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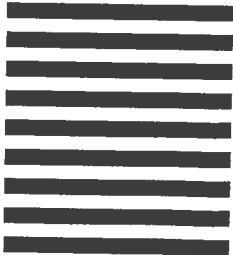
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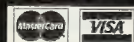
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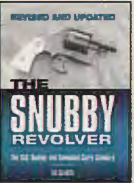
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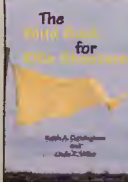
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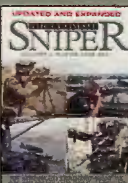
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Help Our Snipers!

Col. Brown:

I read with great interest, the letters from the snipers in the January issue. I receive similar letters daily via AmericanSnipers.org.

The latest caused me to just shake my head. It was from an Army designated marksman who was issued an open sighted M14 with a cracked stock and no optics whatsoever. His assignment was area denial for insurgents placing IEDs. The hapless soldier was assigned this mission with no riflescope, no spotting scope, no binoculars and no formal sniper training. He advised that he and his spotter have to pop up from behind cover with their digital camera, take a digital photograph of their possible target, get back behind cover, then re-size the photo so they can determine if the bad guy is in fact, armed with an AK or RPG, or placing an IED. To meet their rules of engagement, they must then ask for clearance for the shot, wait for a reply from command, and then pop back up to see if the enemy is still there so they can take a shot if necessary.

This is the word from the man in the arena and not some officer who is either ignorant or indifferent to his shooter's needs and one who would not dare suggest to his superiors that his men are under supplied.

Make no mistake, our troops are getting it done despite the obstacles presented them, just like they have always done. The primary obstacles in this case are inadequate support from above and the absolutely broken government procurement process which immediately binds and hampers even the most dedicated and driven of defense logistics personnel.

The value of marksmanship training has been proven in every war we have ever fought and Carlos N. Hathcock II fought this same fight over 35 years ago.

It is now 2007 and at this stage of the game, the American warfighter should have no peer in shooting ability. He should also have everything needed to do the job. So why do we have to keep learning these same lessons from war to war? Kudos to SOF for pleading their case. We will continue to support them however we can

Sincerely yours,
Brian Sain

Come on troops! Let's give these hard chargers a hand. They need optics, optics, and more optics, to include range finders, binos, and spotting scopes, drop-leg holsters and M14 mags. Special thanks to Springfield Armory who donated a bunch of their M14 mags.

Some Parting Thoughts: Senior SOF Editor Don McLean came up with an objective definition of "Political Correctness" as "...a doctrine fostered by a delusional, illogical, liberal minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end."

I picked up a disturbing but fascinating book that I highly recommend, "The First Jihad: The Battle for Khartoum and the Dawn of Militant Islam" by Daniel Allen Butler and published by Casemate, which makes the case that, "Militant Islam is not a late 20th-century phenomenon..." but can be traced back to the duel-to-the death of Mahdi and "Chinese" Gordon at Khartoum in 1884; "...that militant Islam is a challenge to the very existence of Western society, ...one that will continue to strike at any and all that it perceives as enemies, Moslem and Christian alike, until and unless the West and Islam join hands to ensure its eradication." ❧

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784), MARCH 2007, Volume 32, Number 3, is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 E. Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340. Periodicals/Postage is paid at Boulder, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 18478, Anaheim, CA 92817-9928. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues \$34.95. Canada add \$20.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration business number: 12847 6249 RT). All other countries add \$65.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S.: \$4.99; United Kingdom: £2.60; Canada: \$6.99. PRINTED IN THE USA.

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

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE



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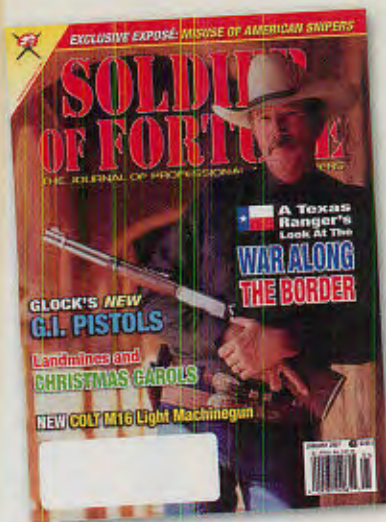


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RE: Letters From Snipers

Though I know a lot of the stuff we read from our sniper teams in the January issue is not new for our combat soldiers, and all of this also happened to those serving in Desert Storm and Vietnam - it still angers me a great deal that it is happening again. This is the battle we are in at the moment, and though we should have learned our lessons well from previous wars - it appears that we didn't learn from our previous mistakes and are therefore destined to repeat them. As I sit and listen to the newly elected Majority in Congress (Read Democrats) talk of cutting and running, and yesterday had one say they should completely

cut out the budget for the war as a means to end it, I wonder how much more we the (too) silent majority is going to take before we band together and deal with the Clowns in Congress. It is their politically correct crap that won't let our soldiers return fire and it is pea brained - book smart and no combat experienced leaders (read officers) who won't allow the orders to take out enemy fighters. Clinton's Congress cut the military so deeply during his tenure that it will be years before we could have caught up - war or no war. Now we are back to a Congress who could care less if our soldiers have the equipment we need to win. Let's face it, they don't care to win this war either.

In a related note: I just spent the entire day first trying to confirm an order for an upgraded combat helmet for my son in Iraq. The item had been ordered several weeks ago but had not shown up. Of course it had been prepaid with the order. I called to see why it had not been received by him, only to find out after about three phone calls that it is out of stock and will be for the next six months or more! After searching for other places to order we went back to the initial site and settled for something that is "not what he wanted but will do" for just under \$500. So even when we try to help our guys - it may not be possible!

Back to the subject: Knowing all of this is good as only then can the problem be remedied. My question is: Now that we know exactly what is NOT being done to allow us to win this conflict, and we all know who is to blame (and Republicans are no better than the Democrats in this); what are we the people going to do about it?

I wrote my Democratic Senator, I told him some of what I personally know, telling him he was responsible and not Donald Rumsfeld for the screw ups in our two war zones. He cockily wrote me back that he was proud to demand Rummy receive his walking papers and proud to see he was finally gone and took personal responsibility in having a hand in this! This Senator (and his brother) also has the backing of the NRA fellows! Therefore, trying to hold these guys accountable doesn't work! They simply don't care! Again: What is the answer to fixing this problem? I know the answer lies with we the people - but that means...

As I see it this is all going to come crashing down around us all too soon and in a very personal and upclose way if we don't get a grip real soon. I look forward to reading the input from others on this - I only hope it isn't too little to late!

Sincerely,
Debbie Padilla
Trinidad, Colorado

Empathy for Snipers

I just finished reading the letters from the snipers. It sounds like it's the same old BS, especially in the Army. I've been off active duty since '97. I wasn't a sniper but I was a grunt and I can totally understand the frustration these guys are facing today. When is the chain of command going to get the picture?

I especially liked the letter from the soldier who griped about the ACU's. I remember a few years ago when the Marines came out with their new combat uniforms and I loved them. All of sudden, the Army had to have some new spiffy duds. I totally hated them. From a grunt's point of view, the Velcro was the dumbest thing they could have put on the uniform. And I really hated the very slanted chest pockets with the straight name and Army tags. It just looked so lame at the time. I've since gotten over the pockets. But the Velcro has to go. Who has time to dig into chest pockets with all that body armor and gear on any way? You have to keep the things you need in a hurry where you can get them in a hurry, i.e. outside of the body armor!

And one more thing, if black isn't a natural color, why did the Marines keep it in their camo pattern? I guess shadows aren't natural either?

Rakkasan!
Ted Michel
Boscawen, NH



Subject: Help Help Help

I have been sending boxes of clothes to a former Special Forces Sergeant who is collecting them for the Montagnard people who are coming into the U.S. I think his last name is Clark. I have misplaced his address and hope you can forward it to me. I currently have 10 boxes of kid's clothes and want to get them the Sergeant.

Thanks for your help,
George McArthur

Clothing, especially kids clothing and baby supplies, can be sent in care of:
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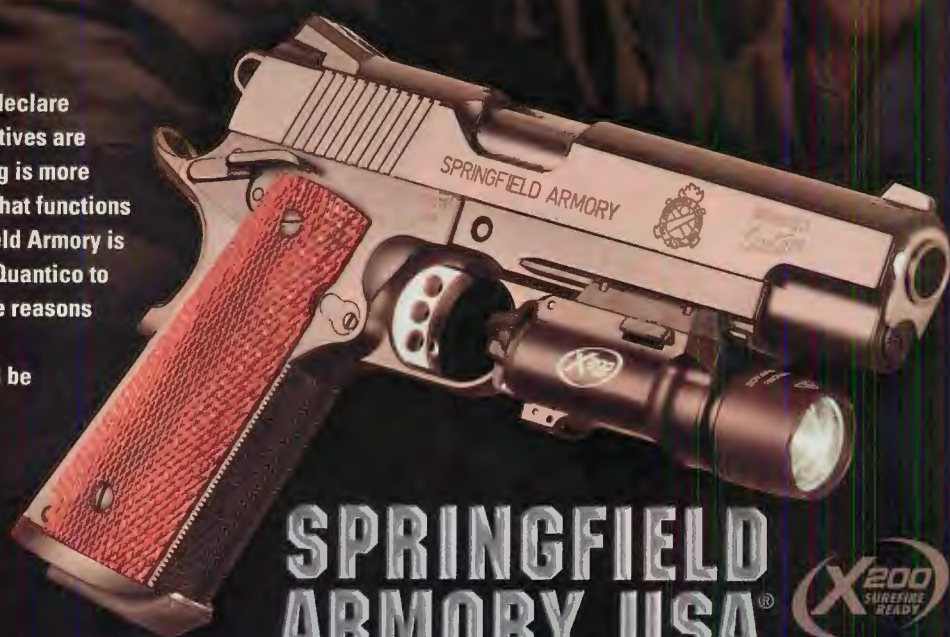
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Knives for Soldiers?

For some time now I have been aware of the good works you fellas are doing in providing care packages to GI's deployed in combat around the world. I regularly cruise both the 'net, cutlery shops and department stores for cutlery bargains. Since my collection of high-quality, brand-new items is at last amounting to something, I want to share my good fortune with those still on the front lines. Is there an APO or even an address here in the states to which I can send knives like Spyderco, Cold Steel and Gerber with reasonable assurance these items will get to the soldiers who need them? Please reply to Terry Hand c/o junfang@casscomm.com.

Go to americansnipers.org and click on the word "Items."

DD-214 online

I just got your January issue, and read in "Bulletin Board" of the availability of DD-214s available online.

After going to the site, www.vetrecs.archives.gov, I found that I misunderstood. The online availability is for the request only. No downloads. And, you still have to print out a signature form and mail it in to them to get the form. Unless I am just being dense, and not seeing the obvious.

