they wanted. They knew the explosives

were there – no question about it.”

Lives Saved

According to Lance Cpl. Anthony Mitchell, an intelligence specialist from Burlington, Colo., attached to Charlie Company, 1/3, it was the largest such explosive cache find since coalition forces first came to Afghanistan in 2001. “There is a big problem having a thousand pounds of explosives right in the backyard of the insurgents,” said Frost, “where there is one bad guy for every pound of explosives we found. It’s a huge security risk having that much material potentially in the hands of the enemy.”

“The significance of this company operation was the recovery of the explosives that I believe will directly result in lives being saved – not just Marines but other coalition members and ANA and ANP (Afghan National Police) forces,” said Spurlock. “When we can take away the enemy’s access to explosives we are also taking away their ability to put those explosives on the roads in the form of IEDs and that directly results in the lives of coalition forces being saved. Anytime we can take explosives out of the reach of the bad guys it is a victory.” ☒



Gunnery Sgt. Paul Davis, company gunnery sergeant, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Laurens, S.C., aims in on insurgents during a recent company-wide operation that netted some ton of explosives and 20 enemy KIA. Photo: Sgt. Joe Lindsay

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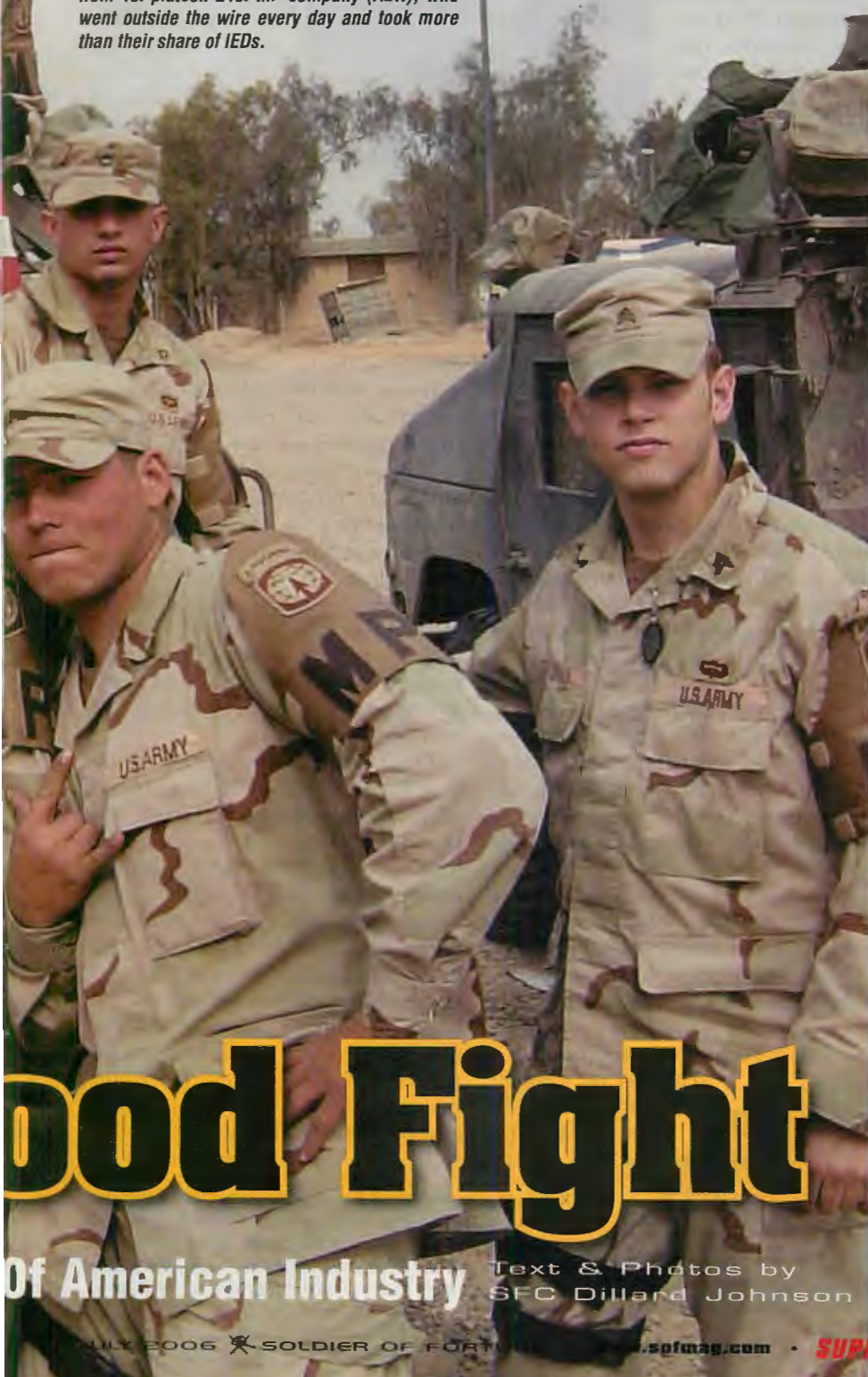


Fighting the Co

...and Fighting It Well, With A Little Help From The Cadre

VALRY:

There is not enough said about the MP companies that go out every day and make the long runs from Baghdad to Kuwait and work with the USMC, like SGT Joshua Works and his squad from 1st platoon 21st MP company (ABN), who went outside the wire every day and took more than their share of IEDs.



Good Fight

of American Industry

Text & Photos by
SFC Dillard Johnson

With most headlines featuring the internecine strife that is going on inside Iraq, you would think that the Iraqi people don't want us there. Well, if you believe everything you hear on the news then you may not want to read this, because the plain truth about what is going on in Iraq just might make you reconsider where you get your news.

This was my 3rd trip to Iraq, starting with the ground war. I believe even more in what we are doing there – no change of heart here. From what I have observed myself, I still feel that the Iraqi people are better off now than before.

For those who have lost a loved one winning freedom for the Iraqis, I am truly sorry and I hope that you are not bitter about it. There is a very good chance that he or she has changed someone's life for the better; Your loved one has done the greatest thing any human can do in their lifetime.

Life in Iraq has changed since I was there last. Now back home, on the news every night I see the reports of everything bad that has happened in Baghdad – all the car bombs and IEDs. But what is not so obvious is that the reports are just videotapes of what has happened today. Where are the reporters? You can see them on TV, but just *where* are they? Usually they can be found in very safe places. As a small boy I would watch the news and see the reporters in Vietnam and later in Ireland. In Desert Storm and the OIF 1, they would be with us on the road, but not now. They hide inside the Green Zone and tell you what they think is going on – and that is just not good enough. Your loved ones and the American people need to hear the truth, which is that the U.S. Forces are doing the just and right thing over there.

Thanks to Suppliers On the Home Front

I have been on more than 45 combat missions and Carnivore II. My Bradley this time over traveled well over 25,000 miles. The Bradley is one of the best combat vehicles ever made. That said, there is always a way to make something better and that is what a lot of soldiers have done. For instance, SSG Williams and I came up with a mount for the Bradley's commander side, to mount a 240 machine gun and it does work well. SSG Williams was using his the

I had a Crimson Trace laser on my Beretta. It was knocked all to hell after being dragged under my gun truck for over a mile at 50 mph—but to my surprise, it still worked just like new (note laser dot at lower right of photo). I had to go the arms room to get the slide fixed on my M9 Beretta, but (inset) the laser grips took a real beating—and still worked.

night he earned his Bronze Star with V for valor.

William's life was saved that night by his Trijicon M4 rifle scope. AK-47 rounds were hitting all around him. Williams had his M4 on the turret next to him at eye level, and the Trijicon scope took the hit. The scope is made hard as nails and even after it was hit it still worked. There are so many ways GIs have come up with to make their vehicles and gear better, it would take a year to write them all down. Before I came over to Iraq this last time, I did a product review for SOF on gear that was good to go. There are a lot of good companies out there making gear that is helping keep the GIs alive and making their life easier.

Bushnell, long known for their hunting scopes, now have a mil-dot scope and laser range finders that helped me take out an insurgent sniper at more than 852 meters. Gerber now has a great line of LED flash lights to go with their multi-tool line, plus the LMF II, Gerber's new field Knife. (I'll get to how it saved my life, next month.) I know that most companies test their gear but I took my product test to the next level. Thanks to the insurgents over in Iraq, all the gear from my last report has been tested under fire. My Point Blank body armor has taken a hit from IEDs and small arms fire and has saved my life more than once.

When I returned from Iraq along with the rest of my Division, the 3rd Infantry, although it was great to step off the plane at Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah, we brought with us a sadness, as 3rd



Squadron 7th Cavalry, Custer's old unit better know as Garry Owen, suffered losses. Some great men in the Seventh Cavalry died in Iraq. I lost good friends.

Salute to Brothers In Arms

The old saying that what does not kill you makes you stronger is not true. What does not kill you leaves you in pain for the rest of your life. *Soldier of Fortune* magazine has always been there for the soldiers and the Marines. It has been the one forum where the defenders of freedom could come and lose ourselves with our friends. Large numbers of soldiers and Marines have gone to combat but only a small number have stepped into the mouth of hell to experience the loss of friends and the blood we have shed. The fighting men and women of this country have put everything in their lives on hold for the freedom of another people and some have given their lives for this true and just cause. We must never let our fallen friends be forgotten. *They must be honored by our completing the mission that they died for.*

As for the USMC, you Marines are our brothers. I have fought beside you and felt your losses. I have watched you attack towns with old, out-dated gear under heavy fire this past year, and yet you never stopped.

You do your country proud.

There is not enough said about the MP companies that go out every

day and make the long runs from Baghdad to Kuwait and work with the USMC, like SGT Joshua Works and his squad from 1st

platoon 21st MP company (ABN), who went outside the wire every day and took more than their share of IEDs.

T&E In Combat

In March 2005 I told you the gear that I would be taking back to Iraq with me. Now if you don't mind listening to some war stories, I would like to tell you how all that gear held up.

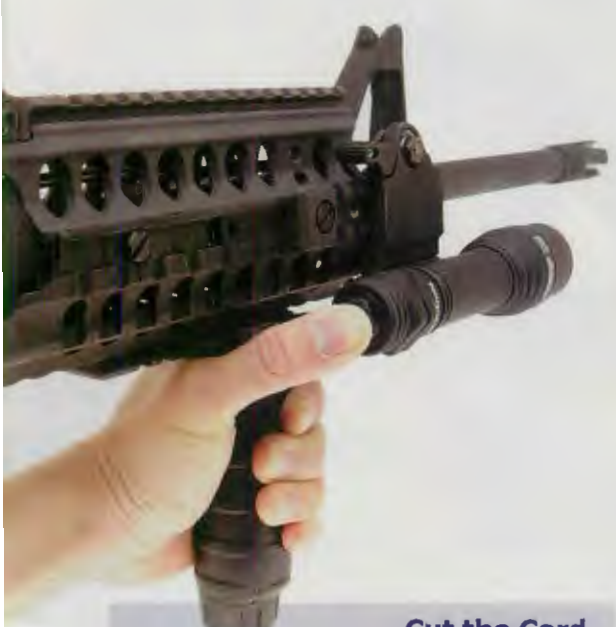
The one thing on your mind when you get to Iraq is that you are going to be better than the last guy. I can remember telling my soldiers how we were going to find the IEDs and get the SOBs that had emplaced them. I was told by the battle-hardened Platoon Sergeant I was replacing not to worry about finding the IEDs – they would find us. No truer words have ever been spoken.

On 2 April 2005 my platoon had two Bradley's on an escort mission of four thin-skinned vehicles. SSG David Miller was in the lead Bradley and I was in the trailing one. We moved ahead of the other vehicles so we could take out any threat that might lie ahead. It was almost 1800 hours and we had been out in 100+ degree temperatures for the past 12 hours. With no contact and less than two miles to base I was glad my day was almost over. SGT Sean Cochran, my gunner, asked if he could stand up and get some air. I told SGT Cochran

Continued on page 32

SSG Williams' life was saved the night he earned his Bronze Star with V device, by this Trijicon M4 rifle scope. AK-47 rounds were hitting all around him. Williams had his M4 on the turret next to him at eye level, and the Trijicon scope took the hit. The scope is made hard as nails and even after it was hit it still worked.





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"Your Friends Will

And Sometimes A Single Friend Can Help Turn



"I'll Not Forget You"

The Tides of War

Text & Photos by Justin Woodruff



Commander David Alex (center), of the central military region and some of his troops. Most of those pictured were killed in a Kopasus ambush in 1997.

The sweltering tropic heat of the day quickly fades in the chilly mountain dusk. I can just make out the shadowy eucalyptus trees that reminded me of my Australian home. I feel every mosquito bite, silently cursing myself for not taking any of the anti-malarial drugs I had smuggled in. The eight East Timorese resistance fighters sharing my ambush position seem to have been swallowed up by the earth. In a paranoid moment I wonder if I have fallen asleep and been left alone in this foreign war zone. As I feel another bug crawling inside my trouser leg, I recheck my watch for the hundredth time that hour. I am close to praying that someone will wander into our ambush site just for the opportunity to get up, move around and scratch a few layers of itchy skin from my body.

From the ravine just a couple of hundred meters up the track that we are watching, breaks the deafening sound of automatic-weapons fire. The silence of the last three hours is broken by the roar of what sounds like a counter-ambush drill in progress, and the nervous sounds of Indonesian NCOs issuing commands. Experiencing the most all-consuming fear of my life, throttling the FMP-made G3 rifle in my hands, I stare into the surrounding scrub, desperately hoping to see the familiar, reassuring smile of José as he tells me what's happening – and if I should be shooting, attacking or running away. Bloody hell! It sounds like a serious battle just over the ridge

on my horizon, while I'm laying in the East Timor jungle, wondering what the

hell I'm doing in someone else's war

Local Wars That Followed World War II

Back in 1942, the Australian 2/2 Independent Company commandos were sent to Portuguese Timor in a preemptory, desperate bid to stem the tide of Japanese aggression and buy time to defend the Australian coastline. These 400 Aussie "diggers" were the Western-Australian-based forefathers of today's Australian SAS. The island of Timor is Australia's closest neighbor, long ago colonized in the West by the Dutch and in the East by the Portuguese. In the 12 months following deployment, the handful of Aussie Commandos, with close cooperation and support from the East Timorese natives, succeed in engaging and pinning down 20,000 Japanese troops – ultimately inflicting over 1,500 casualties upon the Japanese military occupation force.

The East Timorese have always been fiercely Western and Christian in

outlook, unlike the Dutch half of the island. In this desperate war, a strong bond of brotherhood was forged between the Australian soldiers and their East Timorese allies. For several months following the invasion, the Australian Army command had assumed the men from the 2/2 were dead or captured, like their 1100 Australian colleagues to the West who had been forced to surrender after four days of fierce fighting. In contrast to Portuguese East Timor, native collaboration with the Japanese was com-

mon in West Timor.

The following year Canberra reas-

**I returned ...
determined to provide
some sort of help to
Zequito and his people,
with the model of
SOPs Refugee Relief
International in mind
[RRI was sponsored
by SOF during the 80s,
sending volunteer
medical teams and
medical supplies
to Central America,
Afghanistan, Burma
and elsewhere.]**

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(top) Hands-on training for new recruits. (below) FALINTIL soldier with M16A1 and M203 grenade launcher. (inset) FALINTIL soldier with M16A1.

essed the strategic landscape and gave priority to the battle for New Guinea, abandoning Timor. As the Australian commandos were withdrawn by submarine, Australian bombers dropped the now infamous leaflet over East Timor, which states in English and Portuguese: "Your Friends Will Not Forget You." Japanese retribution, slave-labor gangs and famine accounted for the lives of between 40,000 and 60,000 East Timorese over the following two years.

This was not the end of the East Timorese people's suffering or fierce struggle for freedom. In 1975 the Portuguese began withdrawing from their colonial possessions in the wake of the fall of the Salazar regime in Lisbon, and the African brushwars in Mozambique and Angola. Meanwhile, the former Dutch colony of Indonesia saw

an opportunity to strike a vulnerable target and consolidate its hold upon the vast island archipelago. Indonesia (population 240 million), the world's most populous Muslim nation, invaded the tiny half-island of East Timor from air, sea and land on 12 December 1975. With East Timor's (population 600,000) small geographic size, absence of a formal army in the wake of the Portuguese withdrawal, and a government and economy in disarray, the Indonesian invaders expected a quick victory. What the Indonesian dictator, General Suharto, had not anticipated was a resilient warrior culture, a stubborn refusal to integrate into Muslim-dominated, Eastward looking Indonesian culture, and a

steadfast belief in the principles of freedom, self-determination and the rule of international law. Indonesian troops were ordered to crush any resistance mercilessly and told that they were fighting a Jihad against the infidel Catholic East Timorese.

Fighting a successful conventional war for three years, the East Timorese national army, FALINTIL (*Forças Armadas de Libertação Nacional de Timor Leste* or Armed Forces of National Liberation of East Timor) created forward operating bases in the mountainous interior

Continued on page 36



Take a guaranteed **FREE TEST DRIVE** of the nastiest combat secrets used right now in lethal world-stage fighting!

“The Stunning Israeli Connection: All-New Short-Cut Lethal Hand-To-Hand Fighting System (That FREAKS OUT Even Hardcore U.S. Soldiers) Finally Revealed By Top Israeli Combat Veteran!”

So harsh and effective, this never-before-revealed system has battle-hardened U.S. Spec Op soldiers shaking their heads in respect and awe... so new and exciting, this “first peek” at “hidden” Israeli combat secrets is sending shockwaves through the martial arts world!

(Dateline, Visalia, CA) -- You know what the difference is between a so-so fighting system (which can give you false confidence)... and one that guarantees you will have the skills to **obliterate anyone who gets in your face?**

The difference is...

Real, Blood-On-Your-Hands Combat!

Most martial art teachers have never been in a real *fight* before. Many former soldiers have never seen a battlefield. And some of the “experts” with the biggest mouths have never been within miles of a life-and-death situation.

Well... I have a guy here who, for several years straight, **saw combat-ready action EVERY DAY**. Yes, he faced lethal combat with the enemy. Yes, he killed people. And yes, he had to use his skills *every second of every hour* he was under threat.

