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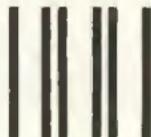
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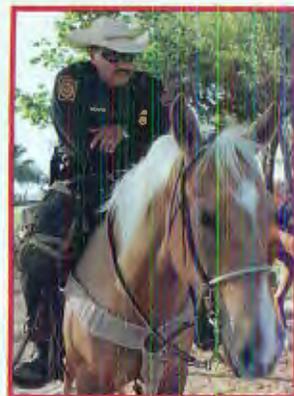
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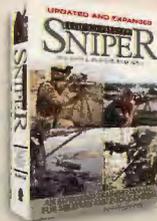
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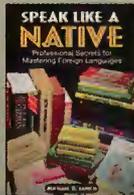
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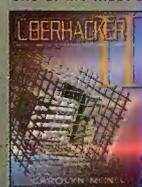
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Turning Point for the Insurgency?

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the author, not by his real name for security reasons, but by touching on some of his more notable achievements without compromising his identity. First and foremost, he is a long time SOF'er who has participated in a number of our adventures and has written for SOF. He is a service academy graduate, a two tour Vietnam veteran, a reservist, a veteran of five insurgencies who has just recently returned from a lengthy tour in Iraq in a highly sensitive position. Let's just call him Icarus. — Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown USAR (Ret.)

The Zarqawi death is very likely to have more of an effect on the insurgency than anyone wants to admit publicly. Not only did they pick him off with his second in command, but when they nailed him, the special task force and the Iraqis rounded up Al Qaeda-Iraq (AQI) killers in at least 17 locations around Baghdad the first night after his death before it was announced. Intelligence officers often had to make decisions about whom to pick up and whom to leave in place, hoping they could lead us to others as important as Zarqawi. Most in past operations would be killed in the raid, but some would be taken alive, and the intelligence operators could get some information out of them; most other information came from computer hard drives, pocket litter, and documents at the locations. Following the 17 raids that first night after Zarqawi was hit, the task force and Iraqis conducted another 39 raids the next day, based in part on information seized in the first raids, all according to announcements made by U.S. Army Major General Caldwell to the press.

Most of those raids were probably the safe houses for leaders or opera-

tional centers for AQI cells. Considering that capturing or killing several cell members in just one area of Baghdad usually results in a temporary end to activity in that section of the City, the rounding up of so many cells and/or their leadership is likely to have a significant effect on AQI's operations for months to come.

What that means is that most of the AQI infrastructure in Baghdad has likely been picked up, compromised, or killed in just three days. Most of the bombings, killings and "insurgent" activity for all of Iraq go on in that City. Most of AQI's leadership is now in a shambles, even down to the local cell level in Baghdad. In particular, AQI has likely lost the logistical system to pay the killers/bombers, buy the cars to turn into vehicle bombs (their favorite device for killing as many Shi'a as possible), or to bring in suicide operators from other countries. It is important to note that about 85-90% of the suicide bombers come from outside Iraq. For some reason, the native Iraqis don't like doing the suicide thing for Allah—or for Zarqawi, if that is who they were really working for, as I suspect Allah isn't too keen on their killing scores or hundreds of innocent fellow Muslims in His name. It takes time and a lot of careful work to build up those networks, including the extreme trust needed to accept newcomers and leaders in a cell structure in the middle of an insurgent/terrorist war. It will definitely slow down the AQI system, perhaps making it irrelevant in the overall picture. Certainly, the Iraqi based Sunni group, Ansar al Sunna, will take the lead in the insurgency. They are more inclined toward true insurgency, as opposed to pure terrorism, and are not so enamored

Continued on page 66

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Gen. Aderholt On Mend

After a brief spell in the hospital, General Aderholt, long-time friend of SOF (see "New Guinea Gold," this issue), is recovering in a rest home in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

Heinie is basically doing OK, working therapy as much as his body will stand. Visitors are welcome much of the time. However, if you are out of town, do coordinate before making the trip for a visit in the event Heinie is not available. Gen. Aderholt is getting excellent care: Without exception, everyone has been caring and attentive.

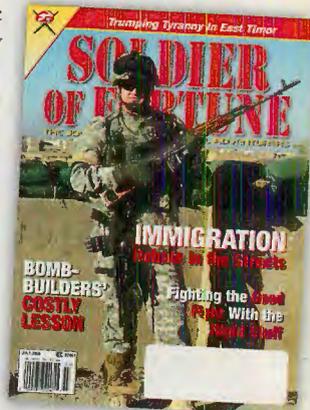
Your comments and well-wishes are especially important to him. He is sincerely appreciative of all your interest and care. Your e-mails are being forwarded to Heinie.

Robert A. Downs

(Email for Aderholt, c/o: Theodore Saunders saunders648@earthlink.net)

We'd Be Honored

My son, SSG Christopher Cutchall was KIA Iraq September 29, 2003. We (my family, local VFW and American Legion) are in the process of raising money to erect a Fallen Soldiers Memorial and would like permission to reprint a poem from your July 2006 issue. The poem is *Reporting From The Front* by Michael E. Marks, of course there will be a foot note stating who the poem was written by and where the poem originated. We would like to raise awareness to the local community the cost of freedom that they enjoy every day as well as try to raise the money for the memorial. We would be very grateful for permission to run this article.



Sincerely,
Cindy L. Cutchall
Still Grieving Mother.

You got it!! – RKB.

Some Things Are Sacred

I need to vent: You gents always listen. What is going on with the various nutty/hateful/self-serving groups who are messing with GI funerals? I guess such conduct was so outrageous nobody ever thought to pass a law against it. This is just crap. What can we do?

Frank Vander Wall
By e-mail

Yeh, there was a time when, no matter what, Everyman was allowed his grief. Now some people regard their eccentric agenda as more important than your grief or privacy, but the good news is, the common outrage at such behavior has resulted in the oft-slow wheels of legislation turning quickly. Many states rushed through individual legislation that covers all funerals, and the U.S. Congress quickly agreed on federal legislation (HR5037) that President Bush signed into law before the ink was dry, which protects the privacy of families at the 124 VA cemeteries and at Arlington. In addition, volunteer escorts are available: Patriot Guard, a group of mostly veteran bike riders some 5,000 strong, can provide escorts on request, so all the family and other mourners have to look at is a sea of American flags – no hard-hearted "protestors." Go to www.patriotguard.org for contact information. Image: Courtesy Patriot Guard



Defend Our Allies

Some of your SOF readers, and SOA members, are offering to help Hmong immigrants, in the Ozarks, regarding recovery from acts of fraud that have been committed against them. Our lawyers have already filed seven tort complaints, with more being prepared. Research continues on possible class actions, and I have attached a copy of my own proposed legal action. I hope you have received and read the articles, on the Hmong, I recently sent to you.

As may be appropriate, please keep your readers informed regarding problems the Hmong are having in the Ozarks. If our information is correct, local Neo-Nazi groups are organizing an "offensive" against the Hmong to start in about 120 days. Your support is appreciated. Thanks.

David A. Nuttle
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Veterans' Salute

I am a disabled vet with 16 yrs of service (active and reserve) in the Army as an MP and agree with Maj. Gen. Lewis, USA (Ret) on saluting. Every sporting, scouting event or parade that I go to I have always saluted rather than putting my hand or hat over my heart. To me it's like a slap in the face to the time I spent in the service not to. I earned the right and will fight to defend it. I'm now rated as 100% disabled with the VA and I wish I could be over supporting our troops.

Keep up the good work.
Mark Vickery

Mark: Thanks for your service to our country. As you know we agree with you 100%. We'll keep fighting to make this happen.

Lt.Col. Robert K. Brown,
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Love Those Laptops, Need Those Notebooks

Thank you for putting LAPTOPS FOR THE WOUNDED in your letters in July. SSG Peterson was great to think to send that information to you. I am the founder/administrator of LAPTOPS and his info is totally accurate but we also send notebooks to Balboa and Brooke, and work to get permission to send to other facilities as we get enough notebooks or donations to make that reasonable. I am waiting for enough jack to send our first one to Brooke. Troop support is my passion and the previous letter has already brought some top-notch contacts my way and is very exciting. Thank you SSG Peterson and I hope you print my letter too. Please visit us at www.laptopsforthewounded.com or me at ohiobuckeyesfan@bresnan.net GOD PLEASE BLESS OUR TROOPS!

Laura Brown
Cody, Wyoming

OK, cowboys, you heard the gal: send laptops, notebooks and some jack. Even if you do not have a laptop, surely you can send some postage for this effort.

Renewed Interest

As my grandson is serving with the 75th ranger battalion in Iraq I have a renewed interest in your magazine. The reason is; first I agree with hiring contractors to work with the military. They have been a tremendous help with the war on terrorism effort. Also my grandson is talking about being a contractor after his enlistment is up. I have seen documentaries about the effectiveness of the contractors' expertise in Angola. The Executive [Outcomes, ed.] something (forgot the name) contracting company hired by the Angolan government to take out the rebels, was amazing. I would do this myself if I wasn't too old but my grandson will have my encouragement to make this career choice. Keep up the good work and I am subscribing again.

Lee Cole
Indianapolis

Illegal Immigration Hurts Everybody

As a Mexican citizen living and working in my country I am extremely affected by the negative impact of illegal immigration in the disintegration of Mexican families and its consequences, therefore, I am very grateful that you published a special article about this silent invasion. I didn't know about it until I hear this on the radio talk show of this brilliant gentleman Michael Savage.

Please let me know how can I purchase the mentioned publication.

Martha Lopez
Chula Vista, Calif.

SOF is now on the newsstands at Wal-Mart, you can probably find it there. ✂

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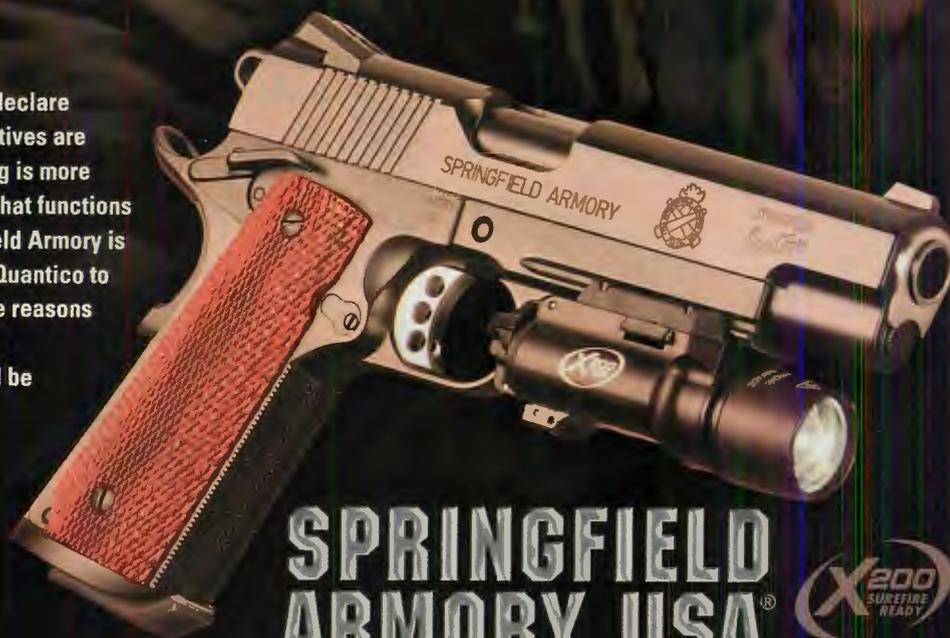
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Clockwise from top, an F-4 Phantom, a P-51 Mustang, an F16 Fighting Falcon, and a P-47 Thunderbolt fly in a heritage flight formation during the 2006 Defenders of Liberty Airshow at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., 13 May 2006. DoD photo by Master Sgt. Michael A. Kaplan, 2d Communications Squadron



Check out the proof marks on the 5" guns carried by the USS Vicksburg! Photo: Courtesy CAPT. Charles C. Swicker, Vicksburg, CO

USS New York

With a year to go before she hits the drink, the Navy's amphibious assault ship USS New York has already made history: She was built incorporating 24 tons of steel pulled from the ruins of the World Trade Center.

USS New York is about 45% complete and should be ready for launch in mid-2007. Katrina disrupted construction when it pounded the Gulf Coast last summer, but the 684-foot vessel escaped serious damage, and workers were back at the yard near New Orleans two weeks after the storm. The steel from the Twin Towers World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, La., to cast the bow section.

She is the fifth in a new class of warship designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.

The ship's motto? Never Forget. (Artist's rendering shown above)



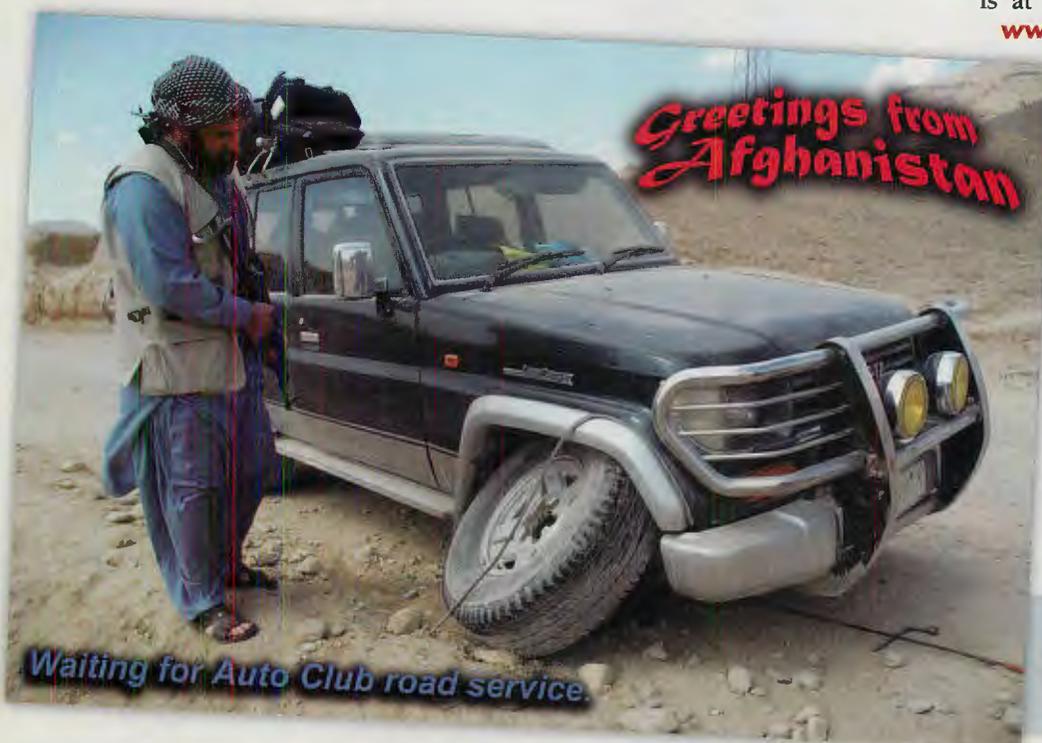
Hey, sometimes low-tech is the answer!

OIF, Desert Storm Vets Run for Congress

A new source to track vet candidates is at the Election Center at <http://www.military.com>, which tracks the more than 50 military veterans running for mid-term elections. This unique and inclusive service lets members read up on candidates' issues and positions, find contact information, track how their candidate is doing in the polls, register to vote, send letters to Congressional representatives concerning veterans issues and post Op Eds.

Also included will be election news updates including legislative and candidate news, an absentee voting guide for overseas service members, primary calendar and voting info.

Friend of SOF Paul Avallone advises that if there is anything worse than the roads in Afghanistan, it's the roadside service.



Montagnards Need Baby Clothes

The biggest shortage at STMP right now is infant and young toddler clothing. They have none left to issue to newly arrived Montagnard newborns and moms. As most true refugees, they are arriving with only the shirt on their back. They helped us im-

measurably and bravely: now it's our turn. Baby clothes that are clean and serviceable may be sent in care of:

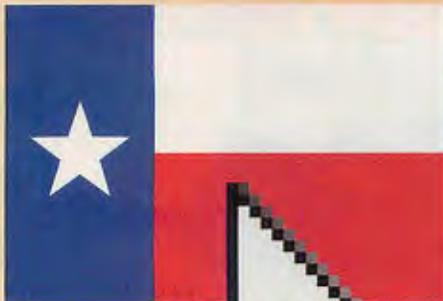
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Web Surfers Will "Patrol" Tex-Mex Border

The Republic of Texas is enlisting web surfers in its fight against illegal immigration by offering live surveillance footage of the Mexican border over the Internet.

The plan will allow web users worldwide to watch Texas' border with Mexico and phone the authorities if they spot any apparently illegal crossings.

Texas Governor Rick Perry said the cameras would focus on "hot-



spots and common routes" used to enter the U.S. "A stronger border is what Americans want and it's what our security demands and that is what Texas is going to deliver," Governor Perry said.

The cameras will cost some \$5million to install. No word yet from Al Gore, inventor of the Internet,

as to whether or not he approves.

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From: GyMadDog

GySgt Carlos Hathcock

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Marines in the Desert

**Train Hard,
Fight Hard,
Ooo-Rah!**

By Dr. Martin Brass

The Iraqi war is far from over and as unpopular as the war may be in some sectors, SOF will continue to honor and to report about our military heroes, their actions in the war zone and their vital ongoing training.

So we were gratified to be invited by Col Freddie Blish to join his unit, Marine Wing support Squadron 373 as they trained in the Yuma desert before their anticipated deployment to Iraq. We confirmed our earlier impressions that Lt. Col. Blish is an outstanding commander who excels in the leadership of his troops.

*(left) Lt. Col. Blish lights up the range with a Patriot Ordnance Factory P-416 with an Aimpoint M3 and 3X magnifier, as well as the Laser Devices Dual Beam Aiming Laser A2 (DBAL A2).
(right) CH-53 Sea Stallion, Mi-24 Hind Piloted for MAWTS by IP Brent McCulloch.*





MSgt Gordon and WTI 2-06 Air Delivery personnel prior to HUM-VEE drop from C-130.

A Desert Indy 500

Fortunately, we survived the harrowing desert rides in an SUV with the skilled, confident MSgt Sosa through narrow dirt paths.

“One of the most important things for our Marines to learn is how to drive the 7 ton MTVRs (Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement) trucks and HMMWV (High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles or Humvees) through the dry, dusty desert roads.

MSgt Sosa had navigated the Pakistan and Afghani desert for six months right after 9-11.

“We were in Pakistan for a few months, then deployed to Afghanistan for three months.” MSgt. Sosa, 19 year veteran, recalled the whirlwind days after 9-11.

“There was an extreme sense of urgency, the fear of the unknown, and a heightened anger that made us want to accomplish the mission to catch the Taliban and Al Qaida.

“As soon as we got into Camp Rhino, Afghanistan, we were conducting reconnaissance missions into the unknown. Then we received word to proceed into Kandahar accompanied by Spe-

cial Forces Army guys.

Master Sgt Sosa was emphasizing the importance of learning how to cope in the desert.

“The desert in Afghanistan was extremely cold and dry in the winter, and the conditions are similar to those here in Yuma.”

“We experience some fear and precaution every time we go out of the wire,” he said. “It’s good to have that caution, it makes you more aware. The minute you stop having fear or do not remain alert, you can be killed, or worse, your fellow Marines could be killed.

“We give the new drivers that we have in the unit the essential experience and the confidence to drive in Iraq since the terrain in Yuma is similar to that in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I don’t think any of us believed until we arrived back at camp safely that Sosa had any concept of caution as he drove the SUV around the dirt path curves as if he were training for a desert Indy 500.

Humvees Drop Out of the Sky

Two hummers and other supplies were being dropped out in the middle of nothing.

“This air delivery simulates our unit having lost a Humvee during combat operations and another one

is dropped to us,” MSgt Sosa said. “Also, we are getting resupplied with MREs, water, ammunition, medical supplies, maintenance equipment, tires, and any other supplies they may be running low on.”

Master Sgt Gordon, an instructor at Marine Aviation Weapons Tactical Squadron-1 described the Weapons Tactics Instruction training in the desert around Yuma, AZ.

“It’s like the Top Gun of Marine Corp Aviation. All branches of the services, foreign and domestic come to learn here.

“The graduate level course is designed mostly for pilots. The Marines train on every type, model, series and airframe in the Marine Corps including helicopters, transport aircraft, refueling aircraft, and fighter and attack aircraft. The fleet sends us prospective WTI candidates and at the end of the course they are certified to be WTI instructors, the ultimate highest qualification that a pilot could have in the Marine Corps.

Master Sergeant Gordon has a background as a KC-130 flight engineer with 21 years in the Marine Corps.

“I have 8000 plus hours in KC-130 as a crewman. I’ve been in just about every conflict the U.S. has been in since 1985, including Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Zaire, or whatever they are calling it these days.

“I was in Kosovo in between the first Gulf War and the big one. I have been deployed to Iraq on three separate occasions.

“For instance, this training is related to KC-130s. Today’s mission is going to simulate dropping aerial delivery personnel onto a drop zone in an austere environment, set up a tactical DZ, and



HMMWV being air delivered to a remote desert drop zone.

