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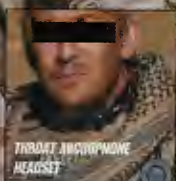
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On The Cover

A U.S. Army sniper team from Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) scans the horizon after reports of suspicious activity along the hilltops near Dur Baba, Afghanistan, Oct. 19, 2006. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Bertha Flores)



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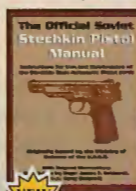


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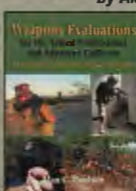


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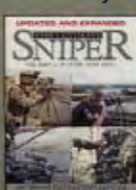


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Our Snipers Have Spoken... Now It's Your Turn! (Part 2)

Dear SOF'ers,

Below is one of many letters we are receiving regarding the series we are publishing detailing the trials and tribulations of our Marine and Army snipers. Since we have obviously hit a nerve, we have decided to take action to try and get the sclerotic Col. Blimps in the Pentagon to correct these problems. So, send copies of this article, starting on page 14, to your Congressman and Senator and ask them to contact the Pentagon for an explanation and what they are going to do to correct these deficiencies. We will print the responses you receive in SOF. Let's give 'em hell! -- Robert K. Brown, Editor/Publisher

Dear Mr. Brown,

I'm writing in response to your article in "Soldier of Fortune" about the misuse of snipers in our military. An associate of mine sent you some of my comments I had posted on a discussion forum, and I'd like to elaborate on some of the issues.

There is a Sniper Employment Officers Course offered at Ft. Benning, GA, however it is greatly lacking, and isn't mandatory for Infantry officers. My understanding is that the Army also touches base with sniper ops during IOBC (Infantry Officers Basic Course), but it is even more limited. It's become blatantly apparent that many commanding officers and platoon leaders plan the employment of snipers based largely on their Hollywood impression, and are rarely listening to the input and advice presented by the enlisted ranks. In my battalion, our sniper employment officer was the battalion sniper section leader until he was promoted and

became a platoon sergeant in a line company. His replacement was an E-5 sergeant, and although more than capable, didn't have the rank to make any headway with the chain of command.

As a result, the majority of our missions involved being on protective Security Details (PSD) for the chain of command, or as extra bodies in TAC vehicles. We were utilized in over-watch positions, but most were overt. Also during the planning process the sniper teams involved were extremely rarely conferred with, and it showed that we were usually an afterthought.

Our interdiction missions were often canceled last minute when some over-zealous officer decided he was going to make a name for himself by capturing our target instead. I waited in a hide-site three weeks to take down the head of a black-market fuel ring who was funding the primary terrorist group in the region. I literally had him in my sights, but when I called for the go-ahead, I was told to remain in over-watch while two platoons moved into blocking positions and captured him. This sort of thing has happened too many times to list them all, and was quite disheartening.

Given the current rise in enemy sniper ops, especially since CNN aired the footage of Jaysh al Islami (Islamic Army) killing American soldiers in Baghdad, proper employment is paramount. Some senior officers have begun talking about counter-sniper operations, but little is getting accomplished and snipers' input isn't being heard as loudly as it should.

Yours truly,
A former military sniper

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USS Wisconsin (BB64) rests as a museum at her berth in Norfolk, Virginia. Still bristling with big guns, her guns are now silent. As a floating fire base, the old battle wagons are hard to beat. U.S. Navy photo by Gunners Mate 1st Cass Thomas J. Downey

Keep the Battle Wagons

I agree with Lt. Col. North on saving the battlewagon. Not only is it an awesome shore bombardment platform with 16" guns, but with missiles it can reach hundreds of miles inland. We need to be creative in its use. If the Navy doesn't want to keep this useful relic around maybe the Marines could get their hands on it and man it themselves. After all, they did it with their own air arm. Why not lease it out to the Israelis when they need one. In the last mess they had they could have used one. One battlewagon can put more ordnance on the beach in a matter of hours than a carrier air wing can in a week.

Keep up the great mag and God bless our troops.

Steven Moen
Beulah ND

▼ From the Darkhorse Snipers

My name is Sergeant Amatangelo Pasciuti and I am the section leader for Scout Sniper Section 4 with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. I am contacting you because I was flattered to see that SOF picked up the sniper story. My roommate Sgt. Kevin Homestead and I were wondering if it would be at all possible to find out some information on obtaining copies of the magazine with our story. I have been looking at some of the stores on base and have been unsuccessful in my quest. Kevin and I wanted to thank you for publishing the story and helping to spread the memory of our fallen brothers. He and I were just glad to have had a part in closing a chapter of terror. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your reply. If you would like any more pictures of him and I with the insurgent or the rifle for your personal records please let me know.

Sgt Amatangelo Pasciuti
3/5 Scout Sniper Platoon
"Banshee 4"

Your copies are on their way!



He Survived The Lair

We never had the opportunity to connect our elk camp with your elk camp during the recent hunt; we required the entire allotted time to collect our elk, but I'm happy to report we were successful. I hope you were too!

My recent visit to SOF HQ was most gratifying; your "office" (lair) is remarkable. Thanks for the hospitality.

This is past due, and whilst I'm writing I'd like to say it: *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* is Kifarú's most outstanding

advertising venue, and by a large margin. I think it's because of the magazine, and what you've made of it. It's the landmark, the touchstone, in the world of those who are willing to actually put themselves on the line for freedom.

Thanks for what you and your colleagues do. I am very aware that copies of *Soldier of Fortune* (including ancient, tattered issues) are to be found everywhere such men gather.

The users of our military gear and your readers are the same men. And so of course we advertise with you! Always will. And are very happy to support your efforts.

Keep on truckin'.
Patrick Smith
Kifarú International

Same Team – Different Mission

I was reading... in the December FLAK, concerning the Air Force. To all the jarheads, grunts, etc.: The Air Force never was designed, formulated, or thought-out to be, frontline troops. The Air Force mission is entirely different than that of any other branch of the service. Think about it: Our frontline troops are officers, they fly aircraft, launch ballistic warheads, bomb targets of choice, clear the air space of enemy aircraft and soften up the front line to make the grunts' job easier. We're never going to hold-that-beach, or take-that-hill. The enlisted men will provide the support for those aircraft to fly and fight. In the past we were selected and tested for our brainpower, individuality and teamwork was stressed but not overly emphasized. We worked to get aircraft in the air and complete the mission. Very few of us actually saw frontline action, except defending the airfield. *Quit trying to make us grunts.*

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◀ **Christmas at Arlington:** These wreaths – some 5,000 – are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. Yes, some Americans really care. Photo: Courtesy Arlington National Cemetery



▲ **Afghan Schoolhouse:** We have often mentioned some of the hard-charging troopers in Afghanistan befriended by Jerry Sullivan. Here's some of the work they do, and Mike's (the Old Man) note on why: "The kids over here are just as special as those in the states. By raising a generation of children with hope that are not motivated by hate, we will take the wind out of the terrorists sails! I was recently asked if we only do reconstruction. No, we spend a lot of time working with the police, army and border police. I intentionally don't talk much about the fighting because its not so important to me. We do meet up with the enemy on a regular basis and have to twist him up every now and again, but what is winning the war is the reconstruction, not the fighting. So, we focus on that. Some of you have asked if its OK to pass the photos along.....sure. I think it's a good thing for folks to know there is more going on in Afghanistan than car bombs. Photo: Mike, courtesy Jerry Sullivan



▲ **USAF medic John Gebhardt in Iraq:** This little Iraqi girl's entire family was executed. The bad guys intended to execute her also and shot her in the head but they failed. She was cared for by Gebhardt's hospital unit and is on the mend, but had been crying and moaning. John was the only one she seemed to calm down with, so John spent many nights holding her while they both slept in a chair. It may not make sense to some people, but this pretty well represents what America is trying to do in Iraq. Family photo, courtesy Joe Armstrong

▶ This little boy is playing in the water outside his home.....a few weeks ago, nobody in this village of 5,000 had running water. We recently completed this project (pipe scheme) that brought water to 300 homes. This pipe scheme captures water in a Mountain stream a few miles away and pumps it into the Mountain Village (roughly 6000 feet). The project was completed by the villagers; It cost about 15K. My engineers inspected it throughout its construction to ensure it was being assembled properly. It is funny, none of the homes have water inside. They want it outside. The villagers say that water belongs outside because it is messy. A lot of folks think that we are defeating the Taliban and Al Qaeda over here in gunfights. This is not so. We do have fights with them, a lot of them lately...and we haven't lost one yet. But, we are truly defeating this enemy, permanently defeating him that is, by providing hope to a long-neglected population. We provide these folks hope. All the bad guys provide is more violence. Photo: Mike, courtesy Jerry Sullivan

Continued on page 46





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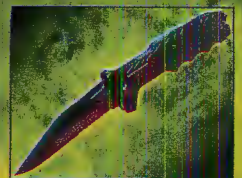
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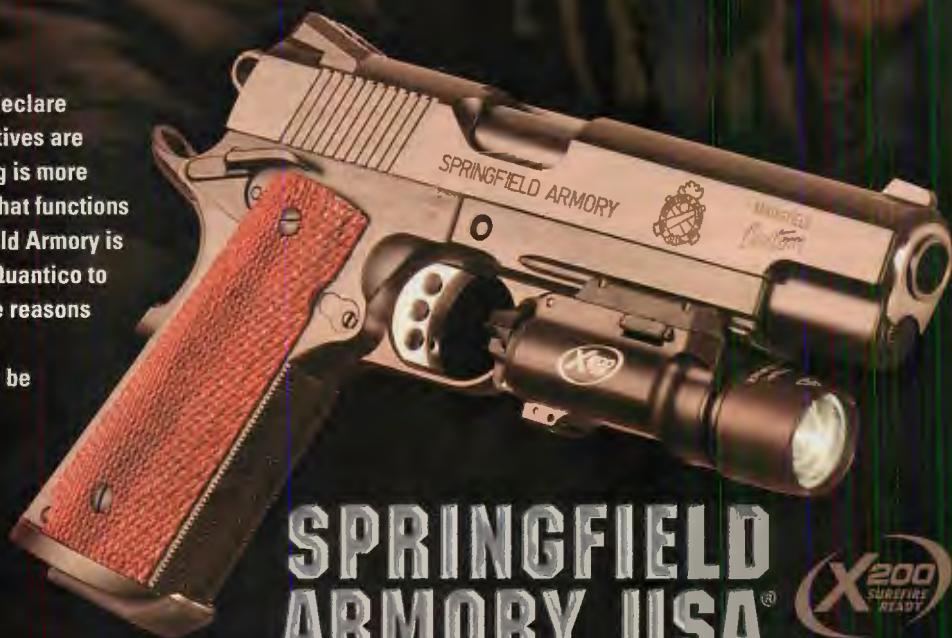
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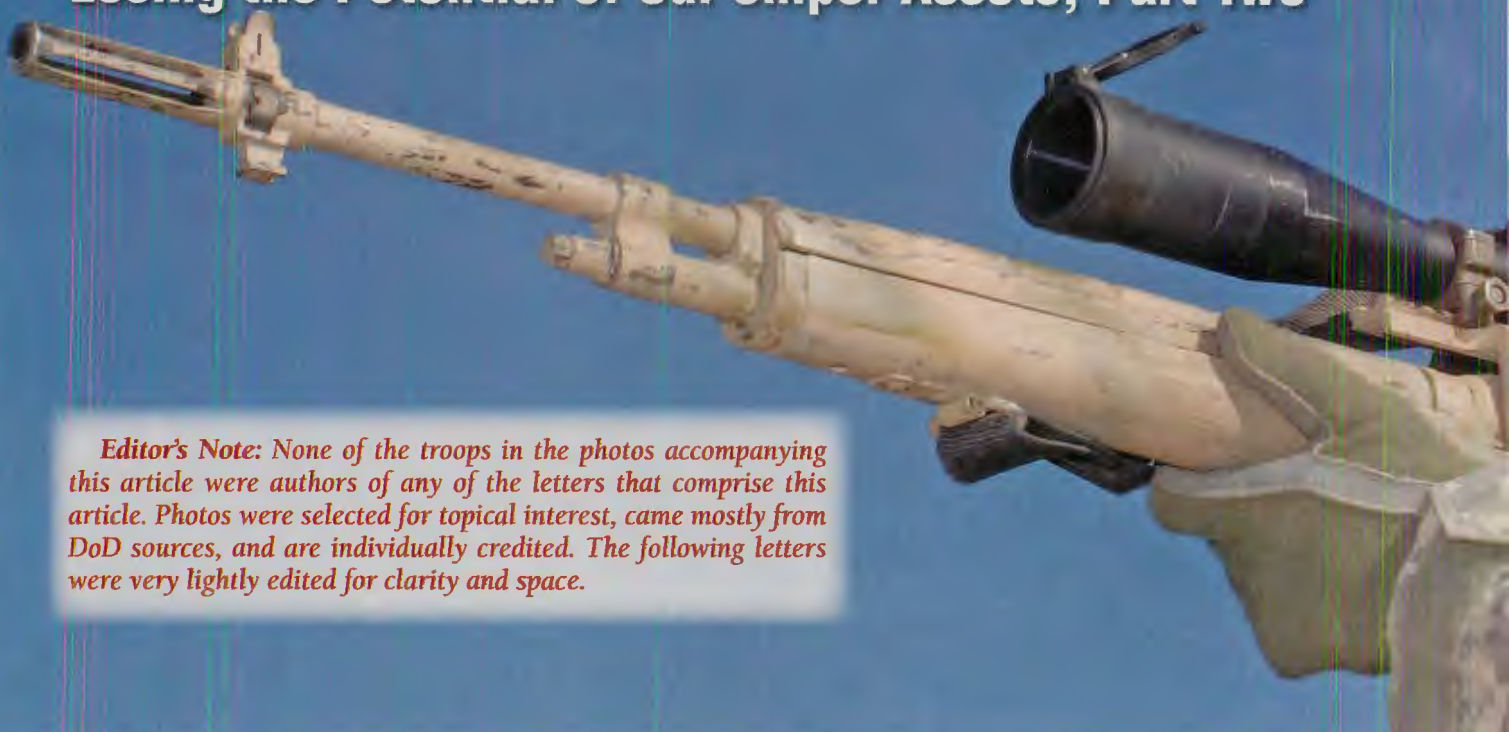
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One Round, Few Missions

Losing the Potential of Our Sniper Assets, Part Two



Editor's Note: None of the troops in the photos accompanying this article were authors of any of the letters that comprise this article. Photos were selected for topical interest, came mostly from DoD sources, and are individually credited. The following letters were very lightly edited for clarity and space.

Not uncommonly, the military mission following a successful invasion evolves into sorting out various warring internal factions in order that Democracy might have a chance to take root, as is the case in Iraq. At this point, the liberators become seen as occupiers, and mission success may well hinge on winning the hearts and minds of the population. Working against this is the costly synergism between a high-profile military presence and any collateral damage caused by military activity, when it comes to how the liberated perceive the liberators.

One of the lowest-profile tools available, which by its very nature is so precise as to be the least-likely tool to cause collateral damage, is the elite cadre of American military snipers. They are also one of the most cost-effective military tools available.

This two-part article, comprising letters from individual American snipers

serving in the Middle East, exposes a story of the neglect, misuse or hand-capping of one of the most precise, cost-effective military tools we have on the ground. Where a problem is mentioned by more than one correspondent, the redundancy has not been editorially corrected, in order not to skew the reader's perception of the pervasiveness of that particular problem. We will let the writers candidly speak for themselves.

LETTER 1: "...A Flatter Flying Round"

Maybe a flatter flying round, so [I'd] guess something more like the 300 WinMag or 300 WSM would be much better than the new M24A2, or give regular sniper teams a 300WinMag.

LETTER 2: "Remain Visible"

"In June we lost a man to sniper fire and they still insisted that we remain vis-

ible."

1. When securing convoy routes and providing over-watch for transnational assembly members we were actually asked to place ourselves in "highly visible" locations to deter insurgent activity. We were disgusted that someone would have us place ourselves in a position to receive enemy fire, as opposed to well-hidden locations where we could interdict enemy fighters and put accurate fire on their positions. We felt as though we were just "pogs" on a playing board to be moved around by some General or war planner. What a prize it must have been for insurgents to see U.S. soldiers on a rooftop with scoped rifles and bins like big silhouette targets!!!

2. Another issue in Central Baghdad is that the city never sleeps. No matter what time of day or night you moved into a hide site someone saw you or noticed your movement. We always used the curfew hours to move about and insert but it never failed, no matter how careful you were somehow

Many Skills,

Sgt. Jan Carlos Manzano, a sniper team member from Company D, 2nd Bn, 22nd Infantry Regiment, provides security for fellow soldiers in the village of Shi'aha, Iraq. Photo: U.S. Army by SSG Kevin L. Moses



you ended up compromised – if not by the adults, then the nosy children the next morning. Urban operations are extremely difficult in a city of that size and population. Although the curfew said you couldn't be out at night on the roads some businesses still had people at their locations working, i.e. bakers and security personnel at banks and businesses.

3. Central Baghdad had way too many high-ranking officers that wanted to impose their wonderful thoughts and ideas on you, insisting that if we listened to them we would make a big difference. The problem was that none or very few of them had any operational experience. Sometimes we thought we were acting out movie scenes because the op orders were so ridiculous. Example: We had two soldiers shot by an insurgent sniper within 10 days of each other, both at the same location within a few yards of each other. The answer? Place my sniper team on over-watch and have a foot patrol walk up and down the street

to “draw fire” so that I could identify the shooter and take him out. I am not kidding you, it was dubbed “Operation Night crawler” because the soldiers were like bait on a hook. This came out of the main Infantry Division who was in Iraq in 2005!

I could go on and on but won't because it is upsetting to think about again. I hope these are the kind of issues you were looking for, if you need anything else please let me know. I may be heading back over for my 3rd tour early next year (as a security contractor this time) I'll keep in touch.

LETTER 3:

“...Knowledge of Employment Is Definitely A Huge Issue”

When we were in-theater, we were tasked with keeping the roads open. Not a problem, however, they would put a MAPP team all around us. There was NO WAY a bad guy was going to do something stupid with those guys sitting there.

They also made us a non-factor there.