Thanks,
M. W. McInturff

The announcement came from VA sources, and we should have edited it to be unambiguous, but failed to do so. Sorry for the confusion.

Kudos to SFC Johnson

Please forward this message to SFC Dillard Johnson: Keep up the great work you are doing. This war is a different animal compared to past conflicts, particularly my generations (RVN & Rhodesia). I'm a former Marine who would consider it a privilege to serve with you.

Your and other's stories give us a real perspective of what's going on and the quality of our fighting men.

Now, you are killing me! All the

info on the equipment you guys find useful has produced a wish list that's gonna break me! I'll probably never see combat again (unless Col. Brown forms a Senior Citizen Brigade), but I'm up-dating some of my gear. Oh, but to be a few years younger and hit the lottery...

Last but not least, I'm glad you guys are still dragging round the M14. With a little luck and a good scope it's a great weapon for a designated rifleman. For much less the price than a Remington 700 action, the average grunt can have a quality reach-out weapon. I have three, all different configurations. (Mark 4 is on the list).

Keep your powder dry.

Buddy
Va. Beach, Va.

Man With A Plan

I am 15 years old and probably one of the few teenagers who reads SOF. I am planning on joining the military after I get out of high school and am hoping to become a professional soldier. I look to your magazine for inspiration, adventure, and an idea of

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what's really going on in today's world that I can't get from the liberal media. I would also like to extend my congratulations on the 30th anniversary of your magazine. Best of luck and keep up the good work!

Alex

Alex: Thanks for the kind words and good luck with your future relationship with the military. Keep us advised of your progress. Stay safe.

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

Thanks

Hi, just want to drop a line to say thanks for all that you have done. I have been with your magazine since 1975. May SOF be around for many years to come. You are the only one who tells it like it is. Stay safe and



watch your back.

Dave McConnell

Formula For a Strong Alloy

America has been called the "Melting Pot," meaning that peoples from all over the world come here to live and adopt the United States Constitution as their political agenda for living. We just kind of all fit in to America, when we become "Constitutional Americans."

It doesn't matter that we may have been peasants out of Vietnam's steamy jungles, or Indian ratters from the shores of the Ganges and we don't really have anything special about ourselves, whether we come from Argentina or South Africa or for that matter, Germany. We become special when we read and learn and adopt the United States Constitution as our political and social identity. Then we are Americans and we are a unique breed of cat. The world is always amazed and appreciative of Americans.

They may call us "dirty ami's" (because of our common way of end-



ing a prayer with the word, "Amen") and they may deride us as bores and materialistic freaks and they may even refer to us as Ugly Americans. But when disaster strikes some far away land, whether it is a natural disaster or the havoc wrought by a tyrant, the world first turns to America and prays to God that American aid and troops, if necessary, find their way into their little, worldly messes. It has always been America that cleans the hearts of mankind from a world wide point of view and it is America's insistence that God be paid homage and thanked for the bounty that America finally bestows upon the rest of the world.

We Americans are glad that you who are new to us, bring traditions and standards and music and your culture with you, when you come to America. But when you stop attend-

Continued on page 81

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◀ It is the soul of the artist and not the medium, from whence springs art. Evidence of this is the work of artist Nathan Sawaya who has created his own tribute to the memory of Iwo Jima, the historic photo and the iconic memorial: This sculpture was made from LEGOs. His newest LEGO sculpture and other incredible works from this humble medium can be found at: http://brickartist.com/iwo_jima_replica.html

▶ A Polish army soldier assigned to Multi-National Division - Central South makes friends with a puppy during a mission in Al Naimi, Iraq, last November. Photo: DoD by Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Price, USAF

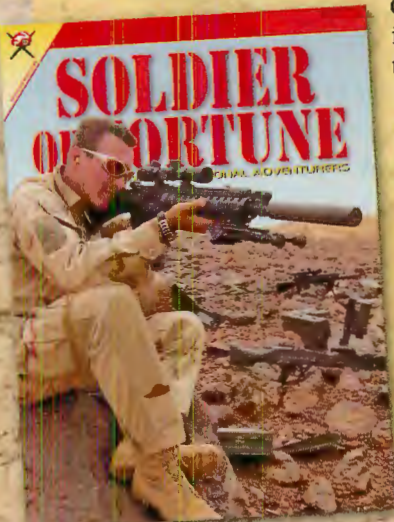


▶ A Pioneer UAV from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), launches with rocket assist to gather real-time intelligence across Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Photo: USMC by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich



THIS MONTH'S COVER: Army SF Capt. Jeffrey "Toz" Toczylowski was killed in action in Iraq a year ago, and laid to rest with military honors at Arlington in November, 2005. A year later, last 11 November, a party in memory of him was held in Las Vegas, with funds he had willed for that specific purpose. The get together was attended by some 125 family and friends. It was not a wake: It was a celebration of a life well spent in the cause of Liberty. A tribute site is at: www.jefftoz.com.

Toczylowski believed in what he was doing, and left this message behind to emphasize the point: "Don't ever think that you are defending me by slamming the Global War on Terrorism or the U.S. goals in that war. As far as I am concerned, we can send guys like me to go after them or we can wait for them to come back to us again. I died doing something I believed in and have no regrets except that I couldn't do more." [Congress, are you listening?] Photo: Courtesy Pamela Toczylowski, via Paul Hockel



▶ Aboard the USS Essex, Marines and sailors with the Deep Recon Platoon of the 31st MEU perform box drills on the flight deck, as part of ongoing proficiency training. They appear to have Springfield Armory contract M1911 series .45s. Photo: USMC by Cpl. Kamran Sadaghiani



First look at the new Spetsnaz patch: no definitive word yet if the patch is to be worn by all Spetsnaz (FSD, MVD, Naval, GRU, etc.). Photo: Courtesy Dobry Den

Continued on page 70

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The Battle of S



The Story of How U.S. Special Forces Partnered With Conventional U.S. Forces, the Afghan National Army and Coalition Elements To Overthrow A Taliban Stronghold In Southern Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Jason Cauley, CJSOTF-A Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – On the morning of 11 Sept., as our nation began a day of remembrance for the loss of nearly 3,000 of its citizens who perished at the hands of terrorism five years earlier, a small group of soldiers in southern Afghanistan could only pause momentarily in silent mourning. They stood in the midst of what would become one of the most significant battles against the Taliban since Operation Enduring Freedom began.

As the temperature rose with the sun, the visibly tired company commander, from the 3rd Special Forces Group, stood on a massive hilltop overlooking Sperwan Ghar, a farming community approximately 40 miles southwest of Kandahar. He surveyed the land to the north that extended across neatly-sectioned crop fields and mud-brick dwellings to the barren Arghandab River, land that days before was home to an estimated 1,400 enemy fighters.

“The enemy didn’t want to give up Sperwan Ghar, and you can see why,” said the company commander, who had also been the ground commander for the battle.

At the base of the hill sat a concrete schoolhouse that had been overtaken by the Taliban and converted it into an enemy safe house and training facility.

“This piece of terrain offered them high ground to control the entire valley,” said the company commander.

Sperwan Ghar

Combined Joint Task Force 76 commander, Major General Benjamin Freakley, receives a walking-brief and assessment of the battlefield September 11 from the U.S. Special Forces ground commander and Task Force 31 commander at Sperwan Ghar in the Panjway District of southern Afghanistan. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jason Cauley)



This piece of terrain, initially thought of as just one of four areas of interest to be observed and secured by soldiers from a company in 3rd Special Forces Group, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., and their Afghan National Army partners, became the focus of several days of fighting between the combined unit and Taliban forces. The mission to observe and secure the terrain was in support of a larger operation, code name MEDUSA, where Special Forces Task Force 31 and ANA elements assisted in shaping a larger battlefield that encompassed

The Special Forces ground commander discusses the days operations with a fellow Special Forces Operator on a rocky hillside observation post during operation, code name, MEDUSA near the Arghandab River in the Kandahar Province September 12. (Photo by Army Spc. Justin Pearson)

both the northern and southern terrain along the Arghandab River near Panjway.

Three Operational Detachment – Alpha teams of Green Berets, a Special Forces company headquarters element and their ANA counterparts departed Kandahar Aug. 26 en route to their fourth area, in the vicinity of Sperwan Ghar. The combined element, more commonly known by their acronym, “ODA,” spent three days trekking 60 miles through the Red Desert to approach their NAIs from the south. They endured 60-foot dunes and roads that shifted with the blowing wind and sand.

“It looked like a World War II movement at times,” said the company commander. “We were pulling and pushing our vehicles along.”

He noted the importance of this movement, saying they needed to penetrate the suspected enemy territory undetected; a feat not easily accomplished with numerous ground mobility vehicles.

“I wanted to quietly infiltrate the enemy’s battle space before they knew we were coming,” said the company commander.

By 1 Sept., after several days of reconnaissance and sporadic enemy contact in the area south of Sperwan Ghar, the elements positioned themselves in an area of high ground that provided a clearer view of the terrain.

The night prior, the governor of Kandahar, Asadulah Khalid, sent out a radio message to the people stating Operation Medusa had begun and NATO forces would soon be sweeping the area. From their observation positions, the Special Forces Soldiers soon witnessed the local civilian populace exiting the area in mass. The exodus continued for the next 48 hours, indicating a strong probability of enemy forces in the area.

On the morning of 3 Sept. the teams em-

barked for the Sperwan Ghar hilltop, to recon the final NAI.

Within 200 meters of Sperwan Ghar, the lead detachment initiated fire when they witnessed Taliban fighters repositioning with rocket-propelled grenades. Within minutes the detachment began receiving small arms and RPG fire from the north, east and west sides of their position.

“I immediately radioed in ‘troops in contact’ and requested close air support to our position,” said the company commander. “Within 20 minutes of the start of the fight we were running out of ammunition.”