Continued on page 18

Marine Firefighters Rush to Dangerous Crash Sites

By Dr. Martin Brass



L to R: Cpl Schleh, Cpl Beethe, LCpl Stanton, Sgt LaGrand.

You know it's been a long war when a group of Marines training and preparing for deployment to Iraq in August in Yuma, Arizona tell you that they had met up with you over three years ago in Kuwait.

And you know that it's been an incredibly tragic war when a group of firefighters describe their gruesome story of how they picked up the pieces of the bodies of the thirty Marines that died in an accident in January 2005.

SOF had published the story as told to us by fellow Marines when they were reeling from the shock of the loss of so many from their platoon.

"We were on a base in western Iraq when a bad sand storm blew over. The pilot of the CH53 flying as Dash Two landed and told us that the other CH53 flying with him had gone down. We were forced to wait until the next morning to get clearance to get off the base to search for the downed aircraft," Cpl Schleh, a Crash Fire Rescue Marine for two and a half years said.

"The Marines on the downed CH53 were supposed to go home two weeks prior to the crash, but had been extended for the Iraqi election."

"We rode out on the convoy. There were no flames left. It took us five or six hours to clean up the bodies," he spoke for the three firefighters that had been part of the rescue mission.

"Grenades and ammo were strung out all over. We had to pick up the ammo, the body parts, the ordnance, the military gear so the investigators could go through them," LCpl Stanton, another fire fighter said.

"These are the armor kits we use to protect us from IEDs when we go to pick up the pieces of a vehicle hit by an IED," Sgt. LaGrand, a seasoned firefighter showed us their armor.

"The first time in Iraq, we were responding to a call, a small arms fire exploded around us while an aircraft was burning. Three had died and one had a shattered leg but he survived. He was still running around from the adrenaline," the image of the shocked Marine was still strong in Stanton's mind.

"It took us 12 hours to extract the remains of the pilots and crew."

"We lost one of the firefighters from Camp Pendleton," Cpl Beethe added.

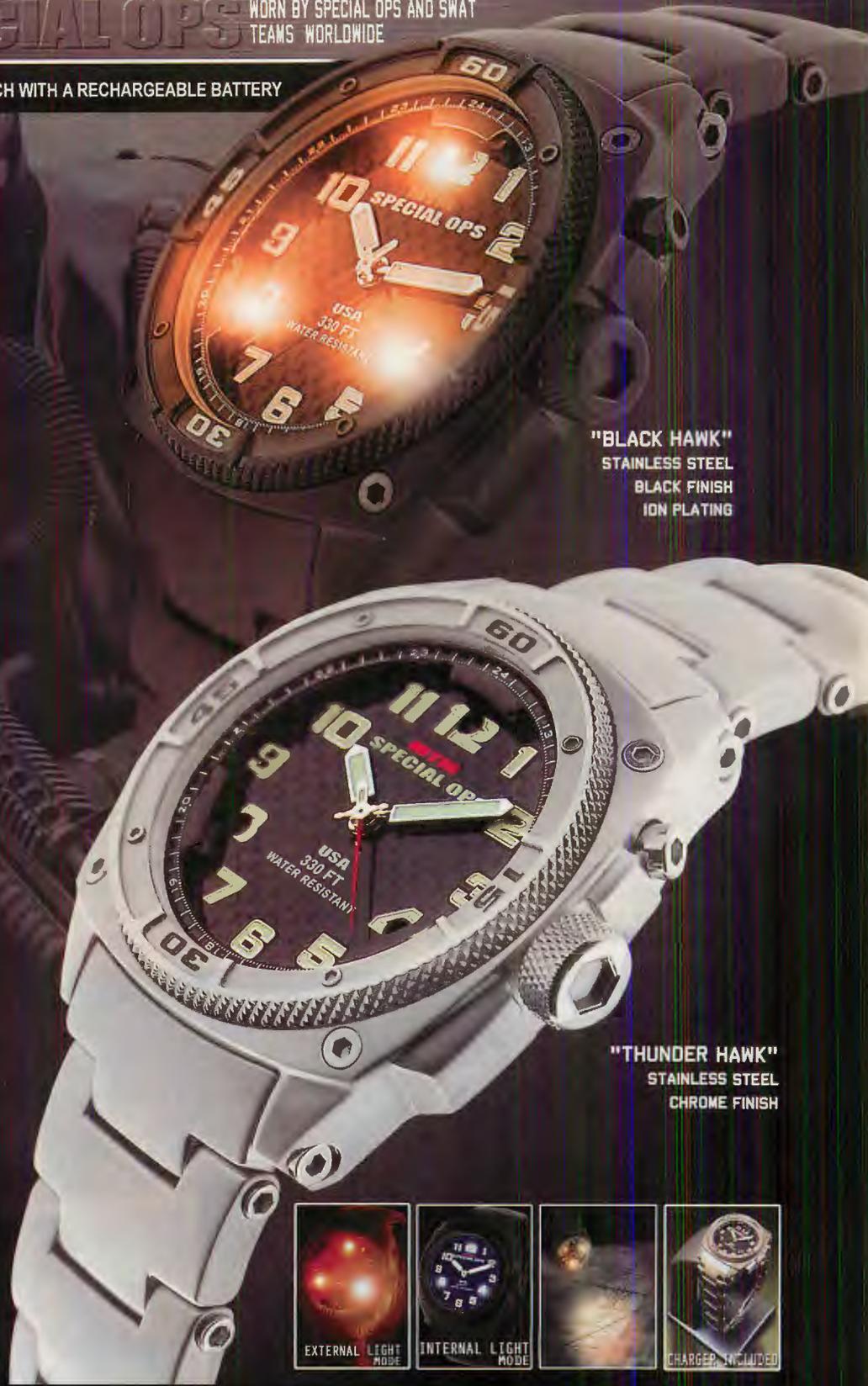
"We are practicing our basic skills in addition to more intensive training, as the IED incidents have multiplied since our previous deployment.

"The advance training we are receiving here is how to penetrate an armored vehicle hit by an IED or RPG to rescue trapped crewmen vice just aircraft." Sgt. LaGrand, who had been in Iraq previously said. ✕

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(below) MWSS 373 Food Service Specialists preparing dinner for Marines at a remote desert location during WTI 2-06 utilizing the new Field Food Service Support kitchen.



Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Mayra Aranda-Camillo patches up Alan Brown after a fall. She came from Argentina at the age of seven and fulfilled a lifelong dream of joining the Navy.

bring in the KC-130Js to drop heavy pallets, two of them being Humvees. This training starts from mission planning to execution deals with a real world combat scenario to include threat reaction, low-level flight, and aerial delivery.

“We have an extensive intelligence department. It’s learning how to plan and put a mission together and integrating all these entities. They need to know their limits and their abilities

and be able to base a mission on what assets they have.

Desert Training

Later that night MSgt Sosa drove us to a Forward Arming Refueling Point conducting night time operations, as an AV-8B Harrier “Jump Jet” was taking off and landing on a life size Landing Helo Deck (LHD).

“The LHD, that simulates the shape of a ship, provides permanent close air support attack aircraft vertical takeoff or landing. It goes everywhere with us and can be launched on sea or at shore. When you fly over it, it looks the same from the air as a ship.” Sosa explained.

“My military police,” he said, “will be providing security for convoy operations, Forward Arming Refueling Points (FARP), and for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Marines during Incident Response Team missions. They work for 15 or 16 hours or longer daily.



“We are conducting intensive training for all of our Marines with .50 cal M2 machineguns, M240 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), M249G Medium Machinegun, and MK19 automatic 40mm grenade launcher, as well as combat marksmanship with rifle and pistol.”

The Marines are deploying to Iraq in August. ✕

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



A team of Crash Fire Rescue Marines from MWSS 373 at a FARP led by SSgt Pagan, on far left. (right) LLTC Brown with newly promoted Sergeant Obace, who was promoted during the field exercise.



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Camerone



Birth of a

Text & Photo

On 30 April 1863, a company of the 1st regiment of the French Foreign Legion, 62 legionnaires and three officers, under the command of Capitan Danjou, held at bay more than 2000 Mexican soldiers in a valiant stand at an abandoned hacienda situated in the village of Camerone, in the Mexican desert.

The Battle of Camerone has since become a symbol of dedication and courage and is cel-



ebrated annually at every French Foreign Legion post worldwide. It is one of two days, the other being Christmas, when the presence of every legionnaire is obligatory, in order to take part in the event along with his comrades in arms. This year's celebration of Camerone was of particular interest as it also marks the 175th anniversary of the creation of the Legion.

Aubagne, in the south of France, is home of the 1st Régiment Etranger, the Headquarters of the French Foreign

Legion. Here, the Camerone ceremonies are especially significant as the 1st Regiment is the keeper of the flame of 175 years of Legion tradition.

At the end of the parade grounds, known as *la voie sacré*, the sacred way, is the *Moment aux Morts*, the memorial to fallen Legionnaires. The monument was transported from the Legion's original home at Sidi Bel Abbes, Algeria to Aubagne when that former French colony gained



Da Silva

Joaquin Da Silva Cabrita left his native Portugal in 1952 and enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. He was sent to the 2nd Legion Infantry Regiment and in 1954 to French Indochina. Dien Bien Phu, the French military encampment in the north of country, was under heavy siege and about to fall. Toward the end of April, volunteers were asked to parachute into Dien

Bien Phu in one last dramatic tempt to reverse the desperate situation. Several hands went up and Da Silva's was among them. On the night of April 27 the group parachuted into the besieged camp. It was Da Silva's first parachute jump.

Dien Bien Phu fell on 7 May 1954 and Da Silva, along with the other survivors, was taken prisoner



Legion Legend

Photos by Richard Lucas

independence. Thus in 1963, after more than a hundred years of service on foreign soil, for the first time the Legion found itself permanently stationed in Metropolitan France.

Behind the Monument aux Morts lies the Sacred Crypt. The Crypt holds the Colors of past regiments, the names of all who have served the Legion, past and present, and the Legion's most sacred relic, the Hand of Capitan Danjou.

Here in Aubagne the celebration of Camerone is the one annual event during which the Legion opens its doors to the public and welcomes

a long list of civilian and military dignitaries. The official ceremonies begin in the morning of the 30th and are followed by an official luncheon. In the afternoon and on to the next day there are numerous activities: stands presenting military and Legion memorabilia, food, drink, presentations by Legionnaires, and entertainment and games for the kids. The two days of festivities are a unique occasion for the Legionnaires and their families to meet with their comrades, Legion veterans, and the general public. It is a unique opportunity for all to visit the Legion



Museum and collect an armful of Legion souvenirs.

Attending this year's ceremony was the French Minister of Defense, Mme. Michèle Alliot-Marie, Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Bernard Thorette, Senators Bernard de Peleselle and Guy Teissier and *Soldier of Fortune's* own Robert K. Brown, who received a personal invitation from General Bruno Dary, Commanding Officer of the French Foreign Legion.

The ceremonies began with a presentation of the Legion by Gen. Dary, followed by the entrance of the regi-



and freed four months later when the French relinquished control of North Viet Nam to the Viet Mhin. He went on to serve in Algeria, and in Egypt during the Suez Canal crisis.

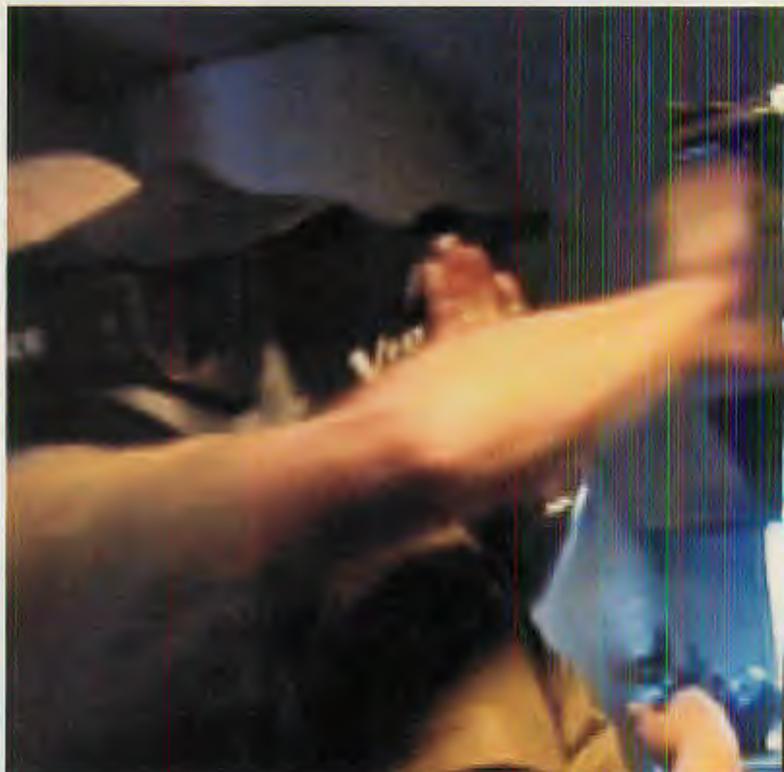
"When I joined the Legion and I was sent to Indochina, Algeria, and Egypt. The one thing that was different when I jumped into Dien Bien Phu was that I volunteered for the

mission. No one forced me to go. I went because my fellow Legionnaires, friends of mine, were in trouble and needed help. It was only normal, nothing exceptional."

Joaquin Da Silva is now 77 years old. He lives at the retirement center for legionnaires at Puylobrier, France where he is guardian of the small Legion Museum there. ✘

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- Understand the target priority of the shooter!
- Learn what you can do not to get shot..
- See how a knife is used!
- Learn how one person unarmed can easily take out armed pilots!
- See a Pilot pulled over the back of his seat while trying to shoot the bad guy!

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OK, you're asking yourself, just how does this apply to me? I just don't fly all the much! OK, we'll accept that, but after all, haven't you asked yourself...

- What would you do if you were on a commercial flight and someone, anyone, not just a Terrorist, decided to hijack the aircraft? Would you hope for the Air Marshal to pop up, or wait for the stewardess that makes her living serving you coffee to save your life? Don't think so. (Ok you don't fly all that much. But one day you just might be on the wrong plane at the wrong time.)
- What would you do if you were Carjacked? You know, you're just sitting at a light behind another car and there it is a gun pointed right at you face! Are you going to pick-up your cell phone and call a Cop! Don't think so.
- What would you do if you were in a taxi and it got robbed? Have the bad guy drop you off and give him a tip! Don't Think So.
- What would you do if you were confronted with multiple attackers in a subway? Are you just going to do what they say as they rape your 13 year old child. Don't think so.
- What would you do on a bus if you were attacked or it is hijacked? Would you do nothing because the bad guy looks like he is wired with explosives? How would you know if it is real?

Are you seeing common denominators in all of your questions above? If not let us help you see two! Whether you're in an Aircraft, Car, Bus, Train, or Taxi, you have a geometric limitation preventing you from using your Standard or Non Standard Martial Arts. Forget about your DT Training you got in LE Enforcement, it just doesn't cover those Tactical problems. Period! You're sitting down with a safety belt holding your butt down, hmm, what to do? Well, these and many more answers are completely handled in this first DVD. It is true, it only takes just one good technique to save your butt, but it must be the right one, for the right reason, or you're dead. So again this is a **MUST HAVE DVD!**

OK, YOU WANT IT TODAY! YOU MUST HAVE THE DVD Titled "BlueSKY TACTICS ©"! BUT WHAT'S THE COST?

Frankly, the BlueSKY TACTICS © DVD is not cheap. But then again real tactical training never is! The aircraft alone is \$60+ million dollars and it's operational not a mockup!

However, the purpose here is to get this training info out to you. Allowing you an inside view of what it takes to compete in the real world of high-end security. Remember we are not just teaching you fighting lessons! We are now teaching you a tactical application so you can use the right moves to save your LIFE. Plus it's just great tactical information footage that you must have! Again it's not cheap, if you were the client you would have paid \$50,000.00 per day and provide your own aircraft! Got a 747 lying around?

However, You Didn't Come To Us, We're Coming To You! So to make this reasonable for everyone not just the Big Boys, we took the average income of this magazine's reader and came up with a price that everyone can easily afford. However, this price is only for a limited time, and that would be just \$129.95 US! or \$149.95 Intl. We have also added our 78 page Power Point Presentation on Aviation Security and that is worth \$75.95! So not only are you getting the professionally produced BlueSKY TACTICS DVD you're also receiving a digital Power Point Presentation for you further education. Together, it would be \$129.95 plus another \$75.95 making a total of \$165.90 US or \$185.90 Intl. That's about the cost of a nice dinner for two and all that will do is make you fat! The BlueSKY TACTICS DVD will save your life and others.

Ask yourself, is your life worth \$165.90? We hope you think it is, and in order to help you help us introduce this we are going to give the first 500 buyers a **HUGE DISCOUNT!** Plus we'll pay for the shipping anywhere! All DVD products come with a 100% 14-day guaranteed against defects of any kind.

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SEEKING INFORMATION

Abu Mus'ab Al-Zarqawi



Aliases: Ahmad Fadil Al-Khalaylah, Ahmad Fadil Al-Khalayleh, Ahmad Fadil Al-Khalailah, Abu Ahmad, Abu Muhammad, Sakr Abu Suwayd

DESCRIPTION

Date of Birth Used:	October 30, 1966	Hair:	Dark
Place of Birth:	Zarqa, Jordan	Eyes:	Dark
Height:	Unknown	Sex:	Male
Weight:	Unknown	Complexion:	Olive

DETAILS

Al-Zarqawi is sought in connection with numerous terrorist attacks and continuing terrorist threats in Iraq. Al-Zarqawi has been convicted in absentia in Jordan for his role in the murder of a United States diplomat and for a bombing attack on the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq.

REWARD

The Rewards for Justice Program, United States Department of State, is offering a reward of up to \$25 million for information leading directly to the apprehension or conviction of Abu Mus'ab Al-Zarqawi.

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE OR THE NEAREST AMERICAN EMBASSY OR CONSULATE.

ROBERT S. MUELLER, III
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535
TELEPHONE: (202) 324-3000

What The World's Most Dangerous Federal Agent Knows About Filthy, Illegal, Real-World Lethal Hand-to-Hand Combat... That You Don't Yet.

Are you finally ready to discover why the government's most trusted ass-kicker chooses to use only 5 amazingly versatile (but still stomach-churningly violent) moves during his frequent "do or die" hand-to-hand fights?

This could be your ONLY chance to see why his military and government superiors secretly call him "Dr. Violence"... and learn the handful of super-lethal moves and tactics he relies on in the field.

Best part: You can see everything for FREE, if you choose... AND I will pay you \$10 for your time, out of my own pocket, if you're not blown away by what you discover...

(Dateline: Washington, DC) -- In a second, I am going to introduce you to Dr. Violence... and your life will not be the same afterward.

I hope you're prepared to have your head spun around. (And if serious violence makes you queasy or scared, then stop reading right now, turn the page or go do something else. Forget all about this.)

First, however... it's important that you understand this really may be the ONLY time you ever get an opportunity to witness this particular kind of super-classified, proven in blood, kick-ass (simple) fighting secrets.

Someone Very High Up Is Very Pissed Off At Us!

I expect our operation to be shut down as soon as they catch wind of this ad you're now reading. So if you're at all interested, don't put this aside.

Here's the story: Our little company has been in the business of annoying and alarming the U.S. government for nearly 17 years now.

We find the most respected, and feared, fighting experts – many of whom are active duty Special Forces or "black bag" agents – and convince them to share their best combat secrets.

Yes, we were that good at discovering the fighting secrets they really, really, REALLY didn't want civilians to even know existed.

For the last few years, however, the government has been USING our materials to help train their top soldiers and agents. We're not the B.S. "official" training that low-level agents get – rather, we're the "first choice" private training

that serious soldiers demand... before heading off for live combat in war zones and other "hot spots" around the globe.

Nevertheless, we're NOT on great terms with the government. *They still wish we'd just go away.* This causes problems sometimes.

Like now.

See, about two months ago I got a phone call that caused me to spit up my coffee. I was sure it was a crank call – there was NO WAY this guy was who he said he was.

So I checked it out... and spit up some more coffee.

The most trusted and respected "official" bone-cruncher in the U.S. government... wanted to share his best fighting secrets with us.

Now, we've filmed many top agents, soldiers and street fighters... including many Spec-Op guys who were still dealing with the U.S. military. (I still have to wipe away a tear thinking about my old friend Tom Carter, a special DELTA operative who was killed in Iraq recently.) (We really do deal only with the Real McCoy here at TRS.)

But THIS guy is the MAIN "go to" federal agent when it comes to... well, to the super-classified stuff the government sometimes has to do.

And can you guess WHY he wanted to share? Because he grew up in the mean streets of southside Chicago, where he had to fight everyday... and he wanted to give other guys like him the tools to bash bullies. And defend yourself easily, with simple-yet-devastating moves that cannot be defended against.



He's a master at several martial arts, and refuses to trash dojo training... BUT... when he's got to take someone out in a lethal situation – which is his government JOB – the gory "blast, disable & put down" moves he actually uses don't even vaguely look like martial arts.

Lethal, if you're up against the wall. Or outnumbered. Or your loved ones are at risk. But also, he wanted to share the really cool "Instant Humiliation" domination moves... that you can pull out whenever you need to just teach someone a lesson, or hold them for the cops.