MilSpeak for Brown-Boots and Civvies

ACU's	Army Combat Uniform
B4	Army Sniper MOS
BC	Battalion Commander
CSI	Crime Scene Investigation
DA	Department of the Army
FFP	Forward Firing Position
GS vs. DS	General Support Vs. Direct Support
IBA	Individual Body Armor/Interceptor Body Armor
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IOBC	Infantry Officer Basic Course
MAPP	Manpower and Personnel Plan/Mission Analysis and Performance Program
MOS	Military Occupational Specialty
MTOE	Modified Table of Organization and Equipment
PID	Positive Identification
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QRF	Quick Reaction Force
ROE	Rules of Engagement
SAPI (SAPIs)	Ceramic Plate (body armor)
SASR	Semi-Auto Sniper Rifle
SDM	Squad Designated Marksman
SEO	Sniper Employment Officer
SGM	Sergeant Major
SNR	Senior
TL	Team Leader
TOC	Tactical Operations Center

There should be a MAPP team or some kind of security detachment around in case of compromise, but not ALL AROUND to the point where you are nothing more than a grunt, displaced with a bolt-action rifle and really cool gear.

There are other examples, but as time goes on, they fade.

LETTER 4:

“Command Doesn't Know How To Use Us...”

“...So they turned us in to a 16-man infantry platoon.”

I am in one of the Army's new combined arms battalions. The biggest problem is



Spc. Jimmy Wilkes, a sniper from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, pulls overwatch security for fellow GIs during a patrol in Mosul, Iraq. With their superior range and accuracy, snipers can keep enemy sharpshooters – and crew-served weapons – at bay. Photo: USAF by Tech. Sgt. John M. Foster

that our higher chain of command doesn't know how to use us so they turned us in to a 16-man infantry platoon. We have been in Iraq since December and I can count all the sniper type missions we've done on one hand. We have offered many times to inform them of what we are capable of but they refused it. We submitted briefings and power point presentations and they would kick them back because of spelling errors or punctuation bullshit. Listen to this: We had a suppressor company come out for a day to show us their stuff. Our battalion operations officer (S3) said he was not im-

pressed: "I don't understand why you need these things when we are getting combat ear plugs" We knew we were screwed from then on.

We were told that our missions need to be submitted 72 hours in advance so they can be cleared by DIVISION. WTF is that about? We have had hundreds of IED attacks on the same route, we lost several guys on that road and they still wouldn't put us out there. I'm trying to give you a good idea of what goes on in some of these units. These commanders need to be educated on how to use us. Why waste the



Sniper section leader SSG Logan Sirbert, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Bn, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd ID, Task Force Liberty, emerges from a room he has just searched, while cover is provided by SSG Fritz Autenrieth, Section B team leader. Photo: U.S. Army by Sgt. Matthew Acosta

money to train us if they themselves don't know how to use us.

I left country in 2005, so some stuff might be fixed now. When I was there a lot of the issues with gear were incompetence. My unit's supply sergeant thought that he was spending his own money and wouldn't even try to get the things my teams needed. I had four teams in my section and the best gear came from [a stateside professional charitable organization]. It took me six months to get my chain of command to order MRK211 ammo for the .50. I had to improvise in order to have night capability for the riflescopes.

LETTER 5:

"Employment Was An Issue All By Itself..."

Employment was an issue all by itself. My company commander would listen to me and let me employ in the company area as I saw fit. But the problems in our area extended outside the company area. I tried to get the go-ahead for missions throughout the battalion sector and kept getting turned down by the BC because he was afraid of us getting hurt. The big problem is he always wanted to keep vehicle support close by, but that would do nothing more than draw attention to our location and the Iraqi's would not try anything, so the movement would stop – not very productive! I also ran into trouble with a couple of lieutenants who thought they knew the capability of my rifle, and my shooting. Their theory was that I needed to be within 200M of my objective area to be effective. They wouldn't listen and all it did was get me shot at more than I would have liked. I did get the chance to prove them wrong: I was on over-watch for a Delta mission, when the shit hit the fan, and a car fled the area, to where they loaded some RPG's in it and were heading back at them. I took the shot at 1200m and put one through the engine block. Old Haaji was detained, with force. Those two lieutenants didn't question me anymore.

LETTER 6:

"Being OpCon To Units That Don't Have Snipers in Their MTOE"

I would say the biggest problem my unit had was being OpCon to units that don't have Snipers in their MTOE, and then trying to employ my soldiers. Problem number two, we were a light infantry line company. We had no sniper slots on our MTOE. We had to adapt, knowing full well that we would have to eventually do these missions. We begged for slots at Sniper School and the Designated Marksman Course but [higher headquarters] did not think it was a priority. Therefore we had to make do

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Lance Corporals Dan Laubscher (lead) and Anthony Powers, scout snipers with the 4th Marine Regiment, move to the second story of an abandoned home in Fallujah, Iraq in search of a site from which to observe and report on enemy movements – and efficiently end hostile activity. Photo: USMC by L/CPL Paul Robbins, Jr.

with what we had, train our soldiers using our collective knowledge, and scrounge for what we needed (weapons etc.). In fact we were not given any sniper weapons until we got into theater. We were then given three M14's. This was crazy. My soldiers did not have a chance to train, were given weapons they had never used, and then sent in harms way using only the knowledge our leadership could give them. Here is an example of the way things are in Iraq: There was a Cav Troop that had half a dozen Barrett XM-107's, and 21- M14's, and three or four M24's. They never employed any of these weapons. We begged to get them on the Army loan program or any other back-channel deal. They would not let us have any of them. Needless to say there are a lot of issues working against us over there. Hopefully this gives you a small perspective on my unit."

LETTER 7:
"...They Just Stopped Using Snipers All Together"

The problem we are having is that they just stopped using snipers all together with my unit. We are still in Iraq (we were extended) and I am in XXX. We did operate in XXX under our own Brigade and we did all kinds of Sniper Missions, [but] now that we are attached to another unit in XXX that unit feels that it is too risky to use snipers. Basically what the deal is, they are afraid of us dying, they are afraid of what the media will say if we do get killed. They are so scared that they will not even let us operate. Now I came in the military to do a job, and I am willing to accept the risk – that's why I am a sniper. I know that my job is extremely high-risk, I don't need some stars and bars thinking they are doing us favors by keeping us from doing missions. We were very successful in XXX and

could be super-successful here in XXX due to the lack of Sniper Operations. We need to be used!

LETTER 8:
"They Don't Want To Fund Us"

Friends and family send us gear, or we spend like \$70 bucks on gloves and gear. For us to stay hydrated for five days so we don't fall out while in a hide for five days we have to buy our own packs etc. and you all help by sending scopes and cleaning stuff, but we are still missing a lot of stuff. You have to call up a 100 people before you take a shot, but if they see one of ours they shoot him. Our Stryker Brigade lost one last week due to a sniper – if we had a counter-sniper team while they were doing checkpoints, we might have got him first. Well I have got extended in Iraq for another four to six months. We are stuck in Baghdad and it sucks. We live in 210-man bays when previously we had our own room. The division makes dumb rules – like after a long patrol, if you're sweaty, the chow hall is off limits. I am stuck just searching blocks of houses. We find a lot, but the news is not there when we find a lot of stuff. Our replacements? Their snipers are getting hosed in training, though I heard things are getting a little bit better. They're about to deploy very soon. But their ranges are all closed for upkeep or maintenance or some damned thing, so – wait for it – they weren't going to be able to put any rounds downrange before deploying; which meant the new snipers assigned to their sniper platoon would not have received any live-fire training. I hear now at least they've made arrangements to rent a range and hire a company to put their new guys through a basic sniper school, since the actual Army sniper schools are full up. Isn't that freaking crazy?

LETTER 9:
"Misuse of Snipers..."

1. No decent night optics. A PVS 22 is on the market, but the PVS-10 is pushed on the units because it's "on hand." Even when a detailed operational needs statement was pushed forward, the "foot draggers" at Corps and DA level have taken way too long to answer. It took the unit before us almost their whole year to get XM107s, and we got the use of them, and it's going to take us all year to get PVS 22s, just so the next unit can enjoy them. Same can be said for thermal sights, laser range finders, wind direction finders, mil dot calculators, etc.

2. Misuse of snipers, especially by the Marines. The Marine unit in our sector (and not all of them, just some) send their snipers out on combat patrol as infantry (Army is guilty of this as well) and then have their snipers occupy the same position over and over and over again. The enemy here in our AO uses close quarters combat as their counter sniper technique, and it works! They scout out sniper positions, and then throw hand grenades, assault the position, or lay an IED against the dismounted egress of the sniper/SDM. This resulted in at least one Marine INF BN in our AO going



A troop with Comanche Co., 2nd Bn, 5th Cav Regiment, sights a Dragunov sniper rifle, providing counter-sniper fire for his unit against attacking insurgents in Sadr City, Iraq. The rifle was confiscated by Comanche's White Platoon, from an insurgent's house. Photo: U.S. Army by Pfc. Erik LeDrew

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black on sniper capability.

3. Ammo. Match grade ammo for a regular Army unit is hard to come by. I forget all the exact terminology, but by MTOE and training allowance they compute your rounds for training for the year, and even here in Iraq, that's all the ammo you get to train with. There's some sort of account, and that account dictates what the unit gets to train on. Then you sign for your Combat Load. Now, a good sniper shoots his combat load and his training load, then begs for more while he's in the rear, and usually gets it. But it shouldn't be a problem anyway. There should be some sort of code that is easily entered for every sniper in your unit, regardless of MTOE, as well as for different weapons systems, that will allow them to shoot their training loads to their heart's content. We all know there's no substitute for shooting for getting the dope on your rifle, but it's hard to get that point across to someone guarding the ammo and the account (precious, yes, my precious. I won't let them shoot you, even if we're in a WAR!!)

4. No-good, brown-nosing SGMs and SNR regular Army NCOs who have nothing better to do than try to enforce "uniform standards" on good soldiers regardless of the fact that said SGM never leaves the FOB. When a sniper or SDM or security team member (you need those as well, the days of two man sniper OPs are gone, at least in urban areas) needs to climb over a wall to "cat burglar" his way into a house to set up a sniper OP, then the last thing he needs to worry about is that his plate carrier isn't IBA, and therefore isn't authorized. Or that

while doing mission planning, he got lit up by some shitbird who doesn't know one end of an M24 from the other for not wearing his cap, or God forbid, shooting at the range in less than full kit. Now, I keep some heat off the boys as a captain, but I can't be everywhere, all the time. The more snipers they flood into the regular Army, the more you'll have good troops and good shots that are miserable because the regular Army still has a lot of 1980's Army in it.

**LETTER 10:
"...Employment... Supporting Arms... Suppressed Weapons"**

Key issues are proper employment, proper doctrinal use of supporting arms, and suppressed weapons.

Employment is a never-ending battle of the egos. Commissioned officers (seems to be a mainly USMC thing) tend to think that because they read *Marine Sniper* they know everything there is to know about sniping and snipers. They seem to fall in love with water towers and other high and obvious places to commit suicide. They generally refuse to let the snipers actually plan their own missions based on intelligence reporting and generally try and force snipers to



Cpl. Edward Thomas, scout sniper from 4th Marine Regiment, 11th MEU (SOC), keeps a watchful eye over the U.S. Embassy in Qatar, during a noncombatant exercise to test the emergency evacuation protocols called the Emergency Warden System. Photo: USMC by SSG Sergio Jimenez

fit within their preconceived maneuver plans vice letting the sniper TL recommend positions based on that same plan of maneuver. In short, they tend to be control freaks.

Supporting arms is a key issue for sniper teams because their organic firepower is shit. Snipers don't have firepower, everybody needs to get that out of their head. They rely on supporting arms for firepower, even more so than other units. Since it generally took more than 10 minutes to get 155mm fire where I was in Iraq, in a more active time, chances are the situation is even more screwed up now. Ten plus minutes is completely unacceptable for supporting arms, 2-5 minutes is correct. It's not like the gun bunnies are overworked. After 10 minutes, the targets have generally gone away and you're pounding sand. A good IED-laying team is in and out in less than 10 minutes. Hitting them with the sniper rifle is great, if they're in range. Often, you'll get one or two and the rest pile into the vehicle and drive away.

Suppressed weapons are essential, both rifles and pistols. Suppressed 9mm's are quiet enough for zapping dogs (which are everywhere) without 100% completely dooming the mission, and suppressed rifles give you enough enemy doubt about your FFP, that you might just get more of them before they haul tail out of there. ☒



Spc. Alex Aguilar, a sniper from the 155th Brigade Combat Team, attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit, scans the banks of the Euphrates River where insurgents have transported mortars and other weapons under cover of darkness. Photo: U.S. Army by Kurt Gibbons III



From left, the Custom CDP II™, Desert Warrior™ and Team Match II™, each in .45 ACP. Also pictured, the new Kimber LifeAct™ Guardian Angel™ non-lethal self defense device.

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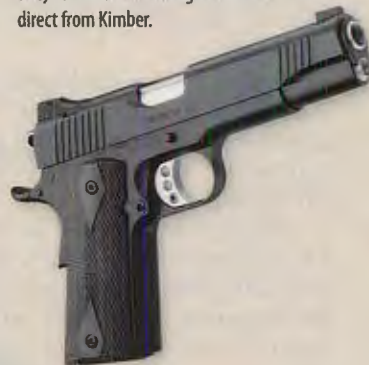
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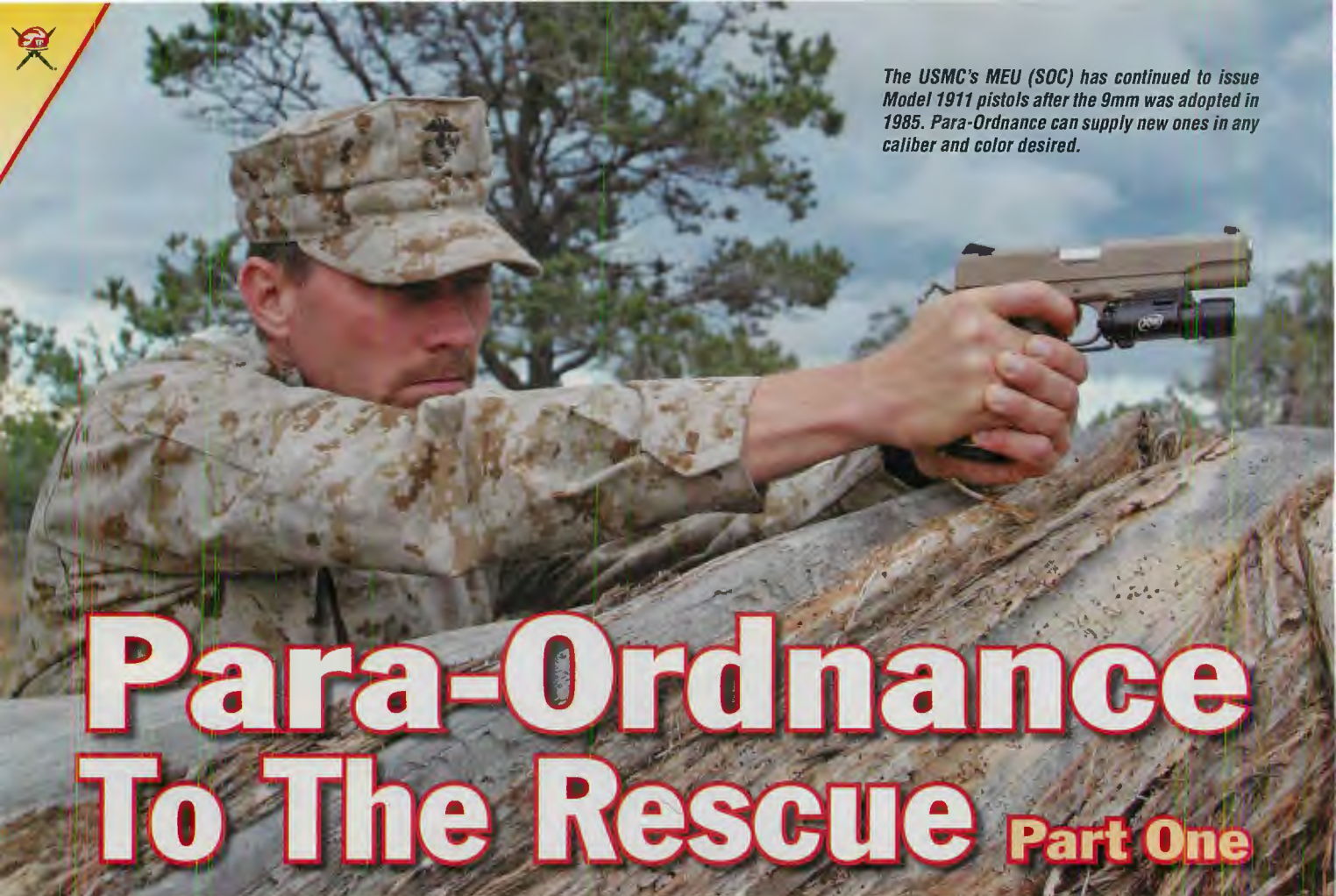
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Continuing the Legacy



The USMC's MEU (SOC) has continued to issue Model 1911 pistols after the 9mm was adopted in 1985. Para-Ordnance can supply new ones in any caliber and color desired.



Para-Ordnance To The Rescue **Part One**

USSOCOM Chooses .40 Caliber: Could the P-16 be the New GI Pistol?

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

By now, anyone reading this knows that the U.S. military has begun a search for a new pistol to replace the Beretta 92, or M9 as it is officially known in the service.

Having been adopted in 1985 under circumstances, which to some smacked of the suspiciously political, the argument against the gun wasn't merely that it wasn't made in the USA. If adopting a foreign made pistol wasn't *foreign* enough, the gun was being adopted in the anemic 9x19mm NATO cartridge that was regarded as truly weak sister compared to the one deeply rooted in American military tradition, the venerable .45 ACP.

Adopted for the new-handgun trials in 1907 for its knockdown power, and becoming an item of standard issue with the adoption of the M1911 Colt pistol, the

.45 ACP cartridge is not only traditional, but also has established itself as a measurably superior fight stopper to the one that replaced it well over a half-century later.

I'm a great defender of the 9x19mm cartridge when loaded with any of the expanding bullets available today – but we're talking here about 9mm

NATO 124-grain ball, which in my opinion is all but useless even in an SMG, much less a pistol.

Then there is (or was) the side-arm that was being replaced, the renowned Model of 1911 pistol itself. Adopted with the .45 ACP cartridge, the Model of 1911 had served us extremely well – even longer than the M2 HB .50 caliber machinegun (still our main heavy machinegun). If ever there was a pistol approaching perfection it is quite arguably the 1911.