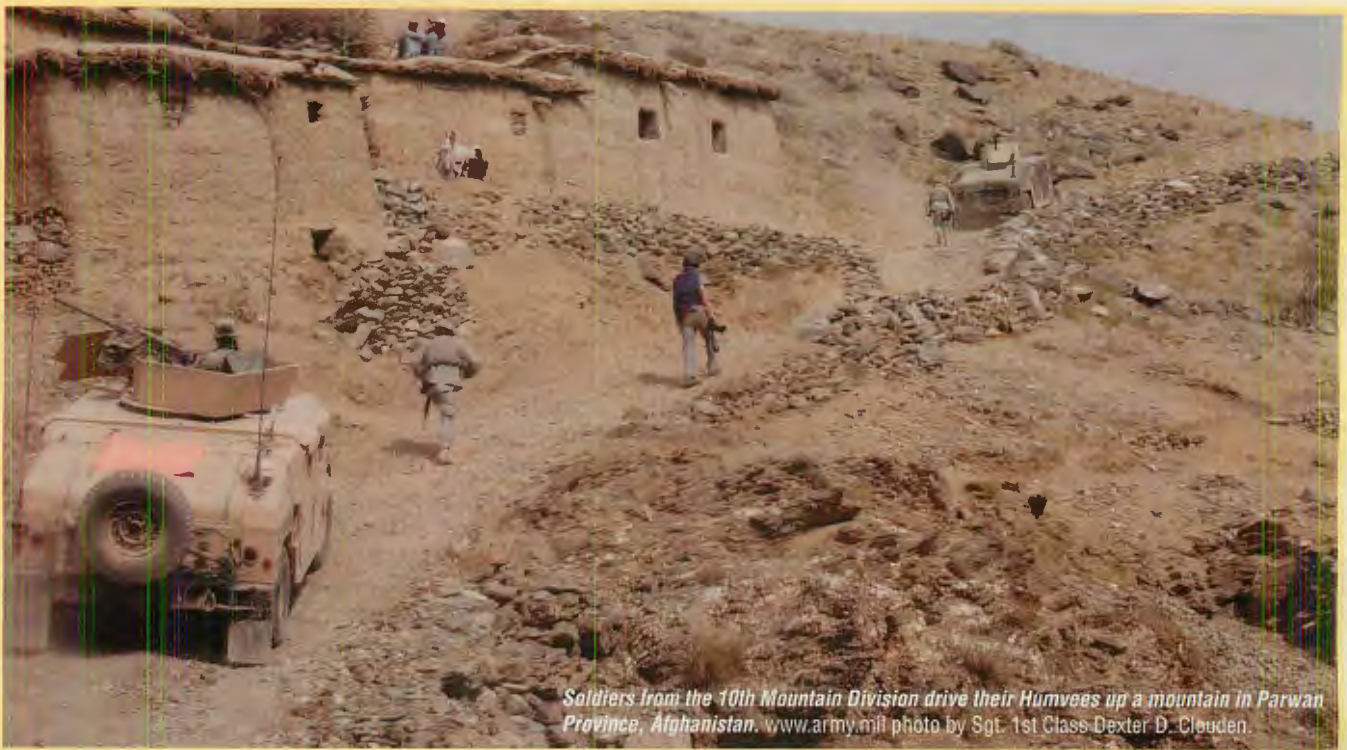
The two forward teams broke contact with the enemy and linked-up with the third team positioned further back on the battlefield, and acting as a quick reaction force.

“By the time the QRF was in place, the lead ODAs were completely out of ammo,” said the company commander. “I was throwing magazines to the guys outside of my vehicle.”

A weapons sergeant with an ODA supported the ground commander’s assessment saying, “We walked into a hornet’s nest. They were waiting for us.”

Aviation assets arrived and engaged the enemy while the ODA reconsolidated, awaited their ammunition re-supply and planned for their next attempt to take the hill. Intelligence reports came in throughout





Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division drive their Humvees up a mountain in Parwan Province, Afghanistan. www.army.mil photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dexter D. Clouden.

the night informing the men that in fact there were hundreds of enemy fighters in the vicinity.

At daybreak on 4 Sept., with close air support already standing by, the company attacked the Taliban positions. Now traveling in a three-detachment echelon formation along with their ANA counterparts, the men were engaged by a barrage of small arms fire from multiple Taliban positions.

While exchanging fire with the enemy, ANA soldiers began traversing the huge hilltop. During their ascent one of the soldiers stepped on an anti-personnel mine. Witnessing the event, the company commander radioed for immediate medical evacuation support. Delayed momentarily on the radio, the company commander's vehicle was passed by another to ensure the movement to the high ground did

not lose momentum. As the vehicle began its climb up the hill, it struck what was believed to be a command-detonated IED. The driver was blown out the burning vehicle, while the turret-gunner, still inside the vehicle, immediately became engulfed in flames. Simultaneously, the Taliban fighters executed a counterattack on the USSF and ANA positions with small arms and RPG fire.

"About eight of us got hit by that IED," said the company commander. "It just stunned us all."

A Special Forces communications sergeant in the vehicle trailing the explosion left his vehicle immediately following the blast. He sprinted toward the burning wreckage in the face of incoming enemy fire. The intense heat from the wreckage soon began causing secondary explosions of mortar rounds and other small arms

ammunition on the vehicle. Despite the intense Taliban fire and exploding ammunition, the sergeant entered the blazing vehicle and pulled out the injured and burning Soldier. After putting out the fire on the Soldier, he carried him to relative safety as secondary explosions began to intensify.

"He acted without hesitation or any regard for his own life," said the company commander. "This type of exceptional courage should not go unnoticed."

The two Special Forces Soldiers on the vehicle that hit the IED were wounded badly enough to warrant immediate medical evacuation. They were stabilized and air-lifted to a military medical facility in Kandahar along with the ANA Soldier who stepped on the mine and another who received a gun shot wound to the

Navigating through the Red Desert of Southern Afghanistan 29 August to infiltrate the suspected enemy battle space undetected proves more difficult than initially projected for U.S. Special Forces and Afghan National Army soldiers as the desert's roads and passes shift with the wind and sand. (U.S. Army Photo)

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arm. The communications sergeant remained in the fight despite burns to his own hands and arms.

As the battle waged on, the Special Forces teams fighting shoulder to shoulder with their ANA partners, fought to overcome Taliban fighters on the hilltop, and secure the schoolhouse.

"We were mentally prepared for a hard fight," said Capt. Derek Prohar, a Canadian Infantry officer who was attached to the unit in the role of a liaison officer.

"These men knew what needed to be done and they weren't afraid to get their noses bloodied," said Prohar, of his U.S. and Afghan partners.

The Canadian, himself, took a piece of shrapnel to the chest plate of his body armor during the engagement. Another Special Forces officer received a direct gunshot to his body armor. Despite taking casualties and fighting a determined, well-prepared enemy, the coalition Soldiers overcame their opposition and took control of the Sperwan Ghar without a single friendly Soldier killed.

"I was surprised we didn't lose anyone," said the weapons sergeant. "At one point in the fight, an RPG landed so close to our vehicle I thought for sure my driver was dead."

Although the USSF and ANA soldiers now controlled the hilltop, the fight was not over. Over the next couple of days the Taliban fighters repeatedly mounted counter-attacks to regain the hill. However, with close air support, additional forces joining the fight, and continuous re-supplies, the USSF and ANA soldiers held their ground.

"The day after we took the hill we had a sustained gunfight of about four or five hours," said the weapons sergeant. "By that time guys were just filling in gaps, moving and executing without being told."

By 6 Sept., with the hill secured,

the company commander now faced a new challenge; the enemy was on the move, but if he chose to pursue them, the position they fought so hard to secure, could be lost.

On 8 Sept., 123 Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y., arrived from Bagram to support the effort. This marked the first time an infantry unit was placed under operational control of a Special Forces battalion.

"I bring mass to the fight," said Capt. Steven Helm, the commander of the infantry element during the mission. "I felt we were immediately complimentary to each other."

During the infantry's first contact with the enemy, the U.S. forces suffered their only loss, when one infantryman and three Afghan Soldiers lost their lives in an engagement with Taliban fighters northeast of Sperwan Ghar. Capt. Helm and his unit, which included an engineer platoon and a field artillery unit, responded, and effectively eliminated an estimated 40 Taliban fighters.

"I don't think the secondary portion of this battle could've been as successful without the infantry," said Prohar. "They have that great infantry ability to take and hold ground, and they did their job splendidly."

Together, unconventional and conventional U.S. and Coalition forces fought the Taliban fighters south of the Arghandab River over the next several days. Their combined effort resulted in the deaths of over an estimated 500 Taliban.

On 12 Sept., as the units crossed the Arghandab and secured the area north of the river, an additional ODA, from a battalion in 3rd Special Forces Group and more allied soldiers, joined the fight. Aside from one suspect who was detained and turned over to military authorities due to traces of explosives on his person, any enemy, who escaped death at the

hands of the forces days earlier, had evacuated the area. In their haste the Taliban fighters left behind a bevy of equipment and items, later turned over to Army intelligence. The success of their combined efforts left all the units involved satisfied with the unusual pairing of Special Forces and a conventional U.S. infantry element.

"This was kind of a new concept for us," said Helm, 28. "I thought it worked really well."

The Special Forces company commander agreed saying, "I thought the addition of the 10th Mountain infantry company was invaluable to this Special Forces operation. They came in ready, took guidance and moved out. Everyone involved in this operation was outstanding."

What began as a shaping operation for the Special Forces company commander and his three ODA teams and two ANA companies, ended three-weeks later, with the successful conclusion to an arduous battle. During that period, the U.S. force of four SF ODA teams, a battalion of ANA, and an infantry company with attachments, all worked toward one common goal; to rid southern Afghanistan of terrorists.

"Standing on the Sperwan Ghar hilltop with our troops in contact 11 Sept., watching the enemy's tactics and the way we were fighting them, reminded me of the way we fought the Taliban during the first rotation in Nov. of 2001. In my mind it validated our analysis of the enemy's strategy," said the Special Forces Commander of Task Force 31, adding, "It was our analysis that the enemy had sought the opportunity to conserve combat power, wait us out, survive among the civilian population and organize their insurgent infrastructure."

Despite being known as "The Quiet Professionals" for their traditional posture to remain out of the spotlight, the success of the Special Forces teams and their ability to partner with conventional forces in the Panjway District would not go unnoticed.

In an official letter of recognition to Task Force 31 signed 30 Sept., Brigadier Gen. D.A. Frasier, the commanding general of Task Force - Aegis, stated, "I want to express my personal thanks to the Soldiers and officers of United States Army Special Forces Task Force 31 for their recent efforts as part of Operation MEDUSA, perhaps the single most important

Continued on page 80



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter carries Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division on a mission in Afghanistan. This photo appeared on www.army.mil.



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THE FUTURE IN SIGHT



The French

European Governments Wimp Out—Former SpecOps Train Military, Police and Civilians. *By Dr. Martin Brass*

Last month, we looked at the increasing violence in immigrant communities in France. However, France is only part of an alarming trend of upsurging violence in immigrant enclaves throughout Europe.

Is political correctness masking the threat that Islamic fundamentalism is destroying the cultures and political fabric of Western Europe?

Or, are the sporadic insurrections and ongoing gang violence in Europe's cities simply rampant juvenile crime, where drug and arms trafficking lords exploit the poverty and high unemployment of the ghettos inhabited by mostly Muslim youth?

Reports from Europe, such as "Beheading Nations: The Islamization of Europe's Cities" in *The Brussels Journal*, paint an alarming and grim picture, warning that unless authorities wake up, Europe will become an Islamic fortress.

But, is it already too late?

Politicians that criticize the Islamization of Europe are being assassinated.

Islamic extremists brutally murdered critics Theo van Gogh and Pim Fortuyn in their prime in the Netherlands. Other outspoken politicians, including Geert Wilders are living under police protection and are fugitives in their own land.