His name is **Nir Maman** (pronounced “Near”). He’s a former Israeli special forces commando and top hand-to-hand combat instructor. From 1995 to 1998 his long-range reconnaissance unit (the feared “Sayeret Golani”) roamed deep into enemy territory, fighting, capturing and “eliminating” terrorists and insurgents. Usually, there were only **4 men** in his unit. Alone, without back-up, miles from safety — and with **less than one-fourth the training our own Spec Op soldiers receive** — these men faced constant, unrelenting and vicious counter-guerilla combat.

Did you catch that? These men did not have the luxury of long training. Israel has a limited population, and the men who join the Special Forces must get up to speed **FASTER** than any

other soldier in the world.

Why? Because...

They Face Blood-Curdling Lethal Combat Almost Immediately... Every Day Of Their Service!

Our own super-nasty Spec Op guys (SEALS, Delta) — as well as other world-class soldiers like the French Foreign Legion — are in awe of these Israeli hard-asses. Their training is so short and so **CONDENSED** that at age 20, the Israeli Spec Op soldier is as skilled as the average 30-year-old SEAL.

The secret: Astonishing short-cut training methods that — until now — were *the most hidden fighting secrets in the world*.

These guys **HAD** to learn fast... because they had to **USE** their training within days (sometimes hours) of learning it!

What’s this mean for you? Plenty... if you’re hungry for proven, super-nasty fighting skills that you can learn almost overnight. Nir not only used his skills in the field... but he got so good that he was asked to **TEACH** other soldiers his advanced skills. (A huge honor only a *handful* of men have ever enjoyed.)

He’s not just good (and has proven it by coming out of years of lethal combat without a scratch). He’s a friggin’ honest-to-God **expert**... who has perfected a **short-cut teaching method that will force-feed these skills into you faster than you ever believed possible**.

Best of all...

- ✓ You do not need to be in shape...
- ✓ You do not need to have any previous skills (Israeli soldiers



Former Israel commando Nir Maman Served in the feared “Sayeret Golani” where his job was to “fight, capture and eliminate” terrorists and insurgents. He now reveals to YOU the fighting secrets that make him one of the most dangerous men on earth!

come from the civilian population, just like you)...

- ✓ You do not need to be quick, or agile, or strong... and...
- ✓ You do not need to be “blood thirsty”.

Nope. The Israeli army had to learn quick how to take ordinary men (who have no special skills or advantages whatsoever)... and turn them literally overnight into super-skilled fighters who could face lethal combat with **absolute confidence and mega-dangerous moves** that would prevail over the enemy.

Pray that you never have to meet up with the kind of guerilla terrorists the Israelis face every day. Vicious zealots who do not care if they live or die, as long as they inflict damage on you. Wild-eyed and well-trained killers who, in fact, **WANT** to die as they take you out. (They think they’re martyrs, with a twisted version of Heaven waiting.)

Let me tell you — when your

(Continued on next page...)

opponent *doesn't care at all about his own life* as he attacks you... **you better have the skills to take him out FAST.** In a split second, before he can put any hurt on you. And... you better make sure he **STAYS** down.

Here's what's up: These fighting secrets have NEVER been revealed before to anyone outside the Israeli Special Forces compounds. Nir has agreed to share them because, first, he created this special system himself. It's mostly his. (The Israeli army begged him to stay and continue teaching, but he had other plans after his long and distinguished service.) And second... Nir (along with so many other front-line veterans) realizes it is past time for Americans to learn how to fight.

In just over an hour, you are about to "quick-learn" vicious fighting skills that will change your life. Remember — our own U.S. Spec Op guys are deeply impressed with these Israeli tactics (and that says a lot about the authenticity and quality of this amazing new system). Even the most battle-experienced DELTA commando in our army hasn't faced a *fraction* of the action the average Israeli soldier does in a month.

These skills are being proven, over and over again, every hour of every day. They are the reason Israeli soldiers are...

The Most Feared And Respected In The World!

Would you like to check out these fighting secrets yourself?

You can do it...

Without Risking A Penny!

Here's how: We rushed Nir into our super-secret recording studios as quickly as we could, once he agreed to reveal everything. The result are 4 tapes or 3 DVDs of the absolute BEST instructional videotapes I've ever seen.

This is **SHORT-CUT** training like you've never experienced. **No long practice or drills required.** It's actually...

Amazingly Simple!

Hey — I didn't believe it myself at first. How can world-class fighting be *simple*?

The answer... is in Nir's astonishing teaching method. **It's completely new to martial arts.**

Most systems get complicated fast. It takes *years* to get just decent at the groundfighting skills needed for your

average fighting system... and then more years to master the trapping skills, the disarming skills, etc. And *none* of the training you learn in face-to-face fighting works on the ground, and vice versa.

Nir has magically made all other martial arts training obsolete.

How? By bringing ALL the skills you will ever need down to just **7 BASIC TOOLS.** And these tactics work whether you're on the ground... running through a dark alley... or surprised from behind with a knife or gun.

Think about that: One set of skills... which you can use in EVERY SINGLE situation you find yourself in. It's like having one tool in your toolbox that does everything. It seems hard to imagine... but it's real. It's proven.

And it's *nasty.*

That's why I insist you get the chance to check this out for yourself, without risk. You have to see this new fighting system to believe it. You have to experience it to "get" how easy and simple it really is. It just seems to defy "common sense".

But, man oh man, does it ever WORK!

I won't try to convince you here. Only seeing the stuff in action will convince you. Still, here's a "taste" of what you're about to discover:

- ✓ How to use the combat-veteran soldier's "**Vital Target**" map of vulnerable spots on the human body... to instantly take out ANYONE (of any size or skill level) who attacks you! (Imagine having secret targets you can reach on anyone, at any time, that will paralyze and put him down in one swift move!)
- ✓ How to raise your fighting skills from zero to world-class (overnight)... **using just 7 basic moves that work on the ground, standing up, or against weapons!** (This is the simplest fighting system you've ever seen... yet it is also the most **PROVEN** and effective!)
- ✓ How to control... incapacitate... and end the fight on your terms... *in just seconds!*
- ✓ **Why "pain compliance" is total horseshit in real combat...** and "quick-learn" tips on how to instantly destroy the skeletal structure of your opponent to immobilize him without breaking a sweat! (Pain doesn't deter wild-eyed terrorists when they're in an

adrenaline-fueled fury. Trying to win a fight by "stunning" your attacker is stupid and can get you killed in the real world.)

- ✓ How to learn — *fast*, in one quick session — almost all you need to know to face down the most dangerous situations you'll ever encounter!
- ✓ The secrets of lulling your opponent into false confidence... right before you take him out! (Gain that **crucial extra second** to get the upper hand, without escalating the danger.)
- ✓ **How to use 12 pounds of pressure (less than it takes to open a can of soda pop) to cause a complete shutdown of his vital systems!** (A trick Israelis learn so they can take out an attacker on the run, without pausing to "fight" in any normal or expected way!)
- ✓ How to "mask" your intentions... **so your fight-ending move is completely hidden and a total surprise to your opponent!**

It goes on and on. These are the most amazing and effective fighting secrets you'll ever learn. All in a **short-cut, super-condensed format** that will infuse you with skills literally as you simply WATCH the training tapes.

The thing is... **all you have to learn is 7 simple moves...** which work whether you're standing up, running, or on the ground. This training immediately reduces effective self-defense into a (fun) single "force-feed" session that will fly by.

Are you ready for it? No previous experience with fighting is necessary. **You don't need to be a "natural" warrior.** Nir will take care of all of that. In a single training session.

Here's the deal: Nir spent enough time in the studio for us to make 4 videos. Each one is worth its weight in gold (or blood).

First... is the BASIC hand-to-hand package of two training videos. Each video sells separately for \$49.99... but you can own this basic package for just \$69 (an immediate savings of \$30). That's IF you want to pay for the tapes. (I'll explain in a second)

Second... is **RECOMMENDED** package, which includes the hand-to-hand videos plus the amazing ground-fighting video. (Nir's ground-fighting tactics are astonishing... because they leap over all other grappling techniques, and *skip* the years of training necessary for most systems. You learn proven fight-on-the-ground skills **INSTANTLY.**) This package is worth

\$150... but you can have it for \$99.

Third (and last)... is the **ADVANCEED** package. It's the one you want if you're serious about learning the most effective fighting tactics in the world. You get all the above videos PLUS the Israeli secrets of defending against a knife or gun. Disarming tactics up the yin-yang, especially close-quarter combat skills that can save your life in a confrontation. This is over \$200 worth of material... yet you can own it now for just \$129.

But you do not risk a penny to check it out for yourself, personally. Because you get an extended...

One-Year 100% Money-Back Guarantee!

Here's how it works: Check out this amazing package for yourself, and take a full YEAR to do it. If you're unhappy, for any reason (or for no reason at all), simply return the package for a complete refund. No questions asked.

And... if you opt for the **ADVANCED** package... I insist you **KEEP** the "Knife And Gun Disarmament" video as our gift to you, just for giving Nir a chance.

That's a \$50 training video...

FREE!

And... if you ask for your refund... you've just seen the most sought-after fighting secrets on the planet... *for free.*

Here's how to order: Just call 1-800-899-8153 and tell whoever answers you want either Nir's "**Basic Package**"... or his "**Recommended Package**"... or his "**Advanced Package**". You can use your credit card.

Or, if you prefer to pay with a check or money order (payable to TRS)... just fill out the Priority Order Form and mail it to **TRS Direct - 606 E. Acequia Ave. - Visalia, CA 93292.**

Either way... *you do not risk a penny.*

This is **SERIOUS** stuff for anyone who wants to learn — fast — the most effective and simple fighting skills now in use.

This is also the **ONLY** way you can learn these skills... unless you join the Israeli army and opt for their Special Forces training. And go face constant deadly combat every day of your career.

THERE IS ONE "CATCH": You must *hurry*. Nir is understandably a little concerned that his former employers might **STOP** him from

revealing these secrets. So he has authorized us to release *only a very limited number of packages*, on a very limited time schedule.

That means... we only duplicated around 80 sets of this package, and then locked up the master tapes so no one else could gain access to them. Once this batch is sold out (and I expect it to sell out in days), there is a good chance you won't get another opportunity anytime soon to see this stuff!

You don't risk a penny by ordering right now. You know that TRS has been around for over 15 years, and is **THE** most trusted company in martial arts. We have earned the trust and respect of SWAT cops, the U.S. military, every branch of the Special Forces and even the "black bag" arms of the FBI and CIA.

We protect our reputation like a crazed bulldog. If you aren't happy, for any reason whatsoever, I insist you send the material back and get a complete refund. No questions asked. No hassles.

This stuff is the real thing. I am confident you will be impressed. But if you aren't, you get your money back, pronto. I respect your decision, no matter what it is. That's the only way we'll do business — with you as the boss. It's how we built our

reputation. It's why we're the top company in martial arts.

So call right now. Do it. You'll get your videos in just a few days... and you can see for yourself what all the fuss is about.

This is gonna blow your mind.

Sincerely,



Bob Pirece

P.S. One last thing — when you order, I will include a special **FREE audio cassette tape** we did with Nir that professionals are calling "the most important revelation of fighting secrets ever." In this tape, Nir goes into chilling detail about special Israeli combat secrets and tactics — this is stuff no one outside the Israeli "inner circle" of trainers and soldiers has ever heard before. If you're interested in **PRACTICAL** tactics and strategies that real fighters use when their life is on the line... you will love this tape.

And... *it's yours FREE.* To keep, no matter what you decide later.

However... I only have enough of these tapes to send to the first 80 people. There's one here with your name on it... but I will have to give it to someone else if you do not call right away. So hurry.

PRIORITY ORDER FORM



Nir Maman's Israeli Connection

For Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card and Call TOLL-FREE:

1-800-899-8153 (Dept. IC-41)

YES! I want in on this amazing deal to see this all-new super-secret Israeli fighting system... without risking a penny! I understand I have a full year to decide after ordering if I want the package or not. That's outrageously generous, and gives me more than enough time to check everything out myself. It's like a full year of free instruction in the most feared, respected and proven fighting system on the planet right now. **Here's the package I want and how I want to pay:**

- Option #1: The basic package...** 2 life-changing videos on hand-to-hand fighting (including moves no one has ever seen before outside the Israeli Spec Op world!)... for just \$69 (an immediate savings of \$30!).
- Option #2: The Recommended Package...** both basic videos, plus the stunning Groundfighting video... for just \$99 (a savings of \$51!).
- Option #3: The Advanced Package...** all 4 videos or 3 DVDs for just \$129 (a savings of \$71!)... plus, I get to **KEEP** the Disarming Knives and Guns tape no matter what.

Please send me everything on: **DVD Discs** or **VHS Videotapes**


I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: MasterCard Visa AmEx Discover Enclosed is my check or money order (payable to TRS) for \$_____ (+ \$7 S&H).

Card # _____ Name _____

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Mail payment to: TRS Direct, 606 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA 93292, Department IC-41
CA residents add appropriate sales tax. "2-day" shipping \$17. "Overnight" shipping \$22. Foreign shipping (except Canada) \$25.
All payments in US currency only. Call 1-559-732-5317 for more information.



Serbian-operated former Yugoslav National Army (JNA) APC on road leading to Vukovar from Osijek in eastern Slavonia. The troops manning the roadblock were Serbian JNA conscripts who got caught up in the war. Many of them were friendly when officers were not present.

“They’re All Murderous Bastards, You Know”

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

By Nat Helms

Last month, the author arrived in the Balkans and became acclimated to a war zone where it was brother against brother, with quarter seldom asked and almost never given. This month he pursues the quest for understanding by spending time on the ground with the men at the sharp – or was it the wrong – end of the spear.

The Finnish captain assigned to cooperate with me hooked me up with a British mercenary named Kevin Carter. Carter said he was a deserter from the British Army. Carter had an ugly head wound and a dilemma. The young Brit claimed he couldn't go home because he was wanted for desertion and war crimes in Great Britain. Equally unfortunate, he couldn't stay in Croatia because the government had unexpectedly enforced its rule against foreigners in the army by discharging him. He thought it had something to do with war crimes but he wasn't yet sure. He was living on 80 German Deutschmarks a month, hand-outs, and what he could scrounge from guys like me passing through the Zadar Hotel bar on the way to the war. He had already been told he had 60 days to clear out, or the Croats were going to show him the door. In the meantime, he was still on duty although it had a different meaning in HOS than normal military units. Most of the time Kevin

hung around the Zadar Hotel scrounging drinks and talking to the E.C. monitors he hated.

Kevin claimed he had been in Croatia for almost a year when I met him. For the last three months he had been recovering from a nasty-looking head wound he had suffered near Skabrnje, a little village near Zadar and quite forgettable had it not been the site of a massacre two years before. Kevin bragged he had fought in several vicious battles and owned a barroom reputation for being tough and resourceful.

Kevin said he came to Croatia by way of the British Army of the Rhine, from which he deserted, after a tour in Northern Ireland that he loved and several years “square bashing” at posts in Germany and Great Britain that he hated. To look at him Kevin Carter didn't seem like warrior. He was rather slim, of average height, had dark hair, a long face, and a quizzical smile that made him appear either amused or confused by whatever was going on around him. Before Kevin was wounded he lived in a blown-up house on the first line near Nadin, another tiny village near Skabrnje.

One More Massacre

The year before Kevin arrived in HOS, Serbs had massacred 43 civil-

ians at Skabrnje and Nadin, shooting and then driving over them with tanks and committing other atrocities. Since then feelings there had run high, and the antagonists who survived murdered each other with as much energy as they could muster.

Because Skabrnje is so close to Zadar and held such emotional significance, 1.4 Brigade HOS was ordered to take it back during the Croat's successful 1993 offensive. The brigade's reputation as a fire-eating unit of mercenaries from all over Europe was due to the abilities of its former Canadian Army commander, a fellow who took the name of Col. McKenzie. Though it was designated a brigade, Kevin said it never had more than 400 men in it. It was not enough men to take Skabrnje in conjunction with the Croatians' attempt to recover the Maslenica Bridge, a massive structure that had been dropped into the Adriatic Sea almost two years before. As a result the Serbs and Croats skirmished there almost every day.

Several nights after I arrived, Kevin's reconnaissance platoon was ordered to discover where the Serbs were, which meant in Kevin's words, “Snooping about until we got shot at.”

A squad of men, including Kevin, crept up on a Serbian-occupied house in Skabrnje during the dark of night.

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Unnoticed until they attacked, the patrol seized the house and captured its occupants before they could sound an alarm. This was not an abnormal situation on the first line, Kevin explained in contumacious Slavic logic, because both sides frequently have parties and forget to post guards.

All went well for the rest of the night, with Kevin and his comrades tying up and gagging the Serbs before drinking their liquor until dawn. By daylight they were very drunk and in a foul mood. Then the Finn shot the Serb commander between the eyes with his own pistol. The next morning when I arrived the dead Serb was still laying in the doorway of his house wearing a quizzical smile. Kevin thought it was a hilarious story and repeated it several times. Some weeks later the Finn would give me a play-by-play account. Then he deserted.

Soon after dawn broke the Croats moved in force into the area around the house and Kevin and his comrades were ordered to take the prisoners, there were now four of them, back to Zadar, he said. While they were preparing to do so the European Community monitors showed up in their white Toyota Land Cruisers to negotiate a cease-fire and try to compel the Croats to give the captured ground back. The so-called "E.C." officers had little real authority because they were unarmed, but they knew how to ask questions and take names that would one-day cause quite a bit of concern. This, Kevin later said, made him even angrier.

The E.C. monitors were led by a Danish colonel of considerable refinement, who guarded the Danish Queen's palace when he wasn't brokering the war. He was with a French major who liked to talk about chasing the natives across Djibouti in a Jeep, a Canadian Air Force captain who was soon to make major, and a Belgian major who detested the Yugoslavians of every stripe. He liked to say their hobby was murder. He wasn't too far wrong that day.

Moments after the E.C. observers appeared Kevin began marching the bound prisoners toward a truck parked behind the captured house. He hated the monitors, whom he called ice cream vendors because of their all-white uniforms, and he thought the E.C. monitors hated HOS because of its politics. He was convinced they disregarded Serbian and Bosnian atrocities at the expense of the suffering Croats. The thought angered him and he got all riled up.

On the way to the truck, still quite

drunk, he began interrogating the tied-up Serbian prisoners about the massacre at Skabrnje, asking them in English how they could do such a thing.