Nevertheless, except for the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) of the United States Marine Corps, all elements of the U.S. military mothballed their 1911's and issued the M9. Beginning in 1986, the MEU began a program to rebuild existing 1911 pistols and later would buy small quantities



Para-Ordnance' conceptual pistol to meet U.S. Army needs is a High Capacity Light Double Action (LDA) only .45 ACP pistol seen here with a 4-color ParaKote finish and a Blackhawk Tactical SERPA Thigh Holster in OD green.

from Springfield and Kimber to issue for special operations.

When America went to a limited war with Iraq in 1991, reports of inadequacies with the 9mm cartridge increased, as did breakages of the locking block and barrel of the pistol firing it. Although the breakage problem was addressed, there was and is little that could be done with the lack of effectiveness of the cartridge as issued.

Following the (obvious) beginning of the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT), or the Global War On Islamic Radicalism (which ever your degree of political correctness permits), complaints about the P9 have continued to the point that a movement was begun to replace the 9mm service pistol with one in (well what do you know) .45 ACP. Does this bring to mind the lessons learned during the Philippine Insurrection, i.e., *history?*

As a result of what everyone in the field continued to tell everyone who flew a desk, a program was initiated in 2005 to replace the M9 pistol. Although the requirements for the pistol were multi-fold, the cartridge required never strayed from .45 ACP.

Although all branches of the military were essentially on board for a return to the .45 ACP, the wish list of features in the pistol differed. Perfectly happy with the conventional operating system of the Model of 1911, the Marine Corps wanted to retain this pistol with a few specifications to their liking. These include some of the old and some of the new and the USMC borrowed an extended grip safety and thumb safety, but not in blue. The Marines wanted their pistol in coyote brown.

The Army wanted a high-capacity .45 ACP pistol holding a minimum of 10 rounds, perhaps in double action, or maybe one transitioning from double action to single action. It might/ could have a thumb safety or a decocker, or both, or neither, but like the Marines, a lanyard seemed like a good idea.

Like the USMC, the U. S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), and Special Forces in particular, had continued issuing rejuvenated .45 ACP Model of 1911A1 pistols in various degrees of age and condition with a number of custom style features similar to the pistols that made their way into MEU (SOC), which had become a member of the SOCOM family.



Para-Ordnance's USMC pistol is a single-action finished in Coyote Brown. It is seen here with Safariland's 6004 Series USMC LightMount holster with an Insight M3 Tactical Light mounted on its M1913 frame rail.

While the Special Forces could be content with a conventional, modern Model of 1911A1 type pistol with a single-stack magazine, it did not have the resources of the "Big Army," and was relegated to making suggestions regarding a new pistol as time went on with the belief that it would settle for whatever the Army decided on.

During this time, all major handgun companies watched closely the progress (or lack of it) in the search for a new pistol. Included among them was Para-Ordnance Manufacturing Company, of Canada.

In 1986, Para-Ordnance not only pioneered the high-capacity 1911-style pistol, but also the world's first high-capacity magazine for it. Containing features amounting to the best of both worlds, P.O.'s hi-cap magazine

is a double-column with a single-position feed, and holds 14 rounds of .45 ACP ammunition.

Called the P-14, the pistol was virtually an exact copy of the Colt Series 80 Government Model, except for its high-capacity frame and magazine. It even used a trigger-activated firing pin block that is interchangeable with that of the Colt Series 80, but, in addition to its hi-cap frame, the P-14 differed in another important way: It uses a one-piece feed ramp to not only help feeding, but also to fully support the chamber at the web.

The LDA

In 1999, after years of research and development, Para-Ordnance took yet another giant step for shooting mankind in introducing what is arguably

Para's Special Forces 1911 single stack LDA pistol is seen here with a Safariland 6004 Series Thigh Holster with a SureFire X200 Light mounted on its M1913 frame rail.





After SOCOM showed a preference for a .40 S&W caliber pistol over one in .45 ACP, Para-Ordnance designed a new P-16 Hi-Capacity with a light rail in Flat Dark Earth. The gun was right at home in Blackhawk's Tactical SERPA Holster.

the "perfect" double action system for the Model of 1911 pistol, when Para-Ordnance's Ted Szabo designed the Light Double Action, a true 21st Century double-action 1911 pistol.

Called the LDA, the system uses what is essentially a two-piece hammer with inner and outer segments. Both of these ride on the standard hammer pin and are interdependent with only the inner portion connected to the mainspring. When the exposed portion of the hammer is forced to the rear by the slide, it takes the inner portion along and cocks it on the sear. The outer portion then follows the slide back forward via its own light torsion spring. The outer portion of the hammer is without a conventional spur, as it serves no purpose.

Unlike the standard sliding 1911 trigger, that of the LDA rotates on a cross pin through the frame much like the trigger of the Browning Hi Power. The reach to this smooth, rounded trigger is about the same as that of the standard long 1911 trigger preferred

by most shooters. The LDA trigger has its own torsion return spring and is connected to a drawbar, which connects to the outer portion of the hammer.

Pulling the LDA's trigger carries the outer hammer portion to the rear under the light resistance of both the trigger's and hammer's torsion return springs. This uniquely smooth and light DA trigger pull culminates with the drawbar reaching the sear where continued light pressure of about 4 pounds trips the sear to release the pre-cocked inner portion of the hammer. The inner hammer then rotates forward under the power of the mainspring, taking the outer portion with it to fire the pistol. It may sound complex, but it's totally simple in operation.

As with some other DA only autopistols, such as the Glock, the Para-Ordnance LDA does not have a repeatable strike capability, which is always billed as a "second strike" capability by the manufacturers. In my opinion, the only thing a repeatable strike capability is good for is to practice one's double action pull with an empty gun, and I view a "double-strike" capability as almost false advertising.

The so-called "double-strike" is only – ONLY – valid with a revolver where if you hear a "click" instead of a bang, the drill is to simply pull the trigger again to go the next chamber. Assuming your revolver is loaded,



For comparison from left are the three cartridges in contention for military issue are the 9x19mm NATO, .40 S&W and .45 ACP. Unlike the bullets shown, those issued by the military for use against criminal terrorists are full metal jacket bullets rather than expanding types shown, which might hurt them.

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you should hear a bang on the second pull of the trigger. Not so with the autopistol.

If a "click" is heard on an autopistol with a repeatable strike double action, and you believe that the pistol is loaded, you must assume that the round misfired, that the chamber is

Continued on page 55

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We Few, Part 4

...In Which Nick Swims Through Concussion Soup and Learns That Speaking Martian Will Not Land Him A Section Eight...

By Nick Brokhausen

At the time of the Vietnam War, MACV-SOG (Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group), was one of the lesser-known of the many open secrets associated with that conflict. It was also one of the most effective fighting units ever assembled with a kill ratio exceedingly high – and a life expectancy exceedingly low. Many books have been written chronicling SOG's exploits, and many more are sure to come. The excellent new volume We Few by Nick Brokhausen, however, does not remind us that these men were heroes, as that is a given. It reminds us they were human, and as Brokhausen notes, "I hope it will convey the incredible strength and macabre sense of humor that one needs in order to survive." This volume, from which we are pleased to publish four excerpts, does this very well, indeed. Enjoy.

I've got dirt in my mouth and I hurt like hell. I try to open my eyes, but I can't get them to open. It's like trying to come out of a deep sleep; I want to wake up, but I can't quite get there, flopping around like a fish on the bank of wakefulness. One thing I can do is get this dirt out of my mouth. I am trying to figure that out when my hearing starts to come back.

I can hear the muffled sounds of someone screaming and the crump of shells landing nearby. Above all, there is the almost continuous rattle of small arms fire. Coming through the haze are two voices; I try to figure out who they belong to and what they are saying.

"Is he alive?" the first voice asks.

"I think so," the second replies. "His eyes are open, but he isn't registering. Let's get him up." Are they talking about me? Who the hell are they? I can't register. I wish whoever is screaming would stop; it's confusing, and it's scaring me. Hands pull

me off the ground where I have been face down. There is a moment of gyrating scenery; I see churned up soil, a glimpse of sandbags, and then part of a leg from the knee down, clad in sterile fatigues and a jungle boot. There is a vision of sky, smeared with dust and black smoke. But out there, somewhere, during that brief spinning view, I had seen beautiful blue sky. The image of that leg, though, panics me. Is it mine? And why can't I shake this off? I can't seem to get a clear thought through my head. I am trying to feel and see if both my legs are intact. Everywhere I touch hurts and I can taste blood in my mouth. It's mixed with the leftover grit. A face looms in front of mine and looks at me intently. This person takes a canteen and sloshes some water on my face, then wipes it with a cravat. I can see a little better now. I know that face.

In Jeopardy, Not On "Jeopardy"

The face turns and yells off to his left, "He's alive, but he ain't gonna be on no quiz show." Then he turns to me and kind of smiles as he gets up and takes his weapon and runs off to my right. He moves too quickly for me to follow.

The man disappears over by a remnant of a sandbag trench line and what looks like a bunker. I am propped up in what appears to be another bunker, but there isn't any overhead cover. I can see who was screaming before. It is a Yard. He is beyond screaming now. He is eviscerated and lying there, clutching his abdomen, trying to hold in his entrails. His shirt, what is left of it, has been ripped apart. Around his abdomen is a combat dressing, which he is clutching to the wound, desperately, as if it will stop the process of dying. It is soaked with so much blood it seems to be part of the mess that is poking out around it. I look at his face. He is staring, but not seeing,

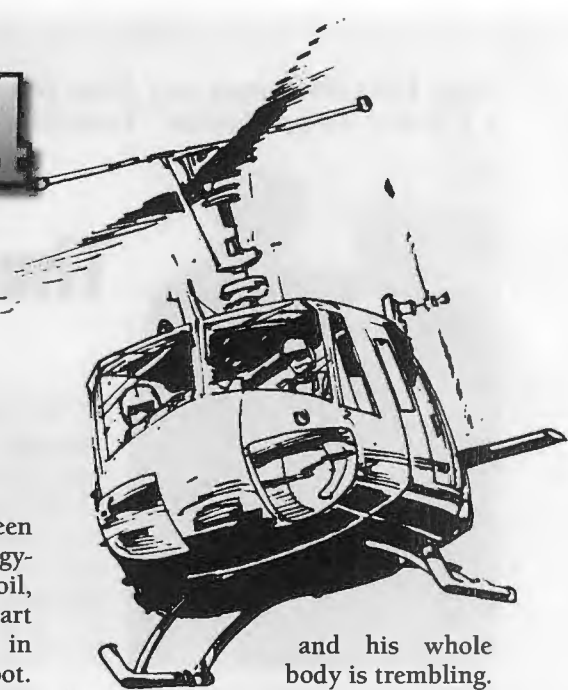
and his whole body is trembling.

I know that tremble; it's when the body is in so much pain and agony that the nervous system short-circuits and that's all you have left. There is a morphine Syrette pinned through his cheek. It's completely used. Someone has done him right, since we all know that the Yards can't take a full Syrette.

Watching Professionals Work

I hear a machine gun firing off to my left and I turn to look. I spot the leg again and it's lying in the trench to my left front. It is incongruous; there are no other body parts. Is it mine? No, I can see both of mine. I pan left and see two Yards manning an M60. They are burning up ammo in long, controlled bursts, down and away. The gunner is intent and he is switching the gun position as he fires. You can tell he is dialing in on a new target each time he moves. There is a rhythm to it, a five or six round burst, the gun barrel moves, five or six rounds and it moves again. I try to lift my left arm to swat at the place where an expended round from the 60 has hit me in the head, but my arm and hand are all floppy. The casings come out in a steady stream, hitting the left side of my head and the sandbags I am leaning against.

I lean to my right to get away from them. I see the other Yard, who is feeding the gun, stop, reach back, and jerk the pin from a grenade. As he does, I hear a couple of AKs open up, firing in long bursts. The sandbags in front of me kick with each impact, as sand and soil spurts out where the rounds hit the tops of the bags. Someone is trying to knock out the gun. The gun-



ner is firing to the left when the other Yard chucks the grenade to his right and down slope. He swings back and does the same with another grenade. There is the crump of the first one as the second is lobbed in the same direction. There is another sharp crump and someone starts screaming. The AKs stop firing, but the M60 never ceases.

I am so groggy I think I am drugged. I run my hand along my cheeks and then my lapels to see if there is a morphine Syrette stuck there, to show that I have had a shot. No Syrette, so I must be groggy from wounds or concussion. There is blood all over my left side, and what looks like small pieces of meat near my knee. I feel no wounds, so it must be someone else's blood. My mind is telling me that I need to get back in this fight. I am looking for my weapon, but it is nowhere near me. I reach back and the movement sends stabbing pain down my back. I finally locate the little sawed-off twelve-gauge I keep in a nylon pouch slung across the small of my back. I give it a couple of tugs, but it won't come free. Then I remember to loosen the length of elastic that loops over the butt. I am looking at the Yards as the gun slacks off. They aren't from my team. Who the hell was that face I saw?

There is more automatic fire from over the hill. There is the sound of a variety of weapons. I can recognize several CAR15s and at least one M60. There is also the unmistakable sound of a few AKs. The AKs sound as if they are farther off and their fire diminishing. Then I remember who it was who'd been leaning over me. It was Davidson! I hate Davidson; he has more bad luck than that little guy with the cloud over his head in "Li'l



How To Help An Abandoned Ally

If you are either unaware of the plight of the Montagnard people, or need some good ideas on how you can help them, you will find these web sites of interest:

- www.montagnards.org
- www.montagnard-foundation.org
- www.angelfire.com/dc/dega/
- www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/VN_MON.htm
- <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/04/08/vietna10445m>
- <http://montagnarducc.org/>

Abner," Joe Btfsplk. Davie gets shot at more than a duck in a shooting gallery. The man is a veritable bullet magnet. What in God's name am I doing with Davie? Where is Mac? Did we commit some great sin that as punishment we had to go on a target with Davidson?

I am trying to get up. I have to find a gun now. I get as far as my hands and knees. I cradle the shotgun. I just know the yellow horde is going to come busting over the berm line. I hear running behind me and roll, bringing the barrel up just as Eldon slides into what's left of the bunker. I could almost kiss him. If Eldon is here, I'm safe. At least I'm not up here alone with that whacked-out, little sawed-off runt, Davidson. Eldon pushes me back into a sitting position and looks me over.

"Oom Firrlm. Just Firrlm..."

"Are you alright?" he asks, peering at me intently.

"I'm fine." Only it comes out, "Oom firrlm."

He shakes his head and holds me by the harness. "Don't try to talk.

Just nod if you can understand me." I nod. "We got choppers coming in. We're going to put you on the first one with the other wounded."

Wounded? I'm not wounded; I already checked. Did I miss something?

Don't just squat there staring at me, you fool.

With Davidson on top of this hill we are probably about to get shot at by some sort of super secret weapon the NVA are trying out for the first time. Get out there and find him, hide him, bury him, throw him off the mountain, anything, but get him away from us or we are doomed. Such are my thoughts, but Eldon just continues to stare at me with concern.

"Do you understand?" He is looking at me intently, evidently not liking what he sees. He yells over in the direction where the firing is not so heavy. I hear scrambling, and Davidson comes tumbling into the hole. He turns to Davie. "Stay here with him. He's still not all here. When the first bird comes in, get him on it and the Yard from on the other side of the sixty, okay?" That's Eldon, all business. I am so glad to see him that for a minute I forget what he has said. He is going to leave me here with the friggin' varmint.

"Don't leave Eldon! Just shoot me. Finish the job, for God's sake. If you leave me here with magnet-ass, I am as good as dead." I try to yell my concerns to him, but all that comes out is weird mumbling. The nagging thought about wounds is still at the back of my mind. Then it dawns on me. I am being sent out. "Wait guys, I can still fight. See, I got my twelve-gauge. If you send me home all the other guys will think I am a wuss. You can't do that." I try and tell them I am not leaving, but it comes out in some sort of alien language that sounds like Iroquois.

Gun Control

Davidson looks at me and says to Eldon, "What the hell is he speaking,

Tough, professional, reliable: Embued with great spirit, the Montagnards fought bravely and effectively for the Allies. Their dedication and loyalty was poorly repaid when they were abandoned by the United States. Photo: SOF Files



Martian? Boy, that explosion really screwed him up. Ya think we should let him have a weapon? He might shoot himself by accident." He grins and Eldon sort of smiles. You two goobers just try and take this gun from me. I'm gonna shoot both of you.

Eldon listens on the radio for a minute and then says to Davie, "They are about five minutes out." He pauses and then continues, "Get him on the first bird and we will load the two we got on the other side at the same time. After that we will load you and your guys out; then I will bring mine out last." Davidson nods, and Eldon gets up in a crouch and runs across and over the hill. Davie yells at someone over to our right about getting the wounded ready. No, Eldon! Don't leave me here with Yosemite Sam! Davie reaches down and plucks the twelve-gauge from my hand, and shoves it back in the sheath on my back. He smiles at me with that feral little smile of his and tells me everything is going to be fine.

Yeah, I'm going to be alright, as soon as they lift me out of here. If you're not on the same bird, that is. I can hear the choppers coming. I see a Cobra flash by and as he goes out of sight I hear his Minigun open up. I

can't hear any enemy fire so they must be suppressing any thoughts of continuing the attack.

There is the familiar flap, flap, flap, of a Huey rotor slapping into short final, coming closer. Davidson and one of the machine gun crew grab me and half carry, half drag, me to the bird. A Yard who is shot in both legs is loaded on my side first. Then I am lifted and shoved inside as two other Yards are shoved in from the other side. One is shot up pretty bad and the other has what looks like shrapnel wounds to his back. The crew chief is looking everyone over. All the others are obvious, but I appear to be less injured except for the blood all over my left side.

He looks at Davie and asks, "Where is he hit?" I guess in case he has to check my bandages on the way back.

Davidson says, "Keep an eye on him, he's been drinking." Then he runs off as the chopper lifts and banks off the top of a narrow ridge. I can see the ruins of what appears to be an old bunker and trench line. There are at least two teams of our guys spread out amongst the bunkers. There is a black spot to the rear of where I had been. The guys are bagging one body, or maybe more, in and around the area.

There are about half a dozen bodies clad in khaki down slope to the right. I get a brief glimpse of the fight; then we are gone. The crew chief keeps looking at me with a bemused look on his face. Yeah, real funny Davie. The crew chief probably thinks I am drunk. I wish I were drunk. What in the name of God was I thinking? Even with the positive karmic aura of Eldon around, why would I go anywhere with that runt from Waco? Maybe I was drunk and that's how I got here. That has been known to happen. The Yards onboard look at me with the same mixture of pain and relief that I am sure I have.

"Bum a Smoke?"