Researchers predict that Muslims will become the majority in the major cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The Dutch are moving to the suburbs or emigrating (poll results show that 32% of Dutch citizens want to leave), and the Muslim population multiplies due to polygamy and the high birth rate. (See complete report in *SOF* Dec 2005 and Jan 2006)

Fred Perrio instructs rifle training with a Sig-552.



Fight Back

In Belgium, Dyab Abu Jahjah, founder of the Arab European League (AEL) is demanding that Arabic become the official language.

In Norway, shopkeepers in certain areas of Oslo need to pay protection money to Islamic gangsters in order to keep their shops open.

Mullah Krekar, former leader of Kurdish guerilla group Ansar-al-Islam who lives in Oslo glorifies Osama bin Laden and claims that Islam will defeat Democracy.

In Sweden, Gangsta Albanian Thug Unit ruffians in Malmö mug and beat innocents.

that fought against the Serbs during the war in Kosovo. Violence is in our blood,' one thug said. They target a lone victim and make him a scapegoat. 'We make it look like he bumped into one of us. Then we have an opportunity to attack him. We surround him and beat and kick him until he no longer fights back,' he said. 'You are always many more people than your victims.

"The youth don't have a good example. There are no heroes, like we had General Le Clerc, and Captain Berge, the father of the French SAS or Kefir, the French Marine commander. Today the hero is a rough man with a big mouth."

The Brussels Journal files a troubling report of sheer brutality:
"Many of us participated in gangs

Cowardly? I have heard that from many, but I disagree. The whole point is that they're not supposed to have a chance.'

Philippe Perotti conducts sniping training.





Perrin demonstrates close combat technique to a French soldier.

Neither mobster expressed any sympathy for their victims. 'If they get injured, they just have themselves to blame for being weak,' another gangster said viciously."

"In France, the majority of young Muslims believe that French society is dying, committing suicide. More like 10 percent to 20 percent of them believe that they are in the process of replacing European civilization with an Islamic one," the Brussels Journal writes.

As alarming as those reports are, it is a gross oversimplification to explain the violence in immigrant communities away as Islamic fanaticism.

And no matter how anyone tries to analyze and explain the roots or the violence or justify it, citizens are terrified.

"Bet They Wish They Had Fought For Their Right to Keep and Bear Arms"

Law enforcement is all but worthless in the violent urban ghettos. In France, as in other Western European countries, Muslim enclaves, sinister, organized Islamic fanatics literally have chased out police and firemen. Even if cops go into quell violence, they are not allowed to use force.

Citizens in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and other countries affected by the violence have no right to bear arms.

"I bet they wish they had fought for their right to keep and bear arms now!" Publisher of *Soldier of Fortune*, Robert K. Brown observed.)

As family members are maimed and robbed and

shops and houses raided and burglarized, desperate victims are clammering for self defense training as the state is failing it's citizens.

Individuals want to protect themselves since the state has lost its grip on the swelling violence. More and more are taking responsibility for their own security.

Therefore, personal security and self defense businesses are booming.

"His Knives Will Rip Your Guts Out"

I met with with a former French infantry sergeant, Fred Perrin on the famous and splendid avenue of the Champs Elysee in Paris. Perrin instructs French, Swiss, and other European police and military personnel in survival techniques in their battles with violent thugs in the urban areas.

If anyone has a handle on the root of the continuing violence, he does.

"Last year, when two young guys hid in an electricity transformer and died when running from the police, the media promoted the riots. Their deaths were just a good pretext for starting fires in all of France, because some liked the

publicity. It's not terrorist activity" he emphasized.

For three endless weeks in Nov 2005, the banlieus (suburbs) were on fire with the burning of tens of thousands of cars and looting rampages.

"The riots are not really Moslem attacks, it is just gang activity, turf wars for the Mafia boys. Maybe part of it is terrorist activity, but for many it's just a game to burn cars. The police can't jail them or return them to their native Algeria or Morocco or other homelands because they are born here, children of immigrants and they have French citizenship. It's not possible to make them pay restitution, because they don't have money. They are on welfare.

"One part of what is going on here is terrorist activities, but that is only part. It's possible that 10-20% is related to terrorism," the alert, craggy soldier, who appeared to be constantly on guard, said.

"That part may be Al Qaeda.

"If you want to fight, if you want to start a war, it is necessary to have money. Where does al Qaeda's get its money? It's in drugs, in the underground arms trade and petrol, but petrol is taxed

and controlled by the government. That leaves drugs and arms smuggling profits to buy guns, training, cell phones. It is not as easy to have a gun in France, but there is an underground.

"The drug and arms trafficking bosses exploit the high unemployment in the banlieus and recruit the youth. Trafficking is

Continued on page 44

"Switzerland is the USA of Europe. If you are a citizen, you can carry your gun. That is impossible in England, France, and Germany, even if one is a good citizen. It is all about controlling you."

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Want To DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES with ease? Want to Always KNOW WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING & Make Them Tell The Truth? MENTAL WARFARE SECRETS

Totally NEW Program Shows You "HOW" To Dominate Life & Easily Hypnotize Others Into Obedience

By Tom Parks

Dear Friend,

Listen. I don't care what you think you might know about Mind Control and Mental Warfare -

YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS

Maybe you think such a thing doesn't even exist. If so, you're wrong. Dead wrong! And, I can prove it to you. Here's why:

By now you've heard of Ninja Mind Control, Black Ops, Seduction, NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), Kahuna, Remote Viewing, Hypnotism, etc. Andrew Scott has done it ALL and distilled it down to

Quick Kill Methods of Instant Hypnotic Domination over ANYONE!

You've probably heard of Andrew Scott, the creator and founder of Warrior Hypnosis.

He's also the Fighting Secrets and Total Life Mastery guy you read about in these magazines all the time, or you've heard his interviews on national talk radio. He's in big demand, and rightfully so.

You see, Andrew has done it all in the field of Martial Arts and Combatives - CQC, Ju Jitsu & Jeet Kune Do Instructor, multiple Black Belts and Certified Law Enforcement Trainer.

He's had unparalleled success and heads up a Worldwide organization! But get this -

The Night My Life Changed Forever

After a grueling night of sparring against multiple armed attackers under Andrew's expert instruction, he decided to take the "Fight Club" out for pizza.

It's AMAZING to me that a guy like this can be so down-to-earth and human, **considering the superhuman things he can do!**

Want to know what I'm talking about? Read on friend, read on...

We arrived at the new pizza joint across town. The place was packed! The hostess says "I'm sorry, but it's a 45 minute wait to get a table."

Andrew steps in front of her, looks into her eyes and slightly smiles. There is three seconds of silence and then she says "yknow what, I'll just go clear you a table right away."

As she walked away, she kept turning back and gazing at Andrew like she was in heat!

Now keep in mind, none of us had been to this place before and we didn't know any of the people there.

I noticed all the women seem to be staring at Andrew like deer caught in the headlights. The men are all giving him respectful nods and stepping back to clear a path for him.

Finally, I decided to check it out for myself. I stepped up to a guy at the bar and pointed at Andrew and asked "do you know who that is?" The guy said "No, but he's the man isn't he?" How did Andrew

Radiate Unstoppable Confidence and Magnetize Everyone In The Room

Before the end of the night, no less than three hot vixens (including the waitress) had stuffed their phone numbers into Andrew's hand, and he had barely said a word to them! He tossed the numbers to us - it was no big deal to him at all!

And, he had two attorneys, a broker and a realtor at our table buying us drinks and begging to invest bucks into one of his enterprises! Andrew said no thanks, be-

cause he likes to keep all the profits for himself.

Does this all sound unreal, like something out of a movie? Well guess what, it's not. I was there and I can tell you in no uncertain terms: **It's All Real.**

You see, after YEARS of studying just about everything, Andrew got fed up and decided to only teach the

QUICK and DIRTY Methods of Getting Anything You Want From Anybody!

I asked Andrew "how do you do it?" "Do what?" he said. "Yknow, magnetize people like that?"

Andrew said "I don't intend to do it. It just simply is. Water doesn't intend to go where it goes - it doesn't "try" to go where it goes - it just goes there! And, like water...

I Go Wherever I Want and I Get Whatever I Want

...and you can do the same thing, Tom" I was astounded! Me? Do the same thing? OH MY GOD!

So he began to train me in Warrior Hypnosis. He showed me how to buy a car (I was completely broke at the time) and how to get my boss to raise my salary, all within a week. I did what he said AND IT WORKED!

MAKE THEM BEG!

Ex-girlfriends who had dumped me for more successful guys were *begging* to have me back, even offering to pay all of my bills!

My nagging step-mother, who's been trying to thwart me for years, was all of a sudden very afraid of me. I was astounded!

And, I knew I had changed forever. This wasn't some emotional cheerleading going on, this was a permanent change.

It wasn't any esoteric mumbo-jumbo either. Forget the agony and frustration of learning difficult tactics.

If you're as "lazy" as I am, and simply want the bottom line "how-to" you're gonna LOVE this...

Have you ever noticed how some people seem to be "lucky"? They always have their way, and life never seems to be a struggle?

They constantly have beautiful women on their knees begging, and they laugh about it, while you're always struggling to get a date with a chick who's "ok."

In this totally new program you can't find anywhere else, Andrew will show you how to have beautiful women eating out of your hand and obeying your commands, and you don't need money or good looks. Yes, it's true. See it for yourself!

Listen. Have you ever wondered why some people seem to effortlessly conquer every situation they face? Notice how life can be a constant struggle, or very disappointing and boring?

Well, as of RIGHT NOW, it's doesn't ever have to be that way for you again! Am I serious?

I Am DEADLY Serious.

In this new program, Andrew is going to show you what he has learned about Mind Control & Mental Warfare, because after he learned it, life has NEVER been a struggle for him.

This is not an exaggeration, but a simple statement of fact. And it's so simple and so absolute, so rock-solid, that once you "have it" your life will never be the same!

Nothing will phase you at all! In fact, danger and challenges are now an absolute JOY to face, because

VICTORY IS AUTOMATIC

Yes, I really do mean that. And I can prove it to you. Do you "want" the same power in your life? The first thing Andrew will show YOU is how to

"Thrive In Chaos!"

I don't care what you're up against. If you're out to be the top dog at work. If you're competing for a promotion or sales, with Andrew's Warrior Hypnosis phrasing, you'll mesmerize and astound the competition - who won't know a damn thing until it's too late!

The best part is when they say "NO!" When you get Andrew Scott's Mental Warfare Secrets, you'll be amazed when you learn:

- ✓ How To Get Out Of A Traffic Ticket
- ✓ Have A Client Write You A Big Fat Check, Even After they say "no"!
- ✓ Hypnotic Trance: Make Them Desire To Please You, Without Saying A Word!
- ✓ Psych Profile: Know Anything About Anyone In Minutes!