How good is this stuff?

It's NOT martial arts... though he loves martial arts, and is a black belt in Hapkido and Tae Kwon Do, with deep training in 7 other disciplines.

Still... when he needs to use a move in combat, he *doesn't* use martial arts as you might know it. Instead... well, you'll see. (He's the most bad-ass trainer I've ever encountered – in officially-sanctioned training, he's knocked out hundreds of cadets, because he insists they all know what it's like to have your cage rattled.)

The thing is... despite his love of fancy martial arts, he developed an entirely unique mini-set of proven

moves... which he pulls out when he needs to drop someone, take them out, or dominate the situation.

This Is Easily The Simplest Fighting Technique You've Ever Seen.

Yet... it's also the most *effective*.

I mean... this guy is NOTORIOUS among the people in this world who sometimes have to kill for a living.

So I busted a nut getting the studio ready, the crew prepped... and then had to pull up short. At the last minute, the government told this guy "No". He couldn't share what he knew with us, or any other civilians.

His identity was too precious. They couldn't risk having him "outed" as a federal agent.

"...this guy is NOTORIOUS among the people in this world who sometimes have to kill for a living."

However... we DID figure out a way around this. So...

Meet "Dr. Violence".

We have to keep his real name secret. The higher-ups were VERY specific about this.

Still... let me give you an idea of who this Dr. V is: He's a 23-year military veteran who has served in THREE of the armed services (very rare). Navy... Special Agent with the Air Force top secret (and super elite) special investigations unit... and the Army criminal investigations division.

THIS was the guy chosen to protect the Secretary of Defense, the President (past and current)... as well as to perform the kind of undercover, counter-intelligence stuff that makes Tom Cruise's Mission Impossible character look like a whimp.

This is the guy who really does work for a super-secret top level government security joint... that must never be named.

This joint won't just shut us down. They're capable of shutting us up... forever. So don't take this lightly.

We got Dr. V into the studio (watching over our shoulders the entire time)... and man, oh, man, did we ever score big!

You're gonna LOVE just knowing this

stuff exists. Even better... you will be among the very first (and probably ONLY) civilians ever allowed to see, or use it.

And remember... **because we need to "hit and run" with this promotion, I've arranged it so you can check it out for FREE if you like.**

Plus... I will pay you \$10 if what you see here doesn't absolutely blow your mind.

Here's what you're about to discover:

1. There are two DVDs in this program.

(About two and a half hours of the most blood-curdling fighting techniques and domination tactics you've ever seen. Very basic, yet very advanced... because it works so well.)

2. You don't have to be in shape, and you don't need prior skills.

(The movements you use are the same ones you use

for brushing your hair, hammering a nail, or scratching an itch on your leg.)
You can learn this FAST.

3. In fact, just *watching* the DVDs will give you more raw, powerful fighting ability than learning to use a gun. I mean it.

4. He covers the basics: **Hand, kicks, ground fighting and weapons.**

(Like I said, while he doesn't bash martial arts, he doesn't USE it, either, in the field. These are real-life fighting skills... nothing fancy, nothing difficult... but it's all potentially LETHAL, if that's what you need to save your life.)

5. Dr. V is famous for his "brachial stun" moves – something that many combat instructors (who have never been in actual combat) often insist is impossible.

(That's fine with Dr. V – he doesn't need to prove anything to anyone anymore. His proof is simply that he's USED this move countless times, in real combat... and dropped many, many nasty dudes with it. It's real, it's viciously-effective... and just knowing about it will change the way you move in the world. Learning how to use yourself... will simply make you a more dangerous man.)

6. Much of this stuff is over-the-top nasty...

(because Dr. V has never taught civilians before, and refuses to pretend you

don't deserve the same exact training he gives to agents and soldiers about to go into battle, or under cover in situations where they may have to kill to survive.)

7. He will only show you the 2 ways of holding a knife that actually work – because once blood starts flying, every other grip you've been shown will be too slippery to keep.

8. You can go learn gun disarmament from someone who's never had a gun pointed at them before if you like... but you'd be an idiot. *(Dr. V has looked down the barrel of someone ready to pull the trigger many times... and he's not dead yet. The other guys... well, that's classified.)*

9. Dojo training is great conditioning... but almost nothing you learn there works in the noise and confusion of the street. *(That's why Dr. V keeps everything simple. You will only need to learn and remember around 5 moves, and that's ALL you'll need for the rest of your days... for total protection.)*

10. His defense against knives is totally unique, too. He knows the Filipino knife fighting arts, but *doesn't* use them in the field. **Instead, he gives you the techniques you'll USE to survive, bare handed against a knife.** (He's got the scars to prove that he's done it himself, too.)

11. He developed this unique style of brutal, lethal self-defense because, in all his undercover work, he could NEVER bring along a weapon of any kind. His favorite "drop 'em" tool, actually, is a paperback BOOK. (He particularly likes "The One Minute Manager" – thin, easy to carry and conceal... deadly.)

12. There are no fists in Dr. V's arsenal. He knows, from long experience, that a fist is the best way to break your hand. Instead, he shows you 4 ways to demolish an opponent without every clenching your fist for a second.

13. Fact: It only take 3 to 5 pounds of pressure to kill a man. But this isn't "Ninja" style fighting – rather, it's American street. Nasty. Fast. Lots of blood and pain inflicted... and bullies change into scared punks in blinks.

14. How good is this stuff? Dr. V regularly VOLUNTEERS for the hottest duty overseas – especially the military drug raids in places like Turkey. And he prefers to be the "point man" during raids – first in, last out. Without a weapon, he just goes in and wrecks the joint. That's why getting a chance to learn these secrets is so

important (and why the government wants to shut us down).

15. I've seen surveillance videos, by the way, of the "stun" in action. A simple move so fast, it's just a blur... and the bad ass opponent just crumples into a dozing pile. **Sort of like the Vulcan Death Grip... but REAL.** (Since NO civilians even have a clue this move even exists, it's your **SECRET WEAPON**... if you'll just take advantage of the short-cut learning process Dr. V is offering.)

16. When he's protecting presidents and first ladies and secretaries of state, he CAN'T take down the bad guys like he wants - can't risk a scandal on the six o'clock news. For me, however, these radically cool "stealth" moves... that silently and quickly put anyone you want into total compliance (they'll dance and lick dirt if you want)... are one of the highlights of this revolutionary training. Knowing lethal moves is fine... but in my world, I want to have the option of just putting the bad guy under my control until I decide what to do with them. Dr. V's tactics fit the ticket precisely.

17. His ground fighting tactics are different than anything you've seen in the street or the cage. This is what people in the field use, when there really AREN'T any rules. He's trained in ju-jitsu, but doesn't use any of it in the field. Instead, he uses these simpler, slightly more crude, but amazingly effective new moves.

Look, I could go on and on... but time is short here.

I literally expect to get shut down here, as soon as word gets out about these DVDs.

However, there's still time for you to check them out yourself. We always use total confidentiality here, so your privacy is guaranteed.

But you must act fast.

Here's what to do now: If you want to see them, without risk, just call my office toll-free line:

1-800-899-8153

Tell the operator you want "Dr. V's DVDs".

If you do NOT want to see these DVDs... you know, like if you're nuts or something... then do not call.

Your choice.

When you call, you can use your credit card. You don't risk a penny, but you need to let us process your card for the full price of \$97.

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that, however.

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I can afford to be so generous, because this is the REAL THING. I know, if I can just get these DVDs into your hands... you're not giving them up for any reason. This is nasty, real, and very cool fighting knowledge.

At the very worst, you come out \$10 ahead. AND, you will have SEEN the entire training of Dr. V. Essentially, you will have seen it for FREE.

This is a great deal.

But you need to jump on it right now. There aren't enough for everyone who will want one... so don't wait.

Call right now.

Yours for kicking some serious butt,


Bob Pierce

P.S. You can fill out and mail the

Priority Order Form below if you'd rather pay by check or money order. But you must hurry.

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Guys Who Know**

"Dr. V delivers. It's so obvious that this guy has been there and done all of this. He cuts straight through the crap and delivers what truly works. Awesome DVD! I've got hundreds and this is my all time favorite cause it's real."

Alec M.P.

"I've watched this DVD 3 times in a couple of days and it is outstanding!"

Russell Empey

"I can't recommend this DVD enough."

Brian Fresisinger

"There are no other words to describe, this DVD is an excellent training material... for anyone who is serious about his combat training. Awesome!"

Vadim Dobrin

"The information is priceless. Everyone that I have shown the video to are awe struck, including myself."

Steve Montgomery

"Every fight I've ever been in I've been embarrassed because it looked so sloppy compared to my training. My friends even give me a bad time. I appreciate Dr. V coming clean on the difference between "style" or traditional training vs. what happens when your slugging it out with some jerk in the bar or on the street. I didn't know how to explain it, but here's a seasoned pro at 7 different styles who throws it all out the window when it's time to go at it. This makes it simple. Thanks for the reality check."

Steve Hulbert, Stockton CA

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I prefer to pay with my credit card; Please charge my: Enclosed is my Check or Money Order (payable to TRS), for \$104 (\$97 + 7 S/H).

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Sniper Shootout At Tel Afar

The castle of Tel Afar, a haven for locals against the insurgents. (inset) Tools: The M107 .50 rifle is perfectly suited for sniper duels.



Old Castle; New Weapons

Text and Photos
by M.J. Breham

Sniper Team One watched with interest through the scope of their M107 .50 rifle, as ant-like teams of insurgents carried load after load of weapons and munitions from a house a thousand yards away, to a cache or staging area in nearby deep woods. Now, this was a target worthy of servicing, and one that once engaged, resulted in a hornet's nest of return fire from all over the city – aimed at the sniper's OP in the old castle.

10 August 2005 brought members of 2/3 Armored Cavalry Regiment what would prove to be an interesting – and fruitful – assignment: Four soldiers would be conducting a Sniper Observation Post for the city of Tel Afar.

Tel Afar is west of Mosul, and about 25 miles from the Syrian border, and has been a breeding ground for insurgency and foreign-fighter terrorism directed against U.S. troops. Lying in this city of some 200,000 souls are some of the worst conditions for urban warfare: tight alleyways that

are so close that compact cars can't make it thru, three-story houses that overlook the very streets that U.S. personnel patrol, hidden tunnels that connect entire neighborhoods, hidden caches of both heavy and light machine guns, RPGs, and the constant danger of very sophisticated and carefully hidden Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Four members of an already small Infantry Mortar Platoon, would conduct the first Sniper OP. The Mortar Platoon had two sniper-qualified NCOs, who would conduct the OP for 36 hrs, along with two spotters, observing key intersections of the town from the growing spread of IED's, and observe a graveyard where a foreign fighter (Syrian) mortar team had been launching mortars with deadly accuracy. Inside the city was an ancient castle built in the early 1600's. The castle is now home to about 25 Shiite families, so scared and threatened by the terrorists that they never left the high ground of the city, in fear of

their lives. Also inside the castle was a newly formed Iraqi Police Station.

The four-member team set out, loading their body armor, gear, two M107 (.50 cal) sniper rifles inside one Humvee. The team would be in a convoy already set to patrol the city, and as the convoy patrolled the neighborhood near the castle, the sniper team would peel off and covertly enter the gates quickly, under cover of the dust storm the other vehicles in the convoy created, so any insurgent spotters would not see the team enter the castle.

Old Castle, New Weapons

Inside the castle, Team One would set up in the south-west corner, observing two key intersections to the west, and a thick forest to the south, believed to harbor caches of weapons and artillery shells. Team Two would have one member observing the graveyard and an area of city full of foreign fighters, and countless insurgents that wanted nothing more to do



(left) A local leader takes Mortar Platoon to the graveyard of buried insurgents. (below) Map from castle

than to harm or disrupt the American presence in the city. The other member of the team would stay with the Humvee, monitor the radios, assist sniper two, and from his position he would monitor two key intersections to the north, to observe any possible IED's being planted.

At 1735, Team One observed an insurgent gang moving RPG's, RPK and PKC machine guns, ammunition, and loads of AK's from a house 1000 meters to the south, into the dense forest, returning to the house empty handed, just to carry more weapons to the forest again. Team One's spotter alerted Team Two via ICOM radio about the relocation of such deadly weapons in the forest. Team Two's sniper collapsed to move up and assist the other team, while the spotter alerted the command headquarters on the radio inside the Humvee. Upon entering the south-west position, Team Two's sniper also observed the constant flow of insurgents moving weapons from a house to the forest and returning for more. Checking the distance with a new range-finding bino, (VECTOR, which are fixed power binoculars that can also measure distance and give the operator the grid to the object observed) and also measured the distance using the mil-dot formula. Both gave the distance of the front door of the house at 998 meters.

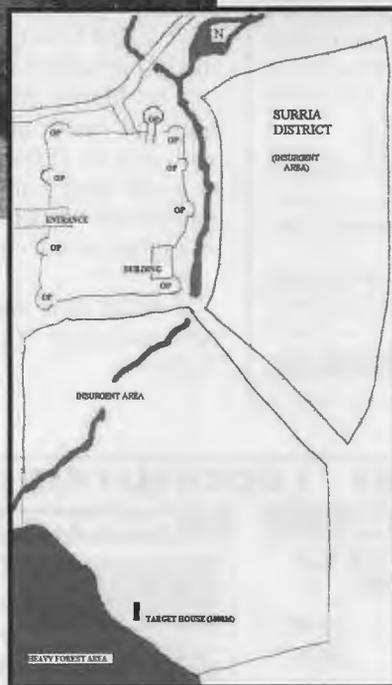
Engagement and Counter Fire

As Team Two's radio operator gave

the snipers the "green light" to fire, Team One started dialing in and firing. As the teams opened fire on the insurgents, incoming enemy fire was directed against the castle. Insurgents from all parts of city began firing their weapons at the castle.

Team One's sniper laid his sights on the weapon movers, while his spotter continued security for the sniper against any insurgent's who were directing enemy fire at the deafening M107. Some of the enemy fired just 100 meters away from the position. Sniper Two contacted his radio operator, to advise higher of the situation. 2/3 ACR's come back to this was "Would you like fire support?"

Sniper Two pulled out his map, and plotted a grid safely inside the forest area, that would shake up any of the insurgents inside the forest. After plotting the grid and relaying the info to the radio operator, small arms fire from the enemy stopped, and Sniper Two collapsed down to the Humvee to keep higher up's informed of the situation. As two Howitzers fired High Explosives, Sniper Two kept in contact with Team one via the ICOM to



advise them of when the shells would impact, and would need the input from Team One for Observer Corrections.

The first two 155mm HE rounds impacted, way to the west of the grid called in, Team One's spotter called for a correction on the ICOM. Using the map and the correction that Team One called in, Team Two made a correction to a correction to keep the adjusting round safely inside the forest (creating a safety fan). Even with the impacting 155 shells, and .50 cal rounds dropping their buddies, and punching holes in steel doors from 1000 meters away, the insurgents continued to make their cache runs to the forest!

Two more 155mm HE rounds came screaming in. Even though a safe correction was given to the cannons, for some miraculous reason from above, this rounds impacted into the house that the insurgents were entering and exiting! Team Two called a cease fire for do to the threat of innocents being harmed. And at the same time, all insurgent activity stopped from that

area! Sniper One realized that he needed to refill one of his ten round magazines that he had emptied and was now laying at his feet. His spotter realized that he needed a new magazine for his M4 that he had used to stop the insurgents 100 meters to his front, who had taken some very close shots directed at Team One.

With [Ineffectual] Help From Their Friends

Through out the rest of the hours of the OP, the Teams received countless small arms fire from the east, west, north, and south. The shots were close, always impacting around the teams, impacting the mighty castle walls, which have stood the test of countless wars in the city -- from bows and arrows, to bullets and mortars. Up to the last few hours of the OP, the Sniper team took fire, and dished it

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back out, letting the city know that any insurgent hiding behind walls was no match for the M107.

After a city-wide assault from 3rd Armored Cavalry in September, insurgency was at a standstill for several weeks. During a routine patrol in the city, the Mortar Platoon visited the house where the cache was being moved out of on August 10th. Using two different GPS systems (Military Precision Lightweight Global Positioning Receiver System, PLGPR, and Garmin E-Trex) that had recorded the southern OP in the castle, the distance to the insurgent's house was 998 to 1001 meters. A local leader met the Mortar Platoon and showed them the southern graveyard where five men were killed by sniper fire, and six had died from mortar fire.

The Mortar platoon would later find the cache in the forest, along with several IED's rigged to explode at a call from a phone, along with a mortar system that was recently fired at a target in the city. ✕

Coming soon, more stories from *Tel Afar*, including "Operation Restoring Rights."

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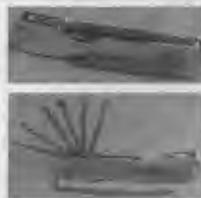
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Thunder

In The Hills

Knob Creek is Bigger and Better Than Ever!

(They Have Their Mecca, and We Have Ours)

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston



Early spring is an especially beautiful time in Kentucky. The red bud trees are in vivid pinkish purple, as other leaves are beginning to sprout. Wild life abounds after dormant winter months, with many bird species migrating north.

This is Bible-Belt country, filled with God-fearing folks who are proud to be patriotic Americans. As I drove west on winding Route 44 my eyes kept drifting to the familiar beauty of this hill country south of Louisville, "Loovul," as it is pronounced there, and I almost forgot why I had come back...Almost.

This was early April and time for the Spring Machinegun Shoot at the Knob Creek Range and, like thousands of others, I had made this annual migration to see it again. Not far from Fort Knox, the Knob Creek Range is a former U.S. Navy testing facility built during World War II. Today it is owned and operated as a shooting club by Kenny Sumner and his family. The former operations center is now a pro-shop with offices and cafeteria and the observation deck on the roof is now used by civilians who want to get a better view of the firing line just a few feet away.



Nestled between three small mountains, the range is an ideal location for firing everything from .22 rimfires to cannons, and these and everything in between come to Knob Creek. During the event, targets include junk cars and trucks, old boats, hot water heaters, bathtubs – you name it. Placed a couple of hundred years down range, the larger targets often contain cans of alcohol to be ignited by tracers or API projectiles to add realism to the pilgrimage of hundreds of shooters who have bought and saved up ammunition just for the occasion.

(top) Knob Creek's night shoot was the extravaganza everyone waited for. (left top) Johnston caught Cobb Manufacturing's Skip Patel lighting up the range with Jerry Tarble's minigun. (middle) Dressed in German camouflage, this shooter empties a WW II MP44 down range. (bottom) Early in the Vietnam War, the U.S. Navy used BAR's as helicopter door guns. Today they're used at Knob Creek. (above) Cannons were plentiful as always and in the size of your choice.



M2HB or M240? Have it your way.

This year there were more classic World War I-vintage heavy water-cooled machine guns on the line than I have ever seen before, and it was truly a thrill to see them being fired, but they were not alone. World War II light machinegun (LMG) belts danced like snakes as German MG 34s & 42s raked the targets and mountainsides, spewing empty casings, first covering the ground and then turning into piles to be periodically shoveled away.

However, LMGs of other heritage were not far behind, with Japanese Type 99s, Soviet PKMs, RPDs and RPKs taking their share of the firing line, as well as British BRENs and U.S. .30-caliber 1919s, not to mention .50-caliber M2HB Brownings. Modern LMGs included HK 23s and FN M240, M249 and M248 guns, but the guns that probably got more attention than any others were the 7.62mm NATO miniguns. Powered by electric motors, their six barrels spun in a single blur while spitting out some 3,000 rounds per minute, leaving a single ball of flame hanging in front of the muzzles and empty brass and links flowing like water, as they were ejected beneath.

My friend, Skip Patel, of COBB Mfg. and I took turns firing one of the miniguns owned by another friend, Jerry Tarble, President of JAY TEE's Specialty Guns. Jerry is one of the world's great experts on the Stoner 63 and 63A Systems and deals in these rare treasures. Skip and I took turns taking pictures of each other behind the spade grips of the minigun, a rare opportunity for almost anyone.

Dillon Precision currently manufactures the minigun for the U.S. Military. No longer limited to door guns on helicopters, miniguns have

made their way onto U.S. Navy ships and U.S. Army combat vehicles in the Global War On Terrorism. I hope Dillon will remain extremely busy during the GWOT.

Many Vendors

Although watching a couple dozen half-hour shoots would probably be plenty of fun for everyone, Knob Creek isn't limited to trigger time. With an enormous pole barn not far from the range, the shoot also hosts a huge gun show. Here there are all the usual firearms including antiques, as well as parts and accessories, but at Knob Creek there are naturally more machineguns for sale as well as spare parts to keep them running.

There were many new products at the shoot, including spade grips for the M16 from parts manufacturer KNS, of Texas. Skip Patel took particular interest in these for his .50 BMG rifles. Valkyrie Arms, of Washington, brought its new 5.56x45mm NATO caliber Rotary Gatling style gun. This hand-cranked gun will be followed by one in 7.62mm and one in .50 BMG.

One company I lost track of a decade ago was also at the show, and this was Miracle Products International, of Wisconsin. This outfit makes the best wood finish, gun blue, brass and copper cleaner I've ever used, and a dozen other things to boot. Boy, was I glad to see them!