Kevin claims one of the prisoners answered in English that he "didn't give a fuck." Kevin, "very calmly" as he described his subsequent actions, responded that he didn't "give a fuck either," and shot all four of them in the head with his pistol, leaving their bodies in a heap behind the house. Unknown to him at the time the Belgian major, whom I would soon meet, watched him do it. Some days later I was wined and dined at lunch in the Zadar Hotel by the E.C. monitors while they interrogated me about what I knew.

"HOS are all murderous bastards," the Danish colonel confided. "After the war they are all going to be imprisoned."

A few weeks later Kevin was severely wounded when a Serb sniper fired a bullet that ignited a 64mm M-80 *Zolja* anti-tank rocket strapped on his back. When the rocket roared out of the tube a fin ripped open his scalp and the fiery engine cauterized the wound in a millisecond. Kevin spent several weeks in the hospital in Zadar before moving in with a Croatian nurse and her husband while he waited for what was to come. He hadn't lost his testy disposition or his need for drink in the meantime, and regularly made his way to the Zadar Hotel.

A "Hero's" "Reward"

Several weeks later, while having a routine chat with his Mum on the telephone, Kevin was informed that British police had been to his house inquiring about him. Kevin's mother told them he was away "on holiday." Kevin claimed the police told her they were holding four murder-warrants for killing the Serbs and one for desertion from the British Army. It was the first time she knew Kevin had deserted.

Kevin claimed she thought he was on a secret mission. His "Mum" said the police asked her to let them know when Kevin got in touch. About the same time Kevin was informed he was being discharged from HOS. He had until the end of March to turn in his uniforms, collect his miserable 80DM monthly pay, and leave Croatia. In return for his service the government gave him a nicely printed letter that detailed his devotion to duty. It would also incriminate him in Great Britain. Somehow it was a fitting memento from the war.

He was supposed to carry the letter

in lieu of identification papers until he left the country. When he was ready to leave, his British passport would be returned to him. Kevin drunkenly claimed the Croats discharged him as an example to the other mercenaries still fighting. Eventually Kevin and another Brit nicknamed "Mad Dog" – a big, rowdy, loud-mouthed fellow – stole a car and disappeared.

Several months later I was recounting the story of Kevin and 1.4 HOS to Glavis. I was in his office to find out whether it was true his policemen had machined-gunned an elderly Serb couple who didn't want to leave their home. Their bodies were laying out in the yard of their home when I went into his office. Glavis said he didn't know anything about the elderly Serbs.

"Not," he said, "bad things happen in war."

Glavis got in a better mood when I told him about HOS. He laughed heartily at the story of Kevin and the Serbs, assuring me they had deserved no less.

"The Brits are all murderous bastards you know," Glavis said. ☒

*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.*



Serbian members of the Chetniks, supporters of the deposed royal family and great believers in "Greater Serbia," the dream of nationalistic Serbs to unite Yugoslavia under one rule dominated by Serbs. HOS and the Chetniks killed each other with wild abandon.



3/7 CAVALRY • Continued from page 20

to go ahead, we were almost home. Then everything went black. When the smoke had cleared, Cochran told me he had a guy running into the building to our right. I tried to call SSG Miller on the radio but the IED had knocked out my turret power. I was yelling at SGT Cochran to shoot that guy. I looked down into the turret to see what was taking him so long to fire. That was when I saw smoke coming out of the turret floor and SGT Cochran doing just as he had been trained: Cochran was putting the 25mm gun into manual operation so he could fire up the guy that set off the IED on my Bradley.

SSG Miller, being the good Bradley Commander he is, checked his 6 when he heard the IED go off and was turning around to help me out. SGT Cochran fired seven 25mm rounds in manual mode with the hand crank. With no working radio and the thin-skinned vehicles we were escorting coming up fast, I had to break off the attack and warn them of the danger ahead. I then had SSG Miller find a

(top) Having been in the 82nd Airborne, I know how important a good holster and lanyard are. I was using was the Blackhawk special operations holster and coiled lanyard, and although I trolled with the M9 at the end of the lanyard for a mile, it never let go. (top right) I was also wearing Blackhawk light assault gloves, which protected my hand from sharp 155 shell fragments, with only three pieces going into my right wrist. I was hit in my right arm and wrist. (right) If it had not been for my Blackhawk tactical goggles, I would have lost my eyesight. The goggles took most of the blast of an IED, fashioned from a 155 artillery shell. All I got were some cuts — and Purple Heart #3. Photos: courtesy Blackhawk

bypass for the vehicle we were escorting. Miller and his gunner SSG Kennedy then moved up in support of my Bradley and the rest of the thin-skinned vehicles by putting his Bradley between the IED site and the bypass route. With the help of the USMC and some very talented Marines I had my Bradley up and running in no time at all.

Eyes Have It

That's how I got Purple Heart number 3. I had a cut on my face. If it had not been for the Blackhawk tactical goggles I would have lost my eyesight. The goggles took most of the blast, saving my eyes. I also had on Point Blank body armor and Blackhawk's light assault gloves. The body armor had been hit with most of the shell fragments. I was hit in my right arm and wrist. The Blackhawk gloves protected my hand from the sharp metal with only three pieces going into my right wrist. We later found out that the IED was a 155mm artillery round. That was the first, but not the biggest nor the last, IED that my Bradley would take. After OIF, no one had to tell me that the Bradley is a great combat vehicle — In all, my Bradley had been hit with more than 14 RPGs. I had a lot of faith in my vehicle and the gear that the Army had issued to me, and it would be put to the test less than two months later.

On a night in June I had one section of Bradleys from my platoon on an escort mission. The route would be long but easy, being on blacktop the whole way. We would be on a drop off mission, where we would be escorting thin-skinned vehicles to another base and then return back to the same base we had left.



The trip would take three hours to get there, and after refueling, another three hours to get back. We were almost half way there when a huge IED went off. The IED had detonated more than 100 meters behind my vehicle. The explosions could be felt by SSG Sowby's Bradley that was a mile ahead of me. Not seeing any insurgents, we kept on our escorting mission to ensure that we got the job done. After making it to the refuel site I checked out my Bradley and found out that the suspension had been hit hard, and had a lot of oil leaks. The two crews went to work using the Battle Damage Repair Kit (BDRK) that our Troop XO Bret Chastain had gotten for us before we left for Iraq. In less than an hour we had the Bradley up and running. On our way back to our base camp we came upon a USMC Hummer that had been hit in an ambush. The vehicle was still on fire when we got there but it looked like a 11 the Marines had made it out OK. After waiting to see if there were any good guys left around, we took anything we could save off the Hummer and then we watched it burn to the ground so the Insurgent's would not be able to get any pictures to show on the Internet of their night's work.

Just as dawn was breaking we pulled inside the last gate to our base. Following a quick after-ops, we got some much needed sleep. Later that day we did some more repairs and then we took my Bradley out on a test drive. That's when I saw the damage that the IED had done: The left front drive sprocket broke off





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and fell on the ground. We later found out that the IED had been made from two 500-pound aircraft bombs. The 38 tons of Bradley had almost given up its life to save my crew. We got the new parts, and with the help of a Marine and his forklift we had her up and running in less than 72 hours.

Iraqis Pulling Their Weight

In late July 2005, I was part of a two-Bradley escort on a resupply run in Baghdad. Less than two miles from our supply point I saw a lot of black smoke up ahead on an overpass. As I got a closer I could see some Humvees set up in over watch of another burning Humvee. If you want to believe that the Iraqis are not helping us in Iraq then just skip down to the next paragraph because you don't want to read this: In less than five minutes Iraqi police officers had the road blocked and a big red fire truck full of Iraqis was on site. The Iraqi firemen had pulled up and were trying to get to the burning truck. The Humvee had been hit by an IED and two of the crew had been lightly injured. With all the firepower on the Humvee, there were a lot of secondary explosions inside the burning truck.

SSG John Williams started moving his Bradley up to the burning truck, slowly so the fire fighters could get close enough to the gun truck to put out the fire. This is just one of many times I saw the Iraqis enthusiastically come out and help U.S. soldiers. In September my platoon started using Humvees. The M1114 is an up-armored gun truck that can be fitted with a Mk 19 40mm grenade launcher, .50 cal machine gun, 240B machine gun or a M249 SAW.

With the change of vehicles, my platoon started working on the east side of Baghdad. My platoon would be working with the 3rd POB (Public Order Brigade). In late October I had my platoon set up in two over watch positions on the river. I had SSG Sowby and SSG Craig set up to the south on top of an old pool house. Gilbert, my Iraqi interpreter, told me about a big old house that I could use that would let me see the other side of the river. After setting up on the roof, my new guy, PFC Trunbull, told me he had movement on the other side of the river. Then we heard a mortar being fired from the other side of the river, at the 3rd POB headquarters. I could see they were firing from behind a wall in some trees. I called my

commander for air support and was told it would be a little bit before they could get there.

Po' Boy Artillery

I used my Bushnell laser range finder to get the range — it was over 500 meters. Along with two other soldiers, we each set out four 40mm HE rounds for our M203s. I then told them to aim like I was. I told them to shoot after me in one-second intervals. I fired the first round, then PFC Turnbull fired the second round and then I had SPC Gilspie, better known as Gummy Bear, shoot the last round. In all we would shoot 12 40mm HE rounds.

It's always better to be on the sending end of HE rounds instead of the receiving end. I watched the first round hit almost on top of the mortar team and then every second another HE round hit in the same area. By the time the Apaches got there the mortar was silent. The aircraft could see hot spots on the ground, but could not tell if we had killed any of the insurgents. It would be almost a week before we found out that we had taken out an enemy 81mm mortar team with our M203s, killing three insurgents. Later that night on our way back to base camp, we got a call over the radio to look for a white car that might have emplaced an IED. I had hopped into my Humvee and was heading north looking for the white car. As we were doing this, I heard something hitting the bottom of my truck. I was yelling at my crew, telling them to check their gear.

They still heard something dragging after they told me they were good. I put my hand down to check my pistol and felt an empty holster. I yelled at my driver to stop. Now, having been in the 82nd Airborne, I know how important a good holster and lanyard are. The holster I was using was the Blackhawk special operations holster and coiled lanyard. To say I felt like a jackass is an understatement. I had to go the arms room to get the slide fixed on my M9 Beretta. I also had a Crimson Trace laser on my Beretta. It was knocked all to hell after being dragged under my gun truck for over a mile at 50 mph — but to my surprise, it still worked just like new.

With the IEDs and rocket attacks happening in another part of the squadron's sector, my platoon was moved there to help out. We would set up sniper positions along the

route, waiting for the bad guys to emplace IEDs.

PART II: Next time, the battle against insurgents continues. How can a first-class field knife save your butt in a sniper duel? Stay tuned.

A frequent contributor to SOF, SFC Dillard Johnson is a veteran of Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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Here's the problem: A thug comes up, places a knife to your throat and demands your wallet. Taking him at his word you give him the wallet. He then proceeds to stab you repeatedly leaving you in a pool of your own blood, astonished you've been stabbed.

What went wrong? Just this. You ASSUMED he only wanted the wallet. After all, why would anyone stab someone over a few measly bucks? YOU certainly wouldn't do that if you were robbing someone.

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You stroll around thinking 15 years of martial arts training or that 6-week self-defense course or some reality fighting video gives you the edge you need against someone like this. Wake up!

You are hopelessly training techniques (then praying they work) against someone who isn't "training" for you. How many criminals in federal pens spent years sweating through JKD workouts before committing their crime? How many are Jujitsu experts?

Not a one! They excel at just one thing: doin' it. No training, no practice, no techniques. And certainly no 'rules'. So why squander years fooling yourself with something that only works "if everyone plays by the rules"?

These are the facts: 98% of us caught in an unavoidable violent attack (even those with years of training), would never consider doing "whatever it takes" to survive — like gouging our attacker's eyes — even if they were the only targets available, and... even if it was the only means of saving our own life!

Larkin trains you from the get-go how to kill, if necessary, to survive a life-or-death confrontation.



He doesn't advocate violence. TFT just de-mystifies it. He's often quoted...

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TFT isn't about that. **It's not about an individual, a personality... or a guru.**

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No bones about it: Larkin's record is impressive. He trains units from all the top echelons of federal law enforcement and military special operations groups. It's not surprising since he comes from that world and is well known there. But everyone in Black Belt tries to claim this so you'll rarely hear him talk about it.

He's an awesome communicator and trainer, and is amazingly approachable for someone with his abilities and credentials. And he's trained 1,000's of CEOs and others in high-risk positions around the world — all very real people.

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"It was the most effective days of training in hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon that I or anyone else had ever experienced." Brian (last name withheld), US Border Patrol, S Carolina

During the last few years Larkin has trained more than 785 CEO's in Europe. This year he'll spend more than 5 weeks personally training clients in England, Hong Kong, Australia and other countries around the world. These folks are eating his stuff up because TFT principles and methodology are as effective in the 'combative' world of business as they are in a truly lethal fight, and for the exact same reason — **RESULTS**.

Think about this: If these people can get this much from his material, imagine how much more you can learn... a dedicated reader of Black Belt magazine who is really into finding and applying a system that is quickly learned and readily effective. If all these folks are seeking him out, shouldn't you be too?

Look, Larkin is swamped and realizes he can't begin to reach everyone. While he'd love to have you as a member of his organization and to take part in his live training, he realistically understands few will be able to do this. Bootcamps run \$1,500.00, international events start at \$9,500.00, and personal training for small 2- to 4-person sessions cost \$5,000.00-\$10,000.00 and more.

That's why, in a daring move with potentially serious ramifications, he's released a WEAPONS-focused version of his TFT system that shows you how to defeat a violent

criminal in a **WORSE-than-worst-case scenario**. After seeing his program... a life-or-death confrontation in a dark alley is a piece of cake.

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Some foolishly feel this stuff is too violent, totally ignorant of the fact you don't always have to push it to the levels shown on these tapes.

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Let's cut to the chase: this program is extremely controversial and certainly NOT for everyone. If you'd never consider killing someone threatening your life or if you're hoping to see lots of useless predetermined techniques or cool setup moves — you can stop reading here. **This is ONLY for those who want to learn to defeat a criminal in a life-or-death situation!**

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Members of Alnc Descarte's patrol move through a mountain village. Note Indonesian-made FNC rifle, center; (inset) Konis Santana (far left) the FALINTIL leader who was killed in 1997. Rifles are: M16A1, FMP-manufactured G3 and Portuguese Mauser.



in order to protect the civilian population from Indonesian atrocities. With a cadre of former Portuguese Army NCO's – some of whom had fought the Communist insurgents in Africa, the scratch army of FALINTIL had seized the old Mausers, G3's, HK21's and light mortars left by the Portuguese army.

For two years, the half-million-strong Indonesian armed forces or ABRI (*Anghatan Bersenjata Republik Indonesia* – consisting of the Indonesian Army, Navy, Air Force and Police – all of which maintained infantry in East Timor) failed miserably to gain control of the FALINTIL-defended mountainous interior to which the population had fled. With an armed force of over half-a-million men, ABRI forces still struggled to maintain a toehold on the coastal plains for several years. Frequent atrocities against civilians only fortified the resolve of East Timorese

freedom fighters, who maintained control of the interior, to which the East Timorese civilians fled.

After three years, Indonesia's weight of numbers and supporting arms eventually won out. The last brave remnants of FALINTIL, under the leadership on Nicholau Lobato, were encircled and destroyed on 1 January 1979 – after a six-hour gun battle to the last man, on the blood-drenched mountain of Matabian that came to symbolize the East Timorese' unflinching resistance to terror and oppression.

A Resistance Rises from Oppression

The following year, the FALINTIL survivors and new recruits were reorganized into a highly mobile guerilla strike force, under the leadership of the young charismatic, former seminarian, Alexander "Xanana" Gusmão. Without any foreign aid or military assistance, they became increasingly reliant upon captured Indonesian ammunition and weapons – Soviet SKSs, AK47s, plus FNCs and M16s. Without any heavy weapons, the East Timorese resistance remained vulnerable to Skyhawk bombers, and helicopter and OV10F Bronco attacks. The few squad automatic weapons they had were carried with fewer than 50 rounds – the only other supporting weapons I saw were a few M203s which lacked ammo.

More than 200,000 East Timorese, or a third of the pre-invasion population, died as a direct result of the Indonesian occupation in the many massacres of civilians, and deliberate starvation in the concentration camps. ABRI used the East Timorese civilians in a massive human shield to flush out the resistance forces in two "Fence of Legs" operations. With the assistance of the

civilian "clandestine" networks – often based around local Catholic church congregations, FALINTIL dug in for a multi-generational war that would last for 25 years, living up to one of their favored war-cries, *A Luta Continua!* (the struggle continues!).

I made my first trip to East Timor in 1995, returning to Australia from a trip home to the U.S., to investigate the truth of the accusations made by East Timorese refugees and their Australian ex-commando supporters. I was living in Perth, Western Australia where I met several 2/2 Commando veterans who spoke vehemently in their support for former comrades now engaged in their own struggle. These veterans were bitterly disappointed by what they saw as a betrayal of their promise to not forget their allies and, though mostly in their late 70s, they spoke of their willingness to take up their Lee Enfields in the cause of East Timorese freedom. What I saw on that first visit shocked me to the core, stirring visions of Nazi and Soviet-occupied Europe. I just could not frame this as anything but a struggle of good versus evil. What sickened me most was the complicity of the Australian Labor Party in this genocide – putting trade, a fearful "security" policy, and regional politics ahead of principal and soldiers' honor.

I met Ezequiel "Zequito" Fernandes de Oliveira out in the war-ravaged Eastern peninsula. Zequito was the son of a FALINTIL commander and a leader of the local clandestine resistance move-



Captured Indonesian FN SAW, clove cigarette and DPM: The crucifix is this soldier's only apparel that wasn't stripped from his enemy.

ment, providing intelligence and support for regional FALINTIL troops led by Commander Lere Anan Timor. This was the FALINTIL unit renowned for the most aggressive military campaigns and audacious raids on Indonesian occupation forces. In hushed discussions with Zequito, constantly looking over our shoulders, on alert for informers and the plain-clothes Kopassus (ABRI's elite red-beret Special Forces unit) that took increasing interest in me, I learned that the East Timorese freedom fighters most needed medicines and medical treatment, communications equipment, and money that could be used to buy black market ammunition from Indonesian conscripts. The son of a U.S. Marine Vietnam Veteran living in Australia, my thoughts turned to military logistics rather than the peace parades and letters of protest typical of most Australians unhappy with their government's betrayal of a former ally. I was also intrigued to learn that their Portuguese G3's, the mainstay of the FALINTIL forces for so long, were mostly cached due to minor breakages and wear. In whatever small way that I could, I wanted to honor that promise of remembering our allies when they need us.