All you have to do is listen to this program once, then try it a few times and you'll be shouting with joy that

"THIS STUFF WORKS!"

Let me ask you something. Where have things been difficult in your life? I'll bet it's when other people don't do what you want them to do, am I right? Well listen up, because **now is your chance** to end those difficulties once and for all.

Once you "order this program" you can sit back and relax, because you're about to become a Warrior King who gets his way - almost *all of the time!*

And it works everywhere - whether you're negotiating a price, making a reservation, in a courtroom or dealing with city hall! Even with operators on the phone!

Think she sounds cute on the phone? Have her meet you later - she'll think it was her idea! Want them to work for you, or buy your product or service? Have them do it and thank you for it!

And, no one will ever be able to escape your magnetic power when you always know

How To Tell If Someone Is Lying

Think about it right now: How many times will someone lie to you during the course of your life? And, what will it cost you?

Wouldn't it be better to KNOW when they are lying; to know HOW to detect, and correct, those who are lying or are about to lie to you?

Can you IMAGINE THE POWER YOU'LL HAVE knowing for sure, absolutely, whenever someone is lying to you? What would that be worth to you over the rest of your lifetime?

Of course, knowing this puts you at an Unfair Advantage Over Others, because

They Won't Be Able To Keep Any Secrets From You!

And, you could easily convince others of almost anything, true or untrue, when you lean the strategies, tactics and exact sciences of persuasion in this course.

But I know you won't do that, because your conscience won't permit it. That's the unique thing about a

true Warrior. You'll use your newly found strengths and secret knowledge for good, and to

Manifest An Overflow of Greatness

in your life and the lives of others.

There is a force inside you, a kind of "spiritual intuition" that discerns all things, good and bad. This intuition is very powerful, and magnetic. However, 99.9% of the population is programmed, BY DESIGN, to lose this intuition.

Here's what I mean: have you ever had someone lie to you or take advantage of you, and later you said to yourself "I KNEW that was gonna happen."

A little voice inside you told you that you were being lied to, but you rationalized it away and "allowed" it to happen, even though you knew better. I'm sure you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Have you ever been in a situation where you were told about something that was totally true and beneficial, but you rationalized it away, and later said

"I KNEW I should've done that!"

I think we all know what it feels like to miss out on something awesome that we didn't have to miss out on.

Don't let that happen again. Grab hold of this totally **new course that no one else has**, and you won't ever have to miss out on anything you want, ever again.

Normally, Andrew charges thousands of bucks for this info, to attend one of his seminars usually costs between \$1700 to \$2400 bucks!

But for good folks like you, SOF readers who know the real deal, you get the same info in the Mental Warfare Secrets Package for just \$147.00 bucks!

And there's no way to lose! Andrew has laid it out in such a simple and easy-to-understand manner that only a fool wouldn't get it!!!

The 3 Master Keys You MUST Know To Get Anything You Want

1. Human beings are made of energy, and your energy is ALWAYS radiating Magnetic Force - force that either "pushes away" what you want, or "attracts" what you want. And, there is NEVER a time when this Magnetic Force isn't working - even when you're sleeping!

2. Every Word You Say Has Power. If you don't understand Hypnotic Commands and Phrasing, everything you say "pushes away" what you want most of the time (this is the missing Key to Getting Everything You Want!) The same rule applies for your Body Language and Eye Contact!

3. Your Emotional Response Transfers Control To Your Opponent (or your Target). This is even true in a bloody streetfight. Knowing this is how the smaller guy Destroys the big, scary thugs. It's how the nerdy broke guy gets the pretty girl. It's how the disadvantaged and underprivileged GET RICH! This Key is so Powerful, and so TOTAL and TRUE, that when you hear Andrew explain it and show you **exactly how to use it**, you'll cry tears of joy as if you've just been handed a check for 10 million bucks!

EASILY DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES!

Let's not fool around here. What we're talking about is very **Powerful and Dangerous**. Knowing exactly how to control other people without them even knowing it is outright unfair.

That's why it's very important that this program only falls into trustworthy hands. If you are a psycho on a power-trip, or a criminal, you are forbidden to buy this, period. Nut jobs need not apply.

Also, if you are into taking unfair advantage of other people, you are forbidden to have this material. **It's just too damn dangerous in the wrong hands**

Of course you must be over 18 and by purchasing you agree to release Andrew Scott and Masters Group from all liability.

Just Imagine What You Can Do Once You Get These Skills!

There are really only two types of people - Warriors and Peasants. The Peasantry walk around in a Hypnotic Fog of Programming, kind of like computer programs.

When you understand this programming, then just like a computer programmer you can "push people's buttons" and have them obey you, just like the computer obeys the programmer!

Does that make sense? It really is that simple, but it isn't easy unless you "know" the programming language.

Now, with Mental Warfare Secrets, you "get" the programming language, the buttons, everything you need to

Get Anyone To Do Anything You Want Anytime, Anywhere

This essential information gives you specific techniques and phrases in minute, step-by-step detail that you can do RIGHT NOW.

You can literally memorize these Secrets, go out and repeat them, and watch what happens! The hard part's already done.

But more importantly, it isn't just about controlling others. It's also about YOU. Here's exactly what I mean:

1. Mental Warfare Secrets is about **YOU, EFFORTLESSLY GETTING WHATEVER YOU WANT!**

2. This program shows you that you have only been using a tiny amount of your real ability. Andrew shows you how to access that part of you, a kind of Genie inside you, that is capable of discovering the life you've always dreamed of, INSTANTLY!

3. The techniques in this program will help you to make your dreams come true - not in some far off distant future - but "RIGHT NOW"

4. This DVD and 3-CD set, and the secrets in them are not available anywhere else! In fact, they are so potent, so effective, so **INSTANTLY POWERFUL** that in order to purchase them you must promise to NEVER share these secret tactics with anyone and to only use them for lawful purposes!

I WANT YOU TO HAVE THESE SECRETS - YOU KNOW YOU NEED THEM if you're going to WIN every battle in life.

Do you think that winning at life, making more money than your friends, slaughtering the competition and easily attracting everything you want like a giant magnet is easy?

I do! And I've seen Andrew *prove it* dozens of times! Now, you can do the same.

This is your wake-up call. If you are one of the few who know a good thing when they see it, who know the truth when they hear it, then YOU will become the Master of Yourself and Those Around You with Mental Warfare Secrets.

The Mental Warfare Secrets program will show you how to conquer yourself once and for all, and then con-



Andrew Scott

quer anyone else!

Once you get this knowledge, you'll finally be the way you want to be, the way you know you really should be!

99% of the population is comfortable in ignorance and mediocrity. If you want to continue in apathy and living inside of a little box, don't bother to call, we won't miss you. But for those of you who simply must win at life - who need to know "how" - this is for you.

You have the courage to step up. That's why after you've absorbed this new DVD & CD Set that no one has anywhere else, you'll walk into a room and immediately grab attention - and radiate power!

Watch How People Notice You've Been Transformed!

It'll be magnetizing, and it's all real. Period. I've put it on the line here. This is the best damn course on the planet. A DVD & CD set chock full of all of life's Mind Control & Mental Warfare Secrets - that's HUGE!

I can guess the only thing possibly holding you back at this point is the price of \$147.00 Are you cheap? If you don't invest in your future, in your skills, what kind of life will you end up with?

You know something like this doesn't come along every day. Most people don't have the balls to do anything, to try something different - even if they *know* it will work.

That's why the moment you "order now" you'll immediately be at a HUGE advantage over the rest of the population! All I'm asking is that you give it a try. Is that fair?

And, for the First 45 people to order, we're throwing in a Free Bonus worth thousands in it's own right, a CD called **Mastery Keys To Unstoppable Confidence**.

Worldwide Shipping is FREE. So **Call Now** toll-free at 1-800-717-2675 and get it done. You can also order online at www.mentalwarfaresecrets.com

Sincerely,

Tom Parks

Yes, Sir! I want the Confidential "Mental Warfare Secrets" DVD & CD Set. I'm one of the first 45 to order, so include the Free Bonus CD "Mastery Keys To Unstoppable Confidence" I'm over 18 and I Promise to keep this information confidential.

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With the Pesh

By Dr. Jack Wheeler



The moon was a little over a quarter full. It would be setting in an hour or so, leaving us without its meager light. I longed for night vision goggles, but the men I was with seemed to have no need of them and moved confidently in the dark. They were Kurdish guerrilla fighters known as Peshmerga, "Those who face death."

We were armed, but not heavily. Holstered on my belt was a Webley Mark IV .38 revolver, and slung over my back was an AK-47 Kalashnikov, Type 2 with a wooden stock. The famous banana clip only holds 30 rounds, but I had no vest for extra magazines. One of the men showed me he was carrying eight and motioned for me not to worry.

The Peshmerga were all carrying AKs of course, with vests for extra magazines and pouches for hand grenades. But that was it - no RPGs (rocket-propelled grenade launchers), no heavy machine guns. We were traveling light, as this was an insertion team. The mission was to insert me into Iran.

I had been driven three hours from Hewler (Arbil) in Iraqi Kurdistan to the border town of Rayat. The gentlemen with the Revolutionary Union of Kurdistan (RUK) were nervous about my being seen, so they made sure we arrived in the evening. The town was rife with Iranian and PKK agents.

We hadn't proceeded 100 yards on a trail out of town when four Pesh-

merga emerged out of the gloom. They were the ones to take me inside. I shook their hands as they whispered their names - Ahlo, Soran, Fashad, and Naroz. Waving goodbye to Hassan, brother of RUK leader Hussein Yazdanpanah, who had taken me here, I set off with the four Peshmerga into the Siyah Kooch Mountains that form the border with Iraq and Iran.

There were so many stars in the sky that at first it was hard to pick out the constellations. One by one, there they stood out, Cassiopeia, Pisces, Pegasus, Perseus, Hercules. No Big or Little Dipper, no North Star - they were below a high ridge line on my left. I knew we were headed a little north of east by how the constella-

hmerga

tions were rotating above me.

I quickly discovered that Peshmerga don't like trails. They prefer to walk straight up a mountain - in the dark. This is not fun. There was a trail but Hassan had explained we would use it only when it was sure no smugglers were near, some of whom could be Iranian agents. So hour after hour I stumbled up slopes so steep they made my calf muscles achingly stretch, over crumbling rock that once dislodged would endlessly bounce down the mountain. Hopefully the sound would be covered by the barking of dogs far below us, and the incessant yipping of foxes - the mountains were full of them.

When we started, an illuminated box that was an Iranian guard post was way above us on a ridge. Now we were even with it, about a half mile to our right. Soran had me wait with Fashad and Naroz in a steep rocky gully while he and Ahlo went ahead. The top ridge - the border - was just above us.

I lay back and meditated upon the stars. What I missed was Scorpio. So many times like this before - like in Afghanistan with the Mujadaddin or RENAMO guerrillas in Mozambique - Scorpio always seemed to be there comfortingly above me. Not tonight.