At the show I saw old friends, such as Bob Landies, of Ohio Ordnance, Kent Lomont, of Lomont Precision Bullets, Neal Smith, Steve Lauer, of Lauer Custom Weapons, John Tibbetts, of John's Guns, Jack, Teresa and Jesse Starnes, of DoubleStar, Dave Salvagio, of DSA, Inc. and many more. The designer of the semi-automatic 1918 SLR and VZ2000, Bob Landies is working on some exciting new projects, as well as devoting much time and energy to weapons development in the GWOT. In addition to making bullets, Kent Lomont deals in rare collector machineguns and other firearms, as does Neal Smith. Steve Lauer builds sound suppressors and is the founder of DuraCoat gun finish, John Tibbetts designs and builds sound suppressors and deals in modern weapons. The parent company of J&T Distributing, DoubleStar specializes in custom AR-15 style rifles and carbines, upper receiver groups and parts and accessories and Dave Salvagio covers the entire gamut of Class III firearms and accessories.



(1) Among the many guns Kent Lomont brought was a near-new WW I French Hotchkiss heavy machinegun. (2) Long-time dealer in rare firearms, Neal Smith was on hand with plenty of them, along with an even-rarer 100-lb meteor. (3) If you're in the market for a giant hand grenade, bigskysurplus.com has 'em, and lots more. (4) John Tibbetts, of John's Guns, had a fine selection of his suppressed weapons. (5) Looking for a 5.56mm Gatling Gun? Valkyrie Arms makes one. They'll soon have a 7.62mm, and .50 BMG versions are in the works too.



(background) When it was all over, it took hours for the smoke to clear. *(top right)*

(left) This proud father watches as his son fires an M1919 .30 caliber LMG. Knob Creek is a family affair. *(left)* Brass pollution, a constant problem. *(right)* Steve Lauer showed off several new tough Duracoat finishes. It doesn't get much better than this.

Also present was Dolf Goldsmith with plenty of copies of his new book, *The Browning Machine Gun, Vol. II*. Every bit as interesting as Volume I, this book is a must for all students of firearms. Dolf is now working on Volume III, which I'm told will cover the many accessories for these guns, and I'm told there will be a Volume IV on the .50 caliber Browning Machine Guns. These are available from Collector Grade Publications.

With the Big Barn no longer big enough to house the many new vendors who come to Knob Creek, there were almost as many around it in big circus-style tents. It took me two days

dors are so busy at their booths and tables that most never get a chance to get on the firing line anymore. However, I've known some of them for 30 years through many Knob Creeks and they've "been there, done that, got the T-shirt and the cap pin." Nevertheless some are bound and determined to get out and shoot, especially when it's a brand new gun.

While at the shoot, Kent Lomont

and I had the opportunity to test fire two samples of COBB Manufacturing's new Modular Combat Rifle (MCR) System, one in .30-06 and one in .7.62x51mm NATO. An AR-style system, the MCR is selective fire or semi-automatic, and is designed around a modular magazine well concept using a common fire control group for all calibers from 9x19mm up to .338 Lapua. The MCR will be the subject of a future article for *SOF* along with

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(left) How about spade grips on an M16 or any gun using this system? Think about it – KNS Precision did and the possibilities are exciting. (right) The cocking handle flies as this young man fires a WW-I 1908 Maxim water-cooled heavy machinegun.

COBB's 50BA repeating rifle.

Shots in the Dark

As great as the daytime machinegun shooting is at Knob Creek, the night shoot is the frosting on the cake. This is really what everyone saves his tracer and API ammunition for, and it makes for a great extravaganza. Opening the show was a team of men with WW II-vintage U.S. Military flame-throwers who set fire to about 50 yards of dirt an equal distance from the firing line, but the crowd could still feel the warmth from it, short lived as it was.

When the flame-throwers were safe behind the firing line, all shooters were allowed to man their guns and waited for the Range Officer to give the "Ready, Aim, Fire" command over the loud speaker. When he did, muzzles erupted with fire and tracers, 5-gallon propane tanks placed out about 75 to 100 yards began exploding to send dramatic fireballs high into the air. As mini guns sprayed the hillsides, their tracers performed an orange ballet in the darkness before ricocheting against the dirt.

This is probably the most fast and furious emptying of belts and magazines of the entire Knob Creek shoot

and what the thousand or so folks in the audience can see on the darkened line is more than made up for down range. Lulls in the shooting only take as long as necessary to load another belt or magazine and its back into action.

Other Doings

Not limited to machinegun shooting (if the word, "limited," makes any sense in this context), the Knob Creek shoot hosts a number of competitive matches within easy walking distance in the valley just to the south. These consist of IDPA/IPSC type pistol matches, and tactical courses. There's also a smaller 100-yard range for informal shooting of handguns and rifles.

Reverence, Family and Country

A unique quality of Knob Creek is that every morning and following lunch breaks, a prayer is offered over the loud speakers for our friends, family, freedoms and troops fighting for them. This is followed by the singing of the Star Bangle Banner by a young lady with a beautiful voice who I never got to meet. I suspect that this on top of a weekend shooting machineguns would have been enough to

drive the ACLU and other leftists out of the county. If the ACLU defended the Second Amendment with the fervor it does the others American might be forced to own guns.

Having been held for nearly three decades, the Knob Creek Machine Gun Shoot is the granddaddy of them all and is a must-see event for anyone who can attend. Held twice each year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall, this three-day family affair is one you'll never forget. For information on their next machinegun shoot, contact the Knob Creek Range, 690 Ritchey Lane, Dept. SOF, West Point, KY 40177, phone: 502-922-4457, on the web at www.machinegunshoot.com ✖

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Johnston's long-time friend, Robert I. Landies, of Ohio Ordnance Works, and his daughter, Elizabeth, brought some great guns to sell.

Testing Some Good New Products

Farnam's Gunslinger Diary

By John Farnam

Robinson Arms XCR

We conducted an Urban Rifle Program in Indiana this week. I had my first chance to use my copy of the XCR.

As expected, this .223 rifle digested all brands of .223, including steel-case, without a hiccup. All were impressed by the smoothness of its cycle, its snappy trigger reset, smooth lines, and ease of operation. It is short, light, and handy, a gas-pistol rifle nearly as light as an AR-15. Folding stock is smooth operating and comfortable. Flash suppressor is integral.

The non-reciprocating bolt handle still functions as a forward-assist. The manual safety won't go into the "on" position when the hammer is down. This is an important safety feature, also incorporated into the AR-15.

All my instructors marveled at the ease with which the XCR field strips.

My friend, Alex Robinson, has, once again, displayed his design genius. I predict a bright future for this wonderful system. Available now in .223, but a .308 version will be coming along shortly. I can't say enough about it. This rifle is going places!

FirstLight Flashlight

Also at the Defensive Pistol Course, my instructors and I had the opportunity to evaluate the FirstLight flashlight during actual shooting exercises. Jeremy Ross, president of the company, graciously brought down several samples for us all to use during our low-light shooting.

We all really like this product! It is a powerful, LED flashlight that attaches to the back of one's support hand via a strap. It enables one to shoot a pistol via his normal grip, and yet have a flashlight instantly available to search

and illuminate the downrange area. It is out of the way, yet instantly accessible. I found it eminently usable with the handgun, but I like it even more when used with a rifle or shotgun.

It puts light, on demand, downrange, right on line with the barrel. But. The unit is attached to the shooter, not the gun! One can perform all the things he does with an attached flashlight, without having to physically affix the flashlight to the gun. Light and gun can be joined when necessary, yet instantly separated when not. Permanently attaching flashlights to guns, as I've noted in the past, carries with it all kinds of problems.

Intensity is adjustable, but, on full power, it seems as bright as my Gladius.

This is something all police need to look into!

S&W's M&P Pistol

I now have my own copy of S&W's M&P Pistol, in 40S&W. As promised, it came to me with night sights and without a magazine safety. I am carrying it now, in a Comp-Tac, C-Tac IWB holster, and I find it comfortable and eminently carryable (concealed). No sharp corners or edges. Everything on the M&P is smooth, the way a serious gun should be.

For the spare magazine carrier, I'm using one designed for my SIG229/DAK/357SIG. It works fine. I just had to open it up a slight amount. The M&P's magazines are ever so slightly wider than those for my SIG. There is little doubt that a "compact" version of the M&P will be out next year, specifically targeted toward the concealed-carry market. This current version of the M&P is pointedly targeted toward the uniformed police, and duty

market.

Compared with my SIG 229, the M&P is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch longer, but nearly the same in all other dimensions. The M&P's grip is slightly longer (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) than my 229s, but the M&P is a 15-shooter, where my 229 is a 13-shooter.

The M&P comes with adjustable grip panels, and I've personally gravitated to the smallest option (one has a choice of "Small," "Medium," and "Large," and all three options come with every pistol). Thus set up, the grip is similar to my 229s, but it surely feels smaller! Vicki finds the M&P eminently useable with the small grip option, nearly unusable with the bigger options.

Compared with my G38, the M&P is only $\frac{1}{4}$ inch longer, but the M&P's grip is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch longer.

The M&P is slightly shorter than my Detonics 9-11-01, and the grip lengths of both are the same. The Detonics is, of course, the flatter of the two.

S&W finally has a mainstream, flagship pistol worthy of their name. I predict the M&P will boldly step forward and take its rightful place in the American police handgun market.

I like mine! ✖

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"Will Your Subconscious Repulsion To Taking Another Man's Life Make You The 'Statistic' In A Life-or-Death Assault?"

You May 'Think' You Can Do It But Odds Are... You're DEAD Wrong!

Picture two people, locked in mortal combat. Now, imagine yourself in this scene, tell me, "What would you do?" (Hint: It's most likely wrong!)

"Kick him in the groin." "Strike his arms or punch the solar plexus." "Stomp on his instep"

The list is always the same.

Everyone comes up with things that'll "turn the tables" on this guy, stuff that'll somehow get them out of the situation.

Unfortunately... each answer puts your life at risk in the face of a life-or-death assault!

Why? Because invariably when Tim Larkin asks students this question at his *Target-Focus™ Training (TFT)* bootcamps...

No One — Not Even Trained Martial Artists — Ever Sees Themselves As The One Doing The Choking!!

They're always the one being choked.

But think about it... couldn't this have been the scenario?

You are surprised by two attackers. You've completely disabled the first and now have control of the second and are about to put him totally out of commission...

Possible? Of course. It's just that no one sees it this way. It's human nature. We shy from victory, from domination. It's the way most of us are built... unless you're a criminal...

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.

And that IS the problem. With thinking like that...

You've Just Transferred Your Own Moral Code To A Sociopathic Killer... And With It, Quite Possibly, Your Life.

See, nothing bothers him. Certainly not your morals. With a total disregard for society and it's rules, he has no regret whatsoever in cramming a blade into your gut... to get what he wants.

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...

"Violence Is Rarely The Answer. But When It Is... It's The Only Answer."

Look... others in Black Belt try to impress you with how bad they are; their accomplishments in the "secret world" you aren't privy to; their guru status.

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

It's about a system... one that's focused totally on you!

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.

But why is this so important? Why is TFT being sought out in all these other arenas?

Because it works! Because you "get it" immediately. Not after weeks or months or even years of training... but **right now**... as soon as you experience it. And...

Not Only Is It Usable... Instantly... But Just Like Riding A Bicycle It Stays With You Forever... Even If You Never Practice It Again!

Here's why: the key lies in the fact this is the only system based **totally** on the PRINCIPLES (not techniques) that determine the outcome of any physical confrontation. Combine these with three supporting methodologies that form the foundation of every fighting system on the planet and you have a **complete system** usable by ANYone for handling ANY violent confrontation. With this information you can look at anything out there... including your own training... and know immediately if it's worth keeping.

"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 deadly 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.

Not only does this new series take you inside the criminal mind, it goes way beyond... showing you how and why you must first learn to USE a weapon... if you ever hope to defeat a criminal using it against you! Highly unconventional and extremely controversial it teaches you how to get your focus off the weapon... and onto defeating the **REAL** threat.

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.

It's Very Easy To Ramp This Down To Fit A Lesser Situation But It's Impossible To Ramp Up And Kill Someone If You've Never Trained For It!

Some will be shocked, dismayed, offended and **outraged that anyone would dare show this stuff**. They'll raise a stink... and do everything possible to get this yanked. But better you see this on video than experience it first-hand on the street!

Everything you'll see here is vintage TFT. You learn to hurt someone very quickly (every sequence shows killing movements right from the start). There's no size, speed or quickness required. Anyone can learn this because it's based on principles not some guru's skills.

Guys that have been in the trenches for years are blown away by the simple brutality and effectiveness of this system and the competence of Larkin's instructors, including their knowledge of anatomy and how to inflict trauma on the human body.

Each averages 10 years of training and surprisingly most aren't 'jocks'. Many have advanced degrees; five hold PhD's! His advisory board includes two medical doctors who assure everything you see about inflicting trauma on the human body is totally accurate.

"With this system: 1) You will learn what Larkin says you will learn, and 2) The course is exactly as advertised — intense, targeted, focused training designed to produce immediate results." Mark D. Fabiani, Crisis Mgt Consultant, La Jolla, CA

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!

* * NEW FREE DVD * *

Listen. I understand you may find this hard to believe. That's how I felt too until I saw the videos. Unfortunately there's not room here to adequately describe the **shocking reality of what Larkin has created for you**. That's why he's willing to mail you a FREE Special Report and put a FREE DVD (all you pay is a small \$4.97 shipping & handling charge for the DVD) into your hands that'll **prove everything you've just read** and explain why this program is **so radically DIFFERENT** from anything you've seen.

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America's Forgotten Allies

Review by Jim Morris



The communist payback for the Montagnards' believing the promises of their American allies? "Re-education."

Recently, I got a flat DVD box in the mail. I opened it, and found a disc with a video presentation called *America's Forgotten Allies*.

Watching this video was heartbreaking, for a lot of reasons. It was the story of the Montagnards of South Vietnam and their relationship with the Americans during the Vietnam War, and the revenge taken on them by the Vietnamese after we left.

Probably the most heartbreaking thing in it for me was a simple still photo, a portrait shot of Nay Luette, Minister of Ethnic Minorities when Vietnam fell. I had three Montagnard friends who were as close to me as any American I fought with in Vietnam, and one of them was Luette. So, where others may see a simple head shot I see a lot of other stuff. The Special Forces team of which I was XO was the most successful team in the Highlands at that time, which was the first six months of 1964. Luette pulled off our best operation, and he pulled it off alone. All we did, all I did actually, was send him out.

Luette was a dour man, and the worst driver I ever met. He only worked for us part time, as an intelligence agent. His regular gig was as a driver for the USAID guy. He had just been released from four years in prison, as part of what was known as the Bajaraka Movement, for political equality for the Montagnard people. Luette had been part of a delegation that took the Montagnard grievances to then President Ngo Dinh Diem. He had them immediately jailed, and they were only freed as part of a general amnesty when Diem was assassinated and replaced by ... hard to remember. South Vietnam had a new premier just about every two weeks for

a while there.

Anyway, I sent Luette out on an intelligence-gathering mission. The stupid, corrupt and cowardly district chief of Phu Tuc district had a prisoner, but was too craven to exploit him. Luette borrowed the prisoner, and a squad. With that he walked all night in enemy territory and captured two prisoners. One was the Viet Cong civil administrator of a region that encompassed six provinces of the Republic of Vietnam; the other was his bodyguard, a VC master sergeant. He was the most important VC prisoner captured in the past four years.

The district chief stuck him up and took the prisoner back. We had a hell of a row with the province chief about it.

That story isn't in the video, but it all washed over me when I saw Luette's photo.

What is in the video is the story of how Luette offered to set up a resistance movement when Vietnam fell. The American Charge' made nice noises and Luette thought we would back them. As a result, the Montagnards fought on for 10 years after the Americans left, based on that implied promise.

That story is told by Ed Sprague, retired SF Master Sergeant, another friend, now gone. Ed was one of the great ones, and his death was another heartbreaker.

But another story not in the video is how Luette died, in an education camp. I'm not going to tell the whole story, but I will give you one quote from the camp commander. "This Montagnard's supposed to have such a big brain. Let's have a look at it."

I'm not going to talk anymore about what's not in the video. It's an hour

video that covers 50 years of history. There's a lot left out, but the theft of Montagnard lands after we left, the torture and jailing of our allies, the sterilization of their women, the suppression of peaceful demonstrations, the suppression of Protestant Christianity among the Montagnards are there.

It's quite an education for the people who think our departure from Vietnam was a good deal for the people of that country. And another heartbreaking waltz down memory lane for those of us who were there.

It is produced by Scott Johnson, an American living in Australia, who is currently the most active supporter of the Montagnard cause. It features the work of Kok Ksor of the Montagnard Foundation, Inc., a former fighter in our Strike Forces, who became a captain in the Cambodian Army, and was here to attend a military school when Phnom Penh fell.

How his family got out is a miraculous story that is in the video. Also in the video is Kok getting the news that the Vietnamese had just beaten his 80-year-old mother, solely because she was his mother.

For further info, visit www.marcom.com.au ✕

Jim Morris is a former Special Forces officer who served three tours in Vietnam and covered eight wars for SOF in the '80s. His non-fiction books, War Story, Fighting Men and The Devil's Secret Name are available from St. Martin's press. His novel Above and Beyond is available from www.realwarstories.com. RKB gives two thumbs up and five and 1/2 stars.



Machine gunners of Easy Company. *1st Lt Benny Cockerham, center, was awarded the Purple Heart in June 2004; was KIA by an IED on 25 October 2004 on his second combat tour.*

WARLORD:

No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy

Leathernecks Fight Their Way Through Latafiyah

From *WARLORD* by Illario Pantano with Malcolm McConnell. Copyright © 2006 by Illario Pantano. Reprinted by permission of Threshold Editions, an Imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc., NY

Latafiyah, Iraq, April 11, 2004

While we consolidated, the Muj stepped up their fire, from the factory they had retreated to about 200 meters to the west along the south side of Route Temple, and from their other positions north of us. But heavy machine-gun fire from our trucks and CAAT vehicles suppressed the enemy right across Temple. Staff Sergeant Glew did not hesitate. As I bounded up the stairs of the garage, Glew and 2nd Squad leader "Cujo" Aguirre dashed across the street with their men and did a classic, well-disciplined

building entry, shooting high and low to eliminate any stay-behinds.

On the second floor of the garage, Sergeant Word brought me to one of the corner rooms overlooking the main highway. Hot 7.62 mm PKM machine-gun brass littered the floor. Shards of concrete from our incoming fire crunched under my boots. Word handed me a Thuraya satellite phone he'd found in the room. I used to provide these to my journalist teams going to Afghanistan, I thought. A repetitive sequence of digits flickered on the small rectan-

gular display. Middle Eastern Service...979...4548...979...4548...

That had been the trigger code for the last IED. Or was it for the next one?

I flipped open the back of the handset and shucked out the battery. The display went dark.

The Muj dropping their satellite phone proved that we had taken them by surprise. Always attack into an ambush. I looked around the room again. A stained blanket. Some dirty cooking pots. What was that along the walls? There were piles of dried-up turds in

All we had to do now was hang in there until reinforced. All the Muj had to do was overrun us and hack off our heads for an Al Jazeera commercial.

here. They had been waiting for days to hit that long Army convoy. And they probably figured knocking out those lowboys had been payday. But we'd already made them pay double, at least five or 10 KIAs among the ambushers against one KIA driver and a bunch of wounded soldiers.

There was no time to celebrate. I wanted our M240 machine guns and SAWs on the flat roofs of both buildings that we held. Those weapons together with some M203s would give us a dominant position.

I passed the word to Staff Sergeant Glew on the ICOM, grabbed the longer-range PRC 119 encrypted radio in its backpack, and headed up to the roof myself. The sun was a weight on my head and shoulders. A mix of stinking exertion-and-adrenaline sweat rose from beneath the collar of my flak jacket. The oil fire up the road roared like a crazy blast furnace. Small arms fire cracked, and machine guns pounded.

Through this noise, Fox Six called to announce he was moving vehicles down to my POZ.

Hold The Line

"Easy Three Actual," Captain Bairstow said, "I'll set up my gun trucks on the east side of Jackson and roust out any enemy that try to counter-

attack from that direction. You hold Temple."

"Aye, aye, sir."

No sooner had I put down the handset than the low wall surrounding our rooftop position was hit by machine-gun fire from the factory to the west. We dropped behind the concrete at the incoming fire. Heavy 82mm mortar rounds burst around us, and the vehicles on the roads below. If we took a direct hit up here...

Don't think about it. Don't think of your family. You wanted to be here... you had to be here.

Muj In the Attack

We weren't the only ones who understood suppressive fire. "Here they come," Corporal Magdaleno yelled.

To hell with taking cover. The Muj in the factory to the west were trying to pin us down, to protect a vehicle attack. A rusty orange dump truck sped toward us on Temple. From this height I saw that the back of the truck was jammed with RPG gunners.

Just as I was giving the command to hit it, the salty old HIET chief warrant officer who'd decided to ride shotgun on the wrecker cut loose down on Temple with his .50 cal. The armor-piercing ammo tore up the dump truck's cab and sides, ripping the Muj apart, throwing some bodies — and smashed RPGs — onto the pavement. The vehicle spun out of control and slammed into a building down the road.