I make the universal, "Got a cigarette?" sign to the crew chief. He nods and hands me a pack of Camels with some GI matches. I light one up, hand it to the Yard that is propped up, and he leans over and puts it in his buddy's mouth. I light another one for him. He takes it and smiles. I try to light mine, and am going to light one for the Yard on my side, but my hands begin to shake so bad I can't. The gunner reaches over, lights both, gives one to me and puts the other between the Yard's lips who is lying between us.

The Yard reaches up and pats my leg. ✕

Read the rest of Nick Brokhausen's *We Few*, available from Real War Stories, P.O. Box 1125, St. Ann, MO 63074; on the web at www.realwarstories.com



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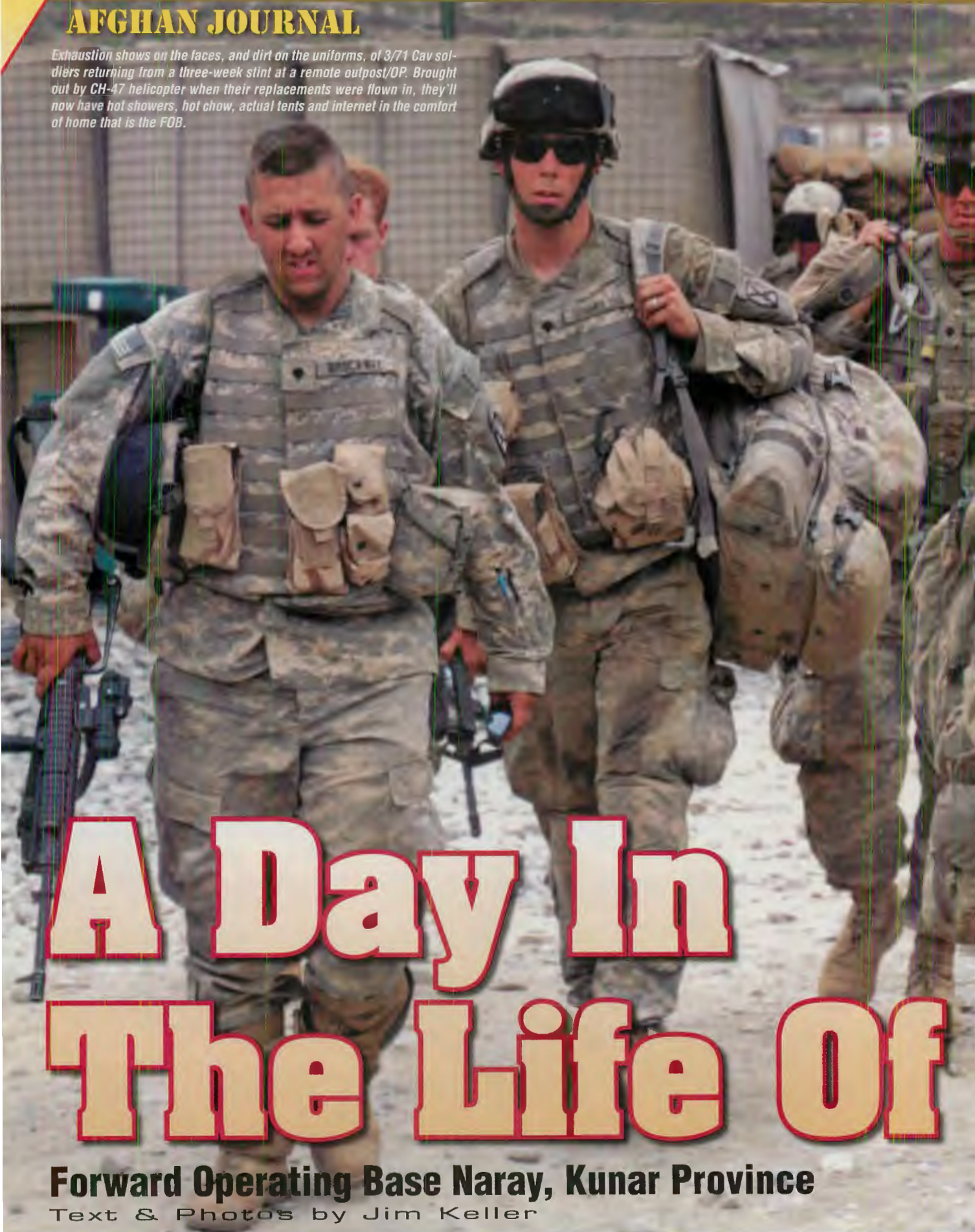
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AFGHAN JOURNAL

Exhaustion shows on the faces, and dirt on the uniforms, of 3/71 Cav soldiers returning from a three-week stint at a remote outpost/OP. Brought out by CH-47 helicopter when their replacements were flown in, they'll now have hot showers, hot chow, actual tents and internet in the comfort of home that is the FOB.



A Day In The Life Of

Forward Operating Base Naray, Kunar Province

Text & Photos by Jim Keller



I wake to a voice shouting outside, "Get under cover, idiot!" And then a thump....thump! Is that incoming or outgoing? It's pitch black in here, with the windows of this concrete barrack covered in plywood, but I jump into my pants, shirt and shoes, grab my cameras and head outside into the dawn light as the deafening bomp-bomp-bomp-bomps of the Dashaika being fired from the roof of the nearby SF compound echo between the two rows of six concrete barracks where soldiers are gathering – in everything from shorts and shower shoes to full uniform and kit – out of the open where an enemy rocket might really ruin one's day.

That's what it is, guys are saying, a rocket attack, from the distant mountain ridges, not a ground attack. Distant ridges mean our reaction will be mortar fire, so I make my way to one of the mortar pits, where the crew is just dropping its first round. Kabloom! round out, and I immediately wish I'd remembered my ear plugs. The mortar is the new 120mm – the old four-deuce is ancient history – the distant ridge is child's play for it, and a dozen rounds later, the ridgeline is obscured by the explosions. It's the same thing at the 105 howitzer ring when I jog on over – the crew pumping out rounds for the ridgeline.

When the attack is over and totaled up, it proves to be seven Chinese 107mm rockets fired, with none hitting the Forward Operating Base (FOB). The closest were two landing in the river the FOB has as its southern border and a third about 25 meters off the western perimeter Hesco wall. A couple were duds, and a patrol will later take EOD out to find and destroy them. The assessment is, it was a typical Taliban or al-Qaeda attack. Meaning, a half-dozen guys humped the mountain at night, waited for first light, set up their rockets by leaning them on rocks, aimed by guess, then fired them and booked on out. Lucky their aim is by sight, and lousy.

The U.S. has optics, (shhhh, their nomenclature and technical stats I am advised not to write about), that locate the launches, and the mortars and howitzers fire up the area and close-by egress routes. Everyone hopes our quick response actually gets some or all of the shooters, but no one's really betting on it, and all are grateful that the enemy's method and aim of shooting the rockets is, by anybody's standards, lousy.

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Gasses explode from the tube and dust kicks up as the baseplate settles, as a mortar round blasts toward the enemy position in the saddle to the right of the two teats on the distant ridgeline.

Rockets and MRE's

The action is over, and having been roused early from a decent sleep, the important question now is, is breakfast hot A's or MRE's? Damn, MRE's, again, as it is here three out of four days. The fact is, the only guaranteed hot meal a day is dinner at this FOB. And it's cooked, served and eaten outside, as the roof of the mess building collapsed last month, and with the efficiency of Afghan construction it is yet to be rebuilt. But the cooked food is the same brand and quality as one gets on the large American base at Bagram, just not as great a variety each day. There is steak, lobster, hot wings, fish filets, veggies, salads, cold sodas and Gatorade, dessert pies, cookies and even ice cream. All part of the massive ground and air resupply chain engineered to keep the troops well fed, in condition and in positive spirits.

After all, this FOB is physically a long way from home and a long way even from Bagram. The nearest FOB is at Asadabad, and it's half-again bigger than this, but Abad is a seven-hour, dirt-road drive away – not to mention the past and possibly future IEDs on that road. This is near the end of the universe here, in the northeast part of the country, bordering Pakistan, in a valley cut down the middle by a fast river – the FOB on one side, the rural town of Naray on the other. Thus, FOB Naray.

Three-plus years ago when I was stationed in eastern Afghanistan, there was nothing up in this neck of the woods. Just FOB Abad down the road, and the only Americans visiting these areas were Special Forces patrols out of Abad. A while after that, SF set up its base here, building a compound to house themselves (comfortably, including air-conditioning, individual rooms, satellite TV and fully-stocked bar, one must assume, if you know SF) and their Afghan militia (or Afghan Special Forces, which are hired guns getting triple or more than the \$70/month official Afghan National Army; which is about to change, as ASF is to be brought down to the ANA pay scale....unless the Green Berets get around that by paying their ASF the extra out of their comfortable, easily manipulated op funds.)

I don't know how the Naray SF team feels about any of this, nor how they feel about their little fiefdom growing from a private base to a 500-man FOB, because the U.S. Army Special Forces Command isn't allowing much, if any, team-level contact with the media, (for secrecy reasons), as if every insurgent from here to Peshawar, Pakistan, doesn't know that the Green Berets in Afghanistan are mainly doing intel gathering. Big secret. As if every illiterate farmer and goat herder from here up into the mountains to the border can't from a mile away tell the difference between a bearded Green Beret guy from a bearded Af-

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ghan soldier. Duh.

This mountainous area was big in the news a little over a year ago, when a SEAL recon team got hit, three out of four dying, with the rescue Chinook sent in getting shot down – all aboard dead. The fourth SEAL managed to escape and evade, protected by some local villagers and brought out safely.

Establishing A Presence

Big Army decided to push its influence into here up from Abad starting the beginning of 2006, by sending in the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry of the 10th Mountain Division to establish Naray as a full-fledged FOB to gain a

All in all, FOB Naray is now home to about 500 American and Afghan soldiers, about one-third of whom are out at any one time manning the OPs and outposts for weeks-long spells.

And there are no hot A's at those sites; none. I've spent some time at one. Just MREs, three times a day. And no flush toilets, no hot showers, or bathing at all, unless one is near a stream or water source. And no real electricity, except a small generator, no air-conditioning, no tents, and, heaven forbid, no internet. All of which can be found at FOB Naray. Sure, the flush toilets are all the way on the other side of the camp, unless you're counting the couple of out-

cate back home to loved ones.

10th Mountain – Right At Home

The 10th Mountain's 3/71st Cav has, in only a few months, established a functional, active FOB here, but it's come at a price. Not by the occasional, poorly executed enemy rocket attacks, but by the Cav's own aggressive hunt for the enemy. The unit was stood up only two years ago, in August 2004, in the army's realignment to Units of Action (UAs), and the man who stood it up, LTC Joseph Fenty, was its first casualty here in Afghanistan. He along with two of his soldiers.

It was May 5th, a nighttime extraction of a team from a ledge in



3/71 Cav squads board the CH-47 that will take them high into the mountains along the Paki border for a weeks-long stay at one of several remote observation posts that overlook Taliban and al Qaeda infiltration routes.

firm foothold on this once-neglected part of the country. The 3/71st doubled the physical size of the camp, brought its mortars and howitzers and cav platoons and Combat Support Hospital, and the vehicles and equipment and support personnel to make it all function. Plus, its own contingent of ANA soldiers. The Cav established permanent observation posts (OPs) on surrounding hilltops, then moved further into the mountains of Nuristan province to the north (where few Americans had ever been) to begin establishing a PRT (Provisional Reconstruction Team; basically, civil affairs, to bring better living conditions to the locals).

house burn-shitters on the north side. And the showers too aren't next door; they are in a connex that is a long, ankle-straining river-rock walk away across camp. There is air conditioning and heat in the winter, but the long tents are packed, 30- to 40-cots or more each, with personal space less than an arm's reach. As for the internet, except for the staff working the TOC (with internet at their fingertips, that's the benefit of being staff), there are exactly three computers hooked up in a small connex, there's a 30-minute limit, and there's always a line of guys waiting. Still, it's better than the guys up in the outposts have it, with only their dreams to communi-

the mountains. The team had been inserted the same way as the extraction was planned: a CH-47 Chinook hovering backwards toward the ledge, its tail ramp down. The insertion had been dangerous, and so would be the extraction, in particular, with the unpredictable winds gusting from up and down the mountainside. Fenty did not have to go along on the chopper for the extraction, but he chose to be there, like a father wanting to shepherd his children through a danger. Three of the team jumped onto the ramp, something happened – the chopper blade hit a tree or rocks, or something, the accident investigation report has not been released – and the

chopper faltered, one soldier managed to jump back onto the ledge, and the helicopter went down, a fireball crash in the ravine. Fenty, his two soldiers and the six crew members of the Chinook all killed, just like that, in an instant's bad luck.

Just over six weeks later was another bad day for the 3/71 Cav at FOB Naray, with three more men lost, again in the mountains. It was a plussed-up sniper squad in an overwatch position to which it had taken the team two days after chopper infil to quietly reach. Third day was supposed to be the raid below for which the team would be overwatch. It was temporarily postponed. The team was low on water, the temperature in the 100-degree range; a resupply was essential. The chopper that brought the resupply incorrectly dropped it too close to the team's position - in a sense, marking it. A short while later, the team was taking rifle and RPG fire. From close, very close. In the ensuing firefight, the team drove the enemy back, but took four casualties: two KIA, two seriously wounded. A medevac chopper was called in. One of the wounded was hoisted up into the chopper, the chopper medic rode the extractor back down, picked up the second, and on the way up the cable broke. The medic and the wounded man died in the

fall.

For Fallen Comrades

A number of guys here have relayed me that story of the sniper team during my time among them. All personally knew the three from the sniper squad. All had a sadness in their telling. And then a pride, an affirmation, as each always ended the story making sure that I understand that they got them back - they got those guys who took their friends. The Cav dropped a team up higher on the mountain, and that team spied armed, black-clad men on the roof of a house. They called in an air strike and had A-10's drop four 500-lb bombs smack down on the enemy. Fourteen killed. Retribution. For their friends.

I remember last year about this time when I learned that a brigade of 10th Mountain was coming to Afghanistan, I thought, because they're warriors, they would be jealous of their sister brigade going to Iraq, because Afghanistan's quiet and Iraq's where the action is. Around the end of the year, I knew things were heating up here in this once-quiet conflict, and I made my way here. If there had been jealousy before, my bet is that there sure isn't now; the guys of the 3/71 Cav know first-hand that Afghanistan, too, is hot.

Continued on page 58



Evening off-time is usually spent in the tiny rectangle of private space in the tents which most of the soldiers of the FOB call home. Specialists Doug Sletten (R) and Shane Koch (L), of the North Dakota National Guard MP platoon attached to the 3/71 Cav at FOB Naray, are on their laptops -- for games, music or DVD movies -- a typical way of spending evenings and off-times for many of the guys. The 50 cal. machine gun receiver at the end of Sletten's cot is testament to the crowded living conditions, where everything you own or are responsible for is within two feet of you -- not to mention your next-bunk neighbor as well.

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“Vote for Silver Star Recipient Steve Schreiner

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*Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown,
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Why vote for Steve Schreiner?

Schreiner is a Vietnam Vet, Airborne Ranger; awarded CIB, Bronze Star with V Device and Silver Star.

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5. Fought against semi-auto ban, magazine bans and “safe storage bills”;
6. Member of NRA's Grassroots Committee.

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2. We need more emphasis on range development and protection of existing ranges;
3. We need to protect our shooting rights in National Forests and on other Federal lands.

Steve Schreiner, President, Firearms Coalition of Colorado

*Bullet balloting does not increase the number of votes cast for Schreiner but it does reduce the number of votes the other candidates receive which, therefore, increases the likelihood of Schreiner's election.

Kiss-Off And K.I.S.S.

Farnam's Gunslinger Diary

By John Farnam



Pro-Active Disengagement

I tell my students to be particularly careful and alert while getting into and out of cars, because, when a car stops, predators know the people associated with it will always be distracted for a few moments as they embark or disembark. I confirmed that lesson today:

While stopped at an interstate rest area this afternoon, I was in the restroom briefly, as Vicki remained in our car. When I returned, I entered the passenger side, sat down, and closed the door. A man approached the passenger side. He was fiftyish, well dressed, and well groomed, and he was holding a cell phone in his hand. He motioned toward our right, front tire, and I thought he was about to do me the courtesy of telling me the tire was soft.

I opened my window part way. He started by saying, "Do you know anything about Texas?" Surprised by his question, I replied, "No." "Where are you from?" He continued. "We're from Colorado," I replied.

He then commenced with a rambling, disconnected, convoluted line about how he lost his wallet, how his dog was having puppies, and how he didn't know much about where he was. He stood just behind our outside mirror, so we couldn't back out of our stall without hitting him. He talked so fast, there was no time to interject a response, and he progressively waxed aggressive. After a minute, Vicki and I simultaneously said, "We can't help you," as we began to slowly move the car backward. By that time, I had my Fox OC bottle in hand. The mirror did nudge him slightly, and he finally stepped aside, mumbling something about us being heartless. We were quickly on our way!

Brush Up on the Your Brush-Off

In retrospect, I handled the event poorly, allowing it to go on far too long. Like most of us, I've efficiently and briskly disengaged from many sleazy panhandlers, just as we teach the procedure in our classes. However,

this character threw me off my normal tempo, because he was well dressed and didn't appear to represent a threat. I should have noticed that he waited to approach until I was getting into the car and that he made a point of seizing the agenda immediately, throwing out a dozen story lines simultaneously, trying to get a sympathetic response from at least one of them.

Many times, while getting fuel, someone will ask about our car. How we like it, what kind of mileage it gets, etc. I regard most such contacts as harmless, and I usually engage in a brief conversation with the person. But, I know a fictitious line where I hear one, and I'm good at aggressively disengaging, or so I thought!

This con-man was smart! He knew his jaunty, nonchalant appearance, complete with cell phone, would cause me to initially take him seriously, and he knew I would likely be too polite to interrupt his rambling story line, and it worked! In retrospect, when he asked his first incongruent question (about Texas), I should have noted that the question did not fit the circumstances and replied with, "What do you want?" When he then launched into his rambling story line, I should have immediately come back with, "Sorry. We can't help you. Now, step back please!"

I was too indecisive for too long. Not next time!

Street Smart Disengagement

Excellent advice on aggressive disengagement from a friend who travels extensively overseas:

"Initially act as if you don't hear them. Then, when you do respond, do so while scanning all around, and respond in a different language. Bad guys want to communicate in their own language, and they quickly lose interest when they sense their opening line is not getting through (when traveling overseas, speaking English, Hebrew, and German will predictably attract the attention of predators).