To Fight Another Day

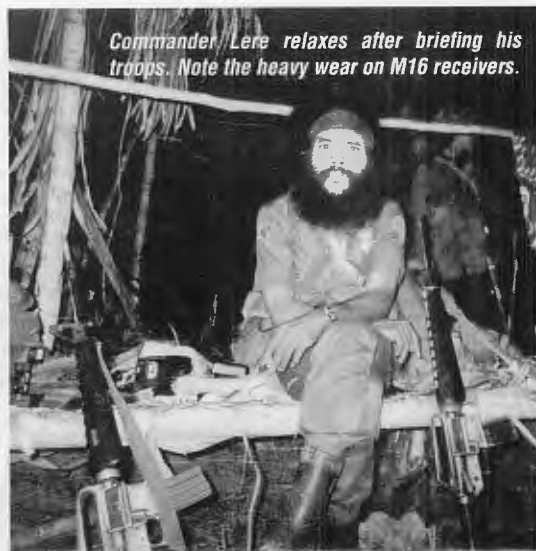
I returned to Australia determined to provide some sort of help to Zequito and his people, with the model of SOF's Refugee Relief International in mind [RRI was sponsored by SOF during the 80s, sending volunteer medical teams and medical supplies to Central America, Afghanistan, Burma and elsewhere.] However, before I could get too far into this daunting project, I learnt that Zequito was on the run, hiding with student friends on the Indonesian island of Bali, targeted by the all-pervasive ABRI death squads. I flew there within days to work up a plan to smuggle him out to safety. At that time, the ruling Australian Labour Party government in Australia was in a bind of their own hypocrisy: While they could not deny that almost any East Timorese citizen that escaped to safety easily met their criteria as a war refugee, they were afraid of offending General Suharto and his ABRI cronies. So, the best I could do for Zequito was to get him into Hong Kong, where he could make his way to the Portuguese colony of Macau and then to Portugal – which was one of East Timor's few staunch supporters in UN and diplomatic circles. The time in Bali, away from the oppressive mili-

tary scrutiny of occupied East Timor, gave us the opportunity, to develop some plans to give Commander Lere some outside support.

At around this time, we also met Chris, an English rogue-adventurer who claimed to have had his last year of med school interrupted after suffering spinal injuries while aboard the Exocet-struck HMS Sheffield. Though I suspected a fair degree of BS mixed with Chris's true tales of adventure, the opportunity was too good to ignore. We recruited him to provide urgently needed medical aid to the FALINTIL troops and gave him a clandestine resistance contact in the East Timorese capital of Dili. I was pleased to later read about Chris's successful combat surgery in several syndicated Australian and international broadsheets. Rather than wait for our contact to organize the difficult logistics of infiltrating him into the Eastern region of Los Palos, Chris had tagged along with Australian war correspondent, John Martinkus, who was traveling to interview Commander David Alex and the FALINTIL troops, of the central region outside the sprawling ABRI and Kopassus base at Baucau. Chris successfully completed several operations, mostly involving bullets lodged in troops for many years, in the rough jungle camp. I had hoped to try again to get him into the East, to treat Lere's soldiers.

For Want of a Nail? Here Are Nails

The following year I returned to occupied East Timor. This time, hidden within my luggage, were several small G3 parts kits (firing pins, hammers, extractors, springs, rollers, etc.), communications equipment, cash and medical supplies. My cover story was wearing very thin. I was fortunate that the beautiful daughter of the lodging-



Commander Lere relaxes after briefing his troops. Note the heavy wear on M16 receivers.

house owner in Dili gave me a quick word in East Timorese to indicate that the guy hanging in the lobby was not a run-of-the-mill keystone Polri cop but an undercover Kopassus soldier. To her horror, I made a beeline to the special forces trooper and, enthusiastically making a new friend, fed him my flimsy cover. Before long, we were exchanging unit badges and professing the eternal brotherhood of the Australian and Indonesian people. Unfortunately in the following weeks my new friend returned several times with his barracks comrades, intent on proving to them that not all Australians despised ABRI and their murderous rape of East Timor.

After a sleepless night hidden in a church outbuilding with the help of the local Salesian priests in Los Palos, I was driven on a winding mountain road while hiding under baskets of putrid-smelling fish. We stopped suddenly at an inconspicuous mountain village, where I was hurried out of the minivan, to be met by José – now employed in the Resistance role previously held by Zequito. We quickly moved into the surrounding bush and hiked up a slope better suited to the rugged little Timor-ponies ridden by local farmers.



A rare face-to-face meeting between Lere and his two subordinates, Aluc and Maunana.

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When we suddenly broke into a clearing under a dense jungle canopy, we were met by Deputy Commander Aluc Descartes and a squad of his veteran fighters. Like most FALINTIL leaders, Aluc (a *nom de guerre*) is a Timorese veteran of the Portuguese army. He and Lere had both been fighting their enemy continuously for 20 years – always surrounded, and with no safe-havens to fall back to. When I later asked Lere what he would do after victory, he told me that it's more likely it will be his grandchildren's generation who march down Avenue de Lobato in the victory parade. I later drew out of him that he is looking forward to sleeping on a mattress – a luxury of which he has 20-year-old-memories. For now, the weathered veterans and younger recruits sleep in a temporary campsite with their meager possessions in their packs.

Many Hands... Few Arms

Commander Lere explained that every week he was flooded by messages smuggled from the East Timorese youth in the towns and villages, pleading to be allowed to join his guerilla fighters. However, FALINTIL tactics had adapted to the circumstances of the day. There weren't enough rifles for the 200 hundred troops already under his Eastern command. In addition, the resistance leadership council, CNRM, believed that military victory against the ABRI colossus was not the goal. Rather, FALINTIL had become the living symbol of the people's resistance, while the urban clandestine cells had played an increasingly important role in documenting Indonesian atrocities and communicating with the outside world. It is for this reason that Lere flared when I use the term *guerilla* – which he saw as synonymous with illegitimate, undisciplined and ragged revolutionary bandits. With a veteran's pride in his men, he patiently explained that FALINTIL was the East Timorese national army, supported by the people and answerable to the democratically elected political leaders and that the United Nations did not recognize Indonesia's sovereignty in occupied East Timor.

Keen to experience the life of a FALINTIL fighter, I left the meager shelter of the campsite to join Aluc and his best squad on an extended series of patrols and night ambushes. I was given one of the Portuguese G3's, recently uncached and repaired with the small parts I had smuggled in. I was fortunate that my magazine had 16 rounds

in it – many of the troops with Mausers and SKS's have only two or three cartridges. Our daytime patrols are looking for any signs that the red-beret Kopassus hunter-killer patrols were operating in the area. Aluc showed a healthy respect for these elite ABRI troops, preferring not to engage them unless it was unavoidable. Our night ambushes were targeting the small patrols conducted by BRIMOB police militia. A quick and bloody ambush of a BRIMOB patrol returning to the Polri station could net a dozen desperately needed rifles, ammunition, webbing, cleaning equipment, camouflage uniforms, boots, intelligence and other military equipment. I later learned that we were operating on intelligence supplied by an East Timorese clandestine resistance member who had infiltrated the local police battalion.

Laying in the ambush position, clutching the worn G3 and listening to Armageddon erupt around me, I was desperately looking for some sign of my FALINTIL mates who I could only pray were still alongside me. After an apparent eternity, José emerged from nowhere, crawling towards me to tell me to prepare to fall back. I asked a thousand questions at once – all in my sketchy East Timorese, while trying to hide the fear in my voice. José didn't seem to know much more than I, though I was reassured by his implacable faith in the older FALINTIL veterans. Suddenly we were falling back, silently and swiftly. As best we could guess, the enemy column had not detected us, rather that they were either shooting at shadows or experimenting with a new anti-ambush drill. Aluc and the others also insisted that the enemy was around a kilometer away – 10 times the distance I had estimated.

"War Comrades" Who Made A Difference

Back in Australia, I set up The Funu-Maluk Fund. The title comes from a name I heard José using increasingly in reference to me, which literally translates to "war-comrade." With the help of one of the Los Palos priests at the sharp end, and a series of bank-account transfers, I had a secure and verifiable means of getting money into Lere's hands from Australia. I began to carefully advertise the war fund through word-of-mouth among sympathetic groups like the Returned Servicemen's League (RSL) – the Australian equivalent of the VFW. I was also increasingly aware that, if the Australian govern-

ment chose to, I could be accused of arms smuggling, aiding a foreign military (the odious "mercenary" law) and identity fraud. At the same time, I worried about the degree of cooperation between Australian and Indonesian spooks.

I had secured a semi-legitimate, alternate identity in Australia to cover some of my activities from ABRI Intel services, but this wouldn't stand-up to the most cursory investigation by Australian authorities. However, I was reassured when I started receiving anonymous tip-off calls providing specific intelligence about Indonesian maneuver battalions, ABRI's strategic planning and the wide-spread support for the East Timorese cause among Australian servicemen and women and the civil service. I suspected that my "deep throat" was a serving member of the Australian SAS, the heirs to the 2/2 Commando's legacy and reluctant allies of Kopassus. While the United States had enacted a total ban on military aid or training to ABRI forces following the 1991 Dili massacre of over 300 mourners in the Santa Cruz

cemetery, Australia, under the Labour Party, continued to arm and train the Indonesian military.



nana Gusmão was elected in UN-supervised landslide victory, as the first civilian President of free and democratic East Timor. FALINTIL has been disbanded, replaced by an Australian, Portuguese and American-trained East Timorese Defense Force. The first battalion of the new defense force, armed with U.S.-donated M16A2's and stiffened by FALINTIL cadre, was given to Colonel Lere - who is keen to lead his troops in support of the international War on Terror. With 25 years experience fighting a popular struggle against a dictatorial Islamic oppressor, these loyal allies of the West have proved they can and will stand by us to the bloody end.

Friends will not be forgotten.

And Victory

Following 25 years of struggle, victorious East Timor is now the youngest nation in the UN - thanks in large part to belated 1999 political and military intervention from Australia, under a new conservative government, and the intervention of the United States. Xa-

Justin Woodruff made four trips to occupied East Timor between 1995 and 1997. He is the son of Mark Woodruff, author of the 1989 SOF article "Foxtrot Ridge." Though he lived in Australia most of his life, Justin is now proud to call Texas home.

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By Dr. Martin Brass


AMERICA AT WAR




 **1. NORTH KOREA** **PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ON U.S.** USING "HUMAN BOMBS" threatened. Pyongyang warns that "A preemptive attack is not [the] monopoly of the U.S., and North Korea will never sit idle till it is exposed to a preemptive attack of the U.S."


 **2. CHINA** **ELECTRONIC SPY WAR** with Taiwan. Taiwanese surf the web, chat rooms and other electronic means to "spy" on the Chinese Government.


 **3. INDONESIA** **FORTY TIME BOMBS** found in graveyard.


 **4. UNITED STATES** **CONTINGENCY BOMBING CAMPAIGN** planned against Iran, Bunker-buster nuclear bombs such as the B61-11 to destroy a key Iranian suspected nuclear weapons facility are in the plan, according to Seymour Hersh in The New Yorker magazine. **SILENT WELCOMING MAT** for Chinese President Hu Jintaw ordered. President Bush tells bi-partisan Senate and House leaders to put a gag on critics of a no-bid contract awarded to Hutchinson Whampoa, for operation of a sophisticated radiation detection system in the Bahamas. The administration had classified Hutchinson, linked to the Chinese People's Liberation Army, as a threat to U.S. national security. **POLITICIANS CAVE** to demands by supporters Disney, Boeing and Goldman Sachs, and others. Senator Jay Rockefeller, vice chairman of the select Committee on Intelligence, has ties to a company owned by Chinese moguls.


 **5. NETHERLANDS** **BALKAN HEROES FORGOTTEN.** 3000 Dutch soldiers await medals that officials refuse to award. "Croatia cause worthwhile despite official denial," Dutch merc told *SOF*.


 **6. TURKEY** **ASSASSINATION OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS** foiled when driver alerted authorities of bomb in back of bus.


 **7. LEBANON** **ASSASSINATION PLOT** against Hizbollah Shiite leader blocked. Nine Sunni Men arrested.


 **8. IRAQ** **CAPTURED IRAQ DOCUMENTS** reveal a pact between the Iraqi Intelligence Service to coordinate with Osama bin Laden in Sudan in 1997 to conduct "joint operations" against the United States. Reports suggest that Iraq intel operated in Sudan and Yemen, Islamabad, New Delhi and New York. Iraqi spies agreed with Sudan's governing National Islamic Front "to use the Islamic Arab elements who had been fighting in Afghanistan...are present in Sudan Somalia and Egypt." **AL-QUEDA PLOT THWARTED** for 421 Iraqis to install insurgents at critical guard points in the Green Zone, storm the U.S. embassies, and take hostages.


 **9. IRAN** **ISLAMIC FASCIST TERRORISTS** plan to order U.S.-built B737, B747-400 jets, to try to disguise them as passenger or cargo aircraft and fly suicide missions against Western Targets. **FORMER CIA OPERATIVE** warns that Iran could buy jets, fit with a primitive nuclear device, to fly into a target -- or outsource the mission to Hezbollah, or al-Qaeda operatives. Author John Weisman warns on military.com. **FAJR-3 LAUNCHED.** The second, multiple warhead, radar-avoiding surface-to-sea missile has remote control capacity.


 **10. AFGHANISTAN** **TALIBAN SPRING OFFENSIVE** proves indecisive as pro-Taliban al Qaeda and other patrons warned, but suicide bombings and sniper attacks increase. **INSURGENCY BATTLE** results in 47 deaths: 41 Taliban and six police officers.


 **11. PAKISTAN** **ELEVEN-POUND EXPLOSIVE** rips Sunni religious ceremony packed with thousands of worshippers in Karachi: 56 killed, 100 injured. Radical Sunnis suspected of terrorizing moderate Sunnis.

 **12. INDIA** **TWO BOMBS RIP** through New Delhi's Jama Masjid 17th century mosque: 13 injured. **SIMULTANEOUS GRENADE ATTACKS** bloody the streets of Srinagar in Indian Kashmir; Five dead 30 injured.

 **13. VENEZUELA** **STRIKES AGAINST DUTCH CARIBBEAN ISLANDS** threatened Dutch vessel "Rotterdam." Joining British and Canadian SpecOps in Caribbean maneuvers. Dutch expect U.S. Intervention.

 **14. CHAD** **SUDAN-BACKED REBELS RAID** capital: 160 rebels captured; 1,200 French troops on alert. **REFUGEE CRISES** as President Idriss Déby threatened to expel 200,000 Sudanese refugees.

 **15. SUDAN** **MUSLIM ARAB MILITIA JANJAWOOD** continues ethnic genocide of Black Muslim farmers in Darfur region: 400,000 killed and two million displaced.

 **16. ZIMBABWE** **DICTATOR MADMAN** Robert Mugabe threatens opponents with "physical elimination" after yet another alleged assassination attempt. Six members of the Movement for Democratic change arrested when arms cache was found in a house of members who allegedly had ties with the Zimbabwe Freedom Movement. Suspects released after police "botched" investigation.

Helping Marines Kill... One Shot at a Time



Schmidt & Bender joins the Marines!

New Scope Proves Worth with Darkhorse Snipers

By Cpl. Mark Sixbey
Photos: USMC

CAMP MERCURY, Iraq (March 9, 2006) – Marine snipers here put the Corps' latest sniper optic to the test and it proved to be spot-on. Proof is one less bad guy planting roadside bombs.

Snipers of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment proved the 3x12 variable-powered Schmidt & Bender M-8541 Scout-Sniper Day Scope's usefulness in January when they killed an insurgent planting improvised explosive devices near Fallujah. It was the first recorded combat kill with the new optic.

"It was kind of a big deal with the sniper community to get the first kill with the new scope," said Gunnery Sgt. Paul Starner, platoon sergeant for the battalion's Scout-Sniper Platoon, who squeezed off the shot. "After the kill, we did a picture-perfect extraction. They didn't even know we were there."

The scope's ability to allow Marines to target insurgents wasn't a one-time stint, though. Marines in the platoon reaffirmed the scope's combat utility seven times since then, according to Starner.

The new scope came into service in November 2005, but the battalion's snipers didn't get them until December, giving the platoon just one month to learn how to use it before the battalion deployed in January. The Schmidt & Bender scope replaced the

aging fixed 10x Unertl scope Marines have used for decades.

"Right away, they said to learn on it, train with it, then deploy," said Starner, 33, from Kansas City, Mo.

He said snipers in the Marine Corps had been asking for a variable scope for years, and the new scope was selected from a number of different models through field-testing by Marine sniper instructors in Quantico, Va., last summer.

Not every scout-sniper was initially impressed with the scope. Most of the shooters are tried-and-true gun nuts and convincing these Marines to part with proven products of the past was tough. Still, after seeing it in action, they have a new love.

"I was opposed to this scope for the simple fact that it's metric and most Americans are used to yards," Starner said. "But now that we've got it, launched it and used it, it's an outstanding scope."

He said snipers got around the difference in measurement standards by using a simple formula to convert yards to meters.

"I carry a calculator with me everywhere I go," Starner said. "It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks."

The new Schmidt & Bender allows better positive target identification, according to 2nd Lt. Jake Cusack, Sniper Platoon commander. The Schmidt & Bender scope has a greater

Schmidt & Bender has agreed with the United States Marine Corps to supply all Scout Rifle Day Scopes for use on the Corps' sniper weapons. A modified version of the Schmidt & Bender 3-12 x 50 Police Marksman LP II scope will become standard equipment on all .308 and .50 caliber USMC sniper rifles.

The Schmidt & Bender 3-12 x 50 PMII LP is replacing a 10x sniper scope which has been in use for the last 25 years. The new scope features an illuminated Gen 2 mil-dot reticle, an improvement upon existing mil-dot styles, allowing for more precise rangefinding at greater distances and on a wider variety of target sizes. The Schmidt & Bender scope was selected from products submitted by 25 different companies as the only riflescope to meet or exceed all of the USMC's rigorous specifications.