I couldn't stand up long enough to count the dead Muj because mortar rounds were still exploding nearby.

Now a minivan crammed with Muj swerved toward us, weaving from one side of the road to the other to dodge our fire. The van got close enough for me to see the

men inside clutching AKs and RPGs, crowded in like some kind of sick Keystone Kops circus act.

Lance Corporal Davis, a SAW gunner, fired small pop-pop-pop bursts, hitting the van but not stopping it.

I smacked the Marine on the shoulder. "Put forty rounds into that van, warrior."

"Roger that, sir."

The butt of his 5.56 mm SAW pounded the shoulder of his flak jacket. Two long bursts, three, four. Like the dump truck, the minivan spun out of control and crashed. But there was still motion inside. The SAW fired the same light round as our M16s. It didn't have the stopping power of a heavier weapon like a 240 G. "Hit 'em again," I shouted.

Two SAWs were firing now, punching clusters of bullet holes in the minivan's sides and roof. After five or six more bursts, there was finally no more movement inside.

The mortars fell. Fire came from the factory. And I repositioned my men on the rooftops, so they could cover both Temple and Jackson. I had fewer than 30 Marine infantrymen, half that number in dominating fire positions.

No telling how many Muj were out there, I thought, but it feels like hundreds.

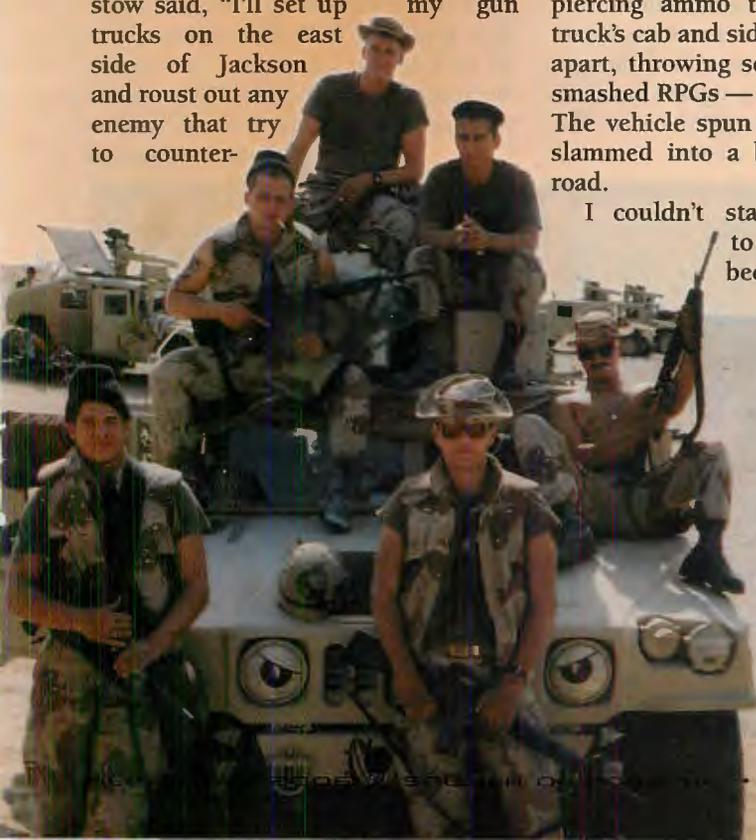
And they knew the terrain, every piss alley and shed around here. They had already shown suicidal courage and tenacity. We had started the mission after 1600 Hours. It would be full night in 90 minutes. I knew they would try to out-flank us, to pin us down with mortars and RPGs while they slipped back into the buildings.

No Respite

The incoming mortars and small arms fire were almost constant. Across Jackson, the burning oil tanks whooshed and rumbled. Oil, I knew, rarely exploded. But what if one of those big, untouched steel tanks held gasoline?

"Hey, you bastards," I yelled to my

Standard-issue tough-guy war photo on Kuwaiti border, 1991. Included in photo are Lcpl Jackson, Lcpl Dejessie, Lcpl Foley, Lcpl Pantano, Cpl Vargas, Sgt Ocasio





Cpl Pantano, Cpl Howard, Lcpl Dethridge, Cpl Rivers, Lcpl Decker and Lcpl Johanneson at the British Royal Army training facility on Gibraltar in 1992.

Marines on the roof, “bad guys, good guys, all kinds of stuff blowing up. It’s like a bloody Jackie Chan movie... And you lucky suckers are getting paid. Damn.”

“Oohhrraah, sir”

There was movement down Temple, Muj darting among the buildings, getting closer before they fired. “Light ‘em up when you can,” I told my guys. I grabbed the PRC 119 and bounded down the stairs, the antenna bouncing spastically against my left hip.

We’d prevented more casualties, kicked the Muj hard enough in the nuts to really piss them off, and now we were set up in a good hasty defense. Once the battalion got us what reinforcements they could muster, we would have enough Marines to sweep through Latafiyah, south to north, and drag the surviving Muj out of their rat holes.

All we had to do now was hang in there until reinforced. All the Muj had to do was overrun us and hack off our heads for an Al Jazeera commercial.

The sun was lower than I would have liked. And the Muj were still dashing among the buildings, singly and in small groups, maneuvering to out-flank us.

Some Help From Our Friends

In the middle of this, six up-armored Humvees with .50 cal and Mk19 40 Mike-Mikes rolled onto the street below. The vehicles were an MP QRF convoy from the Army’s 1/32nd Infantry, and they were quickly met by machinegun fire. The officer who jumped down was a full bird colonel. I dashed from the garage to meet him. This was too much: That guy out-ranked our battalion commander and was coming to my rescue, to follow

my orders.

“What’s the situation, lieutenant?” he asked calmly.

Quickly explaining, I pointed to a cluster of buildings about 300 meters off the road where the enemy had rallied and from where they were firing mortars and beginning to volley RPGs. We just didn’t have the firepower to beat them up.

The 1/32nd MPs did. In a few minutes they had maneuvered their Humvees and were blasting the shit out of those buildings, sending streams of .50 cal API and MK 19 grenades through the doors and windows. This was not just a keep-your-head-down demonstration. It was an exercise in no-shit kill-your-ass. For about a nano-second, I almost felt sorry for those Muj. Almost. Maybe Allah was trotting out more virgins about now.

The fire in the streets rose and fell. No more enemy approached our position. Overhead, jet fighter-bombers were growling through the sky. The F-14s were back on station.

The battalion headquarters element arrived, having run the “Polish” shooting gallery that persisted to the north along Jackson. Lieutenant Colonel Kyser and Major Neil began planning the assault with Captains Bairstow and Weston. Sergeant Major Swann looked on, shotgun in hand.

Captain Weston gave me my orders: My reinforced platoon would push west into town and wheel right, putting us on line facing the north as we tied in with Fox Company, which would clear the buildings to the east along Jackson.

After the inevitable muck-ups and delays, we were finally in assault position. But we’d lost the precious momentum required to slam the door on the enemy.

The Sweep

We eventually started moving forward and the resistance began to scatter. Humvees full of heavily armed Marines, looking like pissed off porcupines, swept up the road screening our western flank while the two companies moved north on foot. Our main body swung north, like a windshield wiper slapping from six to three o’clock, knocking off bugs.

I did not like this deal. We were way too undermanned to sweep a town with long streets and three- and four-floor story buildings, so I had to give Doc McNulty — the sweet-faced farm boy corpsman from Montana whom we called “Big Country” — the duty of guarding the sweaty, nasty-eyed prisoners who’d obviously just been trying to kill us moments ago. “If they try to jump you,” I ordered McNulty, “shoot the rats.” He was so stunned from all the firing I had to

Continued on page 50

Author, on left and SSgt Glew preparing to insert night ambush patrols at FOB Mahmudiyah, April 2004.



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You Say You Want

Afghan Journal #4

U.S. Poppy Eradication Program is a Sham!

Text and Photos by Jim Keller

I'm sitting in the backseat of a battered four-door Toyota diesel pickup, bouncing down a dirt road, most of the time blinded by the billowing dust of the half-dozen trucks and SUVs in front. This is the Border Police I'm with. In the front seat, filming the soldier driving us in short takes is my companion Michael, a freelance news producer working on a counter-narcotics TV spot he hopes to sell to ISAF (shorthand for the NATO forces). We're heading out to a valley of poppies to document some eradication.



Freelance news producer Michael films the morning's eradication. There is a symbiotic relationship between the media and the government as regards to PEP. The actual, although token, physical eradication always makes interesting, colorful footage, and the broadcast of it (in particular, to U.S. and NATO governments) makes the Afghan government, which is dependent upon billions of dollars aid that is tied to opium reduction, appear as if they are seriously doing something. Here Michael interviews Provincial Minister after the morning's poppy-eradication theater.

This area is familiar:

It was my backyard three years ago when my Special Forces team operated out of here. Then it was Toyota Ta-

comas, and on roads like these many times, on the way out to a hit, we'd have music blasting from the pickups' CD player.

tion, and "well, you know, we all wanna change the world," blasting out to no one and everyone in this Godforsaken country, is singled in my brain.

And that's what I'm



Swinging switches, Afghan National Police (ANP) walk through poppy field, cutting off the buds, blooms and seedpods just days prior to the first of five to seven harvestings of the opium-containing sap. More practical and effective methods of poppy eradication would be aerial spraying of chemical herbicides or plowing the fields under with tractors -- if the goal were to actually destroy as much acreage as possible.

E-rad-i-ca-tion?

thinking now, singing to myself, "You say you want e-rad-i-ca-tion." The "you" is the United States and European NATO countries pouring troops and money into this place on a drunken binge to make up for their perceived neglect during the civil war, then Taliban 1990s. In return, the U.S. and NATO are asking very little of the Afghans, besides the formation of a so-called democratic government. Except for one big thing: They expect the Afghans to actively deal with the reality that this country grows the poppies that ultimately become 90% of the world's heroin.

Of Course

That surely is not an unreasonable request. First, for political reasons the western governments have to show their voting



The sap from the seedpod which, after drying into raw opium and processing and transport, will be the heroin on the streets of Europe or America — as 90% of the world's heroin now comes from Afghanistan. Harvesting the sap is labor-intensive, as the farmers have to individually slit each flower and scrape the juice. Depending on the weather and health of the crop, a field can be harvested between five and seven times in a season.

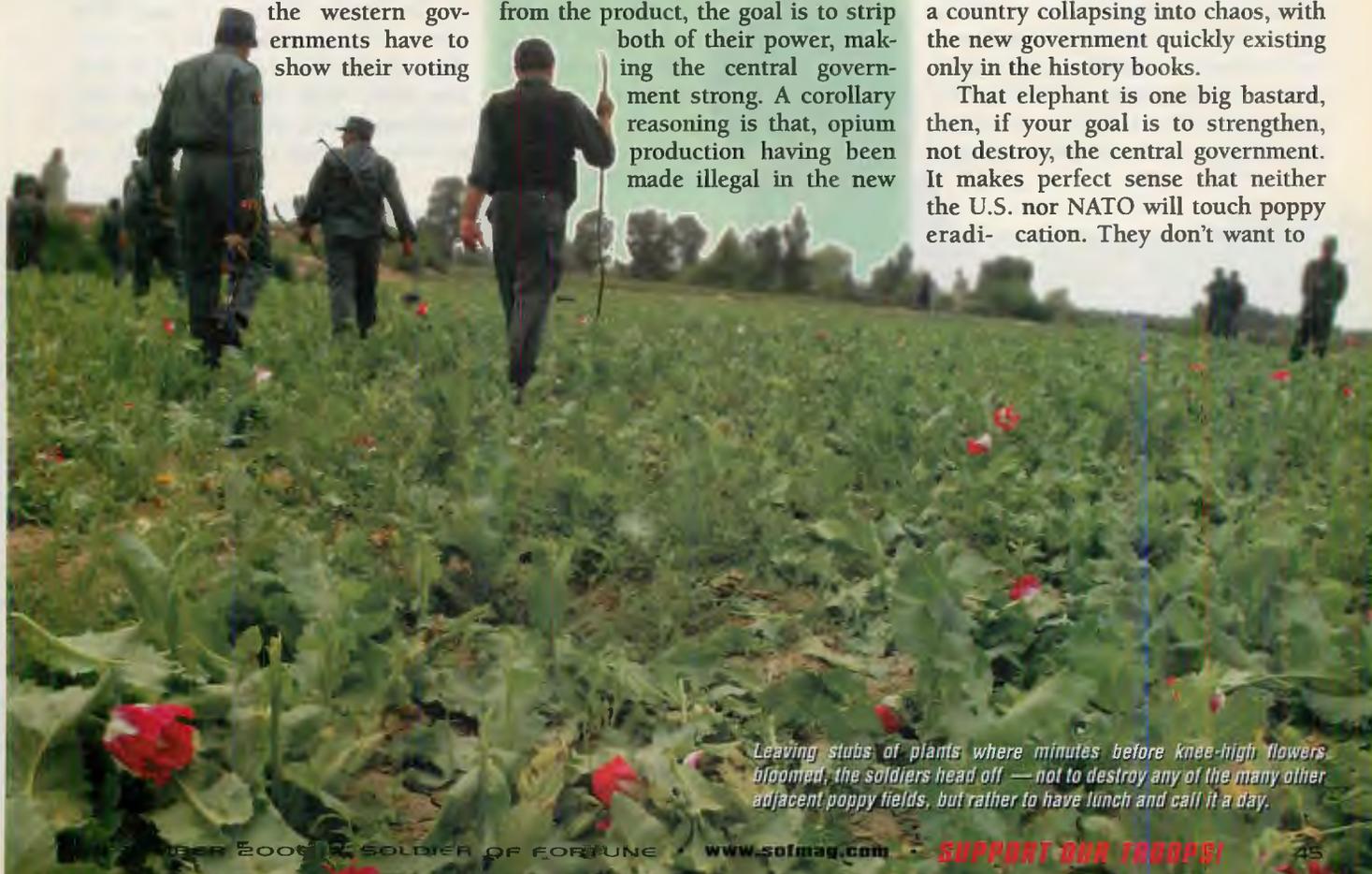
citizens that they are serious about dealing with drugs. Second, though they know that decreasing opium production in Afghanistan will simply move it elsewhere in the world, since the warlords and the Taliban sustain themselves with the riches from the product, the goal is to strip both of their power, making the central government strong. A corollary reasoning is that, opium production having been made illegal in the new

Afghan government, a government that cannot enforce its own laws is a weak government, and a weak government, disrespected by its citizens, is easily preyed upon or overthrown by warlords or the Taliban.

The reasoning is airtight. Get rid of poppies and you weaken and ultimately destroy the warlords and Taliban, while pleasing your western benefactors and making your central government strong and respected. It all makes perfect sense.

Except for that big elephant sitting there right in the middle of the room: Poppies and opium production are estimated to make up \$2.9 billion of this year's near-\$6-billion gross domestic product. Get rid of all poppies, and whammo, you've just cut the economy in half. Talk about a country collapsing into chaos, with the new government quickly existing only in the history books.

That elephant is one big bastard, then, if your goal is to strengthen, not destroy, the central government. It makes perfect sense that neither the U.S. nor NATO will touch poppy eradication. They don't want to



Leaving stubs of plants where minutes before knee-high flowers bloomed, the soldiers head off — not to destroy any of the many other adjacent poppy fields, but rather to have lunch and call it a day.

be seen first-hand as the ones destroying peasant farmers' livelihood and obliterating the economy. It's hands-off. One-hundred percent. The Coalition Forces are not even to be seen near a poppy field, let alone trampling or bulldozing one. It's all on the Afghans.

Which brings Michael and me to be with these Border Police squads, heading to a day of eradication. For us there's not much that is more colorfully photographic than a sea of blooming poppies from here to the horizon. Add to that the action shots of bulldozers plowing through and perhaps irate farmers striking back in a shootout. When a couple of days ago a Border Police high commander friend invited us on this mission, we jumped at the opportunity, even knowing his motives to be purely selfish. He just wanted some good media. A DEA buddy of mine working here in country had already told me that the commander was high on their list of big-time opium smugglers, and the commander was looking for a gold star for good behavior by his name on that list. Not that it should really matter. Everyone already knows that three-fourths of the government ministers and members



Why is the man in the middle smiling so broadly? Because they are his fields that are being destroyed. It only makes sense when you realize that in the entire smoke-and-mirrors that is the PEP dog-and-pony show, he has most likely been well compensated for allowing these small fields to be made worthless.

of parliament are in the opium trade chain, and the joke is, the others are desperately looking for a way in.

“E” Day

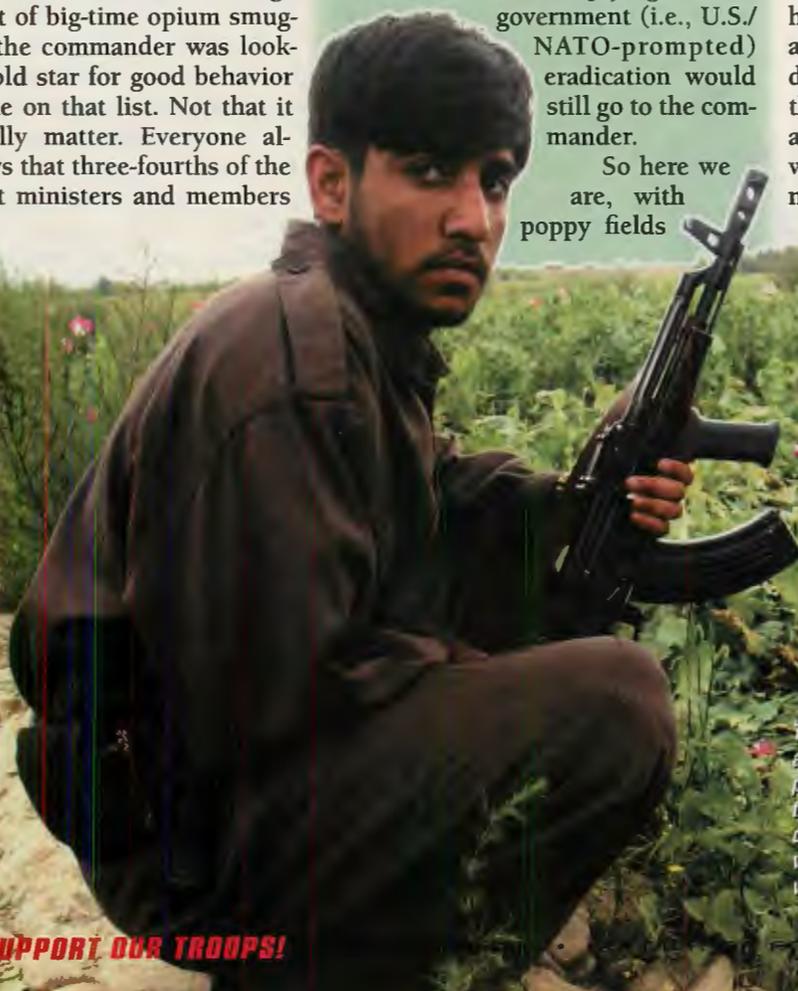
The morning began in typical Afghan fashion. The “6:00am” departure turned into well after 8:00. The commander did not show, sending instead the provincial district minister, who would get the actual photo op, but the reflected credit for complying with the government (i.e., U.S./NATO-prompted) eradication would still go to the commander.

So here we are, with poppy fields

along the edge of a poppy field. Closer, I see that the soldiers belong to the Afghan National Police, and however long they've been here already, not a poppy plant has been destroyed. It's obvious, they've been waiting for our arrival – not our Border Police companions, but us, Michael and me, the guys with the cameras.

And where the hell are the bulldozers?! These soldiers are each carrying a switch, and with our cameras now here, they set about in line swinging at the poppy flowers, cutting them down. Whack, swish, whack, swish, they make their way down a half-acre field, with local men and boys watching along the edge. No muss, no fuss, the only ones with guns are

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This Border Police soldier stands at the edge of a field just destroyed. Behind him is a field of poppies left standing. Why? According to the district official on hand running the eradication, in a classic case of “1984” doublespeak, “Because we cannot destroy poppies that belong to a man who is not here.”

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

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THE WAR ON THE STREETS

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

Shut Up and Fix the Potholes!

Big City Mayors making a boogey man out of law abiding gun owners.

Can't Fight Crime? Then Fight Law Abiding Gun Owners

There's a growing trend across America being pushed by big city Mayors seeking the media spotlight – attack law abiding gun ownership. While state and federal legislators have reduced their calls for more failed gun control schemes in pursuit of real crime fighting measures from tougher sentences to more cops on the street – big city Mayors are waging a desperate attempt to revive the failed gun control policies of the past.

One prime example can be found in the city of Seattle, which has seen a dramatic rise in shootings in recent months. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper quotes law enforcement suggesting that gang turf wars are behind it. So does the Seattle Mayor launch an anti-gang initiative? Nope, he flies off for a weekend in New York City to dream up anti-gun schemes with other big city mayors.

While Seattle Mayor Greg Nickles is jetting off to the Big Apple, local law enforcement leaders are fighting to keep a successful prosecution task force that targets career criminals whose use guns from being cut in state and local budgeting. Mayors like Greg Nickles know that making real efforts to fight crime costs money and requires tough choices, but getting national media attention attacking law abiding gun owners is easy.