Pick up your cell phone with your support hand and act as if you're re-

ceiving a call, while simultaneously waving them off with your other hand. Move away.

I routinely use these techniques and find them the most effective of all I know."

Comment: I'm not multi-lingual, but the cell-phone trick I plan on testing the first chance I get!

K.I.S.S.

Too much information?

In Western Civilization, one of our cultural mantras is, "The more information, the better." We steadfastly believe that more information is always better than less, and that all information, no matter how banal, is important.

That philosophy has surely penetrated the Pentagon. We know this is true, because the Army wants, among other dubious "features," an electronic "round counter" to be integral with the next generation of infantry rifles.

Presumably, this will take the form of an LED display somewhere on the rifle that will let the shooter know how many rounds remain in his current magazine.

However, effective fighters are successful, not just because they have lots of information, but because they are able to identify, separate out, and concentrate on the few pieces of really important information, while brushing aside the rest. They thus move smoothly through the fight, unfailingly setting the agenda, and always thinking ahead of, and thus outmaneuvering, their opponent(s).

Among fighters, believing that all information is of equal value is a fatal error. In fact, when fighting, most information is of no value at all, and much of it is of negative value. Being able to quickly separate the significant from the insignificant is an art, and true fighting is more art than science!

Filling young fighters' heads with all manner of chaffy information while the fight is still in progress is counterproductive, indeed delay-inducing. While fighting, one can manage only so much,

Continued on page 39

and only the few most important things need concern the fighter. The rest can be considered "clutter," and the less of it vying for his attention, the better.

The Air Force discovered this when fighter pilots complained that their heads-up displays contained way too much information, most of it of such scant concern during actual fighting, it could be considered trivial. During a fight, pilots need to know only a few things, and non-critical trivia need not be constantly flashing in front of them, competing for their attention!

I hope the Army is not trying to turn infantry rifles into "miniature flight decks!" ✕

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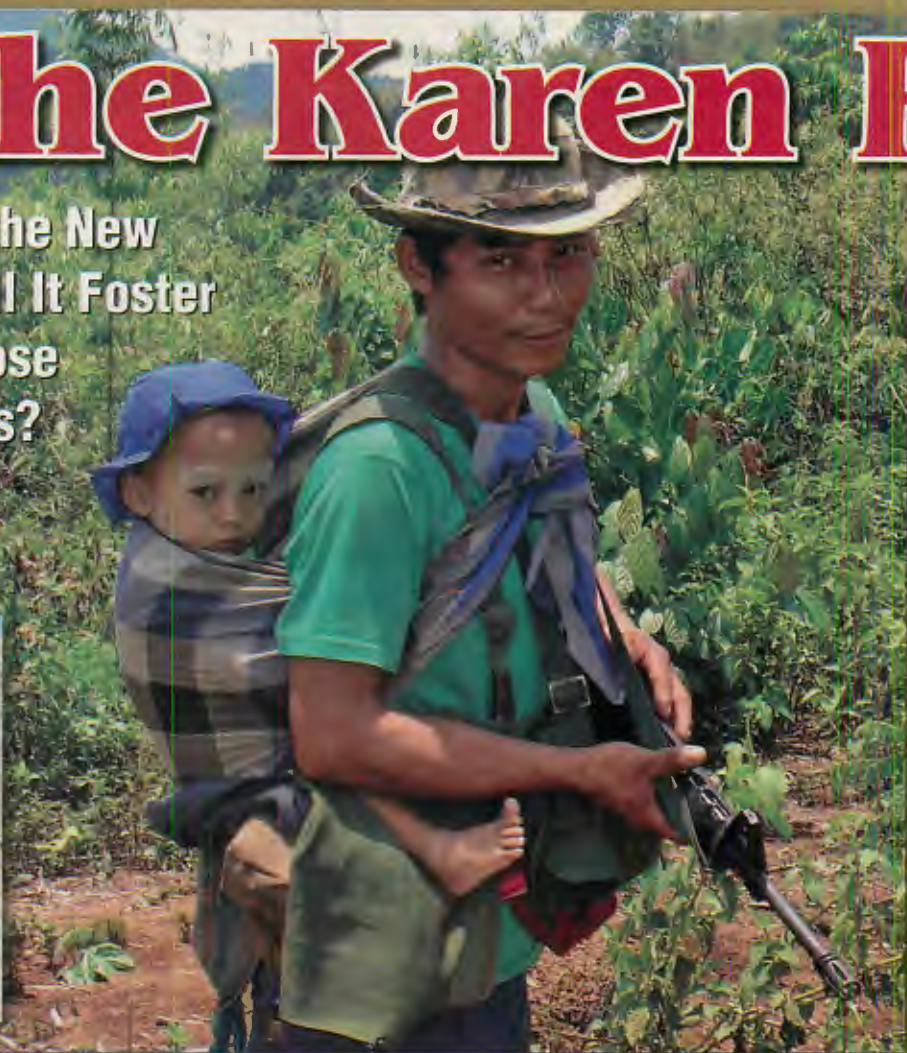
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On The Karen Ro

Will Globalism be the New Colonialism, or Will It Foster Openness And Expose Government Abuses?

Text & Photos by
Bruce Turner



(above) Karen resistance soldier with baby. Photo: Courtesy of Free Burma Rangers. *(inset)* Lance Motley, shown here in Afghanistan in the 80's, was KIA by a Burmese mortar round while advising the Karen in 1987. Motley, a West Point graduate and Airborne Ranger, covered world hot spots for SOF and often advised the troops he wrote about.

Soldier of Fortune magazine has long been a champion of the Karen cause, publishing many stories about their struggles over the last decades, when no other publication gave any exposure at all to the plight of the Karen. And as has happened many times over the three decades that SOF has been practicing its brand of "participatory" journalism with a camera in one hand and a rifle in the other, SOF reporter Lance Motley, a former West-Pointer who wrote under the nom de guerre Gene Croft, was killed by a Burmese mortar attack near Manerpla. Dr. Tom Marks, another West-Pointer chronically addicted to firefights, almost bought it from a PG round in Myanmar, while working on a story for SOF. SOF also has sent uncounted medical teams to help the Karen over the last three decades. But we were just tourists. The Karen have been in a running gun battle with their oppressors for more than half a century.

Bringing the spotlight to bear on the SPDC government's outrages against the Karen and other ethnic minorities in Myanmar

The government in Myanmar (formerly Burma), presently known as the "State Peace and Development Council" [sic.] (SPDC), has for nearly 60 years used its military control to oppress ethnic minorities and, more recently, a pro-democracy movement. The approach, described by a rebel leader as "low intensity genocide,"

now seems calculated to encourage multi-national investment. This globalization, which may be colonialism by another name, could provide an imperfect end to one of the world's longest ongoing wars.

The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) has resisted the tyranny since 1949. Most of the fighting

on the part of SOF and other organizations has, in no small part, acted as a catalyst to world opinion. Second only to the incredibly tough and courageous resistance of the Karen and other freedom fighters, world opinion has been virtually the only hindrance to the institutionalized, brutal repression of these people. For this reason we were pleased when Sylvester Stallone called SOF looking for a suitably oppressed people who needed a celluloid hero, to be the subject of the next Rambo movie. We told him the starkest Good Guys/Bad Guys situation we knew was in Burma, and the Karen needed a hero who could put their situation on the big screen with a spotlight.

Filming is scheduled to start soon in Thailand. We wish this latest movie enterprise every success, and hope it popularizes the Karen cause to the extent the ruling Myanmar junta cleans up its act - or at least knows the world is now watching how they act and who does business with them.

occurs in malarial jungles, hot and humid by day, cold at night. KNLA soldiers, while comparatively few in number, have succeeded in inflicting heavy casualties on Burmese troops and impeding the regime's expansionist plans. But the Karen, composing the country's largest ethnic minority, have paid a terrible price.

oad To Freedom

Part I



KNLA soldiers Captain Pa Tho (left), Corporal Eh Lay, Corporal Hli Mo, Saw Mu Wah, Saw Ku Ser, Saw Me Khe, and Saw Po Kay assigned to 101 Battalion, 7th Brigade area, Karen State. Photo: Author's Files

Of the estimated eight million Karen in Myanmar, around one million reside in Karen State, also known as Kawthoolei, regarded by many Karen as their traditional homeland, a strip of rain forest abutting Thailand. Up to 300,000 have been removed from their villages but remain, many in hiding, as internally displaced people (IDPs). An estimated 100,000 reside in refugee camps in Thailand, says Karen official Saw Htoo (not his real name). Recent arrivals to the camps tell of Burmese soldiers burning villages, killing livestock, impressing villagers as human mine detectors and porters, and rape, and murder. These ongoing atrocities are not something new.

Saw Htoo estimates that since 1948 up to 500,000 Karen have died as a result of the conflict, most of them between 1948 and 1975 in the Irawaddy Delta area, Toungoo (Tongu) District, and other areas in central and southern Myanmar. Many of the Karen outside Karen State have since assimilated into Burmese culture through intermarriage, adopting a Burmese name, and/or abandoning the Karen language.

Since 1975 most of the Karen resistance has been confined to Karen State, says Pado Mahn Sha Lar Phep, General Secretary of the Karen National Union (KNU), the political arm of the struggle, speaking through an interpreter. Mahn Sha estimates that the war inside Karen State has claimed around 100,000 lives – 50,000 Burmese soldiers, 5,000 Karen soldiers, and 45,000 Karen civilians.

KNLA Colonel Ner Dah “Rocky”

Mya, son of General Bo Mya, speaking in a hotel restaurant in Thailand, says “No matter how much we suffer we will fight on.” He says the Karen are good fighters and willing to fight for their people, but are limited by a shortage of weapons and ammunition. Along with the willingness to engage the enemy on the battlefield is an interest in talking peace. The multi-national investment in the region with its potential to enrich SPDC coffers may encourage a non-violent resolution. Ideally, the parties could resolve the conflict “so the Burmese will be satisfied, so the Karen will be satisfied, so the foreign investors will be satisfied,” he says. In addition to a ceasefire, KNLA insists on its soldiers retaining their arms, on the Karen receiving an equitable share of the

development in their homeland, and on freedom for Karen people. Is such a *pax Romana* possible?

Ner Dah, who earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Pacific Union College in California, had considered remaining in the U.S. but changed his mind during a 1994 visit to Karen State. He arrived one week prior to a KNLA defeat, in which the Burmese Army overran Manerpla, KNLA general headquarters. “Because I’m obligated to work for the Karen people, because my dad is a Karen leader, I’m obligated to achieve his goal – freedom for the Karen people,” he says. “Because without freedom we have nothing. We are not truly human beings without freedom. My dad is my hero and I will continue in his steps.”

The KNLA is not alone in its



Karen in Tham Hin Refugee Camp collect firewood from a distribution center.



A warning on a billboard at Yangon International Airport seems at odds with published reports, government agencies, and Karen officials.

struggle. Armies from other ethnic minorities – Shan State Army-South (estimated 4,000 troops), Chin National Front (estimated 400 troops), Karenni Army (estimated 1,200 troops), the recently formed Kachin National Organization, and an Arakanese group (estimated 150 troops) – employ guerrilla tactics against the Burmese Army, says Saw Htoo.

Six Dams

Development, however, could have a more devastating impact on the Karen than war. A combination of dams and roads planned for the near future in Karen State could result in massive flooding in some areas, depletion of water in others, destruction of teak forests and farmlands, and relocation of an additional 50,000 Karen.

The Salween is the longest undammed river in mainland Southeast Asia. But SPDC has entered into an agreement with Energy Generating

Authority of Thailand (EGAT) to construct four dams on the river and its tributaries for the primary purpose of generating and marketing energy, according to Karen officials and www.Salweenwatch.org. The plan includes the Hutgyi (Hatgyi) dam in Karen State, the Wei gyi and Dagwin dams on the Thai-Myanmar border, and the Tasang Dam in Shan state. Mahn Sha says that the Chinese are financing 50%, the Thais 40%, and the Burmese 10% of the cost of constructing Hutgyi Dam.

The Mae Lama Luang Dam, which would be constructed on the Luang River inside Thailand, would allow the Thai authorities to divert floodwaters from the Hutgyi Dam through a tunnel to the Bhumipol Dam in central Thailand.

Last year SPDC began dam construction on the lower Day Loh River (Thauk Yay Ka River) in Toungoo District in Karen State, according to the

Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG).

Reportedly, construction of the Hutgyi Dam, scheduled to begin November of next year, is likely to proceed without requiring social and environmental impact studies on the Burmese side.

To accommodate the construction, SPDC plans to build roads through Karen State linking the interior to the river. In preparation, government soldiers have razed Karen villages and ordered the residents to relocate but have not provided alternative shelter, says Ton Ton. The Karen flee because they have lost their homes and because they fear being impressed into service as laborers, as porters, or as human mine detectors.

According to Ton Ton, Burmese soldiers have entered Karen villages in Myanmar, demanded that each household provide one laborer or in the alternative pay 1,000 kyat, less than two U.S. dollars (exchange rates vary). Not only do the soldiers not pay the laborers, they require the laborers to provide their own food, he says. Some laborers are used as porters to transport ammunition and food to the Burmese front line. Some are forced to march ahead of the troops as human mine detectors and to clear the mines. When an impressed laborer triggers a mine, the soldiers leave him or her to die. Ton Ton has every reason to believe that Burmese soldiers would force Karen to work as laborers on dam and related road projects. Mahn Sha estimates that the Hutgyi Dam project alone would displace up to 50,000 Karen villagers.

Four Roads

According to Mahn Sha, the Burmese intend to build at least two new roads to the Salween River, presumably to assist in securing the region for construction of the dams and in transporting supplies to the dam sites. Reportedly, SPDC forces have begun work on one road in eastern Papun (Paupan) District in Karen State. The Burmese also plan to extend the Asia Highway from Mae Thawa to Thingan Nyi Naung and from there to Yangon (formerly Rangoon), says Mahn Sha. The extension would provide Thailand with an overland route to the Indian Ocean.

In November of 2005 a Thai company began construction on a road from Poe Saw, Thailand to the Salween River at Wei Gyi to accommodate dam construction, according to KHRG.



Tham Hin Refugee Camp crowds some 10,000 refugees into around 16 acres. Narrow dirt paths separate rows of tiny thatch-and-bamboo homes.



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By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

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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.

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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.

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In the heat of development fever, last year SPDC moved its capital from Yangon to Nay Pyi Daw, a newly-built town in the mountains near Pynmana, almost 400 miles north and closer to its frontline troops in Karen State. SPDC restricts access to the new capital, barring even Burmese citizens without government authorization.

Divide and Conquer

Karen officials say that during the past year SPDC agents have approached KNLA commanders in the border region with offers of a ceasefire or even peace.

While SPDC has extended an olive branch to KNLA leaders near the Thai border, it refuses to negotiate with KNU officials, claiming the KNU's pro-democracy views may extend beyond the interest of the Karen, according to Saw Htoo. He finds the peace offer disingenuous, calculated to divide the Karen. He notes the SPDC has accelerated its oppression of villagers in western Karen State.

After SPDC banned medical care to the villagers, the Karen formed a network of volunteers to smuggle in essential medicines and perform emergency surgeries, including amputations resulting from land-mine explosions. Many of these volunteers work with Backpacker Healthwork Team (BHT).

According to Saw Soe Myint, 39, a BHT medic, beginning in May, 2006, government troops in Thaton District, a week's walk from the Thai border, prohibited villagers from leaving their villages and from working their fields. Soe Myint says soldiers would beat up or shoot-to-kill villagers attempting to leave. As a result of this policy, many villagers are suffering from malnutrition. The neglected crops portend famine in the coming year.

BHT volunteers risk their lives to serve their community. Naw Shee Doh Htoo, 28, a BHT medic, says Burmese soldiers recently arrested two volunteers and beat them up before releasing them. This year four have been arrested and remain in jail, she says. A woman in Toungoo District was sentenced to seven years. Others are less fortunate. She says, since 1998 Burmese soldiers have killed seven BHT volunteers.

Soe Myint recalls that in 2003 in Thaton District he was traveling with another BHT medic, when Burmese soldiers ambushed them. A soldier shot the other medic in the leg and

captured him. Villagers later informed Soe Myint that Burmese soldiers had beaten the wounded medic to death.

Saw Poe Aye, 30, another BHT medic, says that in 2000 in Papun District, Burmese soldiers ambushed his team and shot a team member. Poe Aye says the wounded Karen ran about 10 minutes before dying.

Free Burma Rangers (FBR) has provided health care to villagers in Karen, Karenni, Arakan, and Shan states, often on an emergency basis, as during a Burmese Army offensive. An FBR foreign relief team leader explains that, along with providing medical care, FBR documents the atrocities – Burmese soldiers razing villages, raping girls as young as nine, impressing villagers into forced labor, and massacring civilians. FBR gathered evidence through interviewing villagers and observation, that Burmese soldiers in Shan State in preparation for constructing a new pagoda kidnapped three Shan children and buried them alive in the foundation. Explanations vary. It has been suggested the atrocity was designed to demoralize the Shan and to rob them of their will to resist government troops – or that the inhuman deed was intended to infuse the spirits of the dead children in the structure.

Democratic Karen Buddhist Alliance

SPDC offers peace to some, atrocity to others. KNU officials find nothing new in the divide and conquer approach. U Thu Zana, a Karen Buddhist monk, influenced by Burmese officials, also Buddhists, formed the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA). He convinced his followers to join with the Burmese Buddhists in fighting Karen Christians. Since 1994 DKBA soldiers, including KNLA defectors, have assisted the Burmese in attacking, overrunning, and raising Karen positions including its headquarters at Manerpla.

The betrayal had dire consequences for the KNLA. Since 1994, its numbers have dwindled from some 20,000 to around 5,000, according to Saw Htoo. Troop strength in the Burmese Army is estimated at 250,000.

U Thu Zana calls for Christians and Muslims in Karen State to convert to Buddhism. According to Saw Htoo, DKBA troops have joined with the Burmese Army in destroying Christian Churches and Muslim Mosques. Recently DKBA troops captured some Karen Christians and forced them to



Kler Moo Lay, 26, his wife May Htway, 28, and their children Mulah Kaw, 6 (left), and Eha Kler, 5, are scheduled to leave Tham Hin and spend the night in Bangkok before boarding a plane tomorrow to Minnesota, U.S.A.

convert to Buddhism, says Soe Mynit. U Thu Zana states that if the KNU joins DKBA, peace for all Karen will follow, he says.