The Schmidt & Bender scope will include an elevation dial made to USMC specifications. Especially attractive to the Marine Corps is the fact that the 3-12 x 50 PMII LP can be used on both .308 and .50 caliber weapons, with changes only in windage and elevation dials.

While the modified USMC version of the 3-12 x 50 PMII LP is not available to the public, a similar model, including the Gen 2 mil-dot reticle, will be offered in the near future. Many scopes can be retrofitted with the Gen 2, as well.

We are pleased and honored to serve one of the most elite, storied military organizations in the world.

The new Gen 2 mil-dot reticle (detail shown above) provides the USMC with precise rangefinding capabilities at greater distances and on a wide variety of target sizes. It has fully adjustable illumination, as well. Photos: Schmidt & Bender



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light-gathering capability, boasting a 50 mm objective lens and illuminated mil-dot reticle pattern, better adapted to drop insurgents at a distance in low light conditions as well as daylight.

"The scope allows them to make more precise adjustments," Cusack explained. "The variable power lets you look at multiple targets or moving targets and pick one then zoom in."

The new scope is more durable than its predecessor, as well. It handles better in the field. Marines are

rough on their gear and need equipment that can stand up to bumps and bruises expected in tough combat environments. So far, the new scope demonstrated less risk of losing sight alignment. It held a battle-sight zero through a variety of combat applications.

"With the old scopes, you'd lose the zero if you bumped it," Starner said. "I haven't had any problems with this one keeping its BZO."

"It gives them more confidence in the placement of their shots, even if they've been out operating for a month or so," Cusack said.

That confidence will aid the Marines' mission, providing overwatch for patrols and interrupting IED emplacement in the area.

"On the battlefield we're in right now, the sniper and his rifle is the most precise weapon system available to the commander," said Cusack, 23, from Detroit. "With all of our concerns with rules of engagement, discrimination and engaging targets, the sniper can guarantee that he's applying one 7.62 mm bullet to one very specific target."

"We're here to find the enemy and kill him, and that's what we're doing," Starner said. "Any time you make them think twice about what they're doing, you're doing your job. I want it in their heads that we're watching them."

Every Marine in the platoon has at least one deployment under their belts, and all but two are formally-trained snipers.

The match of superior weapons, optics and highly-trained professionals is proving to be a boon for the battalion.

"It's almost unheard of," Starner said. "We're the only platoon in the country with that many school-trained snipers. I've got numerous honor graduates, Instructor's Choice, all quality Marines, hand-picked."

They are veterans with cool-nerves of steel and practical experience behind their weapons. That spells nothing short of a death sentence for insurgents.

"I'm confident this is one of the most veteran and trained sniper platoons in the country right now," Cusack said. ✕

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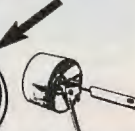
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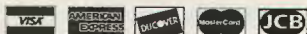


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SHOT SHOW

MORE GUNS & GEAR THAN

A Walking-Catalog Tour by Gary Paul Johnston

Held in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 2006 SHOT Show featured a Military/Law Enforcement section that was larger than ever before. Here's what we saw:



◀ Smith & Wesson

Among the new guns from Smith & Wesson this year are their M&P family consisting of their .40 S&W caliber semi-automatic M&P pistol and three AR-15 style carbines including an M&P Tactical model. S&W also introduced a new full-size scandium frame 1911 pistol with a M1913 frame rail. For information on all their new products contact Smith & Wesson, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., Dept. SOF, Springfield, MA 01104, (800) 331-0852 (www.smith-wesson.com).

SureFire ▶

Among SureFire's lineup of new products is a light mount for a GI helmet seen modeled here by a life-size GI Joe. Mounting onto the chinstrap hole, this light can be had in white and IR for hands-off night ops.

For information on all their illumination, contact SureFire, LLC, 18300 Mt. Baldy Cir., Dept. SOF, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, (800) 828-8809 (www.surefire.com).



◀ FN

On hand for show-n-tell at FNH-USA were the SCAR Light and SCAR Heavy. Designed for and by U.S. Special Forces, the SCAR's come in 7.62mm NATO (L) and 5.56mm NATO and are finished in Flat Dark Earth color. A commercial semi-auto version is not out of the question. For information on all their products, contact FNH-USA, Inc., P.O. Box 697, Dept. SOF, McLean, VA 22101, (703) 288-1292 (www.fnhusa.com).



Lewis Machine & Tool ▶

LMT featured their quick-change barrel system with a M1913 monolithic rail system in both 5.56mm NATO and 6.8mm Rem. SPC calibers. LMT's QC barrel design needs only a hex wrench and a spare barrel to change out in about one minute. For information on all their products, contact Lewis Machine & Tool, 1305 W. 11th St., Dept. SOF, Milan, IL 61264, (309) 787-7151 (www.lewismachine.com).



◀ U.S. Optics

Present and accounted for with plenty of high-grade optics was U.S. Optics, shown here by Mr. & Mrs. John B. Williams, Jr. With the finest glass, U.S. Optics are combat tough and come in a myriad of mission-specific styles. For information, contact U.S. Optics, 5900 Dale St., Dept. SOF, Buena Park, CA 90621, (714) 994-4901 (www.usoptics.com).

2006: EVER BEFORE!

Barrett ▶

Barrett Firearms was on hand with beautiful Barrett women holding almost as beautiful Barrett rifles like the M468 and the new .416 Barrett. By the time you read this, the new Barrett Optical Ranging System (BORS) should be about ready for showtime. For information, contact Barrett Firearms Mfg., Inc., P.O. Box 1077, Dept. SOF, Murfreesboro, TN 37133, (615) 896-2938 (www.barretrifles.com).



SAGE Control Ordnance ▶

Designer and winner of the new SOCOM Mk14 Mod 0 M14 Stock contract from the U.S. Government, SAGE Control Ordnance now offers a similar stock for the US M1 Garand rifle, displayed here by SAGE's John Klein on a Springfield M1 Garand, one of the world's all-time popular military rifles. Of the highest quality, SAGE's new M1 stock is made from aircraft alloy, and has all the features of the company's M14/M1A SOCOM stock including M1913 rails, an adjustable butt stock and a perfect fit. For information on all its tactical products, contact SAGE Control Ordnance, 6340 North Sage St., Dept. SOF, Oscoda, MI 48750, (989) 739-2200 (www.sageinternationaltd.com).



Aimpoint ▶

Although Aimpoint may announce something entirely new later this year, their Comp M3 and 3X Magnifier remains the rage in combat optics. With a 50,000-hour (that's right) battery life you can kill all the terrorists you have ammo for and never have to turn off your Comp M3. With the M3's 2 MOA red dot, it's the perfect mate for the 3X Magnifier for use at longer ranges. Mike Beltran proudly showed off the combo with the new protective rubber boot in flat dark earth color, but it also comes in black. For information, contact Aimpoint, Inc., 14193 Mariah Ct., Dept. SOF, Chantilly, VA 20151, (877) 246-7646 (www.aimpoint.com).



◀ Robinson Armament

Alex Robinson displays the company's XCR (Xtreme Combat Rifle) and it's now in full production and available in both 5.56mm and 6.8mm SPC. A thoroughly modern combat rifle, the XCR uses the proven long-stroke gas piston system with unique bolt. The XCR shares many control features with the M4. It is shown here with the GripPod. For information, contact Robinson Armament Company, P.O. Box 16776, Dept. SOF, Salt Lake City, UT 84116, (801) 355-0401 (www.robarm.com).

KP Industries ▶

If you have a need for knee and elbow protection you need to check out the new KneePro and elbow protectors from KP Industries. I first saw the new knee protectors at the SHOT Show, but I've been using the standard ones for two years, and I've been using their new elbow protectors for six months and they're the best I've ever had. Available in black, tan and OD green, they're available from KP Industries, 2560 Fortune Way, Dept. SOF, Vista, CA 92830 (760) 599-9884 (www.kpindustries.com).



◀ Buffer Tech

One thing I really missed at the SHOT Show was seeing my good friend, the late Larry Bullock, founder of Buffer Technologies, but all their fine products were well represented and Buffer Tech is going strong. For tactical firearm accessories used by much of our military, check out Buffer Technologies, PO Box 104903, Dept. SOF, Jefferson City, MO 65110, (573) 634-8529 (www.buffertech.com).



Continued on page 48



New Sales In The Sunset

Rock River's excellent 100% MilSpec Government Model .223 Carbine is once again available with all the things that were forbidden prior to the "sunset" of the so-called "assault rifle" ban.

What You May Own Again – and For How Long

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

In 1935, Harry Carey starred in a Western movie along with Hoot Gibson, Gwinn "Big Boy" Williams and Bob Steele. The movie was called *Powder Smoke Range* and also starred Tom Tyler, as bad guy "Sundown" Saunders. "Sundown" got his moniker because he was nearsighted, and always waited to stage his gunfights at sunset, in order to pull the wool over his opponent's eyes with the light equally dim for both of them. In the movie, Carey and the good guys won.

In 2004, the "sunset" clause of the so-called "assault rifle ban" was allowed to go into effect to the howling and whining of the leftists in Congress. A decade earlier the passage of the ban prohibited such firearm accessories as high-capacity magazines on firearms, flash hidere, threaded muzzles, folding stocks and the "deadly" bayonet lug. In some cases even vertical foregrips were outlawed.

Although not all of these forbidden

fruits of shooting were important, some were. For example, private citizens, who almost never have backup in a crisis incident, were limited to 10-round magazines, while law enforcement officers, who almost always have backup, could purchase high-capacity magazines often holding 20 to 30 or more rounds.

Because of the flash retardants used in modern gunpowder, flash hidere were expendable, but they also served as muzzle protectors. Since the ban prohibited threaded muzzles, more useful muzzle brakes were difficult to install. In reality, folding stocks are of little use, except for transporting shoulder arms, but there was a pitfall. All stocks, which were retractable – whether folding or telescoping – were lumped into this category, but all retractable stocks are not equal.

The retract-

able stock used on the AR-15 Carbine does not fully retract, but has up to six positions used to adjust length of pull. The excellent SOCOM-16 retractable stock from ACE has similar adjustments, as do those from VLTOR, Lewis Tool & Machine and others. Such adjustments are important for those of different builds, to provide for better eye relief, or to allow for thick clothing and heavy body armor sometimes worn by law-enforcement officers. Sure, law-enforcement officers could purchase "pre-ban" style carbines with



Formerly offered only to law enforcement agencies, Rock River's Government Model Carbine is just one of a number of .223 carbines that is again available with the "right stuff."

signed letter from their chief or sheriff, but many administrators refused to sign such letters, seeing no need for their officers to own such politically incorrect weapons. As you'll see, these feelings did not sunset along with the ban.

Ah, the bayonet lug. For some reason unknown to all reasonable men and women, the bayonet lug was one of the main targets of the assault rifle ban. Since I was 12 years old, I have owned hundreds of rifles with bayonet lugs and many with bayonets to go with them. The only time I attached a bayonet to a rifle was to show a friend, take a picture of it for a story or, on rare occasions, attempt to demonstrate how it was used in extremely close combat. Otherwise, this appendage was and remains useless, except as a normal part of a collector's item.

Yet, the bayonet lug seems to have boiled the blood of gun-hating politicians. The truth is that, except during a running charge, or to repel one, a knife on the end of a rifle is useless. In fact, on a 16-inch barrel AR-15 Carbine it is all but impossible to even mount a bayonet. As with past anti-gun laws, it was just another grain of sand washed from the foundation of the Constitution.

To the chagrin of the leftists and the joy of free Americans, sunset has fallen on the assault rifle ban. Now we are again allowed to purchase and own high-capacity magazines, folding stocks, flash hiders, threaded muzzles and bayonet lugs. Well, almost.

Not long ago I was asked to help locate a Colt AR-15 Carbine for a SWAT cop from the Denver Police Department. It seems that the department mandated that all its SWAT cops MUST "have" such a carbine for on-duty use, but did not have the money to purchase them, so made this make and model a condition of assignment. The officer in question also informed me that the carbine could NOT have a bayonet lug. Totally puzzled by this, I said that the model required only came WITH a bayonet lug. He then checked and told me that it

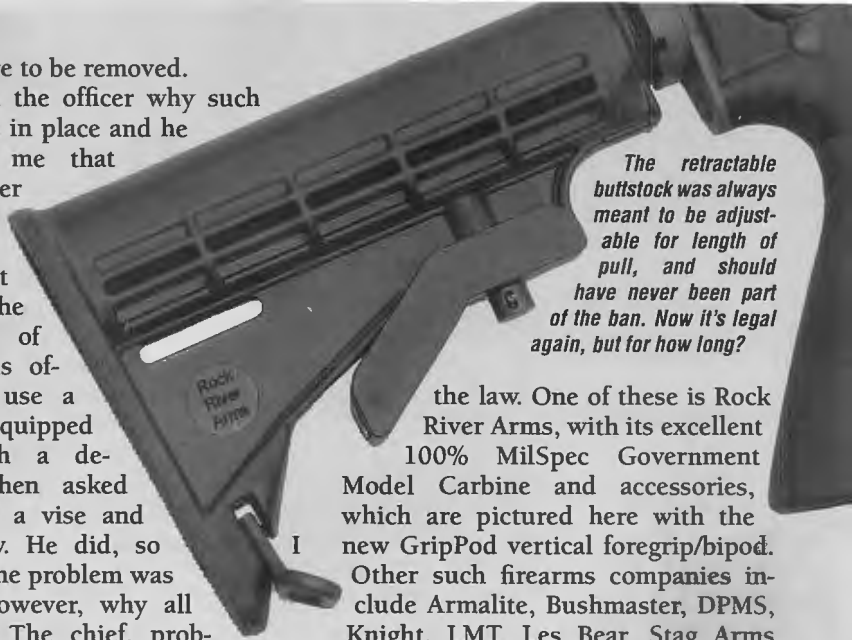
would have to be removed.

I asked the officer why such a rule was in place and he informed me that the Denver Chief of Police would not allow the stigma of any of his officers to use a carbine equipped with such a device. I then asked if he had a vise and a hacksaw. He did, so I told him the problem was solved. However, why all the fuss? The chief, probably not in possession of a full compliment of gray matter, wants to remain "politically correct" (people, can't we all just get along?).

So the poor cop who shelled out well over \$2,000 for his carbine, just cut several hundred dollars off its value should he ever sell it. Why? Because Colt wants to be politically correct too, and sunset or no sunset, it will no longer sell pre-ban style carbines or high-capacity magazines to private citizens, nor will Ruger. Thus, while other post-sunset AR-15 style carbines and rifles will again be affordable, original pre-ban Colt guns have become collector's items.

Rock River to the Rescue

However, virtually all other companies are once again offering pre-ban features available in accordance with



The retractable buttstock was always meant to be adjustable for length of pull, and should have never been part of the ban. Now it's legal again, but for how long?

the law. One of these is Rock River Arms, with its excellent 100% MilSpec Government Model Carbine and accessories, which are pictured here with the new GripPod vertical foregrip/bipod. Other such firearms companies include Armalite, Bushmaster, DPMS, Knight, LMT, Les Bear, Stag Arms and others.

All of these companies also offer 20- and 30-round AR-15 style magazines, and DPMS just announced its new 40-round magazine, but there's more. Remember the pre-ban 90-rounder AR-15 magazine? Well, its back, re-engineered, and better than ever from MWG Co., of Florida. Oh, and don't forget the many autopistol companies again offering magazines holding more than 10-rounds. This means that most of us are free to own them all whether or not we want or need them, and this is the root of it. It matters not whether we ever want to own a semi-automatic carbine with a high capacity magazine, muzzle brake, vertical foregrip and a bayonet lug. What matters is that we want and continue to have the RIGHT to own one!



In addition to its retractable stock, the Rock River Government Model Carbine comes with a flash hider and a bayonet lug. Seen here with it are the GripPod and 90-rounder magazine from MWG Co.

Aside from manufacturer bias is that of individual states, such as California and New Jersey, whose gun-hating views rival those of the most totalitarian nations. Even some toy and model guns are prohibited in these states, not to mention virtually all semi-automatic variants of the AR-15, M1A, AK-47 and SKS to name just a few. Then there is the insane prohibition of .50 BMG caliber rifles – even single shot types – that is spreading across the U.S. in the wake of the California ban. Yes, even if the

Continued on page 52

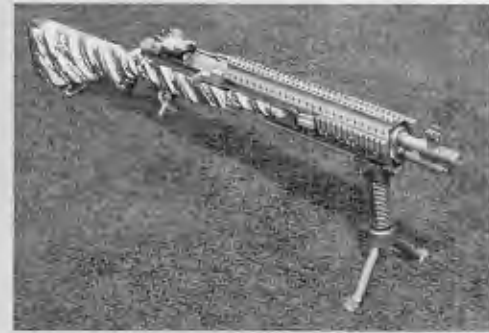


◀ MagPul Industries

Rick Fitzpatrick and crew show off prototypes of some extremely innovative new M4 sliding buttstocks, which should be available shortly after you read this. However, they're only the tip of the iceberg of what MagPul has to offer. For information on their entire line, contact MagPul Industries Corp., P.O. Box 17697, Dept. SOF, Boulder, CO 80308, (877) 4MAGPUL (www.magpul.com).

Springfield Armory ▶

Although Springfield introduced its new XD Pistol in .45 ACP at the 2006 SHOT Show, its .308 caliber SOCOM 16 MIA is



still the hot number, especially with its new VLTOR rail system and camouflage stocks. The SOCOM 16 is seen here on the GripPod, which will easily support a 200-pound man. For information on all their firearms, contact Springfield Armory, 420 West Main St., Dept. SOF, Geneseo, IL 61254, (800) 680-6866 (www.springfield-armory.com).



◀ Stag Arms

Makers of some of the finest AR-type rifles and carbines going, Stag Arms is also the creator of the left-handed version of this gun with all controls either fully left-handed or ambidextrous. What's more, Stag Arms introduced its new left-handed 6.8mm SPC carbine at the SHOT Show. Perfect for coyote hunting, this new carbine is also ideal as a patrol or personal defense weapon, and yes, it's also available for us right-handed shooters. For information, contact Stag Arms, LLC, 515 John Downey Dr., Dept. SOF, New Britain, CT 06051, (860) 229-9994 (www.stagarms.com).