New York City's Shiny Apple A Worm Riddled Myth?

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg inherited a city that was dramatically safer thanks to efforts by Mayor Giuliani and the NYPD to aggressively combat crime at

all levels. Since that time, Mayor Bloomberg has touted crime statistics showing a continued decrease to create the image that his administration is continuing the fight against crime.

But the crime statistics may not tell the real story of Bloomberg's New York. A New York Daily News article quotes police labor officials who suggest that officers have been forced to "falsify stats in order to maintain the appearance of a drastic reduction in crime." And while disputes over crime reports continue, public disclosure reports show that hospital admissions from victims of violent crime are actually increasing.

So besides a flurry of press releases bragging about his war on crime, what is Mayor Bloomberg doing to keep the city safe after September 11th? – Slashing the numbers of cops on the street and spending money on anti-gun wild goose chases all across the country. Bloomberg's latest anti-gun publicity stunt was to hire private investigators to roam the country and try to set up private sting operations against gun shops. All while the NYPD is cutting officers – according to news reports, the NYPD has almost 3800 less officers today than it did in 2001.

Mayor Bloomberg and his anti-gun coconspirators are now pushing a resolution before the U.S. Conference of Mayors that calls for new federal gun control laws and would severely infringe on the Constitutional rights of law-abiding gun owners. It's time for someone to remind these Mayors that if they want to make federal laws, they should run for Congress, until then, 'shut-up and fix the potholes!' ✘



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

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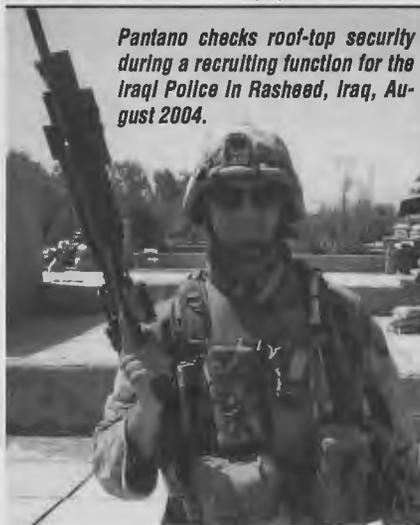
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WARLORD • Continued from page 42



Pantano checks roof-top security during a recruiting function for the Iraqi Police in Rasheed, Iraq, August 2004.

grab him by the back of the neck and tell him again.

Staff Sergeant Glew called in from the far left, western, flank of our axis of advance, the direction toward which so many Muj had fled. "Hey, Lieutenant," he said tiredly. "We've got dozens of enemy KIAs layin' in alleys and blood trails on side streets over here."

"Roger," I said. "Just leave them."

If they left that many dead behind, how many had we actually killed?

We continued moving north into the heart of Latafiyah, everyone jumpy, strung out with after-action nerves. Except the action wasn't over.

We had to stay alert. A couple of small mistakes, hell one little mistake could kill Marines.

I had McNulty shoot out the tires of another goddamn dump truck parked to block a side street, and I ordered all the tires to be slashed. We'd already destroyed a number of civilian vehicles that had engaged us, and I wasn't going to let any new ones follow us out of town, launching suicide attacks or planting IEDs after dark.

"No Guns Here..."

During the building clearing, family after family lied about the weapons we found and their complicity with the Muj.

"Maku Ali Baba," they always said, hands on their hearts. "No Ali Baba here, Boss."

Every house had at least one or more AK-47. By the end of that long day, we had confiscated hundreds, some still stinking of hot powder and scorched weapons lubricant. And there were lots of men still mysteri-

Continued on page 58

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New Guinea



SOF Pursues Everyman's Unlikely Dream, Conclusion

By Alan Brown

In the mid-eighties, I was asked by Brig. Gen. Heine Aderholdt, USAF (Ret.) if I were interested in joining a group of investors he was putting together to find and remove WWII gold hidden in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. The General was a long-time friend and Contributing Editor of the magazine for unconventional operations. A caper like this certainly was up his alley and it piqued my interest. I made a call to a couple friends of mine, one being my brother, who wrote this article. Last month our semi-intrepid band linked up with some Australian co-conspirators who lived in PNG. In the conclusion, we head for the jungle, as that's where the gold is buried.

— Robert K. Brown, Publisher

As we flew via Air Niugini across the rugged Owen Stanley Mountains, my mind began to wander. I remembered seeing pictures of natives, some whose bodies were covered with ceremonial scars that looked like Freddy Kruger had worked them over, others with their noses and ears pierced by bones from cassowary birds, while their bodies were plastered with white mud. They chanted and spoke some unintelligible language, which could have been inviting me to dinner. Except I just knew their only protein was going to be me! Now I wished I had taken up the Aussie's offer of carrying one of those Sig Sauers. I peered out the 737's window and below saw the ruggedness of the high peaks and deep valleys like a huge blade of a

crosscut saw. I was struck by the contrast of the colors of the ground cover: emerald green spotted with bamboo yellow and cashew-colored brown. Nature's own camouflage pattern.

The short airfield at Popondetta was built during WWII and one could clearly see the grass-covered circular mounds of the old anti-aircraft gun emplacements left over from that conflict. The terminal was an open-air place not much better than a lean-to. Earlier, the original terminal had been torched by unhappy natives. More reason to be packing heat!

Once again, our group felt the blast of heat as we stepped out of the air-conditioned plane. The air was heavy and humid, not like the dry heat back in Port Moresby.

Gold

have been handy here!

My roommate was the General, who at a diminutive 5' 5" could snore right up there with some of the biggest football players in the NFL. I had to sleep with wadded paper in my ears. It also helped to swig down a few SPs before bedtime.

The next day found us stopped in a field near the Mission. By the time we had gotten out of the truck, we were surrounded by natives. Children, wearing brightly colored T-shirts, shorts and no shoes, smiled at us with perfect white teeth. And they spoke perfect English. I was feeling a little safer now.

The children took us into the village where we were met by the clan elder and a few other natives.

The General gave them some B.S. as

for the reason us being there and they offered to help us in the search.

Months later, we got a letter from the elder stating that he didn't believe for one second our "cover" story and he wanted to know what we were really looking for. All in all they were very nice to us. We gathered our gear, including a Fisher double-box detector that would be used to find the gold and, with the natives, marched off into the jungle using the directions given to us by Devon Posey.

The natives lead the way using their machetes to slash a trail for us through the rain forest. After an hour

or so of playing Stanley Livingston we were stopped by a log fence. Our guides informed us we were in the middle of their potato garden. Could it be so simple that the treasure was buried in a potato patch?

Ahh, Grasshopper!

The Aussies set up their equipment while the General and I sat on some rotten palm tree and talked to the natives. What impressed me about our new friends was their happy attitude toward life. They were subsistence farmers, growing what they needed to survive, living in thatched-roofed huts, whose only transportation was by foot or bicycle. I did notice, however, that the middle-aged men's teeth were stained red; more than likely from chewing betel nuts that, so I was told, produce a mild exhilarating feeling. Their hard life, however, took its toll on the women who did most of the hard work.

Suddenly the General reached over a grabbed a three-inch-long grasshopper and popped it into his mouth. The natives nearly fell off their logs in surprise. They rolled their eyes and howled when the General began chewing with obvious delight. Thank goodness there weren't any worms on the logs, for I had heard that they loved to dine on them and I didn't think I had the stomach for that. The General snatched another and offered it to me, and I politely declined, stating that I didn't want to infringe on his show.

By now the Aussies had their gear working and were walking through the garden in a search pattern. My heart leapt when their machine screeched, indicating there was some-



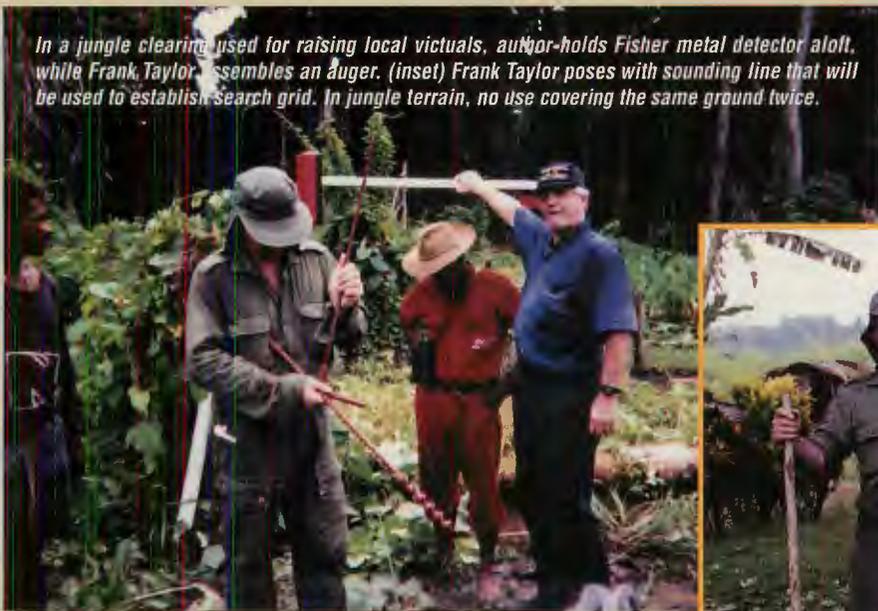
Intended to be the team's jungle redoubt, this thatched hut was commandeered by Micah, a village elder. (inset) The two elders, Micah and General Heine Aderholdt, got along well despite any misunderstandings regards housing.

After swilling down our anti-malarial pills with a bottle of warm water, the group loaded their gear into a rented Nissan crew-cab truck and moved on down the dirt road to our next place of residence – the Lamington Hotel. Corrugated tin roofing kept the rain off its guests (it has been known to rain more than 40 inches during the months of January and February). Barbed wire and gated doors kept unwanted persons out of this four-star hotel (on the PNG scale). Electricity was off several times a day for hours at a time, but the SP beer was kept cool the old fashioned way, with ice. About the only four-star amenities offered by the establishment were the number and size of the cockroaches – one-to two-inches long. A gun would



Micah, far left, supervises local labor as they dig a prospect hole "for water."

In a jungle clearing used for raising local victuals, author-holds Fisher metal detector aloft, while Frank Taylor assembles an auger. (inset) Frank Taylor poses with sounding line that will be used to establish search grid. In jungle terrain, no use covering the same ground twice.



thing below the surface. And then it kept screeching and screeching as they continued to search. As the size search area increased, I realized that either we were on top of the largest gold field/treasure ever – or the machine was picking up false readings. The Aussies stopped, turned off their machine and told us that the soil was too wet and the machine was getting

false readings, as I suspected.

As I held the machine up for a photo op, the native in the red jump suit looking at the ground, no doubt in disgust, had told me earlier that the machine looked just like the one he used to find mines

when he was in the military. Quick thinking lad that I am, explained to him that they used the same mechanical techniques, however it was tuned to find certain sub strata of rocks that would tend to show logical places where to drill for fresh water. One of the Aussies told me that this was the “story” we were to use in explaining the purpose of our visit. Here we were standing in two inches of rainwater, in an area that gets 100 inches of rain a year, “trying to locate water.”

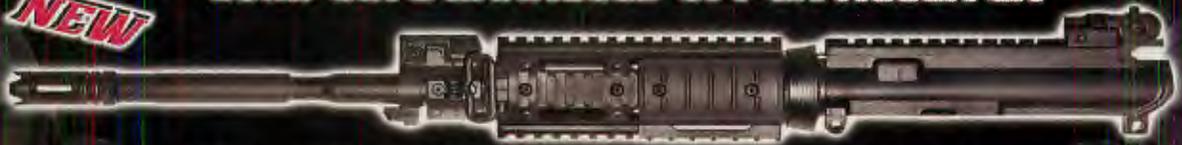
We collected our gear, said our goodbyes to our new friends and went back to the Lamington Hotel. The next day found us back in Port Moresby. The General flew off to Thailand, while the Aussies and I stayed behind. We went to the mapping section in Port



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Native hostess prepares a communal meal. Sticks are to turn the food on the barbie, not protect it.

Moresby and asked if they had any aerial photographs of the Oro Bay region. An Australian behind the counter replied, that they did, that he and his pilot had flown over the area back in '74 and taken the pictures.

Then what he said made the Aussie and I look at each other and shudder.

He said that after the photo mission, his pilot friend spent the next six months searching the mission buildings looking for gold! This begs one to ask: (1) how did he know about the gold? And (2) why didn't the natives tell us that someone else had been in

the area? Hmmmm?

Prior to going back to the states, I picked up a map of Oro Bay dated December, 1941.

These Aussies had discovered the name of the mission pastor and had tracked down his son via the Australian voter registration system (by law all Australians must be registered). They were told by the son that he and his father had returned to the area and spent three years looking for "church artifacts." No other details were forthcoming and we didn't want to tip our hand.

New Hope, New Attempt

This new information prompted our Aussies to return to Oro Bay during the dryer month of September. This time around, they made arrangements with

the natives to assist in the digging – for which they would share some of the booty. They were only told that they were searching for church artifacts hidden by the pastor. As part of the inducement to enlist local help, the Aussies had sent money for them to use to purchase clothing, medicine and build a thatched hut for the Aussies to stay in during the dig, which was pre-empted by the elder.

A week was spent clearing the target area by cutting down small trees and brush and burning the debris. Armed with a ground-penetrating lo-

cator, they systematically set about to scan the area and got many, many readings. For two weeks, they dug the most promising readings down to the water table, but found only WWII trash – no gold. Having spent the better part of two months in PNG and after one of the Aussies contracted Malaria, the dig was abandoned.

In 1996 I contacted the National Archives and asked if they had any aerial photos of the area in question. They said there were thousands and thousands of film canisters waiting to be processed and indexed. This reminded me of the final scene in *The Raiders of the Lost Ark* where rows and rows of files were contained in a giant warehouse. I can just imagine hundreds of people looking through screening devices indexing every picture taken by the Japanese. Your tax dollars at work.

By 2000 they contacted me and I ordered a negative of the area. When it arrived, I had the photo enlarged. The detail was better than I expected, a testimony to the Japanese skill in making cameras. One could readily see all the buildings, the grassy areas and the edge of the jungle.

Later that year brother Robert, two others, and I met with Posey for the last time. Once again he told the same story to all of us. When I told him about the Aussies finding only WWII trash in the area, he thought for a moment and said that when the orders came down to break camp the soldiers were told to dispose of all the unwanted items in the jungle. Robert thought that perhaps, soldiers being soldiers, they would have taken the easy way and thrown the trash in the

grassy field next to the buildings. So it could be that the Aussies had not gone far enough from the base point as pointed out by Posey. On the other hand, they may have been in the right area but didn't find the actual site. Or, as one party explained to me, after 50+ plus years, the weight of the gold could have caused it to sink down some 20-40 feet below the depth where

Continued on page 80



A gaggle of "ferocious-looking" children – as friendly and disarming as their smiles.

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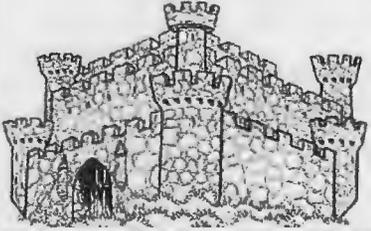
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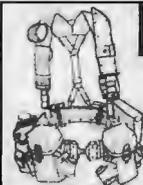
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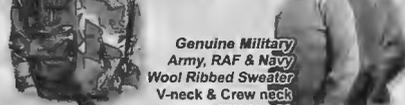


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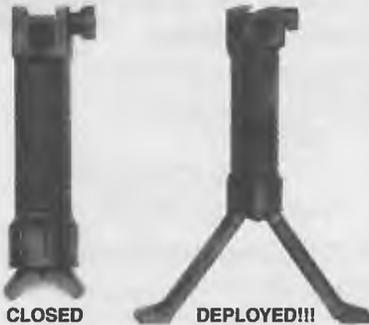
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Four prior enlisted officers at Infantry Officer Course who all went to Iraq. From left to right: Erasmo had his legs shattered by an IED, Bill, a Harvard grad who has two tours in Iraq, Rex, who took shrapnel in the face and eyes, and author, December 2003.

ously "at work," leaving their women and children to meet us. I hated the need to deal with these women, kids and old folks. We'd made a lot of widows and orphans that afternoon. I sure wasn't happy about that, but my duty lay to my Marines and to my country.

My men were doing the hard work of searching and questioning, as I moved from team to team, regulating their steady IV-drip of rage, fear, adrenaline, and exhaustion.

Of the hundreds of homes that we searched well into the night, there was one house where I gazed into a kind of psychic mirror. The thirty-year-old man was tall and well groomed, proud even as he lay face down on the ground. The man's mustache was trimmed as neatly as my own. His traditional black man-dress stood in contrast to the shining yellow Honda

of insurgent activity, we couldn't detain him. He knew it. And I knew it. What he displayed was an intangible hardness. Not day-laborer-dig-a-canal hard. The kind of hard edge that told me that this professional with a clean home and a nice car had done the cold, rational calculus, months or maybe years before, that he had no choice but to oppose me. And I had no choice but to oppose him.

My men jostled tiredly around me, oblivious, as I dragged the Iraqi to his feet by his collar. Our eyes locked as we reflected on the decisions that put me standing in his home 6,000 miles from my own. We smiled at each other like friends sharing a secret in a public place. We knew that we would kill each other one day. And that would be that. ✕

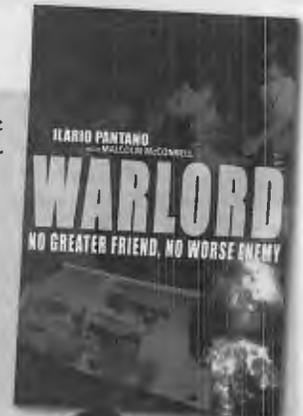
Warlord, No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy, is the true story of a patriotic Desert Storm Marine veteran who prepared to re-enlist as the Twin Towers fell 11 September, 2001, 10 years after his service as an elite sniper in the Gulf War. Warlord is also the dramatic account of an unconventional fighter who combined his professional and military experiences to protect the lives of his men and win both in combat and in the courtroom. On a raid in the Sunni hotbed of Iraq's Al Anbar province during an explosive surge of terrorist activity, Lieutenant Pantano shot and killed two Iraqi insurgents. Months later, after battling in Falluja, one of his own men disputed Pantano's self-defense claim and made accusations that resulted in murder charges against the officer. In the face of a widely publicized rush to judgment, Pantano's family "attacked into the ambush," launching a defend-the-defenders campaign that was met with overwhelming support nationwide. After a tense five-day courtroom battle, The Marine Corps dropped all charges and Pantano was exonerated in 2005.

Accord in his paved driveway.

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By Dr. Martin Brass

AMERICA AT WAR

 **1. INDONESIA** DEFENDANTS IN TERRORISM case reveal that their teacher Subur was aide of Malaysian fugitive Noordin Mohammad top Jemaah Islamiya operative

 **2. EAST TIMOR** AUSTRALIAN COMMANDOS quell violence after rebel soldiers attack police headquarters in ethnic violence. Nine killed, including two UN police; 27 injured in worst fighting since independence in 2002; 200 U.S. contractors pull out.

 **3. CANADA** PRIME MINISTER BEHEADING threatened. SEVENTEEN SUSPECTED TERRORISTS accused of plot to storm Parliament in Ottawa, attack media headquarters, take political hostages unless Canada withdraws its troops from Afghanistan.

 **4. UNITED STATES** CHINESE SPY RING CHARGED IN TECHNOLOGY THEFT RING: Chi Mak, Tai Mak, Mrs. Chiu charged in Los Angeles with conspiracy to export defense articles, revealing sensitive info about electrical systems of U.S. warships and submarines, *Washington Times*.

 **5. COLOMBIA** "FRIENDLY FIRE" death of 10 anti-narcotic police discredited: Eight soldiers arrested for murder of the cops. More than 50 killed by FARC-and "New Generation" AUC in Narino in one week. AUC, disband, pick up new arms and renew terror agenda. CHILD SOLDIERS ages 8 to 12, with FARC grenades and money, arrested. OILY FARC ATTACK: 4000 barrels spill on Venezuelan border.

 **6. VENEZUELA** KALASHNIKOV RIFLE factory planned with Russians, to prepare for "U.S. invasion." COLOMBIAN NARCO-GUERRILLAS infiltrate.

7. POLAND "SPIDER WEB" of clandestine detention centers established at instruction of CIA in over a dozen European countries to illegally transfer terrorist suspects, confirmed by Council of Europe. Polish government and other participant governments deny wrongdoing.

8. SWITZERLAND **ATTACK OF ISRAELI AIRLINER** over Geneva preempted: Seven terror suspects with "very serious consideration" of attacking El Al, arrested.

9. RUSSIA **EXTREMISM LINKED TO ECONOMIC DECLINE** and unleashing of a terrorist war on Russia. Large-scale terrorist attacks in Budennovsk, Pervomaiskoye, Buinaksk, Moscow, Volgogradsk, and a raid on Dagestan."