KNLA and KNU had depended on revenue from logging teak and other hardwoods, and from taxing smugglers, but with the loss of territory and a Thai crackdown on the black market, revenue dropped. Now they barely survive on a 5% tax collected from Karen farmers, says Saw Htoo.

Along with a decrease in revenue, is an arms shortage. The Chinese stopped supplying the market with AK47s, according to Saw Htoo. Thai officials cracked down on their side of the border. Occasionally a Burmese soldier will sell a gun and/or ammunition, but prices have gone up. A used M16, selling for around 10,000 baht (\$270) on today's market, a few years ago would have brought only 6,000 to 8,000 baht (\$162 to \$216), he says.

Next month we will examine the Karen's potential for better treatment by – if not freedom from – the SPDC, the "State Peace and Development Council," or if they will have to soldier on under increasingly difficult circumstances. Is it possible that business may have a better effect than bullets? Stay tuned next month. ❧

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▲ Firestone Vineyard's new Jarhead Red Reserve is celebrating the 231st birthday of the United States Marine Corps with a special mission: raise scholarship funds for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (MCSF). Adam Firestone, third-generation winegrower and president of Firestone Vineyard, created Jarhead Red Reserve solely to benefit the MCSF, donating all of its net-proceeds to the MCSF, so sons and daughters of Marines and former Marines are able to attend top college and universities because of the wine's charitable donation to the foundation. Red Reserve is a 2004 varietal vintage comprised: 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 15% Petit Verdot and 10% Malbec. The wine's retail price is between \$25 and \$30 and will be available online at www.shopfirestone.com and at select retail outlets.

A Perfect Frame Up

To-the-point bumper stickers are good – but plate frames with a message are even better as they last longer. Here's a great site with license plate frames that are outstanding. I think I will get a couple: www.usaircombat.com

A Winner for the NRA Board:

With the same selfless dedication and singleness of purpose that won him the Silver Star in Vietnam, for as long as Steve Schreiner has been associated with SOF, he has been a tireless and effective worker in support of the Second Amendment. Schreiner is running for the NRA Board of Directors. You will never find a man more committed to defending our Second amendment rights. Steve has my wholehearted support, and deserves yours as well. I urge you to vote for Schreiner, and to make your vote for Steve pack the most punch, I suggest you use the "bullet ballot" technique, wherein if you vote only for him,

your vote for the 20 or so others you could have voted for, will go to Schreiner. – Robert K. Brown, Editor-Publisher, SOF

"Earthquake McGoon" Comes Home

The skeletal remains of James B. McGovern Jr., discovered in an unmarked grave in remote northern Laos in 2002, were positively identified on Sept. 11 by laboratory experts at the U.S. military's Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii. They were flown CONUS for a military funeral in New Jersey last October.

Half a century ago, he was one of the first American combat deaths in Vietnam, then a legendary merc known as "Earthquake McGoon" because of his 6-foot height and 260 pound frame. He died piloting a CIA-owned C-119 Flying Boxcar that was hit by ground fire while parachuting hard rice to the besieged French garrison at Dien Bien Phu, which fell the next day. "Looks like this is it, son," McGovern radioed another pilot as his shot-up plane limped more than 90 Klicks into Laos, where it careened in to a hill. McGovern had been with Civil Air Transport (CAT) since it rose from the ashes of WW II, tracing its blood lines back to the legendary Flying Tigers. Earlier captured by communist forces, he was eventually freed – because, his friends joked, they could not afford to feed him.

USAMU Golden Anniversary

More than 600 GIs, civilians and family members, past and present, of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, gathered together Oct. 18 to 21 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Army Marksmanship Unit. The Military Marksmanship Association – the alumni association of the Army Marksmanship Unit – conducted the festivities. The MMA Reunion honored the shooters and staff of the Army Marksmanship Unit and provided an opportunity for the shooters of the past to meet the new shooters of the present.

The AMU is attached to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. ✕

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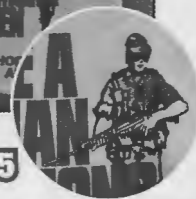
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MEDAL OF HONOR FOR A TWO-WAR HERO

PART ONE

Woodrow “Woody” Wilson Keeble’s Laurels Long Overdue

By Galen L. Geer, *SOF* Field Editor,
With Research by Merry Helm

Author’s Note: Merry Helm is responsible for nearly all the research in this article that is directly related to the actions of Woodrow Wilson Keeble during the Korean War. She has graciously supplied Soldier of Fortune magazine with the results of her investigations into Keeble’s actions and answered any of our questions. Without her efforts the story of “Woody” Keeble would have been lost and the attention now focused on him and the efforts to have his Distinguished Service Cross upgraded to the Medal of Honor never been possible. We at Soldier of Fortune want to express our sincerest “thank you” to Merry and her research assistant Linda Heltemes.

Based on testimony, our research and that of Merry Helm, we at Sol-

dier of Fortune magazine believe that Woodrow Wilson Keeble should receive this nation’s highest award for military valor—the Medal of Honor. We also support the suggestion that Keeble’s image, as the modern embodiment of history’s proud Dakota Warrior, should be forever preserved in a classic work of bronze in the state of North Dakota. We urge the people of North Dakota to recognize a man whose fighting spirit not only carried the day in battle but on many occasions his willingness to place himself between the enemy and his troops insured that his fellow soldiers returned safely to their families. The following story of courage and valor is not of a battle but of a man whose place in history must not be lost. —SOF

Not every soldier is a warrior. There are soldiers who fight well and they are the battlements that the enemy, in all this fury, throws himself against. Sometimes, in the most desperate minutes of the battle, a single, remarkable warrior emerges from the beleaguered soldiers. This warrior will stand above his brothers-in-arms and will challenge the enemy. His presence and actions become the rally point that turns the tide of battle.

Some warriors appear only once and others whenever their country needs them. Their warrior blood begins to stir with the scent of battle and they know their fellow soldiers will need him when the battle seems most hopeless. Usually, we read about these warriors in history books but most of their stories are lost in the



Company I, 164th Infantry, Captain R. H. Alexander commanding, when in training at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana prior to being deployed to the Pacific Theater in WW II. Thrust into the heat of it on Guadalcanal, this National Guard unit from the Dakota farm country gave an excellent account of itself in the defense of Henderson Field, and throughout the Pacific campaigns – in no small part due to the individual heroism of men such as Woodrow Wilson Keeble. Photo: courtesy Merry Helm

dust of time. Researcher Merry Helm rescued the heroic story of Woodrow Wilson Keeble from the brink of oblivion. Helm had never met Keeble, but her researcher's instincts told her that Keeble's battlefield actions were the stuff of legend.

The battlefields of the Korean War were rocky, scrub-covered hillsides, rice paddies and cities; The bitter fighting of those years tested the fighting spirit of America's soldiers and Marines. Many of the soldiers and Marines who fought there were veterans of World War II and their combat experience, locked in the recesses of their minds, was reminding them how men will die needlessly when their enemy traps or overwhelms them. Perhaps, in the mind of Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble, a full-blood Sioux Warrior from Wahpeton, North Dakota, it was this remembering of how men had died on the Pacific Islands that heated his warrior blood on 20 October 1951.

His company was fighting for its life, pinned to the side of a nondescript hill objective during Operation Nomad-Polar. Keeble knew that to cling to the meager cover was to die, yet every soldier's survival instinct was urging him to stay behind the small rocks or in shallow shell craters and hope to survive. But Keeble was a veteran of the Army's World War II Pacific campaign and he'd fought in many of the war's most desperate battles. In the decade following the war he'd returned to the peace of North Dakota but now, on a cold October day and still suffering from wounds he'd received earlier, Keeble knew he had to fight. Generations of Dakota Warrior blood boiled in his veins and for two hours he single-handedly

changed the course of battle, perhaps shortening the war, by destroying three CCPA machinegun positions and their supporting rifle positions that had stopped the assault of Golf Company, 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division, in the last UN offensive of the Korean War.

The survivors of that day's battle believe that Keeble should have received the Medal of Honor. Twice the big Indian affectionately called "The Chief" was recommended for the Medal of Honor and each time the paperwork was lost in the wartime shuffle. Last May 31, Secretary of The Army Francis Harvey, after reading a new recommendation researched by Merry Helm and submitted by Senators Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), recommended Keeble for the nation's highest award for valor. After reading his story, SOF readers will understand and appreciate why Keeble's men believe he should have received the MOH. No one truly knows why the recommendations were caught up in the fog of

war but some believe that it was the obfuscation of racial prejudice that kept "Woody" from receiving the MOH. Perhaps, by the time this story is published or soon thereafter, history's mistake will be corrected and the proud warrior will be honored, as he should have been 50 years ago.

But, to understand the "Woody" Keeble story, it is necessary to understand who Woody was and why he has become a legend throughout the rolling plains of North Dakota.

It Began in WW II, on Guadalcanal

There are a few of Keeble's vital statistics that are a bit fuzzy, but the various corroborating newspaper and investigative accounts prove he was born on 16 May 1917 in Waubay, South Dakota, a tiny farming community in the northeast corner of the state. When he was still a toddler Keeble's mother moved to Wahpeton, North Dakota and she began working in the Wahpeton Indian Boarding School. When Woodrow was nine his mother died and the orphan became

Between wars, Keeble returned to his native Dakotas to lead a full but quiet life – which included harvesting venison in season.



a ward of the boarding school and it provided him with stability and was a guiding force for him. Throughout his life Keeble remained loyal to the school that had provided him a home.

After graduation from high school Keeble stayed in Wahpeton and he became a local hero with his fastball pitching in the town's amateur baseball league. His uncanny accuracy for the strike zone with his fastball didn't go unnoticed and the Chicago White Sox were recruiting him when America entered World War II.

Keeble was 25 years old when the United States was dragged into World War II. Born into the warrior culture of the Dakota people, he felt the tug of war and he enlisted in North Dakota Army National Guard, the 164th Infantry Regiment, a month before the federal government activated the regiment on 10 February 1941. The unit was sent to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, for training, then, in an attempt to blunt the Japanese South Pacific advance to Australia, the regiments shipped out on 24 May 1942 and was assigned to Task Force 6814, bound for New Caledonia. There, with two other guard regiments, it became part of the newly formed Americal Division.

In October 1942 the division was ordered to relieve the exhausted First Marine Division on Guadalcanal but because of a shortage of ships the Navy could only move one regiment at a time to the island. There, in the steaming jungles of "the canal" Woodrow Wilson Keeble and the 164th met history.

Beginning the day the North Dakota regiment set foot on the island they were writing the pages of the war's history. The Third Battalion of the 164th Infantry was the first U.S. Army unit on the Canal, landing on Kokum

Beach, then joining the battle-weary Marines. They were soon joined by the First and Second Battalions, which were assigned a 6,600-yard sector of the line surrounding Henderson Field. The Second Battalion was on the left flank of the 7th Marines, placing them southeast of Henderson's bomber field and on a curving perimeter to the north. The left flank of the 2nd was anchored to the 1st Battalion, which was east of the new fighter field that Marine engineers and Seabees had built after Henderson Field had been secured. The 3rd Battalion (Keeble's) was held in reserve in anticipation of a renewed Japanese ground offensive.

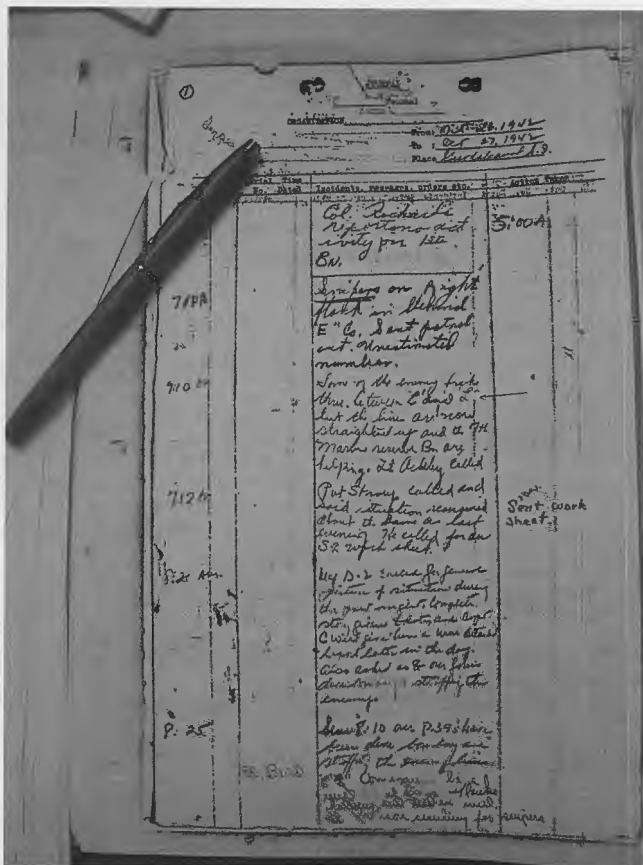
Baptism of Fire

After landing the 164th the Navy's transports and screening ships turned back for New Caledonia to pick up the next regiments, but would not return for several weeks. The green National Guard troops were under the operational command of soft-spoken Marine Major-General Alexander Vandergift. The 164th Commanding Officer, Colonel Bryant E. Moore, was a WWI veteran and graduate of the August 1917 West Point Class. Commanding

the 3rd Battalion was North Dakotan, Lieutenant Colonel Robert T. Hall.

The regiment's baptism of fire came within hours of their landing. Japanese bombers began sporadic but ineffective runs over the beach, which proved to be a blessing for Marines who learned that the 164th was armed with the new Garand M1 semi-automatic rifles. Whenever the bombers appeared the GIs scrambled for cover and the Marines pilfered as many of the new rifles as they could scavenge from the boxes of equipment, along with anything else they could carry off.

Later that day Japanese artillery gunners opened up on the airfield and surrounding area with their 105mm Howitzers and that night the Canal was subjected to one of the war's largest naval bombardments by the Japanese navy. The 14-inch main guns of the battleships *Kongo* and *Haruna*, with supporting cruisers, pounded the area for nearly two hours. The bombardment, combined with the aerial bombings and artillery fire, killed 41

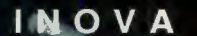


An example of the records Helm has had to work with in researching the story of Woodrow Wilson Keeble. This sheet of radio traffic from the battle of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal was used by both SOF's Geer and Merry Helm in reconstructing the story of Keeble's unit on the canal and Keeble's roll in the battle. Often the writing is illegible and must be painstakingly compared against other records to learn what actually took place. Helm has been working on the Keeble story for two years and believes that only when he receives the Medal of Honor will the story be finished. Photo: Galen L. Geer



Volunteering again for service in the Korean War, Keeble is seen here with his First Platoon, Golf Company, 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division. He was the sort of leader who saves lives in combat — by courage and example, and selflessness. Photo: courtesy Merry Helm

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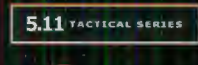
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Marines and soldiers, wounded more than a hundred and left the airfield a shambles – but by mid-morning the Marines had put aircraft back in the air to attack the Japanese.

Banzai in the Darkness

The Japanese effort to retake Henderson Field had been an ongoing fight that began shortly after the Marines landed on 7 August 1942. General Haruyoshi Hyakutake, Commanding Officer of the Seventeenth Army and the Imperial high command, had underestimated both the size and fighting ability of the Marines who had landed on the canal. Throughout the fighting, which was often bitter hand-to-hand combat; the Marines had stopped every Japanese attempt to retake the airfield. Intelligence had reported the build up of the Japanese forces and the 164th arrived as the Japanese build up was to caluminate in the fierce battle for Henderson Field.

The fight began on the night of 23 October 1942. That night Colonel Moore and his men of the 164th heard the shouts of “Banzai” and faced the seasoned enemy who was determined to retake the airfield and throw the

Americans off the island. Over the next three days what evolved is recognized as one of the most significant island fights of the war in the Pacific. According to official records, during the Battle of Henderson Field, the Japanese used every weapon in their arsenal including naval bombardment; fighter-bomber attacks, artillery, and massed human wave attacks against the Marine and Army lines.

Henderson Field had become crucial to the Pacific theater. Before the U.S. Army arrived, the Guadalcanal campaign had already been a costly blunder for the Japanese. The Marines of Edson's Raiders had stopped and nearly destroyed Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi's crack 35th Brigade on Bloody Ridge in September and the Japanese General, ordered by the High Command to retake the Canal, was now on the island and had moved two divisions of his Seventeenth Army onto the Canal. A new plan to retake the airfield rested on a daring attack to be led by General Maruyama and units from the 2nd (Sendai) Division after a dangerous overland march, on which they were to carry their mortars and pack artillery.

By 23 October about 20,000 Japa-

nese had massed on the banks of the Matanikau River... ✕

Next month, a steel warrior from the Dakota farm country is forged in the cauldron of battle, assuming a pivotal role in holding the line against a massive Japanese counter attack – and assuming a hero's mantle he would wear through WW II and Korea.



Photo of Keeble at the local VFW post shows more ribbons, medals and combat stripes from duty in two wars, than most career soldiers collect in a lifetime. Photo: Galen L. Geer

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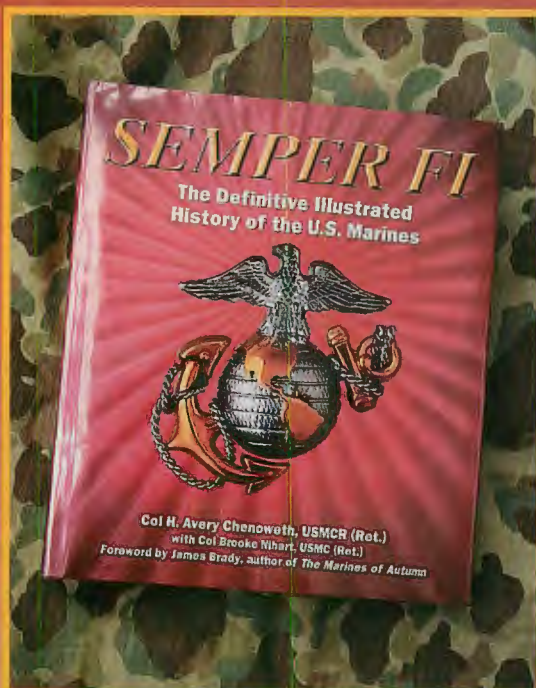
By Gary Paul Johnston

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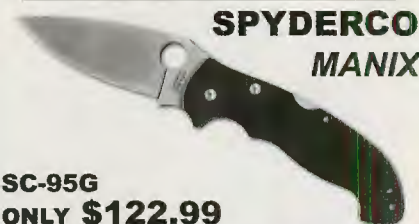
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The most important factor in any firearms is reliability – the gun must go “bang” every time the trigger is pulled. Next comes extraction, one of the two weakest links in any self-loading firearm (the other being the magazine).