Mounting Solutions Plus ▶

If you're looking for an ideal mounting system for your tactical or precision rifle, check out the vast selection MSP has to offer. You'll find only the highest quality mounts and rings at MSP, along with some mounting solutions to problems you were about to give up on. When I have a mounting problem I call Mounting Solutions Plus, 10655 SW 185 Terrace, Dept. SOF, Miami, FL 33157, (800) 428-9394 (www.mountsplus.com).

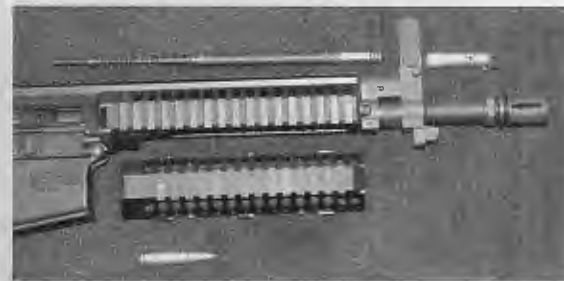


◀ MGI

Renowned combat veteran and arms designer, Mac Gwinn, shows off his new modular Chameleon Weapons System for the M16 rifle. Capable of converting the weapon to use a variety of calibers from 9mm up to .308, the Chameleon Weapons System is just one of many innovative products designed by Mac Gwinn. For information, contact MGI, 102 Cottage St., Dept. SOF, Bangor, ME 04401 (www.mgimilitary.com).

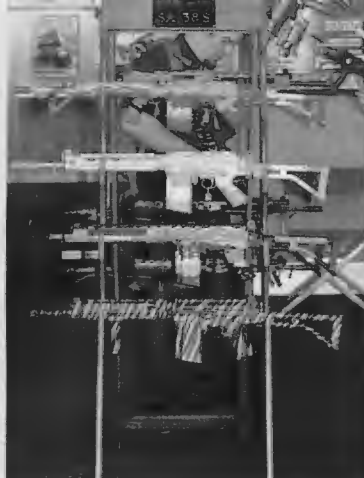
Colt's Mfg. ▶

If you thought you'd seen it all, wait 'till you see Colt's new Model 1020 LE Carbine. An evolutionary development of Colt's SCAR candidate, the 1020 LE is certainly the latest word in short stroke gas piston systems for the M16, and may well be the last word. Totally simple (read GI proof), this system has it all, and in fewer parts than any other and none to lose! If that's not enough, the 1020 LE comes with a full M1913 monolithic rail forend, but it's currently available to military and law enforcement only. For information, contact Colt's Mfg. Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1868, Dept. SOF, Hartford, CT 06144, (800) 962-COLT (www.colt.com).



◀ COBB Mfg.

With a strong presence at SHOT 2006, COBB Mfg. not only brought its superb BA50 .50 BMG bolt action 10-shot rifle, but also its new semi-automatic .338 Lapua sniper rifle. However, grabbing just as much attention was COBB's MCR (modular combat rifle) seen here. Based on COBB's SCAR candidate, the MCR is an M16 style rifle that uses a rigid modular magazine well system to accommodate calibers from 9mm up to .338 Lapua. Look for my exclusive test on this system soon. In the meantime, for information, contact COBB Mfg., P.O. Box 88, Dept. SOF, Dallas, GA 30132, (770) 505-3080 (www.cobb50.com).



◀ DSA

As popular as ever is the FAL and especially that made by DSA, Inc. Offered in several calibers, DSA's FALs can also be had with a myriad of accessories in addition to an endless assortment of camouflage finishes by DuraCoat. For information on all their tactical weapons, contact DSA, Inc., 27 West 990 Industrial Ave., Dept. SOF, Barrington, IL 60010, (847) 277-7258 (www.dsarms.com).

A.R.M.S. ▶

Brand new from A.R.M.S. is its SOCOM S.I.R. System seen here. Sharing many features with the existing S.I.R. System, the SOCOM model is lighter and simpler, while just as robust, and it comes in MilStd flat dark earth color including sights and M203 mounts. For information on all their great M16 and other accessories, contact A.R.M.S. Inc., 230 West Center St., Dept. SOF, West Bridgewater, MA 02379, (508) 584-7816 (www.armsmounts.com).



◀ VLTOR

No grass grows under the feet of VLTOR Weapons Systems with a host of first-rate new rail systems now available for a variety of firearms including the M16, M1A/M14 and others. VLTOR also offers standard and semi-auto only PKM's to qualified buyers. For information on all their fine accessories, contact VLTOR Weapons Systems, 3735 N. Romero Rd., Dept. SOF, Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 408-7944 (www.vltor.com).



ACCU-SHOT ▶

Makers of the ACCU-SHOT rest for rifles, this company also offers a host of very useful tactical products, not the least of which is a unique new accessory sling for carrying a precision rifle. There's nothing like this simple device that keeps your rifle totally secure and in position on your shoulder, yet instantly available. For information, contact ACCU-SHOT, B&T Industries LLC, P.O. Box 77107, Dept. SOF, Wichita, KS 67277, (316) 721-3222 (www.accu-shot.com).



◀ Unertl Optical

Famous for its USMC sniper scope, Unertl Optical also offers a high-tech Model 1911 pistol, but introduced its brand-new precision sniper rifle at the SHOT Show. Offered in 7.62mm NATO caliber, the rifle is reported to be capable of .5 MOA or better accuracy. For information, contact Unertl Optical Co., P.O. Box 895, Dept. SOF, Mars, PA 16046, (724) 625-3810 (www.unertloptics.com).



◀ DPMS

New from DPMS are new rifles, rail systems, light mounts, stocks and more with much based on their involvement in the Army's SASS program. For information,

contact DPMS, Inc., 13983 Industry Ave., Dept. SOF, Becker, MN 55308, (800) 578-3767 (www.dpmsinc.com).

Valdada-IOR ▶

Having made quite a name for itself, Valdada-IOR continues to design an extensive line of new, innovative tactical optics using some of the finest lenses you will find, both standard and illuminated plus the revolutionary new Talbot Mounts & Rings. For information, contact Valdada-IOR, P.O. Box 270095, Dept. SOF, Littleton, CO 80127, (303) 979-4578 (www.valdada.com).

◀ Troy Industries

Along with a variety of innovative weapons and accessories, Troy Industries introduced a Level IIIA weapon shield for use in CQB and high-risk building clearing. For information, contact Troy Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 308, Dept. SOF, Lee, MA 01238, (413) 243-9315 (www.troyind.com).





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The Ultimate Sniper ▶

At the SHOT Show I ran into my good friend, Maj. John L. Plaster, USAR (ret.), renowned Vietnam Veteran and author of the Ultimate Sniper. Now John has updated and vastly expanded the Ultimate Sniper to take it well into the 21st Century. To order a copy, contact Paladin Press, Gunbarrel Tech Center, 7077 Winchester Circle-SF46, Dept. SOF, Boulder, CO 80301 (800) 392-2400 (www.paladin-press.com)



◀ Leupold & Stevens

Leupold now offers many of its tactical military scopes in a tough flat dark earth finish such as the MR/T variable seen here on a KAC M110 Sniper Rifle. For information on all its fine optics, contact Leupold & Stevens, 14400 Northwest Greenbriar Pkwy, Dept. SOF, Beaverton, OR 97006, (503) 646-9171 (www.leupold.com).

Knight's Manufacturing Company ▶

The big news from Knight's was the M110. Submitted to the XM110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) trials, Knight's 7.62mm NATO variant of the Mk 11 rifle won the trials and is slated to replace every 7.62mm NATO caliber rifle in the U.S. Army. Other news from Knight's was an entire family of state-of-the-art night vision scopes for use at close, medium and long range. For information, contact Knight's Manufacturing Company, 701 Columbia Blvd., Dept. SOF, Titusville, FL 32780, (321-607-9900) (www.knightarmco.com) ☒



SEE YOU AT SHOT SHOW 2007!

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SUNSET
Continued from page 47

Federal Government ban sun-setted, anti-gun states can supercede it by passing bans of their own, but that's far from the end of it.

Leftist Dianne Feinstein has proposed a new national ban that, if passed, would be far worse than the previous one. As long as the House and Senate remain conservative, it may not pass, but when a so-called Republican breaks down and cries in public over the appointment of a true conservative as U.S. Ambassador to the UN, one has to wonder just what being a conservative means!

Then there is the Presidential Election that is just around the corner. Take a look at the devastation ahead for our 2nd Amendment rights... should a leftist be elected? For those of you who only understand politically correct English, they're now called "moderates."

Firearms enthusiasts can enjoy their new-found "folding stock freedom" now, but for how long? Just as the sun sets, it rises again, and anyone who thinks we've won more than a breather here is living in "la-la" land. What we do have going for us is a great many thinking Americans who recognize the truth. What's more, the politicians who will be coming after our rescued rights have gotten themselves an increasingly bad name in their down-spiraling frenzy to win back lost ground. Our fight may be

far from lost, but is also far from over. Just like Sundown Saunders, the leftists will try to pull the wool over your eyes in every fight, but this isn't a movie and the good guys are you and me.

Smart Americans who value their rights are remaining more vigilant than ever regarding what back-room freedom-grabbing is being planned by our enemies and make no mistake -- they ARE our enemies. Smart Americans will also do two more things. They will JOIN the NRA and VOTE! ☒

Contacts:

Rock River Arms, Inc.
1042 Cleveland Rd., Dept. SOF
Colona, IL 61241
309-792-5780
www.rockriverarms.com

ACE, Ltd. USA
P.O. Box 191, Dept. SOF
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www.armalite.com

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www.bushmaster.com

D.P.M.S., Inc./ Panther Arms
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800-578-3767
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GPS, Inc.
4360 Deerwood Lane, Dept. SOF
Evans, GA 30809
706-869-0026
www.gripod.com

Knight's Mfg. Co., Inc.
701 Columbia Blvd., Dept. SOF
Titusville, FL 32780
321-607-9900
www.knightarmco.com

Lewis Machine & Tool
1305 W. 11th St., Dept. SOF
Milan, IL 61254
309-787-7151
www.lewismachine.net

Les Baer Custom, Inc.
29601 34th Ave. N., Dept. SOF
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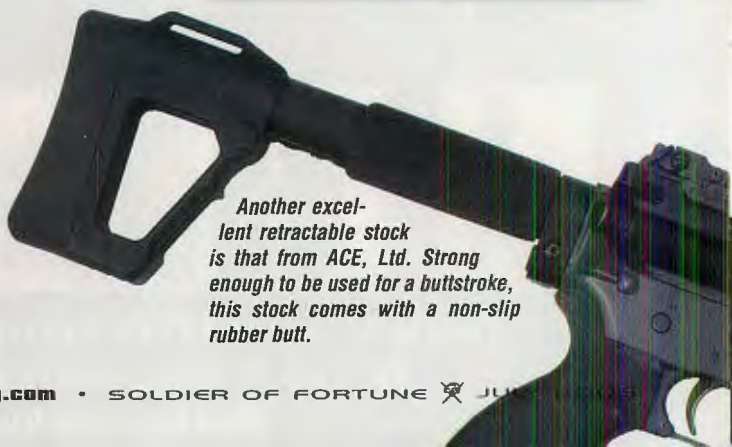
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"I Gave Up Weight Training to follow a top secret 15-minutes per day routine of bodyweight exercises and...

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

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

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

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

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

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

What I discovered shocked me from head to toe!

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

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

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

Who is Combat Conditioning for?

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

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

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

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

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

Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!

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

Time is not the issue!



Matt Furey

won a national collegiate wrestling title in 1985 and a world shuai-chiao kung fu championship in 1997. Furey has a knack for taking the average and ordinary person and transforming him with his powerful programs. Furey was inducted into the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and spends much time each year traveling throughout the world, searching for the very best information available to his world-wide audience. His website, www.mattfurey.com, is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

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

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

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

New Results from Forgotten Exercises

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

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

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

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

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

12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!

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

1. Cranks up your metabolism so you burn excess body fat a lot, lot faster. This means fitting into the clothes you WANT to wear.
2. Packs attractive and healthy functional muscles (not grotesque) onto your entire body
3. Simultaneously doubles your strength and flexibility – and does so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. Quadruples your endurance inside of 30 days. Never get tired again.
5. Within a couple weeks, it often eliminates chronic back and shoulder pain from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing – or other forms of abuse.
6. Sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as you hit the rack you're out like a light.
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10. You'll turn back the clock. Friends may tell you that you look 5–10 years younger.
11. You'll have an explosive type of strength that weights cannot give you. Your every movement will be lively and full of vigor.
12. Your muscles will be pliable and powerful, like a tiger's.

Here's How to Order

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

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

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IMMIGRATION WAR HITS THE STREETS

Are We Defending Our Sovereignty – Or Pulling Up The Ladder?

By Dr. Martin Brass
Photos by D.C. Hartman

I was in Paris last November reporting on the alarming immigrant riots and mass demonstrations. I hardly imagined that within a few months we would be witnessing illegal immigrants and their supporters staging the largest demonstrations in U.S. history. 500,000 marchers jammed the streets in Los Angeles, 350,000 to 500,000 in Dallas 3-500,000 in Chicago, just to name a few cities.

Frenchmen in Paris said they had been warning that the lid was going to explode off of the immigration problem that has been building up since the early 1960s when the Algerians, Moroccans, and other citizens of the former French colonies migrated in waves to France. The largest number of immigrants there, legal or illegal, are Muslims.

Americans with whom I spoke while researching an illegal immigration series, including several border patrol agents, were giving the same warnings—that there would be an inevitable uprising of the illegal immigration population if something was not done. Former Governor Richard Lamm of Colorado in an interview went as far as to warn of the destruction of America, largely due to unassimilated immigrants if the problem is not resolved. But I'm not sure anyone expected the eruption so soon, or on such a colossal scale.

Most of the country was stunned by the magnitude of the well-planned turnout. Who were the orchestrators? And how did the situation get so out of hand, that the protestors felt that they could bully U.S. politicians and citizens into getting their way?



Jerry Seper of the Washington Times reports that leaders of one of the key organizers of the protests, Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) formed after 9-11, are tied to the hard core Workers World Party, a Marxist organization that “expressed support for dictators Kim Jong-il of North Korea and Saddam Hussein of Iraq.”

Our former law enforcement source confirmed that Marxist literature was displayed openly and being sold during a demonstration in Utah.

The protests are “supported by all the major Mexican organizations in-

cluding League of United American Citizens (LULAC), National Council of LaRaza (NCLR), and Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF),” Team America.org reports. “These groups get funding from corporations and American taxpayers. Elected officials attend their events and accept their awards.”

U.S. Patriots Outraged and Offended

The protestors here may not be torching hundreds of cars like they do in France, but protestors were desecrating the U.S. flag in the first cycle of the



demonstrations. To many Americans, those were acts of equal violence.

"Flying OUR FLAG upside-down under the flag of another country is DEPLORABLE!" one outraged retired Lt. Colonel wrote on Newsmax.com

"I watched the 'act of horror and disgust as illegal aliens victoriously waved tens of thousands of Mexican flags, shouted anti-American slogans," he wrote. The protestors put up the Mexican flag over the American flag flying upside down at Montebello High."

Others were threatening to take the U.S. territory back "from the Europeans" or wearing tee shirts that said "Stolen Lands" and carrying signs that said, "You stole it and you know it!!" Some cursed the Alamo.

Outraged citizens bombarded their Senator's offices with faxes and letters demanding blocking amnesty to the illegal population. Grassroots Americans from Pennsylvania, in just one example, reported flooding state senators offices with hundred of faxes and Senate offices in Washington D.C. with more than 130,000 faxes, and countless phone calls before the Easter Recess.

U.S. citizens expressed outrage at the media clips of the brazen show of the Mexican Flag and the desecration of the U.S. Flag. Conservative talking heads broadcast their messages.

The organizers of the pro-illegal immigration protest felt the angry pulse of the American people after the first round of protests at the end of March.

"These guys had the demonstrations well planned," a retired Utah Law Enforcement agent who attended two rounds of protests a few days apart at the end of March told us.

"In the second phase of the demonstrations, I saw a truck handing out dozens of flags to the protestors, so we could see American flags that were waved outnumber the Mexican or other country flags."

"A few hours later, the trash cans were filled with discarded American flags," he said.

The volcano had been building up for years, as the streams of illegal migrants turned into a flood. They came by the hundreds of thousands until even official counts, if those mean much, exceeded 11 million. Non-official credible estimates reach 15-18 million.

1.2 million illegal immigrants were apprehended by the border patrol just in the last year and estimates are that the same number made it through.

The year before over one million were arrested, a 25% increase over the year before that.

The mass migration continued in spite of the fact that border patrol agents were increased to over 12,000 from 7,000 after 9-11

Over the last few decades, the problem magnified and took on such an enormous complexity that the immigrant issue may be impossible to fix.

A Tangled Web

One major complication is that thousands of pregnant women sneak across the border to give birth to children on U.S. territory. Therefore, the children automatically become U.S.

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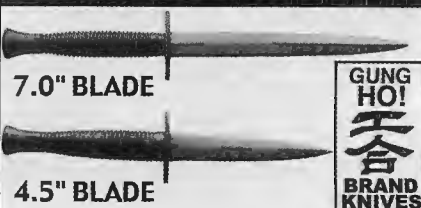
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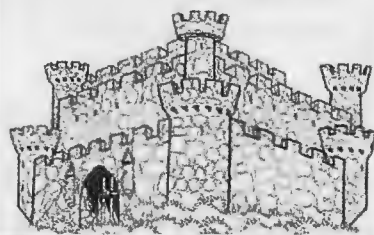
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JULY 2006

Advanced Technology.....	62
American Watch.....	17
ARMS.....	60
Best Made Designs.....	59
Black Ink Design.....	24
Bushmaster.....	76
Bushrag.....	64
CamelBak.....	69
Challenge Coins.....	81
Cove Shoe Co.....	77
Dark Ops Knives.....	3
Detonics.....	65
DPMS.....	29

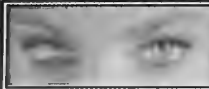
EO Tech.....	10
GG&G.....	79
Gunsite Academy.....	74
HS Precision.....	9
Hellstorm.....	C3
Hurley & Withington.....	35
Inter-American Security.....	57
Kel-Tec.....	80
Kifaru.....	76
Kimber.....	11
LA Police Gear.....	33-71
Laser Devices.....	75
Matt Furey.....	53

MGI.....	62
NIC Law Enforcement.....	57
Para Ordnance.....	7
Pentagon Light.....	21
One Stop Knife Shop.....	50
Optimum Training.....	25-27
Paladin Press.....	5, 55
Para Ordnance.....	C4
Ratchet Belt Co.....	57
R.M. Equipment.....	79
Russian Martial Arts.....	67
Shadow Ent.....	74
Silverman's.....	57

Southern Ordnance.....	38
Specter Gear.....	81
Steiner Binos.....	13
Springfield Armory.....	7
Steve Arnold's Gunroom.....	43
Sure-Fire.....	63
Tamiami Int.....	57
Tapco.....	39
TCI.....	C2
Tactical Tailor.....	51
Texas Tactical Supply.....	38
Trijicon.....	64-65
Wiggy's.....	80

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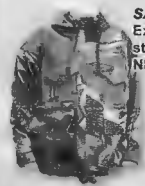


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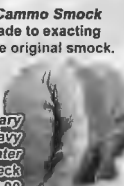
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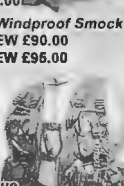


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citizens. Intermarriage with U.S. citizens became commonplace. In 2005, the Pew Center calculated that in 6.6 million families here, one of the parents was an illegal immigrant. Two thirds of their children, over 3 million, were born as U.S. citizens.