11. AFGHANISTAN **U.S.-LED TROOPS KILL FIVE** Taliban fighters, including key leaders, in an attack on a training facility. **DUTCH KORPS COMMANDO TROEPEN**, the dutch special forces, killed dozens of Taliban in Uruzgan.

12. PAKISTAN **BALUCH REBELS** fire rockets 300 yards from President Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Government retaliatory offensive against the Bugti and Marri tribes of Baluchistan in the north triggers regional civil war. Thousands of soldiers, with bombs and gun ships, accused of killing hundreds of civilians.

13. EQUATORIAL GUINEA **ODDS OF WAR** author Frederick Forsyth admits to involvement in plot to overthrow Equatorial Guinea 30 years ago. The coup was attempted by Merc Alexander Gay, veteran of Congo and Biafra. Plot was exposed by British, and Spanish arrested Mercs. Forsyth posed as a South African Arms dealer to meet with German gunrunners in Germany, but fled when his cover was blown, according to **THE WONGA COUP**, recently published book. **THE LATEST COUP ATTEMPT**, which mimicked Forsyth's plot ended in disaster for Merc mastermind Simon Mann—as reported by **SOF**—who is currently rotting in an African Jail.

*** 14. SOMALIA** **ISLAMIC MILITANTS** seize Mogadishu, defeating warlords of "Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter terrorism," not so covertly funded by the United States.

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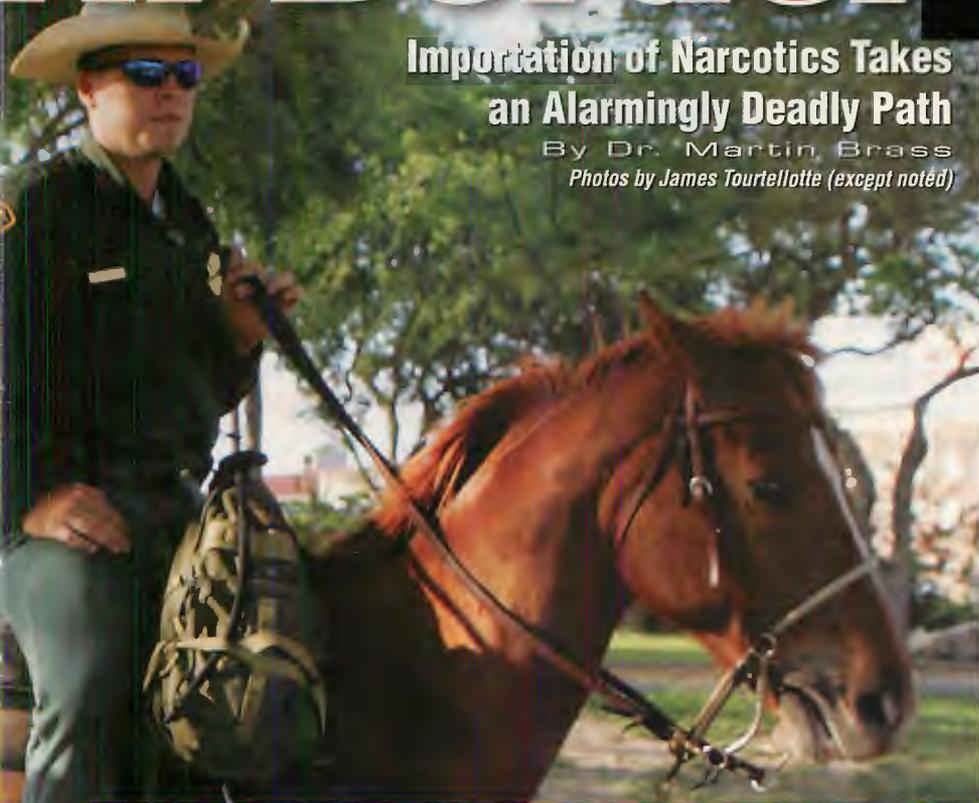
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WAR ON Border

Importation of Narcotics Takes an Alarming Deadly Path

By Dr. Martin Brass

Photos by James Tourtellotte (except noted)



(background) CBP Border Patrol agents use horses in the most severe environments that regular vehicles cannot negotiate. (far left) A CBP Blackhawk swoops down on "bad guys" near the southwest border of the U.S. (above) Border Patrol agents conduct pat downs of migrants caught crossing the border illegally in the Imperial Valley Sector. (photo by Gerald L. Nino)

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9. RUSSIA EXTREMISM LINKED TO

one example, with \$5 million reward on his head. Sanchez, in addition to being accused of trafficking thousands of kilos of cocaine and marijuana into the United States annually, is wanted for capital murder.

The payoffs for the traffickers are the irresistibly big bucks. U.S. consumers spend \$65 to \$108 billion ANNUALLY between 1988 and 1999 on illegal drugs, according to a comprehensive government study.

As the stakes get higher, the violence escalates.

Coke Snorting is Not Just a Sport

Ninety percent of the cocaine that comes into the United States is smuggled across the southern border, according to official figures.

That's a lot of cocaine, considering that the U.S. consumption is the largest in the world, with 5.9 million persons aged 12 or older using cocaine in 2003.

Snorting coke is not just a personal sport. It has enormous social costs. Nearly half of state and local law enforcement agencies identify cocaine (powder or crack) use in violent crimes in their areas.

Well over 90% of all of the imported marijuana comes across the Mexican border.

Met amphetamine availability is on the rise, fueled primarily by increased production of both powder and ice met amphetamine in Mexico. The drug is smuggled mainly across the Arizona and California borders to users in Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay Area and further inland.

"Get High or Die Trying"

Imported narcotics are being transformed into lethal concoctions.



Sometimes the United States Border Patrol utilizes horses in difficult terrain to ensure the safety of the nation's border. (inset) Border Patrol agent places a Mexican National under arrest for transporting drugs into the U.S. (photo by Gerald L. Nino)



Fentanyl-laced heroin is a drug import that has been leaving a deadly trail through the United States since 2005. Hundred have died nationwide.

Fentanyl, a narcotic painkiller, is a synthetic opiate that is twice as potent as heroin.

A fentanyl laboratory was recently seized in Mexico and U.S. agents seized a shipment of fentanyl powder near the U.S.-Mexico border, the *Hartford Courant* reports.

"In my almost 30 years of law enforcement experience, I haven't seen a threat that concerns me this much,"

Tim Ogden, DEA agent in Chicago told the AP. "Fentanyl is a very, very potent substance."

"This stuff is so poisonous that the victims are found with the needles still in their arms. They go unconscious and it affects their breathing," Dr. Michael Drescher, associate Chief of Emergency Medicine at Hartford Hospital told the *Hartford Courant*. Sixty have died in Cook County, Illinois, in the last year according to NBC5, including a

police lieutenant's underage 17 year-old son.

Smugglers Come in All Sizes and Shapes

The traffickers are male, female, Mexican, American, and some other nationalities. Some are children and

Continued on page 68

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of creating civil war with the Shi'a, as was Zargawi and his AQI.

The Coalition announcements are far more guarded than is likely the case—out of concern for overstating the situation in their favor. It is probable that the war will change overnight—but we won't notice it for a few months. These things do not become apparent until “trends” are seen or recognized months later.

This means the Iraqi government will now get the upper hand, if they can keep the cronyism, nepotism and tribalism to a low level and confront the need to have a non-corrupt government to win the majority of Iraqis to their side. Most Iraqis do want an end to the violence, and do want to support the police/troops, but until they are convinced the troops and police are not corrupt or working on behalf of one group or another, they won't throw their complete support behind the soldiers and cops. The most honored, desirable position in Iraq is that of police officer. The more they are seen as non-corrupt, working to save and protect all Iraqis and not

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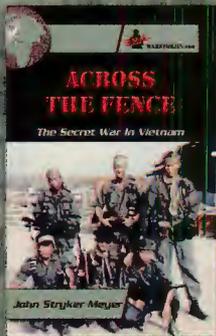
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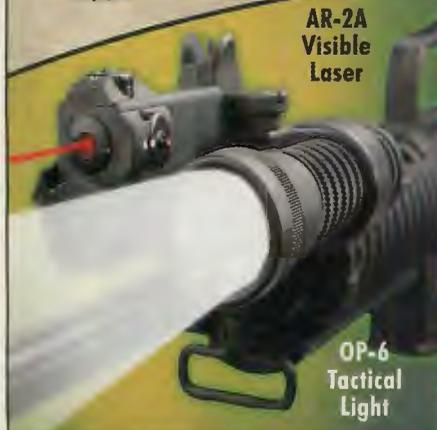
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sealed food cans, in stuffed animals, and in any imaginable object that can be hollowed out.

A Frantic Week Along the Border

Let's take a look across the U.S. Mexican border in a very short period in March of this year. Keep in mind that the following cases are only those seizures that the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) detected. They were probably only a fraction of what got

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CBP can use a mobile laboratory when needed at port of entries around the U.S.

smuggled though and do not include resources other than those provided by the Customs and Border Protection.

5, 931 pounds of narcotics had been seized by the Otay Mesa cargo port from October 2005, beginning of the current fiscal year, through 7 March.

Then on 7 and 8 March, two different seizures, totaling nearly 16,000 pounds of marijuana, were confiscated from two truck drivers in separate incidents. One had 4,700 pounds hidden in a manifested shipment of carton and fabric scrap material inside his trailer. The other had 10,863 pounds of marijuana cellophane wrapped and hidden within a shipment of 100 television sets. Both of the drivers were Mexican males.

That same day, 8 March, in San Clemente California, CBP agents snatched 78 pounds of cocaine in the under carriage of a pickup truck. One of the agents had smelled a foul odor emanating from the cab and noticed that the occupants were jumpy. A K-9 alerted the agents to the presence of contraband. The agents found the undercarriage covered up with a bondo-like substance and welded. They drilled a hole through the bondo and found 28 bundles of cocaine wrapped in duct tape.

At the same time, agents seized three duffel bags with 226 pounds of marijuana near Jacumba, CA. The Mexican smugglers, who were on foot, dropped the bags when they saw the agents, and fled back into Mexico.

That weekend CBP intercepted 1,400 lbs of marijuana and met amphetamines in 16 different incidents in the San Diego sector. The drugs were stashed in the gas tank, in the seats, in the quarter panels, in dash-

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(left) This individual tried to hide his drug money under his shirt with an elastic bandage. It totaled over \$77,000. (center) This ice chest had over \$55,000 hidden in its walls. (right) Exporting drug money is a difficult process for drug dealers. In this shipment there was over six million dollars in cash found inside stereo speakers. This particular speaker contains nearly \$424,000 in cash.

board, and in tires.

The next week, in Alamogordo, New Mexico, agents confiscated more than a half million dollars worth of marijuana smuggled in a U-Haul.

Nationality of the smuggler was not disclosed. That was the 101st seizure in Alamogordo since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Narcotics Dogs are the CBP Agents' Best Sleuth Friends

The next day agents at the Mariposa Commercial Facility in Arizona seized 1,600 pounds of marijuana hidden behind pallets of tomatoes in a tractor-trailer a Mexican trucker was hauling into the United States. "Rocksey", a narcotics detector dog, alerted them. The stash was worth \$1.2 million.

"Diggim", another narcotics dog, had alerted the agents of a 123 stash of marijuana hidden inside the propane tank of a 1977 pickup truck driven by a Mexican male.

In Laredo, Texas that week, officers detected \$4 million in cocaine during a routine inspection of a trailer at World Trade Bridge with a gamma-ray imaging system scan. The 279 pounds of cocaine was hidden in the support beams.

No Generation Gap Here

In Tucson, Arizona, that same week, three women were arrested in a series of attempts to smuggle \$2.5 million worth of cocaine. 62 pounds were hidden in a 53-year-old Mexican woman's Mitsubishi Gallant. Five pounds were hidden under the clothing of an 18-year-old Mexican woman, and 32 pounds in a Ford Ranger driven by a 34-year-old Mexican woman.

"In the Hat"

Both federal and state agencies have joined the drug war.

Operation "In the Hat" was launched in California two years ago to target drug trafficking. The administrators adopted the Mexican Mafia's hit list term "in the hat". The poor sucker who has angered the Mafia and is listed "in the hat" must be assassinated.

36 suspected Mafia members, snatched during "In the Hat" ops, were charged with racketeering, drug trafficking, murder, robbery, extortion and money laundering. The gangsters are accused of having ties

Continued on page 77

Bret Lamplighter has two hundred fifty-thousand very green reasons to go to the Caribbean.

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by CJ Westwick

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Russian Martial Art, Dept. SOF

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Designed for basic mission profiles and light-duty rail requirements, this J&T Distributing double-duty handguard has optimal rail placement for devices, without hindering the sight plane, and offers the benefits of trusted double heat-shield technology. The integral Picatinny Rail Mounts make this handguard a perfect option for M4 equipment. Additional features include two bonded-rail sections at 40 degrees for optimal sight plane. Mounting is positioned at optimal angle for light use, open sight plane and maximized grip area. It has Mil-Spec rail configuration, with three thrust grooves from the center line out. Top or bottom handguard mounting for two, three or four rails in either double, "Y" or quad configurations. Rugged insert molded subplate construction with mechanical fasteners and bonding; 60-gram weight addition to existing M4 handguard. Easy field install with no tools, in just minutes.



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Revision Eyewear Desert Locust Goggle

Revision Eyewear, developers of purpose-built eyewear for the military worldwide, proudly announces a new weapon in the war against battlefield eye injuries: the Desert Locust Goggle. The Desert Locust Goggle is designed for extended use providing comfort, optical perfection, panoramic field-of-view and the ballistic protection that soldiers in today's hostile environments require and deserve. The Desert Locust offers high-impact protection with one-piece 3mm-thick, optically correct polycarbonate lenses that protect the wearer's eyes from unexpected fragments. Built based on stringent military standards, the Desert Locust Military also features interchangeable lenses (clear for day or night use and solar for high-intensity sunlight), anti-fog and scratch-resistant coating, UV-A, UV-B, UV-C protection from the harmful rays of the sun, and holds an Rx Carrier that is also compatible with the Revision Sawfly Spectacle. The Desert Locust Goggle's low profile will not interfere with weapons' sights, binoculars or night-vision systems, and fits securely over the various helmets in use around the globe.

Revision Eyewear, Dept. SOF

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Traditional magazine pouches take up a lot of space on a troop's load bearing vest or body armor, leaving little room for other mission-critical equipment. The compact Spec-Ops Brand X-3 Mag Pouch provides fast, easy access to three 30-round M16 magazines in less space than conventional pouches. Grid-Lok mounting loops on the face of the pouch let the wearer mount additional items, or stack two pouches for double the carrying capacity. Its low profile design reduces snags and hang-ups inside vehicles or when entering buildings. Proprietary Dura-lastic loops secure the magazines, even in the roughest conditions, while its unique open-top design allows fast reloads. The X-3 Mag Pouch is durable and built to last of double-walled 1000D

Cordura Nylon, with double needle stitch construction and seam-taped perimeters. Stress points are reinforced with 42 stitch bar-tacks. The X-3 Mag Pouch fits both government-issue and H&K-sized magazines, and is available in black, olive, tan, Coyote Brown and ACU.



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SIGARMS® New P220 Carry

With a new stainless-steel slide replacing the older two-piece carbon-steel slide of the original design, and two new trigger options, the P220 has undergone major changes. SIGARMS continues the development of the P220 with the new P220 Carry, featuring a shorter slide and 3.9" barrel. The P220 Carry is available in all three SIGARMS trigger options: DA/SA, DAK™ and SAO. With its shorter profile and 8+1 capacity the P220 makes an ideal large-caliber carry pistol. The P220 Carry slide is machined from stainless-steel bar stock and finished in a durable Nitron® finish. The lightweight alloy frame is hard-coat anodized and outfitted with a Picatinny rail for tactical versatility. The P220 Carry comes with either contrast or SIGLITE® night sights. Available Caliber: .45ACP.

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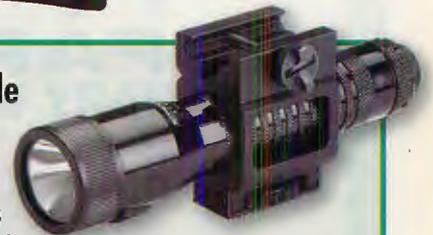
The Advanced Technology AK Fiberforce Stock has a Dragunov Design for a military look and style, with a new textured matte-black finish. It has a built-in ambidextrous cheek rest, ventilated forend, a dowel sling-mount, and will fit milled and stamped receivers. This stock counts as (2) U.S. made compliant parts. All Advanced Technology, Inc. Stocks are made in the U.S.A., require no gunsmithing, and have a lifetime warranty. Fits AK, MAK-90, and MAADI (all AK-47 variants) 7.62x39 cal. Rifles.

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Streamlight Rail-Mountable Tactical Strion Flashlight



Streamlight has expanded its extremely popular line of ultra-compact Strion flashlights with the introduction of the Tactical Strion. It has also introduced a new tactical rail mount for the model, making the Tactical Strion the first, and only, rechargeable gun-mountable tactical flashlight available today. It's as bright as flashlights five times its size, and the introduction of the Tactical Strion and tactical rail mount have added significant versatility for law enforcement or military professionals using the light in tactical situations. For them, the ability to use the same rechargeable flashlight they carry on their duty belt in either hand-held or weapon-mounted roles is unprecedented. At 5.3 inches in length, the Tactical Strion weighs just 4.6 ounces. The serrated-tailcap push-button switch is extended beyond the light body to allow easy one-handed momentary operation. A quick clockwise twist of the tailcap places the light in constant-on mode. Powered by an innovative, super-compact lithium-ion rechargeable battery, the Tactical Strion utilizes a xenon gas-filled bulb that produces up to 12,000 candlepower (116 lumens) of intense, focus-adjustable light for up to 70 minutes of continuous runtime between charges.

Streamlight, Dept. SOF

30 Eagleville Road / Eagleville, PA 19403
800-523-7488 / www.streamlight.com



Convoy of vehicles sits photogenically on military crest, as Border Police soldier stands guard around the perimeter of the eradication. The new and up-to-date uniform and equipment are all part of the U.S./NATO provisions in standing up, equipping and maintaining the Afghan security forces, be they Army, National Police or Border Police.

the soldiers. I'm pointed out the man among the locals who is the owner of these fields, and he's laughing, as if he doesn't have a care in the world.

One field cut down, the soldiers continue on, whacking and swishing the next with their switches. Twenty

minutes later, that half-acre flattened, and everyone stops. Okay, on to the next, the adjacent poppy field, right? No? Something's getting lost in the translation, but apparently this is it -- two fields, an acre all totaled at the most, maybe 40 minutes work -- the

end of the day's eradication. Quickly, trying to salvage something of a story from this, Michael insists on interviews, right here in the trampled, flattened field. How can the provincial minister resist? This is the positive PR the day is meant for.

Why Film Bad Theater?

I stick around for about two minutes of the minister's interview, then wander off to try and get photos of the kids. What does it for me is one of Michael's first questions, asking why with the adjacent field and all the poppy fields around, they had quit after doing so little. The minister's answer is something along the skewed line that they could not destroy the poppy fields of a farmer who was not there. Huh? Yeah, if the farmer is not present, they cannot eradicate his crop. Next obvious question: So, these other fields, they belong to farmers who aren't here right now?

Do you blame me for stepping away? I don't even care to hear the through-the-looking-glass answer. Under these rules, if I'm a poppy farmer and I see the eradicators coming, I'm going to suddenly disappear, and my fields



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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 its own intelligence and will work FOR YOU if you'll simply get out of the way and let it.

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

New Results from Forgotten Exercises

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

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

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

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

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

12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!

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

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

Here's How to Order

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

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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are safe. Wait, it gets better: When the interviews wrap, Michael and I are suddenly being led, following the mass of locals and soldiers, heading for the mud-walled compound beside the fields. Inside the compound is a feast of lunch spread out on plastic mats on the ground. And the soldiers and locals, (men only, after all, this is Afghanistan, and there are no women within sight), sit down and dig in. The lunch provided by – taa-dah – the very same man whose fields have been destroyed. The thing is so otherworldly, so insane, I'm too distracted to think about taking a photo. Everyone's having a gay time – farmers, soldiers, the minister, the landowner – you'd think this was a picnic in the park.

Later, heading away in the pickup, it's even more clear now how applicable the Beatles' *Revolution* is. The song was tongue-in-cheek. It was a scornful mockery of those crying for re-vo-l-u-tion. It fits for Afghanistan today. You say you want e-rad-i-cation? Yeah, right...

Postscript One. A week later, when Michael went to ISAF to attempt to sell his footage, they told him, "No, no, no," they could not be seen as having anything to do with eradication, not even a simple TV spot promoting it. Anything with poppies, get out of their sight.

Postscript Two. About the same time afterwards, I was with a high deputy at the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics, pitching my own work, and upon sight of the first photos of the actual eradication (seen on these pages), he said, "So, when you put the cameras down, did they stop work and leave?" It wasn't a question; he knows. That to me is the one bright spot: they at the top of the CN game aren't even pretending to act as if they don't know what a sham the poppy eradication really is. I suppose, just as long as the U.S. State Department can keep the sham hidden and have made public photos like these and video footage like Michael's of real poppies being destroyed, the American public will be happy to know that something's being done about that massive flow of heroin from poor Afghanistan. "Well, you know, we all wanna change the world." ✕

Jim Keller is the nom-de-plum of a freelance writer who was a Special Forces captain in 5th Group, and now is a regular contributor to SOF.