For years, 1911 makers and makers of aftermarket parts have sought to improve the extractor. Some have designed external types while others have used better materials or modified the original extractor. Once again, enter Ted Szabo with an entirely new concept in a 1911 extractor.

Called the Para-Power Extractor, this one has proved to be the most advanced 1911 extractor ever. Housed completely in the slide, the Para-Power Extractor pivots on a separate axis and has its own coil spring. It also has an extractor claw that is roughly 50% wider than that of a standard 1911 extractor, for a maximum grip on the case. With the Para-Power Extractor, the slide can also be closed on a chambered round.

A New Single Stack

With the LDA and the Para-Power Extractor came a return to a single stack 1911 style pistol, this in the wake of the “magazine ban” of two decades ago. Although Para-Ordnance had plenty of hi-cap magazines in

stock, the ban caused shooters to take a second look at the single stack 1911 pistol, and the gun began to enjoy new popularity, especially with new shooters continuing to arrive on the scene. For the first time in its history, Para-Ordnance produced a single-column magazine, 1911-style pistol.

With the magazine ban lifted, Para-Ordnance offered both single-action and LDA versions of the 1911, both high capacity and single-column magazine types, and in virtually all lengths and calibers, as well as in stainless steel and blue, and with the optional Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable Sight. Then came Para-Coat finish, a tough molecular finish available in virtually any color. However, Para-Ordnance was not done.

An Integral Frame Rail

In 2005 Para-Ordnance debuted its first 1911-style high-capacity pistol with an integral frame rail. Made to U.S. military M1913 specifications, this rail is part of the reinforced dust cover portion of the frame just forward of the trigger guard. It will rigidly mount any high quality tactical weapon light such as those made by Insight Technology and SureFire. The result?

Have it Your Way

With various branches of the military desiring different features in a new pistol to replace the M9, it has only to look to Para-Ordnance. Think about it: Para-Ordnance builds a Model 1911-style pistol in virtually any combination of operating systems and magazine capacity in any size, shape, material and color any branch of the service might want. This would mean a high degree of commonality in training, parts inventory, holsters, pouches and etc.

I've just received three Para-Ordnance .45 ACP 1911 style pistols, each illustrating what P.O. can offer, to fit the preferences of individual branches of the service. Let's take a look:

The Marine Para Pistol

With the United States Marine Corps' MEU (SOC) element continuing to issue conventional single-action 1911 pistols, Para-Ordnance put together a show-n-tell gun to make any Marine yell “Oo-Rah!” A single-action 1911, this is the first Para-Ordnance single-column magazine pistol to have a frame rail. It is also finished in Coy-

ote Brown ParaKote, a color adopted by the USMC several years ago.

With all the other Para-Ordnance features, the Marine Para Pistol has a standard recoil spring system, extended thumb and grip safety, flat-checked mainspring housing and a clever lanyard mount on the butt. The grips, which are presentation-grade checkered walnut are laser engraved with the USMC logo.

The Army Para Pistol

With the Army requiring a double-action pistol with a high capacity magazine, Para-Ordnance assembled a 14-shot LDA to fill that bill. This one has Para-Ordnance's standard 1911 thumb safety, which totally disables the firing mechanism, but it can also furnish the gun without a thumb safety, as some in the Army indicated they might prefer. In addition to its M1913 frame rail, the Army Para sample came through with a combination of ParaKote colors including a slide in OD green with the frame and controls in shades of gray and tan, but because Para Ordnance offers only one ultra thin grip pattern for its hi cap pistols, the grips on this gun are standard factory black polymer.

The Special Forces Para Pistol

Early on in the selection process, the U.S. Special Forces remained interested in a single column 1911 and continues to field 1911A1 pistols it has in inventory, some having been upgraded as part of an interim sidearm. However, SF also expressed interest in a DAO pistol, but since it didn't have the funds to adopt a pistol of its own, SF decided to take whatever the Big Army adopted. With all this in mind, Para Ordnance created a single column LDA pistol with a frame rail finished in ParaKote with the three colors of the Army's new ACU pattern camouflage. Like the Marine Para Pistol, the SF Para came with its own unique laser engraved walnut grips, but with the Special Forces insignia on both sides.

All three pistols are stainless steel, with their match-grade barrels left natural. All have conventional recoil spring systems for easy disassembly in the field, and P.O.'s own lanyard mounts on the butt. ☒

Next month, we get in some trigger time, and test myriad accessories for these fine pistols.

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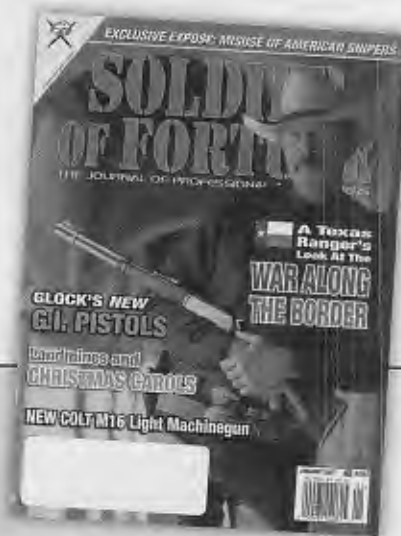
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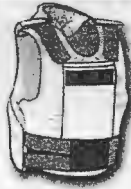
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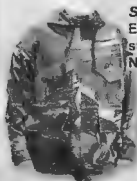


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But I don't want to think about that this morning, not the bad stuff. These guys here have told me the stories, because I'm sort of "the media" and they want the world to know about their commander and their friends who lived and died with an American flag patch on their right shoulder; but they don't dwell out loud for long on the bad. The rocket attack this morning at dawn was a complete failure, and today is looking to be a beautiful day, and, sure, breakfast may be MREs, which I'll skip, but I'll take the refrigerated juices, the donuts, the bagels and the cereal. Who can complain?

And I've got my cameras, and I think I'll just walk around the FOB, saying hello here and there, seeing what's going on with these guys serving America in the middle of nowhere, at the edge of the universe, in an FOB they call home a long long way from their real homes. ☒

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



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DEALERS WELCOME


By Dr. Martin Brass


AMERICA AT WAR


 **1. THAILAND** NO GLORY IN THE BURNING OF THE SCHOOLS. Islamic fundamentalists burn schools in south where most teachers are Buddhist.

 **2. NORTH KOREA** WAR GAMES accelerate as U.S. military threatens to strike plutonium-reprocessing facility at Yongbyon with specops raids or Tomahawk missiles.

 **3. SOUTH KOREA** BUSH ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES use of nuclear weapons to protect South Korea and Japan. **INTEL SERVICE** nearly half mile tunnel beneath Mount Mantap dug by North Koreans.

 **4. JAPAN** OOPS!!! CHINESE SONG-CLASS ATTACK SUBMARINE surfaced undetected after stalking the USS anti-submarine Kitty Hawk off Okinawa, intel guru Bill Gertz reports.

 **5. UNITED STATES** CORRUPTION OUTRAGE Two U.S. Border Patrol Agents sentenced to 11 and 12 years for attempting to stop illegal immigrant smuggling 743 pounds of pot. Illegal alien was shot in the butt, fled to Mexico, and filed \$5 million claim against Border Patrol. Three jurors signed sworn affidavits admitting being coerced into entering guilty plea. **BORDER WATCH JOINS THE ELECTRONIC AGE.** Texasborderwatch.com solicits emails from citizens suspecting illegal border activities. **WAR ON TERRORISM** hits cyberspace. "Cyber Command to be based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana will monitor and disrupt terrorist's Global Positioning Satellites, internet money transfers and radar and navigational jamming. **GHOST PLANE,** book by Stephen Grey exposes CIA FUBAR that allowed CIA planes to be easily traced by terrorists.

 **6. CUBA** CASTRO'S CIGAR BARELY LIT? U.S. intel reports that Strongman, long term dictator "gravely ill" at death's bed.

7. UNITED KINGDOM AL QAEDA SEEKS NUCLEAR technology to attack U.K. **FOILED AIRLINE PLOT** was designed to bring ten airplanes down over U.S. metropolitan areas, rather than the ocean, as intel first believed. Raids produced 11 indictments. **SINISTER TERROR CELL** planning to blow up U.S. flights openly sold items on eBay to fund their menacing plot, reports **ABC News**. **CIVILIAN DEATHS IN IRAQ** overestimated in British Medical journal, "The Lancet" by hundreds of thousands, at 650,000. Other research sources claim 50-100,000 deaths since Iraq liberation.

8. GERMANY **PRIEST PROTESTS SPREAD OF ISLAM** by pouring a can of petrol over his head and burning himself at the Augustine monastery where Martin Luther spent six years as a monk. **CAMERAS CAPTURE UGLINESS** of war. German Troops make a nasty reentry into military deployment in Afghanistan as members were photographed performing obscene acts with dead Afghans.

9. FRANCE **INSURGENTS ATTACK** 15 law enforcement officials per day. See story on page 62.

10. RUSSIA **OILY COLD WAR** on the horizon? **NATO WARNS RUSSIAN OIL CARTEL** with Iran, other OPEC countries, in cahoots with China, will sway balance of power.

11. LEBANON **ISRAELI WAR** backfires, strengthens Hezbollah who demand more seats in the Lebanese cabinet so terror group would have a veto over government programs, and believe they can control government. **CHINESE CLUSTER BOMBS** were used in war with Israel. **CIVIL WAR ENCORE?** Tens of thousands of Christians rally in show of strength against Shiite Hezbollah.

12. IRAQ **WEAPONS GONE MISSING** 14,000 weapons the U.S. proved Iraqi security forces unaccounted for- 4 percent of assault rifles, semiautomatic pistols, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other weapons. DOD registered only 3% of the serial numbers of 370,251 weapons.

13. AFGHANISTAN **TALIBAN CHIEF** Mullah Omar hiding out in Pakistan, according to Karzai government. **NATO TROOPS** take out 1000 Taliban in September. **DRUG LORDS HIRE MERCS** from Europe to provide military training.

14. INDIA **NORTH KOREAN SHIP**, MB Omrani-II bound for Iran detained. Mystery cargo ship was empty.

15. SRI LANKA **PREEMPTIVE ATTACKS** squash rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) plans for major offensive. Military shoots LTTE bases and attacks gunrunners from India.

16. ALGERIA **ISLAMIC TERRORISTS** fight tribesmen from Mali and Niger.

17. NIGERIA **SADISTIC ISLAMIC RADICALS** tell parents to refuse life saving polio vaccines.

18. ETHIOPIA **TECHNICALLY AT WAR** says president, Meles Zenawi, fighting the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), Somali Islamists. 152,000 troops braced for combat, training with massive stocks of military hardware including Soviet made T-55 battle tanks, heavy artillery, multiple rocket launchers and towed howitzers.

19. SOMALIA **ISLAMIC COURTS** supported by Iran Libya Sudan Syria Egypt Saudi Arabia and other terrorists countries.



A French Intifada Or Will It Be Civil?

Muslim Insurrections in Paris?

By Dr. Martin Brass

Sadistic thugs and hoodlums were plotting and scheming violent attacks for the anniversary of some of the worst violence in France in recent decades.

Intifada, War?

Thionville
Metz
Nancy
Strasbourg
Mulhouse
Montbéliard

I went to Paris, which I had called home for several years, as I had done the year before, to see what was really going on before the anticipated insurrections exploded. I, like many who had a love affair with the city of lights, was extremely troubled by the shocking deterioration and civil unrest of one of the most fabulous, romantic cities in the world.



Fred Perrin at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Some were warning of an intifada in France

As the anniversary of last year's three weeks of riots throughout the country was approaching.

For what seemed an endless 20 days in November, 2005, thousands of mainly Muslim immigrants or children of immigrants had terrorized 300 *banlieues* (neighborhoods) across the country, burning cars, attacking police, and vandalizing neighborhoods, forcing the government to declare a state of emergency. (See *SOF* issues March and April 2005 for full coverage of the riots.)

Others Were Warning of Civil War

"We are in a state of civil war, orchestrated by radical Islamists. This is not a question of urban

violence any more. It is an intifada, with stones and firebombs," Michel Thoomis, spokesman for the French Action Police trade union was widely quoted.

The German press was warning of "a civil war climate under any other name."

"Many youths, many arsonists, many vandals behind the violence do it to cries of 'Allah Akbar' when our police cars are stoned," Thoomis said.

"I can't tell yet if we are dealing with an intifada, type revolt, but there is a tremendous push by a lot of the islamist for one. The less gets done, the more likely it will become," warns Thierry Pons, a Frenchman who is a certified instructor in personal defense for John Farnam's De-



Fred Perrin trains soldiers in knife fighting techniques.

fense Training International (DTI).

“The major drug traffickers in France get their supply mostly from Afghanistan (like the rest of the world) but they are also operating out of the *banlieus*,” he blamed Islamic drug lords for much of the chaos.

Five million Muslims live in France, primarily of Algerian and Moroccan heritage, the largest minority in Europe.

“Radical Islamics account for only a minority of the Moslem population, but perpetually unemployed men,

unceasingly on the dole, are easy to incite. Bombings and assassinations keep reticent ones in line.”

France has 3.7m people living in poverty; 2.5m living on the minimum wage; and over 2.4m unemployed, the *Economist* reports. Up to 40% of young immigrants or children of immigrants who live in the poor *banlieus* are unemployed.

Apprehensive French authorities were preparing for the *banlieus* to go up in flames as the anniversary of last year’s violent riots crept up.

Riot police were being mobilized in preparation for the anticipated insurrections.

A Media Sellout

The media had the French in a panic with the hysterical coverage of events leading up to the one year anniversary.

“I don’t know if you know this, most people don’t, is that French journalists (of whatever media) get special tax breaks just for them. This influences their coverage much more than ideology,” Pons said.

Whatever the motive, the media was hyped for the potential insurgency.

I met with a former French infantry sergeant, Fred Perrin at the Marriott on the famous and splendid avenue of the Champs Elysee. I had been told that Perrin, who trained law enforcement and the military in France and Switzerland in self defense and combat tactics had a handle on the situation.

I had a warped sense of amusement in seeing a burly, SOF type dressed in blue jeans and safari shirt walk into the pretentious hotel startling the self important, and probably filthy rich suit types.

And Perrin fit the Special Forces stereotype to a tee.

He agreed that the French media was fast and loose.

“What they have been doing for the last 15 days leading up to the anniversary of the riots is criminal. They are inciting the youth stirring up all of the anger and frustration.”

The reports were indeed inflammatory, but real.

New Year’s Eve Terror

Pons, whom I had contacted just before going to Paris, alerted me to one of the biggest attacks that had occurred on New Years, 2006.

Anyone who has experienced a New

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Year's Eve in Paris knows that the partying, much of it in the streets, could compete with any mini Mardi Gras.

The French media had reported that on New Year's Day, police were escorting more than 100 young men who had been vandalizing cars in Nice on the train back to their homes in the *banlieus* of Marseilles and Avignon on New Year's day: 600 passengers were traveling on the train after New Year's Eve partying. Apparently the French railways, La Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer (SNCF), had offered travel to Riviera resorts for New Year's Eve for only \$1.50 round trip, an offer the underprivileged youth could afford.

One report was that a gang of 20-30 hooligans terrorized passengers, stealing their wallets and phones and sexually assaulting two women. The vandals slashed seats and broke windows.

Another report said that one 20-year-old woman was grabbed in a lewd manner. The train officials called police and pulled into the next station. The conductors resumed the journey with heavy police escort but, just before the train reached Marseille, the offenders pulled the emergency stop,

allowing many to escape. Supposedly two 19-year-old Moroccans and a minor were arrested.

The Year of Misery

Sadistic thugs and hoodlums were plotting and scheming violent attacks for the anniversary of some of the worst violence in France in recent decades.

Hooded gangsters doused a female police officer with gasoline in the Paris suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois after they baited police to the scene. The attack was revenge for a three-month sentence for a gang member's stoning of a police car, the *International Herald Tribune* reported.

Thirty gangsters ambushed a police car responding to a garbage bin fire they had intentionally set in the town of Orleans, 80 miles south of Paris. They trashed the police car with Molotov cocktails and rocks. The attack was a brutal reprisal for a recent drug arrest.

One officer's face was ripped up by a rock, requiring 30 stitches when he and two fellow officers responded to a call reporting car vandalism. When the officers approached the scene of the supposed crime, 50 hooded thugs

with rocks, baseball bats, and iron rods ambushed them.

In another neighborhood, young mobsters set a vehicle on fire to block a bus driving down the road. Two youths entered the back of the bus that had come to a sudden stop, cleared out the passengers, doused the bus with gasoline, setting it on fire. When the police arrived, the masked arsonists stoned them.

Nearly a dozen busses were burned up in the weeks before the anniversary of the riots. Most of the time, the thugs forced drivers and passengers off the vehicles before burning the busses.

A Violent Game Turns Lethal

The stakes were getting much higher as the anniversary of the insurrections drew near. Several ferocious juvenile delinquents had arsoned a bus full of passengers in the town of Marseille. This time, the arsonists did not bother to evacuate the innocent. Mama Galledou, a 26-year-old Senegalese student suffered extensive burns all over her body, leaving her crippled, disfigured and in excruciating pain.

The sick motivation the thugs had



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Perrin demonstrates defense against multiple attackers.

for the aggression? Payback for the female driver having earlier refused to stop for them to get in the bus between authorized stops. The cowardly culprits forced their way on the bus, doused it with gasoline, set it aflame, and fled. The driver was able to evac-

uate most of the passengers, but the victim's clothes that had been soured with gasoline burst into flames.

"These Are Acts of War"

Some 4,200 violent incidents against police involving youths in

France were recorded in 2006, with violence increasing by 30 percent from August to September alone, according to officials. That averages to nearly 15 attacks on law enforcement officials PER DAY.

"First, it was a rock here or there. Then it was rocks by the dozen. Now, they're leading operations of an almost military sort to trap us," Loic Lecouplier, a police union official in the Seine-Saint-Denis region north of Paris, said. "These are acts of war!" (themoderatevoice.com)

An Impotent Police Force

"Our Policemen have no real power," Perrin said as we discussed the reports. "They just observe. Sometimes they arrest one bad guy, but that's where it ends. The jails are full and it is not possible to send them back to their country: 99% percent of immigrant children have French citizenship," Perrin said.