It was getting brisk. We were at an altitude of almost 7,000 feet, it was 3 o'clock in the morning, and blasting gusts of wind would rise up, then die back down. Fortunately we weren't thirsty, having filled up our water bottles from a small spring below.

When Soran and Ahlo returned,

Soran whispered to me, "Baba - we go."

While I wasn't overjoyed to be called Baba - "Grandfather" - I couldn't blame them as the beard I had grown for this occasion was mostly white. The hair on my head is still thankfully not gray yet, but a beard betrays me. Long-time friends know there's only

dark, it seemed to be criss-crossed with trails made by smugglers' horses. We waited and watched for some time. Then Fashad and Naroz dashed across. When we heard a soft whistle, Soran tapped my arm, and I crouchingly ran across with Soran and Ahlo on either side. We were inside Iran.

The first thing I noticed was the forest. The mountain we had just come up on the Iraqi side was treeless, the slopes covered only in dry grass and small incredibly prickly bushes that you dare not touch. Yet on the Iranian side just below the ridge seemed covered in thick trees and large bushes. As we ran off the ridge and into their cover, I noticed the city.

Piranshahr was much larger than I expected, a huge array of bright lights spreading over the valley below, and pockets of lights in the hills above it. I got only a glance before we reached the trees. It was now almost 4 a.m., so we pulled out our lightweight sleeping bags to get a few hours' sleep.

We woke to the sound of horses' hooves. It was dawn, and the hills around us were alive with teams of

smugglers' horses being hurried back into Iraq. A number of them came close by, and I could see no horse was carrying a load. Evidently there was nothing of value they could take out of Iran.

Still lying in our bags, Soran pointed up and to our left, whispering "mullahs," the Peshmerga term for Iranian soldiers. Through the trees I could make out a small Iranian guard post about 300 yards away just below a higher ridge line. With the binocu-



one reason I grow a beard, so would ask before I left the US, "Where you headed for, Jack?"-knowing I'd answer, "I'll tell you when I get back."

Scrambling up to the ridge, I discovered it was a "false summit." There was yet another ridge higher and beyond. Ahlo pointed to it and said, "Iran." Following him, I stumbled down a slope, crossed a small stream, then scrambled and stumbled up to the border ridge.

As best as I could make out in the



(left) The Kurdish Peshmerga platoon of the newly-formed Joint Iraqi Security Company marches to class. The U.S. 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division are jointly training Kurdish and Iraqi forces, to become the first self-sufficient local military force. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. James Matise.

lars, I could see it was a stone shelter with a green canvas cover. I could make out two mortar tubes. It seemed to be manned by three soldiers, one of whom had binoculars.

They should have been able to clearly see smugglers crossing over the ridge in the early light, but did nothing. Evidently they were unconcerned about empty horses crossing back into Iraq. Packed horses coming into Iran was another matter entirely.

After wolfing down a Met-Rx protein bar, I cautiously packed up my bag and we slithered deeper into the forest. Suddenly a man appeared in a black-and-white checkered flannel shirt. The Peshmerga all recognized him, introducing him to Baba (me) as "City Man."

By gestures and the few words in English they knew, I understood the plan to be for me to go with City Man down to a road where there would be a car to take me to Piranshahr and the home of an RUK man who was "speaking good" (spoke good Eng-

lish), and through him I would meet and talk to folks who could tell me about life under the Mullacracy and RUK resistance to it.

The time to do this, however, was not in daylight. We would have to wait until after sunset, when there was less light, and when fasting was over (it's the month of Ramadan now when Moslems can't eat or drink between sunrise and sunset), so the "mullahs" at the check points along the way would be more interested in food than being watchful.

So why don't we all go and have a cup of tea? City Man suggested. Well, okay. We followed him through the forest to a small encampment - of smugglers. They all seemed to know City Man, who proceeded to introduce me to them as, of course, Baba. Noting the concern in my eye, City Man whisperingly assured me, "No mullah" - according to him, none were in Iranian pay.

I had been instructed to say nothing, so I limited myself to saying *spass*

(thank you) when offered anything, and *bash* (good) when trying it. There was a small fire. A blackened kettle boiled water and a battered pot held reheated rice. I had a cup of *chai* (tea) in a small unhygienic glass, and *nan* (flat bread).

There were about 20 of these fellows, and a few dozen horses that were still saddled, but their loads had been taken off and were lying in various piles. I pointed to them with my eyebrows raised and Soran quietly said, "Whiskey, cigarettes." Booze and smokes, the best value per volume for a smuggler on horseback.

The smokes were smuggled to avoid the taxes, the booze because it was completely forbidden by the "Islamic Republic" of Iran, and thus highly desired. I don't smoke and never have, so that was no temptation. But I had to restrain the impulse to ask for a sample of their liquid.

Kurdistani, good Kurds according to City Man - went across at night,

Continued on page 30

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Columnist & Contributing Editor, Black Belt Magazine

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duplicated just a limited number of copies. By the time you read this, some of those are gone. To get your copy go to **www.sofreedvd.com** or call 888-234-2192. Or just fill out the coupon below and mail it today. If we’re out of the **FREE** DVDs, we’ll notify you by mail. Don’t wait around. Grab your copy now.

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and the ones who didn't make it off the mountain by dawn holed up here waiting for darkness to return. They all talked and laughed and joked and drank tea and seemed happily enjoying themselves. I just tried to sleep.

Finally the sun had sunk to the horizon. City Man motioned that we could leave. Soran held up two fingers then pointed to the ground, and otherwise made me understand that he and the others would meet me here at this camp in two days to take me back into Iraq. The smugglers were repacking their loads on the horses. It was time to go.

Then we heard the shouts, then the unmistakable sound of AK-47s firing. It was coming from the direction of the mullah guard post. More shouts, more AKs going off. Soran and Fashad grabbed me as we ran away from the encampment and under some trees. The smugglers got away fast as well, with the horses remarkably unperturbed by it all.

Then came the mortars. The shells landed too close for comfort with deafening explosions. We moved deeper into the forest, City Man with us. The Peshmerga seemed more puzzled than alarmed. We waited. There was silence. Finally, City Man and Naroz went off in the direction of the commotion. I waited with Soran, Fashad, and Ahlo for what seemed a long time.

By the time they returned it was getting dark. After much hushed conversation, Soran made me understand that the mullahs had spotted a group of smugglers coming into Iran, jumping the gun when it was still light. The shouts were the smugglers' as the mullahs opened up on them with AKs, then fired off the mortars. Two horses of the smugglers were hit and killed, and one of the smugglers was wounded by shrapnel.

City Man kept saying *mullah, mullah -- otombil nay*. I could figure that out. Mullahs were coming, lots of them from other guard posts and check points, there would be no car (*otombil*, automobile), the insertion plan was snafu'ed. Time to abort and get out of Dodge.

City Man abruptly vanished. The four Peshmerga and I made our way up towards the border ridge. By the time we got there it was dark, but there was some light from the one-third full moon. Between the edge of the trees

and the top of the ridge it was grass, open and exposed for about 50 feet. Everyone checked their weapons as best we could in the moonlight.

Once we started up those last 50 feet we would be totally exposed with no cover. Soran tapped my arm and we all started moving up together. With about 30 feet to go we saw the flashlight. It was a mullah walking towards us, checking the trail along the border ridge, waving his flashlight to either side in front of him.

We collectively froze for a second, then realized it was no time to turn back. Clutching the AK with my right hand while using my left to help pull me up the slope, I scrambled along with my four companions as fast as I could move, reached the ridge trail and raced across to stumble and slide down the Iraqi side.

When we got down to the little stream in the gully below the border ridge, we started following it down and out of flashlight range of the mullah. We found one of the smugglers' trails, a fairly wide one that even I could see in the pale moonlight, and trudged down the mountain to Rayat.

Fashad had gone ahead, so when I arrived, Hassan was waiting to drive me back to Arbil. Bidding goodbye to my Peshmerga friends, I clambered in the Land Cruiser and tried to give Hassan an AAR, after-action report -- but I was so exhausted I fell sound asleep.

So I got inside, but not by much, maybe a mile or so. My insertion, it turned out, had a Catch-22. To get me into a city near the border like Piranshahr where I could learn something required me to cross where the border was closely guarded. The smugglers had the same problem as Piranshahr was their best and most-easily reached market.

To cross further away with fewer guard posts would have meant days of walking and climbing in sparsely-populated country to no effect for me. The Peshmerga do it to reach cities much deeper in like Mahabad, but the risk of my doing so was too great.

All those villages at the top left of the map are in Turkey. The blue at the top right is Lake Urmia, and there isn't much between it and the border. Piranshahr was my only bet, and while my dice didn't make my point, I didn't roll snake eyes and crap out, for I came back all in one piece.

I went in with the RUK rather than other Kurdish resistance groups like

Komala and the Kurdistan Democracy Party of Iran (KDPI) because they are the only ones currently actually fighting the mullahs. The others confine themselves to "organizing" people for an "uprising."

I am all for uprisings against the mullahs and wish these groups all the best. But frankly, folks with the cajones to take up actual arms against the Iranian Islamofascists appeal much more to me.

There's another reason I chose RUK. All of the Kurdish resistance groups are secular and despise Islamic religious tyranny. But with one exception, all are left-wing, from socialist KDPI to crypto-communist Komala to hard-line Marxist totalitarian PKK. The exception is RUK.

The RUK leaders like Hussein Yazdanpanah embrace capitalism and the individual's right to own property, to flourish and get rich. They despise Marxism as much as they despise Islamism. They are eager for me to arrange for a pro-capitalist economist (like TTP's frequent guest author Richard Rahn) to come to Arbil/Hewler and develop a message to the people of Eastern/Iranian Kurdistan about how they can become free and prosperous.

My experience here convinced me that there are Kurds willing to fight for real freedom. Such folks need to be supported. Upon my return to Arbil/Hewler, I learned that while I was dodging mullah mortars with Kurdish Peshmerga inside Iran, at that very time on Saturday, September 30, President George Bush was signing into law the Iran Freedom and Support Act.

The new law states that it shall be "the policy of the United States to support efforts by the people of Iran to exercise self-determination over the form of government of their country." It authorizes the president to support "pro-democracy forces in Iran." We will not have peace in the Middle East, we will not be free of Islamofascist terror, until there is regime change in Iran. The Kurds are the key to achieving it.

...Oh, yes, one last thing. On the way to the smugglers' camp, the Peshmerga had me hide my camera and made it clear it was dangerous for me to try and take pictures. So before I did, we all crouched down, I set the timer, and got one shot. It's the picture shown on page 26 and is entitled *Baba and Friends*. ✕



On The Karen Road To Freedom

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

Text & Photos by Bruce Turner

(above) KNLA soldiers Corporal Eh Lay (left, standing), Corporal Hti Mo, Saw Po Kay; Saw Mu Wah (left, kneeling), Saw Me Khe, and Saw Ku Ser assigned to 101 Battalion, 7th Brigade area, Karen State.