380,000 children are born to illegal parents per year, according to Numbers U.S.A.: "Thousands of pregnant women ready to deliver come to the United States each year from countries as far away as South Korea and as near as Mexico so that they can give birth on U.S. soil. Some come legally as temporary visitors; others enter illegally. Once the child is born, they get a U.S. birth certificate and passport for the child, and their future link to this country is established and irreversible."

Another snag is that countless reckless U.S. companies who have to account to no one really, rely on the cheap labor. Wages as low as \$2 an hour, often paid in cash, enable businesses owners to fatten their own bank accounts.

"Your average illegal immigrant doesn't pay taxes or social security," one law enforcement agent told us. They get paid in cash and the employer doesn't have to pay taxes on their cash earnings. He just writes it off as casual labor. Federal law does not require reporting of income less than \$600 so a lot of these guys get paid as day labor. They come in the next day with a dif-

ferent name or one guy will hire a bunch of other day laborers to help with the job he is hired for. The employer pays cash to the recruiter without knowing the identity of the laborers. No one recognizes these guys as they work the circuit. They also can go buy phony Social Security cards and other forms of ID. They don't pay taxes with those phony cards."

"Dependence on Cheap Labor"

These companies, as well as landlords and other businesses that profit from the illegal immigrants are unwilling to give up the cheap illegal immigrant labor. Ten million illegal aliens are on their payrolls in one form

or another each year. The owners of the companies lobby and contribute to politicians who waffle when any crises to address the illegal immigrant problem arises.

The level of abuse of illegal immigration reaches the obscene. The complicity of public and law enforcement officials is often subtle.

Take the case that National Public Radio reported in April of a few Japanese restaurants owned by Chinese and Taiwanese U.S. citizens in Baltimore, for example. The owners drove Mercedes and lived in up scale houses in the suburbs. They could have hired U.S. citizens, but they imported poor Indonesians, Chinese, El Savadoreans, put them in small seedy rooms on dirty mattresses and paid them \$2 an hour.

The illegal immigrants "weren't in a position to complain," according to prosecutors.

The Mayor of Baltimore, his wife and the former police commissioner frequented the restaurants.

The problem according to the Prosecutor? U.S. dependence on cheap labor.

In Fear of the Activists

The Bush 41, Clinton and Bush 43 administrations as well as agencies and legislators under their guard didn't dare take action for fear of losing financial and political backing.

Fed up, frustrated citizens on both sides of the debate have taken matters

into their own hands.

The Minutemen who organized informal patrols at the border were splashed all over the news since they started operating.

Their opponents joined them to 'monitor' obstruct or berate them.

As the illegal immigration debate got hotter and hotter, the Congress was finally forced to act. Their proposals were all over the place, do we give amnesty? Do we build a wall? Do we send all the illegal immigrants back? Of course all of those proposals had to be filtered through the poll barometers.

A former border patrol chief told us that the 1986 amnesty which legitimized three million illegals, had not only failed, it was an invitation for illegal immigrants to come over and if they hung on long enough, some other administration would cave. The threats authorities made to prosecute those hiring illegal immigrants were hollow according to the agent.

Last year, the House passed a bill proposing a 700-mile fence along one third of the Southern border. Illegal aliens would be classified as felons and those smuggling them in or trafficking illegal immigrants could face felony charges. Non Mexican illegal immigrants would be automatically detained when entering the United States. Those who trafficked them in would be put in jail. Carried to an extreme, those who aided them would also face felony charges. Employers would have to access a Social Security database within six years or face prosecution

Opponents to the bill began to mobilize.

Leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, including Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, archbishop of Los Angeles joined the loud protestors. The Church leaders could be faced with felony charges.

Cash Cow Expats

A panicked Mexican President Fox called the proposal to build a fence everything from "stupid" "disgraceful" and "shameful," to a violation of human and labor rights. He made it clear that the illegal migrant 'heroes' would find ways to cross the border. He had been helping them all along, allowing flyers guiding the migrants to circulate in Mexico.

In 2005, legal and illegal immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean sent home \$45 billion in remittances, \$17 billion of that to Mexico.

Continued on page 64

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Illegal Immigrants Flood a Marine Corps Base

By Dr. Martin Brass

SOF was in Yuma Arizona on the Marine Corps Air base and in San Diego when some of the largest demonstrations in U.S. history, including 500,000 demonstrators in Los Angeles and Chicago, erupted.

"In my opinion, the illegal immigrants stream through the Marine bases and jeopardize the security here. Some could die accidentally when they wander onto the shooting ranges during live fire exercises or simply from the horrible heat and no water," a Marine Sergeant told us as we gazed over the vast barren desert to the Mexican border in April.

Marines Loose Over Six Months Training in One Year

Marines lost over 1,100 hours of training time in 2004 because illegal immigrants wandered onto a bombing test range in Arizona Col James J. Cooney, the base's commanding officer told the *Boston Globe*.

"That's equivalent to almost 46 days of training. We're getting overrun here," he said in an interview. "Any moment we take away from a Marine's experience

base could cost him his life in combat."

Marines intercepted more than 1,500 undocumented immigrants on the training range in 2004, and more than 1,100 the first three months of 2005.

The Marines told us that they worry about the safety of the illegal aliens.

Col. Clooney told the *Globe* "We just don't want them to come here, because we're firing lasers, we're shooting machine guns, we're shooting 209-millimeter cannons, and we're dropping practice bombs, and we don't want to hurt anyone."

Illegal Trespassers Could Cost Life Saving Training Time

"My overall concern is that we'd have an unfortunate incident out there where we'd inadvertently harm an illegal entrant that we did not spot or see, and that in turn would cause a moratorium on training until we sorted out what exactly happened," Cooney told the paper.

The street protests became front page news in all the local journals and a major topic of conversation for the locals .

Arizona and California have been hit hard by the illegal immigration problem.

The financing for the border officials, jails, other law enforcement and health care triggered a financial crisis for the border counties, *USA Today* reports.

Federal reimbursement, including an increase of federal detention cells from 18,000 to 20,000 doesn't even begin to pay the cost to the states.

Arizona's four border counties asked the federal government for \$23.2 million last year to cover the cost of jailing thousands of illegal immigrants. They were reimbursed \$731,000.

State officials under enormous pressure from their constituency had to act while politicians were wringing their hands over the last few years as illegal immigrants flooded their states. The governors of California and Arizona declared emergencies and ordered more National Guardsmen to patrol the border.

Congress did approve a fence for San Diego County in 1996. San Diego residents told us that they thought that the

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fence had done some good, but so many Mexicans had already streamed in that they didn't notice too much difference.

Although the fence did reduce the trafficking of migrants and drugs, the smuggling and migrating simply shifted to Texas and other border states. How surprising.

In San Diego in 2005 126,910 illegal immigrants were apprehended in this sector, according to the border patrol, compared with a peak of 629,650 in 1986, according to *USA Today*.

Still, San Diego County, California spends \$50 million a year to arrest, jail, prosecute and defend illegal immigrants, and is reimbursed about \$2 million, Supervisor Greg Cox, president of the Border Counties Coalition told *USA Today*. That is a \$48 million dollar hit that takes funds from libraries, parks and public safety.

Border Patrol agents have doubled to over 600 in the last few years. Border Patrol stations are prevalent on the highway from San Diego to Yuma and the surrounding area.

But the illegal immigrants keep on streaming through the vast unmanned desert border. ☒

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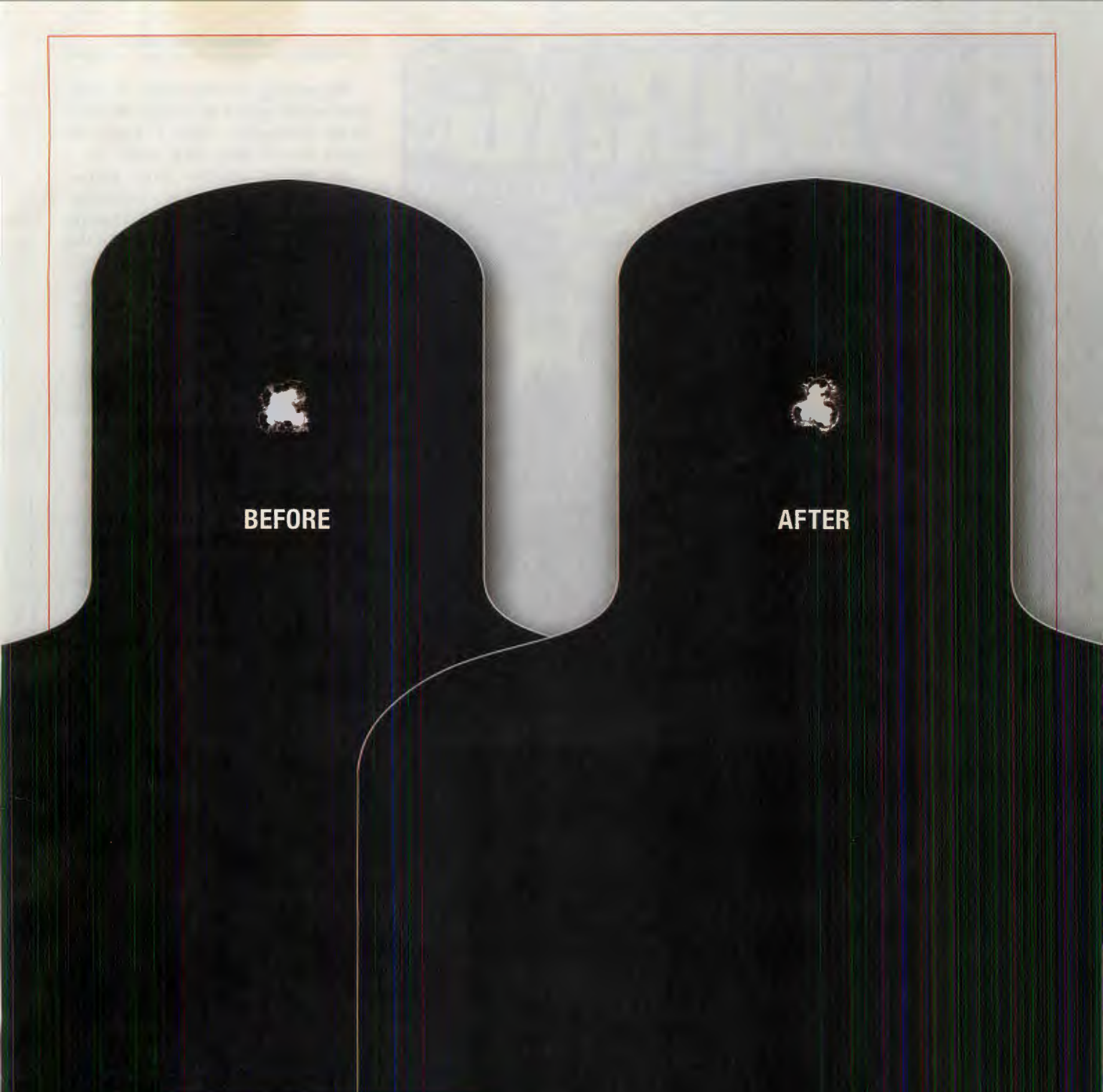


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Interesting, coming from a president whose policy is to put Mexico's illegal immigrants into a detention center then fly them back home.

He invited officials from Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama as well as Colombia, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic to meet on three occasions to figure out how they could bully the United States if the House bill proposing a fence passed in the Senate.

They met in Mexico City, in Guatemala and Colombia From January to mid-March, trying to figure out which US politicians and senators they could pressure.

Loud, massive, relentless demonstrations were in the works.

In the meantime, politicians facing reelection noticed polls such as Zogby that showed over 60% of Americans want stricter immigration laws and enforcement.

A Bipartisan Senate Judiciary Committee proposed granting work permits and a road to citizenship to the millions of illegal immigrants. Those

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who lived here for over five years would have a good chance at citizenship and supposedly those who have lived here for less than two years don't have much of a chance.

A guest worker program for a million and a half farm workers was proposed.

The Pro illegal immigration crowds cheered.

The convoluted Senate Judiciary Committee proposal included:

- 7-8 million illegal immigrants who have been here more than five years would receive a renewable work visa. They would have to pass a criminal background check, pay two \$1,000 fines and be required to learn English before they could apply for citizenship.

- The approximately three million illegal immigrants who have been here for two to five years could go back across the border and apply for one of the 450,000 green cards issued yearly.

- The unskilled laborers are the lucky ones because they would get 300,000 of the green cards. The rest of the unlucky illegal immigrants, that number approximately two million

Continued on page 74

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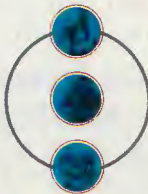
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THE WAR ON THE STREETS

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

National Security Hypocrites

What's Worse than Handing Over our Ports to Dubai? — Leaving Our Borders Open to Every Terrorist or Criminal in the World.

Recently there was quite an uproar in Congress over the idea of letting a company owned by the government of Dubai manage port operations at some of America's largest seaports. Senator Schumer took to the airwaves to decry the idea, suggesting that America's national security would be at risk if a company owned by an Arab country was in charge of port operations.

Now, if the company managing the port was to hire workers who snuck into the country illegally from Arab countries, Senator Schumer would not only let them work the ports, he'd line them up for possible citizenship.

You see there's a lot of hypocrisy in the liberals' new plan to appear 'tough' on national security. The liberals want to lock down the sale of any American businesses involved in national security, but they are willing to leave America's borders wide open. The liberals not only want to leave America's door open to anyone who wants to sneak in, they want to reward those who have broken the law and already entered our country.

If the liberals' new plan to get tough on national security were a home burglar alarm system, it'd run like this: The company operating the alarm system would be a nice hometown outfit, but they'd be free to hire escaped criminals. Once the alarm system caught someone who had snuck into your house at night, they'd give them a key to your front door so the prowler could be rewarded with full access to your home.

Secure borders are in the interest of our national security, as well as promoting safe and responsible immigration. Those that turn a blind

eye to illegal immigration prop up a system that not only jeopardizes our national security, but puts the lives of immigrants in danger. An unsecured border is often a deadly temptation to those who risk their lives to enter the US, with tragic consequences. Illegal immigration also endangers immigrants after they have arrived, making them targets for criminals who know the illegal immigrants are not likely to report crimes to the police.

So the next time you hear the liberals talk tough about national security issues, make sure they don't skip the most obvious element of national security — our borders. ✂



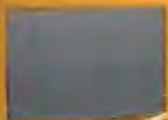
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Reporting From The Front

By Michael E. Marks

Sgt. Chad Hoakison, a 1st battalion 3rd Marine Regiment sniper from Cary, N.C., currently serving in Afghanistan, takes aim with his M40-A3 sniper rifle in the mountains in eastern Afghanistan. Cpl. Seth Algrim, from Garden City, Kansas, serves as Hoakison's observer.

The sun beat like a hammer, not a cloud was in the sky.
The mid-day air ran thick with dust; my throat was parched and dry.
With microphone clutched tight in hand and cameraman in tow,
I ducked beneath a fallen roof, surprised to hear "stay low."

My eyes blinked several times before in shadow I could see,
the figure stretched across the rubble, steps away from me.
He wore a cloak of burlap strips, all shades of gray and brown,
that hung in tatters till he seemed to melt into the ground.

He never turned his head or took his eye from off the scope,
but pointed through the broken wall and down the rocky slope.
"About eight hundred yards," he said, his whispered words concise,
"beneath the baggy jacket he is wearing a device."

A chill ran up my spine despite the swelter of the heat,
"You think he's gonna set it off along the crowded street?"
The sniper gave a weary sigh and said "I wouldn't doubt it,"
"unless there's something this old gun and I can do about it."

A thunderclap, a tongue of flame, the still abruptly shattered;
while citizens that walked the street were just as quickly scattered.
Till only one remained, a body crumpled on the ground,
The threat to oh so many ended by a single round.

And yet the sniper had no cheer, no hint of any gloat,
instead he pulled a logbook out and quietly he wrote.
"Hey, I could put you on TV; that shot was quite a story!"
But he surprised me once again -- "I got no wish for glory."

"Are you for real?" I asked in awe, "You don't want fame or credit?"
He looked at me with saddened eyes and said "you just don't get it."
"You see that shot-up length of wall, the one without a door?
before a mortar hit, it used to be a grocery store."

"But don't go thinking that to bomb a store is all that cruel,
the rubble just across the street -- it used to be a school.
The little kids played soccer in the field out by the road,"
His head hung low, "They never thought a car would just explode."

"As bad as all this is though, it could be a whole lot worse,"
He swallowed hard; the words came from his mouth just like a curse.
"Today the fight's on foreign land, on streets that aren't my own,"
"I'm here today 'cause if I fail, the next fight's back at home."

"And I won't let my Safeway burn, my neighbors dead inside,
don't wanna get a call from school that says my daughter died;
I pray that not a one of them will know the things I see,
nor have the work of terrorists etched in their memory."

"So you can keep your trophies and your fleeting bit of fame,
I don't care if I make the news, or if they speak my name."
He glanced toward the camera and his brow began to knot,
"If you're looking for a story, why not give this one a shot."