"The French policeman is like all other policeman. He receives his orders from the politicians. If you take a good policeman in Morocco or in France and tell them they can't do anything, they just look useless and can't take control. In France, the po-

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liceman's job is a bad job. The criminals, the politicians, and the citizens, dislike them.

"It's very hard to understand—you have two people fighting or making trouble and make a policeman go for the arrest, but for the arrest they can't use violence. For years it was easy to stop riots, you shoot, kill for defense, use fires or other solutions, but that is more expensive and not politically correct. But today they want to stop the problem without violence, by communication and dialogue. Sometimes dialogue doesn't work. Some people only understand the violence. This problem is not new but you don't have the same coverage by the media," he said.

"As you know, groups like the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST) DST, French counter terrorism forces had a very free hand when it came to dealing with terrorism (home grown or otherwise). The fact, however, that French police barely patrols, if at all, in the *banlieus* would imply that sources of intelligence have nearly dried up." Pons said.



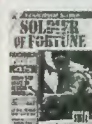
Fred Perrin with his partner in the self defense training institute, Philippe Perroti.

Continued on page 78

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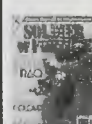
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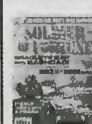
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U.S. Army Pfc. Kieth Collins, a gunner from 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Teddy Wade)

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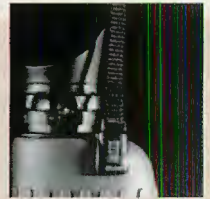
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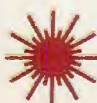


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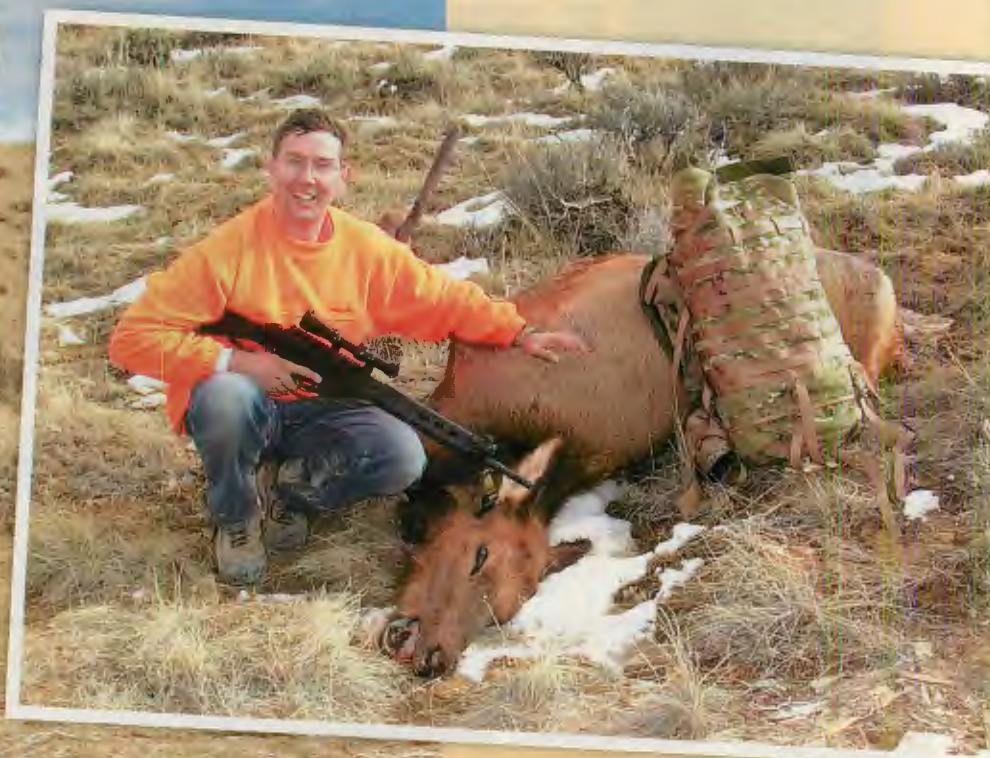
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ATILLA THE HUNT

Testing Gear On Large Deer? Is This A Great Job Or What?

By John Higgs & Robert K. Brown



(left) We took time off to do a little plinking with a Salute self resetting steel plate a bit larger than a phone book (inset). Distance according to our Bushnell Elite laser rangefinder was 98.5 meters. Rifle is Springfield Armory M1A SOCOM 16 .308 with Burris 2x power Scout Scope which RKB prefers for "close in" work. RKB field wears a pair of tactical pants and a concealed carry vest from Woolrich Elite and found it to be of high quality, design and durability. *(above)* John Higgs, an editor at Paladin Press took a cow elk on opening day with DSA's excellent version of the FAL, their SA58 carbine chambered in 308 WIN. Note hunting-legal five round magazine and Specter's outstanding three-point Special Operations Patrol Sling. We used Kifaru's voluminous backpack to carry gear down the mountain. It worked like a charm.

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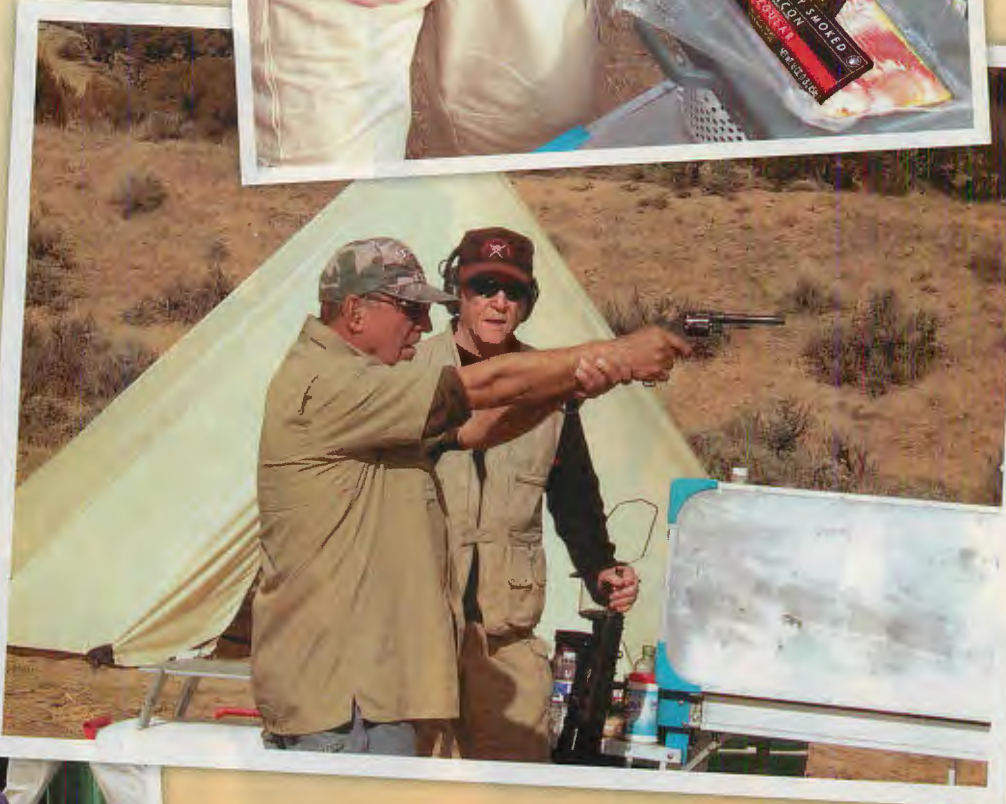
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Over a century ago, Conestoga wagons crammed with camping and hunting equipment roamed the American prairies as homesteaders settled the West. Tired, unwashed, unshaven men in strange, ill-fitting clothes designed to keep out the elements guided their caravans in search of fresh meat and a quiet place to set up camp. Jump forward to 2006, substitute 4WD vehicles for wagons, and Voila! You've got the annual elk hunt and gear test trip to Northern Colorado. This year our team consisted of SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown USAR (Ret.), longtime friends of SOF: Vietnam and Desert Storm Veteran LTC Scott Blaney USA (Ret.), CWO3 Robert Bernard USA (Ret.) (Brown's A Team Medic in Vietnam), Vietnam Vet Lynn Kartchner 1LT CE USAR (Ret.) and yours truly, chief scribe, bottle washer, and colonel wrangler. ☒

John Higgs is a frequent contributor to Soldier of Fortune.

(below) RKB used a Model 11 1911 Bowie from Wilson Tactical for general camp work including cooking. He was intrigued by this particular model as it had .45 grips for the handle. Also, for reasons unknown, there is a small skull attached to the lanyard. Why? Ask Ryan Wilson.



(above) W03 Robert "Boxi" Bernard scares away the game with his S&W Model 1917 Service Revolver blasting down range. The Black Hills Blue Box (remanufactured).45ACP hardball was more than adequate to hit our steel target at nearly 100 meters. RKB has a special place in his pantheon of heroes for Bernard, since he was the one that patched up RKB when he got hit with an eighty-duce mortar in Nam those many years ago. (left) "I thought Blaney was trying to lead me astray...till I actually saw him pop the Salute target...a hundred meters away with his S & W Scandium Wilson Combat Tactical 1911. Fortunately, I forgot to bet him," recalls RKB

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(opposite page) From left to right: John Higgs, an editor at Paladin Press wears a Woolrich Elite shirt and sports a DSA FAL SA58 carbine; RKB wears Woolrich pants, CCW vest; Black Hawk Warrior boots; and Wiley X sunglasses with Springfield Armory SOCOM M1A and Burris scope. Asked why he was holding a Bagwell Bowie, he replied. "Cause it feels good in my hand." LTC Scott Blaney, USA (Ret.), Vietnam and Desert Storm vet, totes a Sako Finnbear .300 Win Mag bolt action rifle and wears a Wiggy's Desert Parka. Behind him is Lynn Kartchner, XO for RKB's Basic Training Co. in Ft. Leonard "Lost in the Woods" Wood, MO., who hunted with a .338 Winchester Magnum which gobbled up Barnes all-copper ZRX bullets. Brown used it to whack a doe and damn near could put his fist in the exit hole. "Those bullets made a believer out of me and you can bet your bippy that's what I'll be using when I go for Cape Buffalo." Kartchner runs All Safe Security in Douglas, AZ. A Kifaru 8-Man tipi serves as a back drop and between RKB and Blaney is a two-long-gun airline-quality case which RKB swears by, made by Americase. RKB commented, "There is no reason why you have to have an ugly clunker of a container to safely transport your long guns." Photo Credit: Robert Bernard (below) The SOF crew tested a new high calorie energy bar prior to taking the long drive home. It tastes Grrreat! (bottom) The Gerber Diesel Mossy Oak tool includes a semi-serrated blade, scissors, an improved plier head, and the ease of one-handed opening. RKB's Swiss Army Wenger black/green dial commando pilot watch kept perfect time and enabled him to get up every day at the crack of noon.



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Then There Are The "Political Gasbags"

"I remember, a few months before the riots (2005), I was watching the evening news in Paris and some political appointee in the ministry of the interior announced that tomorrow there was going to be a raid on various banlieus (or maybe one in particular, I don't remember) to root out the drug traffickers. To no one's surprise when the raid took place, there were barely any drugs to be found. We're talking of a large raid here, several SWAT units, lots of "paniers a salade" and all the accompanying Law Enforcement Officers with the media in tow; many HLMs were searched top to bottom. Watching the news the next day, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," Pons bemoaned.

"I don't know why that guy made the announcement on TV the day before; maybe he was an idiot, maybe he was sabotaging some colleague, who knows. But that sort of thing would have been unthinkable just a few years before. Politics instead of security seems to be driving policy.

"The sad thing is that the social conditions that enabled (not caused) last year's riots haven't changed one whit. A very basic solution to any insurgency/terrorism problem is to separate the bad guys from the population they operate within. French policies, for the time being, don't have an answer for this, especially when their answer to unemployment is in effect more "dole."

Between the sorry media and the impotent police, and limp politicians, the situation is grim. ☒

Next month: Two weapons-and-self-defense-instructors assess the situation.

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

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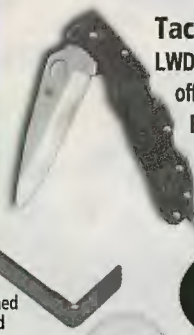
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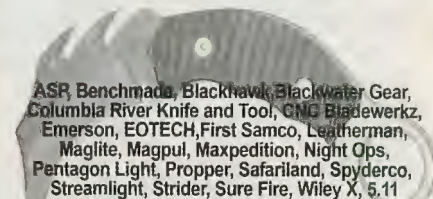
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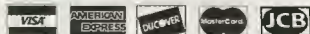
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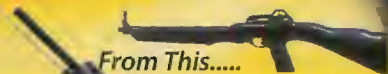
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COMMON SENSE

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

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

Hype and Hope

WASHINGTON, D.C. – It all sounded too good to be true – and now we know that it was. For a few days after the midterm elections, leaders of the new congressional majority talked as if they really wanted to work with the Bush administration for the common good. But like so much in Washington, it's now clear that was just hype.

In their first flush of victory, the idols of the American left scrambled to sound like reasonable, responsible legislators who recognized that our nation faces serious challenges. Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) initially described last week's vote as a mandate "to restore stability and bipartisanship" in Washington. Senate Majority Leader-in-waiting Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said, "The only way to move forward is with bipartisanship and openness, and to get some results ... I want to work with the president of the United States." Unfortunately, rhetoric has now surrendered to reality. Nothing has changed.

The "wake-up call" about how America's liberal icons will run the 110th Congress came late last week when the Bush administration urged that John Bolton – currently serving a recess appointment as our ambassador to the United Nations – be confirmed by the Senate. The suggestion had barely been uttered when Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) announced that Bolton, despite admirable work trying to protect U.S. interests – would be rejected. "I see no point in considering Bolton's nomination," he said.

Though Bolton says he still hopes for "a straight up or down vote on the Senate floor," lame duck Republicans on Capitol Hill have been acting like crippled chickens. When GOP leaders failed to rally to Bolton's cause, triumphal Democrats began floating the names of potential replacements. Among those deemed "acceptable" as U.N. emissaries: former Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa and former Democrat Sen. George Mitchell, both ardent supporters of the international body's globalist agenda.

Just to make sure Bush is getting the message about how stiff the opposition is – and how rudderless his party has become – the House of Representatives refused to vote on a trade bill that was all but assured a week ago. As a result,

the president arrived in Vietnam for the Asian Economic Summit empty handed.

For an additional taste of the way things are going to be, Air Force One was still heading west when the Senate Armed Services Committee summoned Gen. John Abizaid, the senior U.S. officer fighting the global war on terror, to appear before them to discuss the next steps in Iraq. Though the general argued against setting timelines for withdrawing U.S. forces and stated, "the prudent course ahead is to keep the troop levels about where they are," it didn't matter to incoming committee chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich.). He's already decided that we must "begin a phased redeployment of our forces within four to six months."

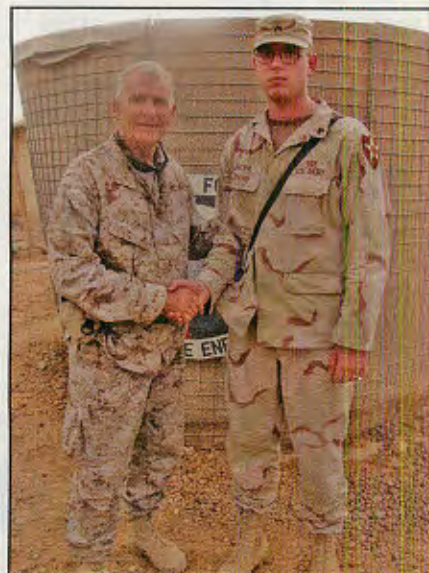
And, in case anyone has forgotten how the legislative branch can make just a withdrawal happen, Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) reminded his colleagues – as the president was headed to Vietnam – how a hostile, liberal-led, anti-military, blame-America-first Congress ensured defeat in Vietnam: "There's one solution here," Kucinich explained, "and it's not to engage in a debate with the president ... but it's for Congress to assume the full power that it has under the Constitution to cut off funds."

Finally, to remove any doubt as to where she really stands on cooperating with Bush on Iraq, Pelosi threw her weight behind the most outspoken critic of the war in the Democrat caucus, Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.) in his bid for majority leader. Notably, Murtha commented this week that a proposal made by his colleagues was "total crap." He was – for once – not referring to American troops in Iraq, but to suggested ethics reforms.

The brief post-election hiatus from liberal viscera is now over. The left is – as it was before Nov. 7 – still fervently committed to undoing the Bush presidency – whatever the cost. A few nameplates have been replaced on doors in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, but things are pretty much unchanged.

While they savor their triumph, the Democrats would be wise to consider some other things that their new management will not change:

- Our porous borders are still a



Sgt. Dorsel B. Boyer, right, with Dillie North, during North's recent trip to Iraq. Boyer, assigned to 2/2 Brigade Combat Team, hails from Coshocton, OH.

major vulnerability and the American people know it.

• Kim Jung Il in Pyongyang, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran, Hugo Chavez in Caracas and now, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua are still evil despot and will do us great harm if given the chance.

• The jihad being waged against us continues and American citizens are still the No. 1 target for Islamic radicals.

If those in thrall over their newfound power in Washington really want to change things, they should start their term of office by reading the Medal of Honor citation for Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham. He was killed on April 14, 2004, shielding his men from an enemy grenade with his own body. Heroes like Dunham are people who put themselves at risk to the benefit of others. Our armed forces are full of heroes. And as long as our "leaders" in Washington let them do their jobs, that's not going to change. ☒

Oliver North is the host of "War Stories" on the FOX News Channel. To find out more about Oliver North, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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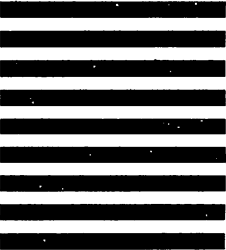
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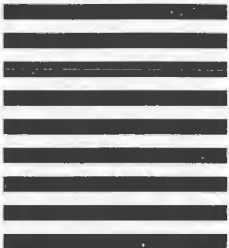
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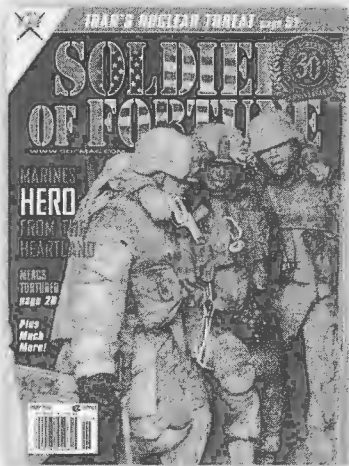
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