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 Scroft, 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 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.

Last month we examined how the new Global economy, and changes in regional governments and politics, have already affected the Karen struggle for freedom from the rulers of Myanmar (Burma). In this issue we will examine their potential for better treatment by – if not freedom from – the SPDC, the "State Peace and Development Council."

Following the loss of Manerpla 12 years ago, many predicted the demise of the KNLA and of the Karen struggle to maintain their culture. But the KNLA adapted to the changed environment. Tactics switched from static defense to guerilla warfare. The fight continues.

SPDC pursues its divide-and-conquer

approach emboldened by its historic success in dividing ethnic minorities. The United Wa State Army (UWSA), once an enemy of the Burmese Army, now fights as its proxy against the Shan State Army-South (SSA-South). The Shan State Army had divided into SSA-South, SSA-North, and SSA-Central. The Burmese Army

entered into ceasefire agreements with SSA-North (1989) and with SSA-Central (1995). SSA-South continues fighting the Burmese Army and UWSA (estimated 20,000).

Reportedly, the Karen National People's Liberation Front, founded by soldiers once aligned with or included in the



"I Gave Up Weight Training to follow a top secret 15-minutes per day routine of bodyweight exercises and..."

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

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

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

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

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

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

What I discovered shocked me from head to toe!

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

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

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

Who is Combat Conditioning for?

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

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

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

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

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

Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!

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

Time is not the issue!



Matt Furey

won a national collegiate wrestling title in 1985 and a world shuai-chiao kung fu championship in 1997. Furey has a knack for taking the average and ordinary person and transforming him with his powerful programs. Furey was inducted into the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and spends much time each year traveling

throughout the world, searching for the very best information available to his world-wide audience. His website, www.mattfurey.com, is one of the finest in the world, giving valuable information that changes lives.

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

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

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

New Results from Forgotten Exercises

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

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

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

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

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

12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!

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

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

Here's How to Order

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

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

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SCF 07/01

Karenni Army, now joins with SPDC in battling its former comrades.

Drug Wars: Another Dark Side to Globalism

Reportedly, the UWSA, with clandestine approval of SPDC, controls much of the opium-heroin trade as well as the methamphetamine labs in Myanmar. According to Saw Htoo, SPDC officials launder the profits through Singapore. In the mid 1990s, drug lords shifted away from opium and heroin to methamphetamine (also called yaba, ya baa, or crazy medicine) to address growing demands in China and Thailand. A 2003 crackdown in Thailand – authorities report more than 2,000 street-level dealers killed, most in inter-gang violence, some in police action, and thousands arrested – pushed the methamphetamine market into decline. Saw Htoo says drug lords have reacted to the new environment by cutting back on methamphetamines but increasing opium and heroin production. Myanmar is the primary source of heroin to North America.

While the UWSA and SPDC may profit from the drug trade, the Karen prohibit the possession of illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine, heroin, and opium, in their homeland and impose harsh penal-



KNLA soldiers in front of 101 Battalion department of training office, 7th Brigade area, Karen State, Myanmar. Photo: Author's Files

ties – up to 20 years in prison – on offenders, says Ner Dah.

Seemingly at odds with published reports, government agencies, and Karen of-

ficials, a billboard at Yangon International Airport warns, "Drug trafficking is a serious offence which can get death penalty."

While drug abuse amongst the Karen

TP9 shown with 15 round magazine and optional scope and tactical light. 30 round magazine shown at right.



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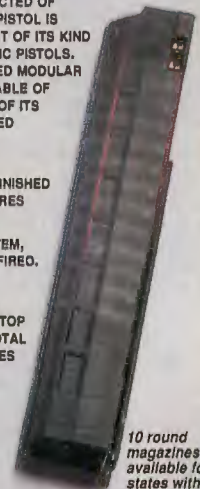
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Typical of corrupt socialist regimes everywhere, the streets of Yangon show a wide disparity between the areas for the Burmese version of the nomenclatura, and the masses. Street vendors are tolerated as a functioning adjunct to an otherwise dysfunctional economy.

is rare, use inside Myanmar is on the increase, as is HIV. Healthcare authorities attribute the spread of the deadly virus in Myanmar to contaminated needles, to unsafe medical practices, to infected Burmese women returning from prostitution in Thailand, and to SPDC's reluctance to address the problem.

The Karen have a taboo against prostitution and making easy money, says Saw Htoo. When a Karen becomes HIV positive, he or she goes into hiding or, with connections or money, to a hospital or a monastery. There are no happy endings. A Karen man married a Thai woman and had a son. The woman carried HIV and died. The father and son tested positive. The father administered a lethal dose of poison to his son and then to himself, says Saw Htoo.

Cross-Border Contract Farming

SPDC has suggested "cross-border contract farming" in which Karen farmers would develop cash crops in Karen State for export to Thailand. Thai authorities have suggested repatriating Karen refugees to work the farms. Saw Htoo points out that the Karen would be dependent on the Thais, as they would have no alternative marketplace, and could end up working for almost nothing.

Pado Ba Thin Sein, President of the KNU, echoes Htoo's concern and says, through an interpreter, the Karen people would become slaves, forced to farm and sell their crops to the Thais. If the Karen refused, the Burmese military would oppress them.

Nine Refugee Camps

Mae La Refugee Camp, the largest of nine Karen refugee camps in Thailand, houses about 40,000, including 2,000 to 3,000 who have resided there since the camp's inception some 21 years ago. Saw Ton Ton, camp secretary, speaking through an interpreter, says around 2,000 or so have arrived in the past 12 months. Many of the new arrivals have been displaced to accommodate SPDC construction projects in Karen State. Ton Ton says that this year only around 300 have left his camp for resettlement in a third country. A U.S. official who asked not to be identified said that combatants – more than a few people gathering and raising arms against an established government, including family and anyone else providing material support – are barred from legal immigration to the U.S., a policy linked to the Patriot Act. Apparently the refugees' support for KNU and KNLA counts as "material" but subject to waiver. The U.S. waived the "material support" provision for one – Tham Hin camp, a three-hour drive east of Bangkok. Reportedly some 2,700 Karen refugees have been approved to resettle in the U.S. and Australia this year.

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

Kler Moo Lay, 26, says after nearly 10 years in Tham Hin, he is leaving September 14, 2006 for Minnesota, U.S.A. He plans to resettle with his wife, May Htway Lay, 28, and their two children, Mula Kaw Lay, 6,

and Eha Kler Lay, 5. He fled his village in Mergui Tavoy District inside Myanmar in 1997 just ahead of a Burmese Army advance, he says with the help of an interpreter. Soon after his departure, Burmese soldiers razed his village and converted the site into a military base. He has lost "uncountable" friends and relatives to the Burmese Army.

Kler Moo completed the 9th Standard, equivalent to a high school education, and has been a school teacher inside Tham Hin. After arrival in Minnesota he would like to improve his English skills and if possible earn a University degree. He says the most important vision is hope for education for his children, and freedom.

A camp leader, approved for immigration to Australia, says he had been a schoolteacher inside Myanmar and that six of his students sacrificed their lives defending the Karen community against the 1997 Burmese offensive.

The camp leader opines, as long as the KNLA soldiers have the spirit of revolution, they will never give up. But many – according to one estimate up to two-thirds of the refugees – in the civilian base, after years languishing in camps in Thailand or as IDPs, have lost hope for returning to their traditional lives in Karen State and have left or are resigned to leaving for resettlement in a third country, he says. Due to Burmese oppression, many Karen feel they will never be able to sustain their culture in Myanmar. They have concluded the best option is immigration. He says it will be important to preserve Karen culture through teaching and in writing.

Optimism After Thailand's Bloodless Coup: Trust and Hope for Peace

Tuesday, 19 September 2006, Thailand's ruling military junta ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a reportedly bloodless coup. Within two weeks the junta installed retired general Surayud Chulanont as interim Prime Minister. KNU officials express optimism in the appointment. Saw Htoo says, with the removal of Thaksin, the pressure from globalization on the Karen in the border area has decreased. The new (post-coup) Thai Energy Minister, Piyasvasti Amranand, has indicated disapproval of the prior government's plans to dam the Salween River. However, the new government may be obligated to honor existing agreements with Myanmar and Chinese authorities to construct the dams. KNU officials express support for the new Thai regime. The hope is that Surayud, while addressing economic interests, will respect the civil rights of Karen and other ethnic minorities living in Thailand.

As a result of these and other developments, after almost 60 years of uninterrupted bloodshed, the conflict may be reaching a pause if not an end. Major Tha Su, speaking through an interpreter in KNLA's 7th Brigade area inside Myanmar, says his area has been relatively quiet these past three years.

Outside economic interests, seeking to exploit the oil and mineral wealth in Myanmar, support SPDC but encourage an end to hostilities. The fighting hinders their plans.

The Chinese desire natural gas and other commodities, including gold, jade, and rubies, from Myanmar, according to Mahn Sha. They also seek a market in Burma for fighter jets, gunboats, and long-range artillery. The Indians seek natural gas and other commodities and a market for 120-millimeter mortars and short-barrel artillery, he says. Oil companies such as Chevron and Unocal, U.S. corporations, have expressed interest in Burma's natural resources. Total, a French corporation, has invested in a pipeline project.

The planned foreign investment in Myanmar recalls British colonization, which ended with World War II, Mahn Sha says. As China and India and other countries increase their investment, likely they will begin influencing the political process.

According to Saw Htoo, a German non-governmental organization encouraged peace and development but without addressing the need for human and civil rights. Some say that with globalization in effect, human and civil rights will follow. Saw Htoo says, "Globalization without

principle will only benefit the regime." A few generals would amass tremendous wealth and everyone else would suffer.

Mahn Sha says the Burmese people in the cities such as Yangon may be suffering more than the ethnic minorities. The middle class in Myanmar has nearly vanished. University lecturers, doctors, and lawyers have joined the lower class. Some pawn clothes or books to buy rice, he says. Some parents have sold their female children, he says. The girls end up as wives to older men in China, helping offset that nation's shortage of women, or as domestic maids in Japan or Taiwan, or as prostitutes in Thailand, he says. Many educated people have left the country.

A Burmese man in Yangon observes, everything is more expensive now. Houses and apartments are expensive. Men and women work more and have fewer children. He could be talking about an industrialized country. But he is talking about Myanmar. The difference is obvious. Yangon is acres of decaying buildings, many from the colonial era, broken sidewalks, small, dimly-lit shops, and street vendors. It is hot. Air-conditioning is rare. International brands are conspicuously missing, reflecting SPDC's isolationist policy. The apparent poverty or underdevelopment contrasts with small pockets of wealth

– high walls and security gates protecting mansions and upscale communities.