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to Latino street gangs in San Diego, San Bernardino and Los Angeles, according to the LA Times.

“Operation Linebacker”

Texas is a major thoroughfare for cocaine traffickers. Of the 12,591 kilograms of cocaine seized at or between Southwest Border Ports of Entry (POEs) or at Southwest Border inland checkpoints in 2003, 8,707 kilograms (69.1%) were seized in Texas.

Operation Linebacker, a \$6 million project, conceived by the Texas Border Sheriff’s Coalition to combat the out of control border contraband traffic, took off in March.

One of the largest drug seizures under “Operation Linebacker” ended when a suspect fleeing a deputy on a high-speed chase along the Rio Grande abandoned his SUV and swam into Mexico. 641 pounds of marijuana were found inside his vehicle.

More than 5.5 pounds of cocaine and nearly 2 tons of marijuana have



A fake alligator head is just one of the unusual items that CBP labs must check.

been seized in the two months since the program began in March.

You get the general idea. The seizures were all made in a little over a week’s time by an overburdened and embattled CBP. The above listed are only a sampling of a list of busts by one agency.

Drug smuggling is on the rise.

The problem is so intertwined with what has become an irrational illegal immigration debate and an even more bizzare war on drugs in the United States that the future indeed appears quite grim. ☒

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

Recitation of the Battle of Camerone

This battle took place on the 30th of April 1863, during the campaign of Mexico. It is celebrated each year, on the anniversary of this date, by all the regiments of the French Foreign Legion.

History: The French Army was besieging Puebla. The mission of the Legion was to ensure the movement and safety of the convoys, over an 80-mile distance. On the 29th of April 1863, Colonel Jeanningros was informed that an important convoy was on its way to Puebla, with a load of 3 million francs, and material and munitions for the siege. Captain Danjou, his quartermaster, decided to send a company to escort the convoy. The 3rd company of the Foreign Regiment was

assigned to this mission, but had no officers available. So Captain Danjou took the command himself, and 2nd Lieutenants Maudet, company guide,

0700 hours, after a 15-mile march, it stopped at Palo Verde to rest. At this very moment, the enemy showed up and the battle began. Captain Danjou made the company take up a square formation and, even though retreating, he victoriously drove back several cavalry charges, inflicting the first heavy losses on the enemy. By the Inn of Camerone, a large building with a courtyard protected by a wall 3 meters high, Danjou decided to stand, in order to engage the enemy and delay, for as long as possible, any attacks on the convoy.



and Vilain, the paymaster, joined him voluntarily.

On the 30th of April, at 0100 hours, the 3rd company was on its way, with its three officers and 62 men. At

While the legionnaires were rapidly setting up the defence of the inn, a Mexican officer demanded that Captain Danjou surrender, pointing out the fact that the Mexican Army was

ment marching in formation and led by the Legion "Pioneers" and the Legion Band. Accompanied by the Legion color guard, the Minister of Defense walked the Sacred Way to be saluted by Gen. Dary and to pass the regiment in review. Mme. Alliot-Marie then paid homage to the Legion and its accomplishments, before personally decorating several Legionnaires for valor in combat. The Minister also presented one Legionnaire, Cpl. Martin Papirnik, who was severely wounded in Afghanistan, his natural-

ization papers. Following a French law passed in 1999, *Par le sang versé* (by their blood spilt), any Legionnaire wounded in the line of duty is entitled to French citizenship. French forces are in Afghanistan as part of NATO.

The most solemn part of the ceremonies begins when the hand of Capitan Danjou is carried up the Sacred Way and a decorated legion veteran reads the account of the Battle of Camerone. The ceremonies finish as the regiment marches up the Sacred

Way and forms up around Le Monument aux Morts, and the hand of Capitan Danjou is returned to its resting place in the Crypt. ☒

One of the pre-eminent chroniclers of the French Foreign Legion, John Lucas is an American photojournalist who lives and writes from Paris. Watch for a continuing series of articles on the Legion – the world's most enduring mercenary force.



greatly superior in number. Danjou's answer was: "We have munitions. We will not surrender." Then, he swore to fight to the death and made his men swear the same. It was 1000 hours. Until 1800 hours, these 60 men who had had nothing to eat or drink since the day before, in spite of the extreme heat, of the thirst and hunger, resisted 2,000 Mexicans: 800 cavalry and 1,200 infantry. At noon, Captain Danjou was shot in the chest and died. At 1400 hours, 2nd Lieutenant Vilain was shot in the head. About this time, the Mexican colonel succeeded in setting the inn on fire. In spite of the heat and the smoke, the legionnaires resisted and many were killed or injured. By 1700 hours, only 12 men could still fight with 2nd Lieutenant Maudet. At this time, the Mexican colonel gathered his soldiers and told them what a disgrace it would be if they were unable to defeat such a small number of men. The Mexicans were about to give the general assault through holes opened in the walls of the courtyard, but Colonel Milan, who had previously asked 2nd Lieutenant Maudet to surrender, once again gave him

the opportunity. Maudet scornfully refused. The final charge was given. Soon, only five men were left around Maudet; Corporal Maine, Legionnaires Catteau, Wensel, Constantin and Leonard. Each had only one bullet left. In a corner of the courtyard, their back against the wall, still facing the enemy, they fixed bayonets. When the signal was given, they opened fire and fought with their bayonets. 2nd Lieutenant Maudet and two Legionnaires fell, mortally wounded. Maine and his two remaining companions were about to be slaughtered when a Mexican officer saved them. He shouted: "Surrender!"

"We will, only if you promise to allow us to care for our injured and if you allow us our keep our arms."

"Nothing can be refused to men like you!" answered the officer.

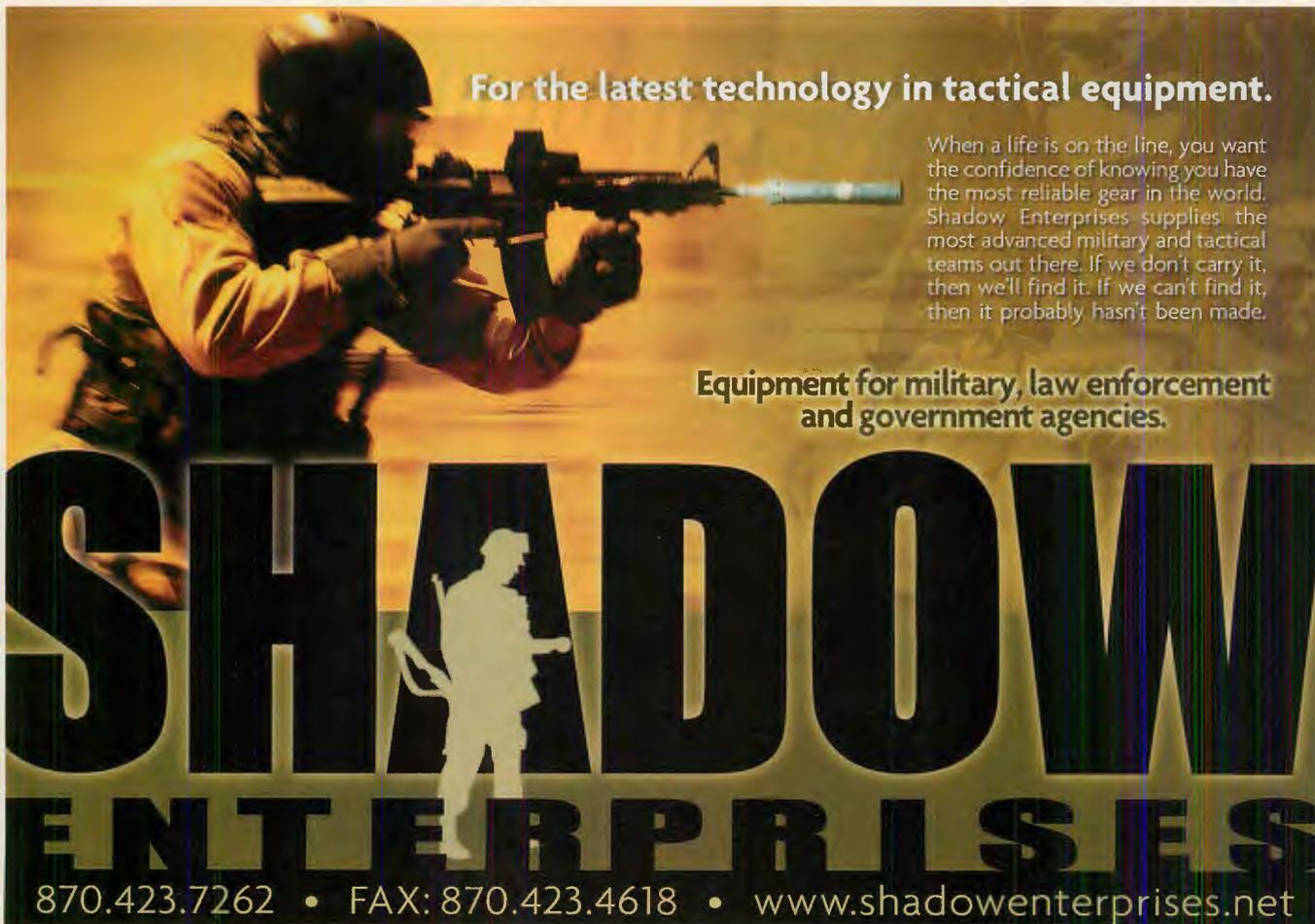
Captain Danjou's men had kept their promise; for 11 hours, they had resisted 2,000 enemy troops. They had killed 300 of them and had injured as many. Their sacrifice had saved the convoy and they had fulfilled their mission. Emperor Napoleon the 3rd decided that the name

of Camerone would be written on the flag of the Foreign Regiment and the names of Danjou, Vilain and Maudet would be engraved in golden letters on the walls of the *Invalides*, in Paris. Moreover, a monument was built in 1892, at the very place of the fight. The following inscription can be read there:

HERE, THEY WERE LESS THAN SIXTY AGAINST A WHOLE ARMY ITS MASS CRUSHED THEM BUT LIFE RATHER THAN COURAGE ABANDONED THESE FRENCH SOLDIERS THE 30TH OF APRIL 1863. TO THEIR MEMORY THE NATION BUILT THIS MONUMENT.

Since then, when Mexican troops pass by the monument, they present arms.

Captain Danjou's wooden hand was found in the ruins of the hacienda at Camerone and taken away to become the Legion's most prized possession - a sacred relic. The ashes of the Camerone dead are today preserved in the Sacred Crypt and The Mexican eagle holding a serpent in its claws became the emblem of the 1st Regiment of the French Foreign Legion. ✘



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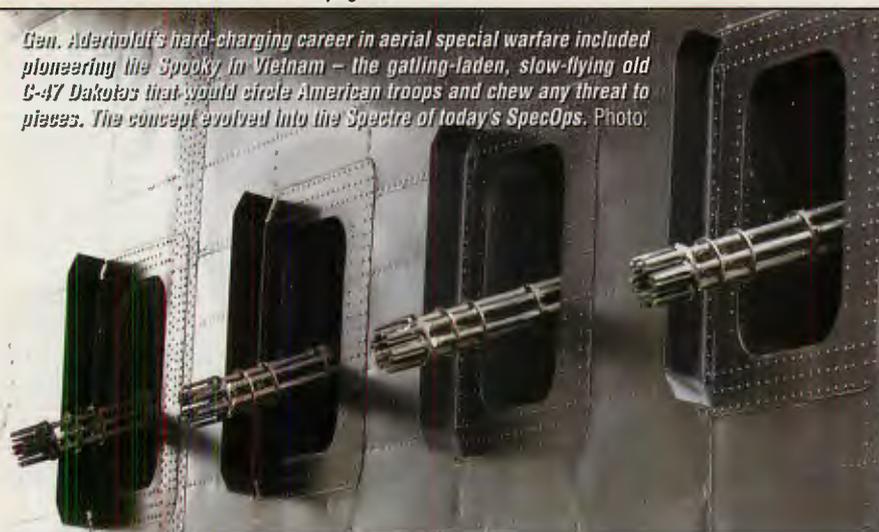
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Gen. Aderholdt's hard-charging career in aerial special warfare included pioneering the Spooky in Vietnam — the gatling-laden, slow-flying old C-47 Dakotas that would circle American troops and chew any threat to pieces. The concept evolved into the Spectre of today's SpecOps. Photo:



GETTING THE GOLD INTO THE SYSTEM

When in the throes of gold fever, sometimes it's easier to plan finding the gold than to figure out getting it "home." But in reality, extracting the booty from the site and placing it into the monetary system without being hassled by various local and international authorities could be problematic. At the time, and probably still now, local governments were concerned about drug trafficking from New Guinea, mostly pot, and any surreptitious-looking movement of goods had to be one of the factors to consider.

Initial discussion/planning centered on acquiring a moderate-sized boat, staffing it with former Vietnam river crews and boat drivers, motoring up the river adjacent to the site, loading up, heading back down to Oro Bay, south east around Milne Bay and then south west to Australia, some 700-plus miles away. On-site recon by the General and others found the river's depth too shallow and uncertain to navigate. Loading gold on vehicles and trucking it on down to the Oro Bay would take too long, increas-

Posey buried the stuff — a depth too great to be picked up by the Aussie's equipment.

That same year, I was roaming the streets of Port Townsend, Washington when I walked into a used-book store and began to browse through its many selections. One book caught my attention — a treasure hunter's book. I pulled it down from the shelf and thumbed through its pages when one bold-faced paragraph jumped out at

me. It said: "Sometimes people tell a story so often, for such a long time that neither reverse hypnosis nor a polygraph test will prove them liars." As I dug through boxes and boxes of letters, notes, drawings and maps on this project while writing this article I came across a report written by one of brother Robert's former staff members. He and another fellow had interviewed Posey by phone and unbeknown to Posey had subjected him to

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ing the chance of discovery.

Extraction by air seemed more plausible. The airport at Popondetta was large enough to handle 737s and therefore certainly DC-3s. Furthermore, the airport closed up shop at dusk and the operators left for their homes. There was absolutely no security – no guards, no fences and the like. For a gold bar or two, appropriate pilots and planes could be hired and it was a short flight across the mountains to Port Moresby and/or on to Australia. At the time, radar from New Guinea was spasmodic, and a plane could be flown low enough to avoid Aussie radar and land on the multitude of abandoned WWII dirt airfields scattered throughout Queensland or the Northern Territories.

Our Aussie partners assured us that with the proper discount (10-20%) the gold could be converted to cash by several gold brokers. The General planned to fly his share to Thailand whereby one of his Thai military friends would meet him at the airport and rush the gold to a safe house, to be later sold on the market.

For my share, I chose a more devious and, I thought, clever plan. An

import/export broker friend of mind who was very familiar with customs protocol and procedures suggested the following: There were, at that time, no import fees on religious artifacts. I had contacted an Australian private smelter, who said that they would – for a bar or two, which seemed to be the cost of doing this kind of business – mold for me several Buddhas and provide the necessary sale documents. I would simply declare to customs that the Buddhas were solid gold and when they inspected the item that's all they would find. Stateside, I would melt down and sell the gold to local Idaho refineries, pocket the loot and go off on my spending spree.

Successful conversion, however, was always fraught with risk: Gold fever does funny things to friends, much less to hired helpers. Who could say that the General would not have been met at the airport by another general and his guns, that the pilots wouldn't hijack their own plane, or the brokers wouldn't roll over for a risk-free "finder's fee."

Ahh, but that's what adds spice to one's life or dreams. – A.B. ✕

a stress test – which he passed with flying colors.

After much thought and consideration about Devon Posey's gold, it is my belief that Posey did help bury the pastor's gold, but over the many years he exaggerated the number of gold bars by adding a zero; the real number being in the 30's and not 322 as he steadily maintained. That means the cache would be worth only \$3.4 million and not the \$34 million originally thought. Still a lot, but would a share be worth a case of cerebral malaria, a disease resistant to many drugs? I don't think so.

Prior to Posey's death in 2002, he sent me a copy of a novel he had been writing about his adventure. As an example of his mind set, still prone to exaggeration, he wrote, "I had to use both hands to carry the gold bar and, as I set in on the table, its legs began to sink into the sand." From a bar of gold that weighed 20 pounds? Not! ✕

Alan Brown is the brother of SOF publisher Robert K. Brown. He lives in the Northwest.



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

“Security First”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In late May, as the U.S. Senate debated its “comprehensive immigration reform” bill, Mexico’s President, Vicente Fox, speaking to the Utah legislature, decried the erection of barriers along the border his country shares with ours. “We won’t resolve this problem with fences, but hand in hand, working together,” the Mexican leader said. Unfortunately, our neighbors have done nothing to stop a tidal wave of humanity flowing across our southern border. To make matters worse, the bill passed by the U.S. Senate offers little that will solve the problem.

Immigration reform has generated more emotion in the heartland of America than any other issue in years. But much of the angst heard during heated exchanges in both Houses of Congress and at protest demonstrations across the land could have been avoided had the issue been properly framed by the Bush administration.

In the midst of a global war against suicidal terrorists bent on inflicting mass casualties, shoring up our frontiers should be a no-brainer. Fixing the border sieve first, before deciding what to do about illegal aliens already in the country, would have gained support from a significant majority of American citizens and lawmakers.

But now, 15 months after the president first announced his “guest-worker” program, it’s clear that the only thing that people south of the border heard was “amnesty.” According to Border Patrol agents who captured a record 1.2-million people illegally entering America last year, the hope of forgiveness for unlawfully entering the United States has become the principal motive for impoverished job seekers to race for our southern border.

The Tucson and Yuma, Ariz., areas are crossed most frequently. There, the Border Patrol reports 589,831 arrests – more than Texas, California and New Mexico combined. They also estimate that more than 500,000 illegals evaded apprehension. The explanation: Our 10,500 Border Patrol agents have simply been overwhelmed. It remains to be seen whether 6,000 National Guardsmen will help staunch the flood. Last

year the House Immigration Reform Caucus estimated that at least 36,000 Guardsmen would be needed.

Even if enhanced border patrols and surveillance work, that won’t resolve what to do about the 12-20 million illegal aliens already here. Rewarding these lawbreakers with citizenship – eventual or immediate – is not an

option because, judging from history, it is only likely to encourage more illegal immigration. That’s what happened in the aftermath of the amnesty granted 20 years ago in a political compromise worked out between Congress and President Ronald Reagan. The 1986 program granted pardon to 3-million illegals – but failed to follow through on improved border security or enforcing tougher sanctions on hiring undocumented workers. The result: a six-month lull in illegal crossings – and then the flow of humanity resumed.

Regrettably, the bill passed by the Senate last May repeats many of the mistakes of the ‘80s – even replicating some of the original language. The Heritage Foundation estimates that if the current Senate bill became law, it would permit “103-million persons to legally immigrate to the United States over the next 20 years – fully one-third of the current population of the United States.”

In the aftermath of the Senate vote, some members in both parties are now saying that there is scant hope for getting any real reform before the 2008 elections.

But not everyone is giving up. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, says that, “We still have a chance to do the right thing.” She is proposing that a House-Senate Conference incorporate what she calls the “Secure Authorized Foreign Employee,” or SAFE Visa plan into the final bill.

Sen. Hutchison’s measure would permit foreign workers who passed a

background check and who have proof of U.S. employment to apply for visas in their home country. Employers would be responsible for bearing the costs of getting these foreign workers to the United States. SAFE Visas would last for 10 months, at which time workers would be required to return home for two months before it could be renewed.

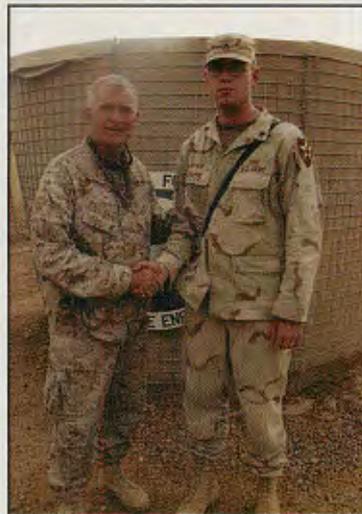
Employers would be responsible for all appropriate tax and other paycheck deductions, and all Medicare withholding for SAFE cardholders would be used to pay for uncompensated emergency health care provided to non-citizens. No one on a SAFE Visa would be eligible for federal, state or local government-sponsored social services, and any illegal alien seeking a SAFE Visa would have to go home first to apply.

Though this eminently sensible idea was rejected by the Senate, Hutchison plans to ratchet up the pressure on her “colleagues” to include it in any final bill by pointing to the obvious security advantages of the SAFE Visa: “I believe that any legislation addressing immigration must first address the safety and security needs of the United States. In a world where terrorists continue to seek to harm Americans, we must protect our citizens. We have every right to know who is in our country, who has crossed our borders, the nature and purpose and length of the visit. And we’re negligent if we don’t know these things.”

She’s right. And if the president from Texas is wise, he’ll get behind the SAFE Visa and push hard to see it enacted. Then, when he signs it into law, he can thank the “Gentle lady from Texas” for pulling his fat out of the fire. ✕

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

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