"Just tell the truth of what you see, without the slant or spin;
that most of us are OK and we're coming home again.
And why not tell our folks back home about the good we've done,
how when they see Americans, the kids come at a run."

You tell 'em what it means to folks here just to speak their mind,
without the fear that tyranny is just a step behind;
Describe the desert miles they walk in their first chance to vote,
or ask a soldier if he's proud, I'm sure you'll get a quote."

He turned and slid the rifle in a drag bag thickly padded,
then looked again with eyes of steel as quietly he added;
"And maybe just remind the few, if ill of us they speak,
that we are all that stands between the monsters and the weak." ❧



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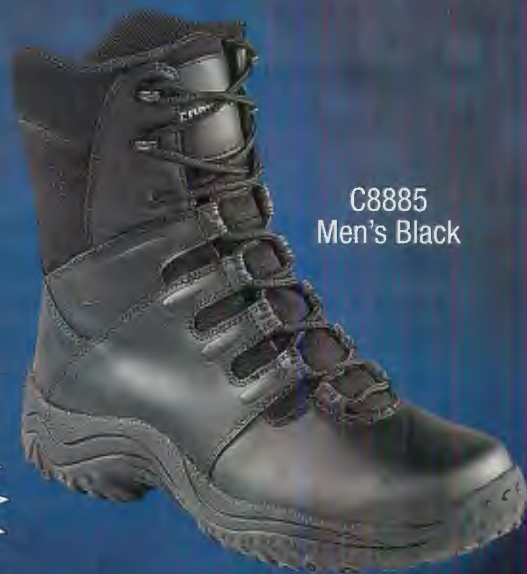


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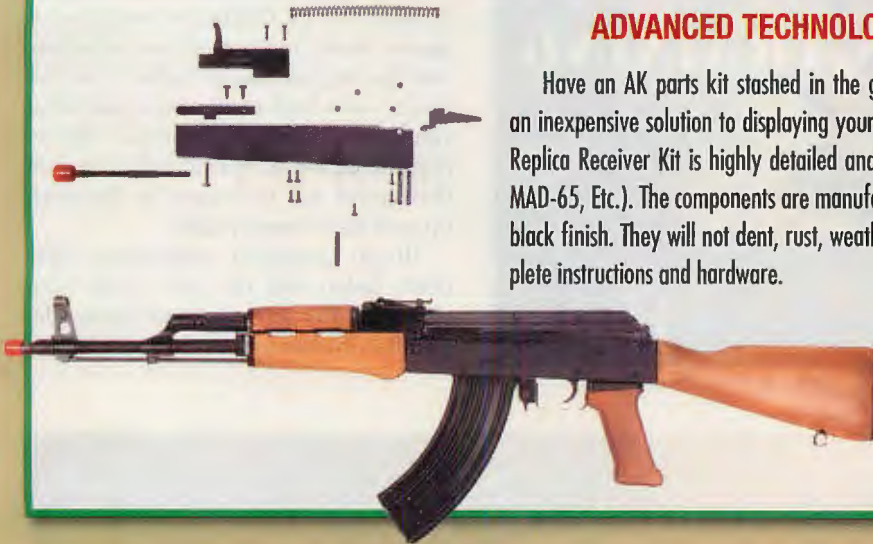
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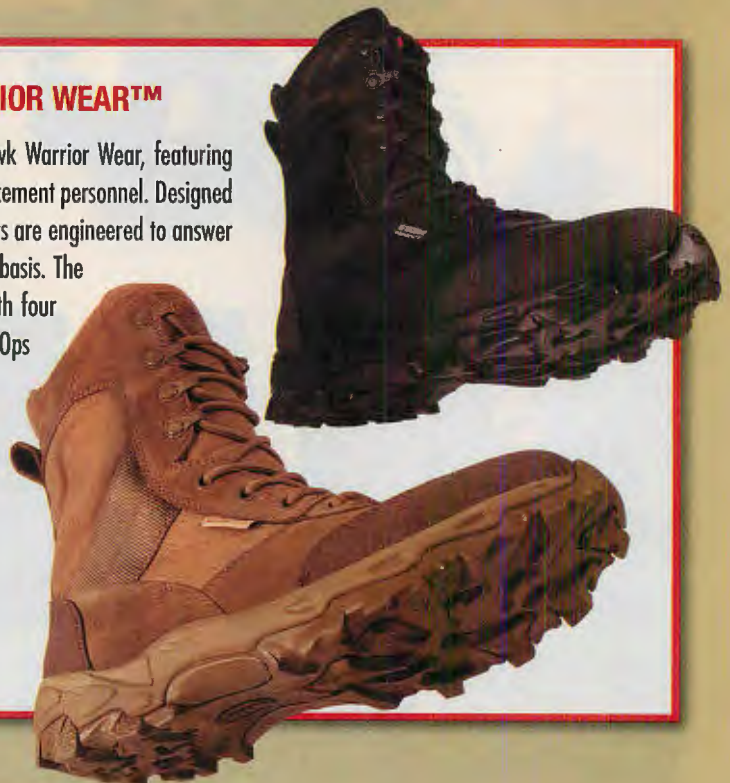
BLACKHAWK® PRODUCTS GROUP™ WARRIOR WEAR™

BlackHawk Products Group has announced a new division: BlackHawk Warrior Wear, featuring apparel and footwear to meet the needs of today's military and law-enforcement personnel. Designed with the latest materials and technologies available, Warrior Wear products are engineered to answer the demands and rigors that foot soldiers or street cops face on a daily basis. The first products available from Warrior Wear start from the ground up with four boot models: the Light Assault Boot, the Tactical Response Boot, the Black Ops Boot, and the Desert Ops Boot.

The Light Assault Boots will be available in black and coyote tan. The Tactical Response Boot and Black Ops Boot will be available in black only and the Desert Ops boot will be available in coyote tan.

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who have been here for less than two years would have to leave.

"Right. As if anyone could figure how long an illegal immigrant had been here," a law enforcement agent in Georgia told us.

"These guys get hotel receipts, rent receipts, and all sorts of other forged receipts proving they had been here for a long time," he said.

We Want It All

But the pro immigration folks didn't like the part of the proposal that calls for securing the border from future masses of illegal migrants.

They especially didn't like the proposal to hire 12,000 more border patrol agents, doubling the current numbers and the proposition to build a "virtual fence" with high tech unmanned aerial vehicles, sensors and cameras. The requirement for foolproof identification that could not be forged or doctored up was also unacceptable.

Illegal immigrant employers especially didn't like the part of the plan that would require them to request legitimate documents or they would face

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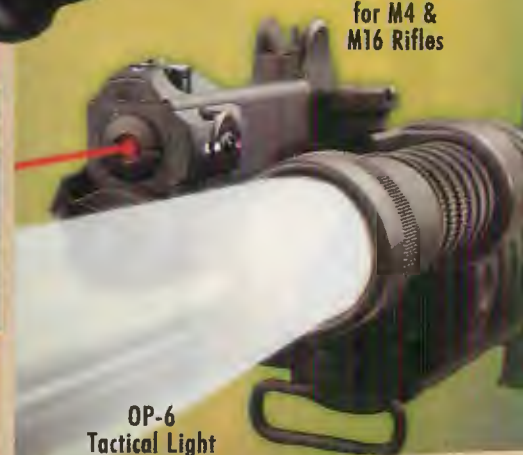


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penalties.

Critics, including outspoken Colorado Republican Congressman Tom Tancredo decried the "miserable", totally impractical, convoluted policy an administrative nightmare.

Throughout the Congressional and Senate drama and theatrics, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants and their supporters who are not going to settle for anything less than citizenship, work permits, and open borders, were setting the stage for action.

At the end of March they took to the streets in hordes. They hit the pavements again in April.

The Congress is on recess at the time of this writing. Nothing has been resolved.

No telling how long the series of demonstrations is going to last, or how violent they will become. Gov. Lamm's warnings of how an uncontrolled illegal immigration policy with tens of millions of unassimilated, undocumented immigrants could lead to the destruction of America have taken on a sense of urgency. ❧

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

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UTAH • Continued from page 66

come up with anything they think will meet the standards of the latest proposal that if they can prove that they have been here for five years, they can apply for citizenship."

"I've worked with lots of Border Patrolmen," the former law enforcement agent said. "I've got supreme respect for nearly all of them. They do a great job when allowed to, but they are frustrated."

"Several years ago in a joint task force briefing, a border patrolman asked what they should do if a car ran their roadblock."

"Just let them go," the supervisor stated.

"They are overworked and understaffed. The week after 9-11, I put on a briefing for several law enforcement agencies on the New Mexico/Mexico border. I asked the Border Patrol station chief how many agents, cops, deputies, or state police officers were within twenty miles of the 86-mile long border at that moment. The answer was—two."

"The newest Border Patrol policy is deterrence. Stay in one highly visible place, let them see you, save gas!

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"Our community has been hurt by the criminal element of the illegal immigrants.

"Yea, they work hard during the day, but at night they sell guns and drugs.

"Two years ago, the Heber Valley Metro Narcotics Strike Force, a phrase I thought I'd never hear, arrested two Mexican nationals for felony sales of narcotics for being in possession of 14 pounds of cocaine, black tar heroin and met amphetamine. They had been selling their poison for more than a year in the scenic Heber Valley.

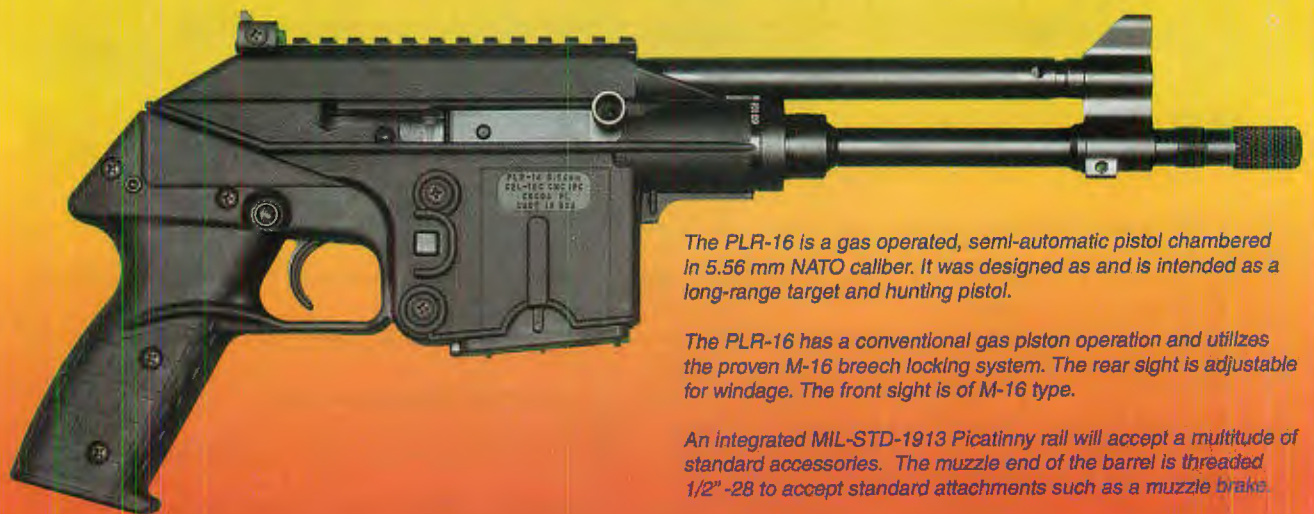
"If you and I had done this, we would be looking at 20 to life. These were deported.

"Last year, a Mexican held his U.S. citizen baby hostage with a butcher knife. Police subdued him after he repeatedly stabbed the baby. The suspect had been deported exactly one week earlier.

"Several years ago Portland Oregon Police arrested 117 individuals for felony sales of heroin. 116 were illegal aliens.



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The PLR-16 is a gas operated, semi-automatic pistol chambered in 5.56 mm NATO caliber. It was designed as and is intended as a long-range target and hunting pistol.

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The demonstrators favor a no-borders, give-us-everything policy. Although obscenities were subdued, the illegal immigrants are demanding equality and then some.

"Some believe Mr. Fox has pulled a Castro on the United States by opening his jails and sending his problem children North.

"Six years ago, the sheriff of Washington County, Utah, was asked in a Chamber of Commerce Meeting why the county jail was always filled far beyond capacity. He simply started to read the names and charges on his booking sheets. 80% were foreign nationals. In the ensuing uproar, he lost his last election.

"Four years ago, 82% of the homicides committed in Salt Lake City were committed by illegal aliens. This used to be a pretty calm place. A Salt Lake City councilman once made the mistake of stating that his district looked more like Tijuana every day. He was removed from his position in the ensuing uproar.

"Five years ago while shooting at a public range, three illegals showed up with four AK-47s, S.K.S. rifles and two shotguns. After shooting up the range and trying to hit beer cans thrown into the air, they were convinced to leave. A 911 call to the police department informed the caller that they should call the A. T. F. in Salt Lake City on Monday. Two days later, two of the illegals were arrested for murdering a man who was mowing his lawn. They had never before even met their victim.

"As I stated, all is not well in Zion," he said.

He's expecting more illegal immigrant demonstrations. He's also expecting anti-illegal immigration U.S. citizens to mobilize for counter-demonstrations. ✕



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COMMON SENSE

by Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.)

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.

Looking For Leadership

BUCHAREST, Romania – We came here to film a World War II documentary for FOX News and came away with a lesson in leadership.

This capital was once at the far edge of the Roman Empire. After "The Great War," it was known as the "Paris of the East." During World War II, the city was hit by both American and German bombs – and abandoned behind the "Iron Curtain" at war's end.

For nearly five decades, Romanians endured Stalinist repression. Bullet holes in buildings at city-center attest to the fury of their 1989 revolution, which bought freedom with blood. Today, the metropolis is teeming with sky cranes, heavy-duty investors, upscale hotels, classy boutiques, car dealerships and glistening new shopping malls with full parking lots. Yet, for all the modern appurtenances, it is also a city that bears the scars of what can happen when great powers fail to act greatly.

Romania's deposed monarch, King Michael – the sole surviving head of state from World War II – kindly granted us a lengthy interview for our "War Stories" series. What he and his people endured in the last century should serve to remind today's leaders of the horrific price paid when despots bent on tyranny go unchecked.

On Tuesday, when Mahmoud Ahmadinejad – the wild-eyed, anti-Western, genocidal zealot who runs Iran – announced that the Islamic Revolutionary Republic had successfully enriched uranium, people here in Romania began asking us, "What will America do to keep Iran from building a bomb?"

It's an understandable question in this East-West crossroads, where history has been such a tough teacher. For more than three years before Adolf Hitler plunged Europe into world war, no one did anything that mattered to prevent it. Winston Churchill's warnings went unheeded by Great Britain, France and the United States. Cases of Japanese, Italian and German aggression were referred to the League of Nations – which dithered and did nothing. When the blood-letting began in earnest, Romanian dictator Ion Antonescu allied his country with the Axis because he believed Hitler would win. It was a disastrous decision.

By the summer of 1944, hundreds of thousands of Romanians were dead, wounded or

prisoners of the Red Army. In August, young King Michael organized a coup, overthrew the fascists and joined the Allied cause. He begged for British or American help to save his country from the Soviets – only to learn that President Franklin Roosevelt had already decided not to oppose Stalin's plans for invasion and occupation.

Historians ought to be loathe to play "what if" with the facts of the past. But present day events beg the questions: What might have happened if the United States, Britain and France had stood together in 1936 and insisted that Hitler cease rearming? In March of 1938, would the Fuhrer have desisted from his Austrian Anschluss if the United States had stood in opposition? Could Romania, now a NATO ally, have been spared a half-century of repression? King Michael put it this way: "If only Roosevelt had told Stalin 'no' – we would have been spared."

Like the events of the 1930s and '40s, Ahmadinejad's quest for nuclear weapons is a situation that cries out for resolute American leadership. Last week's announcement was made in front of a full bank of television cameras and the world media. The Iranian leader portrayed it as an achievement – a source of national pride – and went on to warn that any attempt to prevent their nuclear progress would "cause an everlasting hatred in the hearts of Iranians."

The next day, Ahmadinejad said: "Our answer to those who are angry about Iran achieving the full nuclear fuel cycle is just one phrase. We say: Be angry at us and die of this anger."

Until now, the United States has punted the question of Iranian nukes to the United Nations and the Europeans. They have failed. For three years, the British, French and Germans have tried negotiations. But in January, the Iranians walked away from the talks. In the aftermath of Ahmadinejad's chest-thumping, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that "the Security Council will need to take into consideration this move by Iran ... to make certain that we maintain the credibility of the international community on this issue." She is wrong. The international community has no credibility on this issue.

The U.N. Security Council has given Iran a deadline of April 28 to halt its enrichment process. But International Atomic Energy



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 Coshoc-ton, Ohio.

Agency chief Mohamed El Baradei, speaking in Tehran last week, said that there is "no great urgency in this new development." When America's U.N. Ambassador John Bolton suggested a Security Council resolution under Chapter 7 of the organization's charter, Russian ambassador Andrei Denisov said, "There is no reason for punitive measures yet."

How close is Iran to actually building a nuclear weapon? Stephen Rademaker, the assistant secretary of state for international security and nonproliferation, said it could take as little as 16 days. Other analysts believe it could take as long as 10 years. Assuming that the longer estimate is correct is both irresponsible and arrogant. India, Pakistan and North Korea all built bombs before anyone believed they could.

We can no longer afford to deal with Tehran through intermediaries and third parties. The United States must open direct, frank discussions with the Iranians – to convince them, like Libya, that it is not in their interest to continue the pursuit of nuclear weapons. The United States has a full quiver of diplomatic, financial, trade and military options. Carefully and quietly articulating these to Iran is a high-risk strategy – but not as dangerous as hoping that others will do what needs to be done. ✘

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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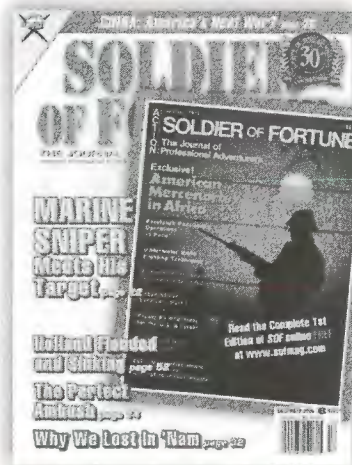
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