Though the government controls the news inside Myanmar, the Burmese man knows about the wars in the countryside. "The Army has united with the police and fights with some private people," he says. "Because the government has too much control, the private people fight the soldiers."

According to the Burmese man, "The people like Aung San Suu Kyi (Nobel laureate and leader of the nonviolent movement for human rights and democracy in Myanmar) – the government is afraid of her. It will not let her out of her house. The government is afraid if she talks, the people will..." He balls his right hand into a fist and pumps his arm several times.

In 1988 in response to a civil uprising Burmese troops gunned down thousands of unarmed protestors. The same year Aung San Suu Kyi, who had studied abroad and worked for the United Nations, returned to Myanmar (then Burma). Since 1989 she has spent most of her time under house arrest or some other form of detention.

"Pressure on SPDC, in a way helps the Karen, but is not enough. The Karen want political reform, democracy, and federalism," according to Mahn Sha. He says SPDC

Continued on page 74

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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.

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT Vickers Sling System

Farnam's Gunslinger Diary

By John Farnam

Last weekend, I was in South Carolina conducting an Urban Rifle/Pistol Course through Georgia Tactical. One of my students was Ashley Burnsed, President of Blue Force Gear. I was using my EOtech-equipped, .40S&W caliber Beretta CX4 Carbine. It's a nice, light, short carbine that comes in handy when one must carry it around all day!

Up until now, I've been using a plain-vanilla, nylon strap as a sling, slinging the rifle, muzzle down, on the support side and/or the strong side, changing shoulders several times during the course of the day in order to avoid chafing on one side or the other.

Ashley showed me his Vickers Sling System, and I immediately decided to try it. It is a two-point sling that can be adjusted as to length, both ways, instantly, without ending up with dangling, loose ends. It can be used over-the-neck, over-the-shoulder forward, or over-the-shoulder rear. In the former two carry modes, the rifle hangs right-side-up and can be instantly scooped up and mounted. Shifting shoulders is fast and convenient, and you can come right out of it when necessary.

Most tactical sling systems I've used (and I've used nearly all of them), particularly three-point systems, are difficult to figure out how to install, perpetually tangled up and misadjusted, have exasperating dangling ends, and are nearly impossible to come out of with any kind of speed. I haven't been a particular fan of any of them, and I'm still not.

However, the Vickers System I really like, and I continue to use it. We had four U.S. Marines from Parris Island join us at our Course, and Ashley generously equipped all of their M16s with the Vickers System, displacing the ponderous three-point system they came with. They all loved it, and used it for the entire two days.

This is the first sling system I'm prepared to recommend!

**Contact: Ashley Burnsed
Blue Force Gear**

P.O. Box 853 / Pooler, GA 31322
912-663-7771

ashley@blueforcegear.com

New Kahr M1 Carbine

From one of my instructors:

"John, I just wrung-out my new Kahr M1 Carbine this weekend, shooting in excess of 750 rounds, with no cleaning. It ran without a hiccup. Last round functioned as smoothly and well as the first. It looks as if Kahr has fixed whatever problems they had in the past with this gun.

I'm pleased, and it fits nicely in a tennis-racket bag. It will make an ideal car gun."

Comment: This is good news indeed! Kahr can now be added to Fulton Armory as quality manufacturers of the M1 Carbine. This little rifle is ideal for many in many circumstances, and, loaded with Cor-Bon DPX ammunition, it is a formidable, serious, piece.

More on Maintenance and Lubrication

(From a friend with a major gun company):

"We conducted an extensive, half-year study of our pistols, which were returned to us, because they 'didn't work.' With both LE and commercial guns, in excess of 95% were 'restored' to normal serviceability after being nothing more than cleaned and lubed. Fewer than five percent required replacement of parts or additional maintenance of any kind.

I am astonished with the percentage of gun carriers who, often for years, ignore the condition of the gun that is ostensibly intended to keep them from harm. For one, my boots are sometimes badly scuffed and in need of polish, but I damn sure look after my pistol!"

Comment: Gun carriers, take note! ☒

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Para-Ordnance

To The Rescue **Part Two**

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

Text & Photos by
Gary Paul Johnston

Last month, we examined a whole family of what were near-flawless pistols. This month, we get in some serious trigger time and test the myriad accessories available.

Tactical Lights

For urban house clearing and cave duty, we checked out all three Para's with Insight Technology's M3 Tactical Illuminator and SureFire's X200 Tactical Weapon Light. Both makes fit PO's M1913 rail to perfection and both provided 60 lumens of bright white light to illuminate targets past 25 yards at night. Although both lights come standard in black polymer, they can be furnished in any color the Military might request.

Holsters

With the new Para Ordnance sample pistols we were able to check out new tactical holsters from Blackhawk and Safariland. These included the Blackhawk Tactical SERPA Thigh

Holster and several variations of Safariland's 6004 Series Tactical Holsters, also with thigh plates. Each style has its advantages.

The Safariland can be had in versions to carry the pistol with or without the light mounted. The Tactical SERPA will only carry the pistol with the light removed, but the thigh plate comes with M1913 rails on each side of the holster, one to hold a magazine pouch and the other, which can mount either light. The Safariland thigh plate can also mount spare magazine pouches.

The Safariland comes with a rotating hood, or bow that rigidly locks the pistol in the holster. A new safety arm helps prevent unauthorized access. The Tactical



Some operators would choose to replace the presentation USMC logo grips with the G-10 "Gunner" grips from Simonich and Strider. "Gunner" grips were adopted in Coyote Brown color seen here by MEU (SOC)'s Det-1.

(above) Three Para-Ordnance pistols "aimed" at meeting U.S. military needs are (from left) the single stack, single action USMC model, the Hi-Capacity Light Double Action (LDA) U.S. Army model and the single stack LDA Special Forces model. All pistols have integral M1913 frame rails and are finished in various colors of ParaKote.

SERPA has a quick release lever easily activated by the operator, but not so easily accessed by others. When the pistol is reholstered, the lever automatically locks it back in the holster. A new version of the Tactical SERPA with a secondary lock is now in prototype.

Both holsters can be had in a variety of colors. We received samples in shades of OD green, coyote brown, flat dark earth and foliage green and camouflage, and we found both makes to be of outstanding quality.

At this point I must mention that there is a gray (pardon the pun) area between the colors coyote brown and flat dark earth. With everyone trying to jump on this bandwagon, these two colors often come close to meeting in the middle, so if your coyote brown looks a lot like someone else's flat dark earth, don't fight about it. It may be as simple as a little color blindness and in the middle of a fight it won't make any difference.



The USMC logo appears on both large diamond checkered walnut grip panels of that pistol and is laser engraved.

Other Accessories

We checked out our new Para-Ordinance samples with a variety of aftermarket accessories including Gunner Grips from Simonich and Strider Knives, and the new G10 grips from The Cutting Edge for the single-column guns. We also tested the single column Para's with PSI's 8-round ACT-Mag magazine, which functioned perfectly in the single stack USMC style pistol. Although we were not able to test PSI's new 14-round hi-cap ACT-Mag for the P-14 Para, these are now

also available for Para-Ordinance pistols. Para-Ordinance pistols are at home with just about any aftermarket accessory one prefers.

Trigger Time

I can name this tune in one paragraph: Each of the three pistols performed flawlessly with a variety of .45 ACP ammunition and produced outstanding accuracy at 25 yards with hand-held 5-shot groups of about 2 inches being the norm. Hits on humanoid targets at

100 yards were easy using a two-hand hold while standing.

The Military Throws a Curve

Shortly before we received the sample Para Pistols, the new pistol program switched gears, with the Army deciding that it would not replace the P9 pistol this early in the G-WOT, but would limit the program to the selection of a new pistol by Special Forces only. Yes, the program is now back in the hands of the USSOCOM, so the door would seem to be open wider



SureFire's X200 light fit the new .40 S&W caliber P-16's light rail to perfection.



Created by the same method as the USMC grips, those of the Special Forces model bear the famous logo of that element of SOCOM.

SOCOM has specified, the Para-Ordnance P-16 .40 S&W in LDA would fill that bill in a pistol with features already familiar to most in the military. They could have it their way with or without a thumb safety, with no need for a decocking system and with a light rail and an ultra simple DA trigger, a trigger that will also allow single-action-like shots to be staged at extended ranges. Integrating the gun into the rest of the military would be a no-brainer with very little transitioning. What's more, the P-16 is available now off the shelf in flat dark earth

than ever for a 1911 pistol, but wait!

NOT the .45 ACP?

Just before we went to print, rumors began to circulate that the .45 ACP may be out of the running as the new (old) pistol caliber. Yes, for the past six months, Delta Force and other members of the SOCOM family have reportedly been evaluating pistols in .40 S&W caliber with great results, with the cartridge even outperforming the .45 ACP, especially at longer ranges. After some "serious" discussions it looks like SOCOM will adopt a new pistol in .40 S&W caliber instead of .45 ACP.

After all, SOCOM has special problems to solve and this requires special weapons. The U.S. Coast Guard is already using .40 S&W caliber SIG P229 pistols and this played some part in the decision to take a closer look at cartridge. The rest of the military will probably stay with the P9 for the time being.

When you think about it, if a change is to be made, the .40 S&W may not be such a bad idea. It has established a good track record and a pistol chambered for it would hold more ammunition in the gun instead of on the belt. Of course, there's no track record for the .40 S&W shooting full metal jacket ammunition, and the military can't use expanding bullets to shoot terrorist criminals, as such ammunition could hurt them.

A P-16 for SOCOM

So where would the military's adopting the .40 S&W caliber leave Para Ordnance? In the case of a high-capacity frame, which is what

ParaKote, which is the color SOCOM wants. There are also plenty of GI friendly holsters waiting for it.

Anyone who has fired a Para P-16 knows that it's not only a tack-driving pistol, but it's a .40 cal. that shoots like a 9mm. This comfort factor would simplify training while using a cartridge with good fight-stopping ability even with FMJ "ball" ammunition.

What about the requirement that any new pistol has to be 100% built in the U.S.? Para-Ordnance says no problem. Just as other foreign-based companies have built plants in the U.S., Para-Ordnance could have one up and running in a matter of months, thanks to the ultra-modern CNC production methods it has used for decades.

After I informed Para-Ordnance the news about SOCOM looking seriously at a .40 S&W high capacity DA only pistol, Para-Ordnance rushed me a P-16 hi-cap LDA for evaluation. The sample is finished in Flat Dark Earth ParaKote. The pistol is also equipped with the Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable rear sight and ambidextrous thumb safety levers. All features present on the other three Para's are also included on this P-16.

It had been a while since I'd fired a Para P-16 and it was a pleasant refresher. This pistol handles more like a 9mm Hi Power in terms of control and recovery between shots, and that's with any .40 S&W ammunition I put through it. SOCOM operators could be armed with a .40 caliber semi-auto pistol holding six more rounds (actually seven more) than the ten-round minimum requirement set by the military.

Continued on page 75

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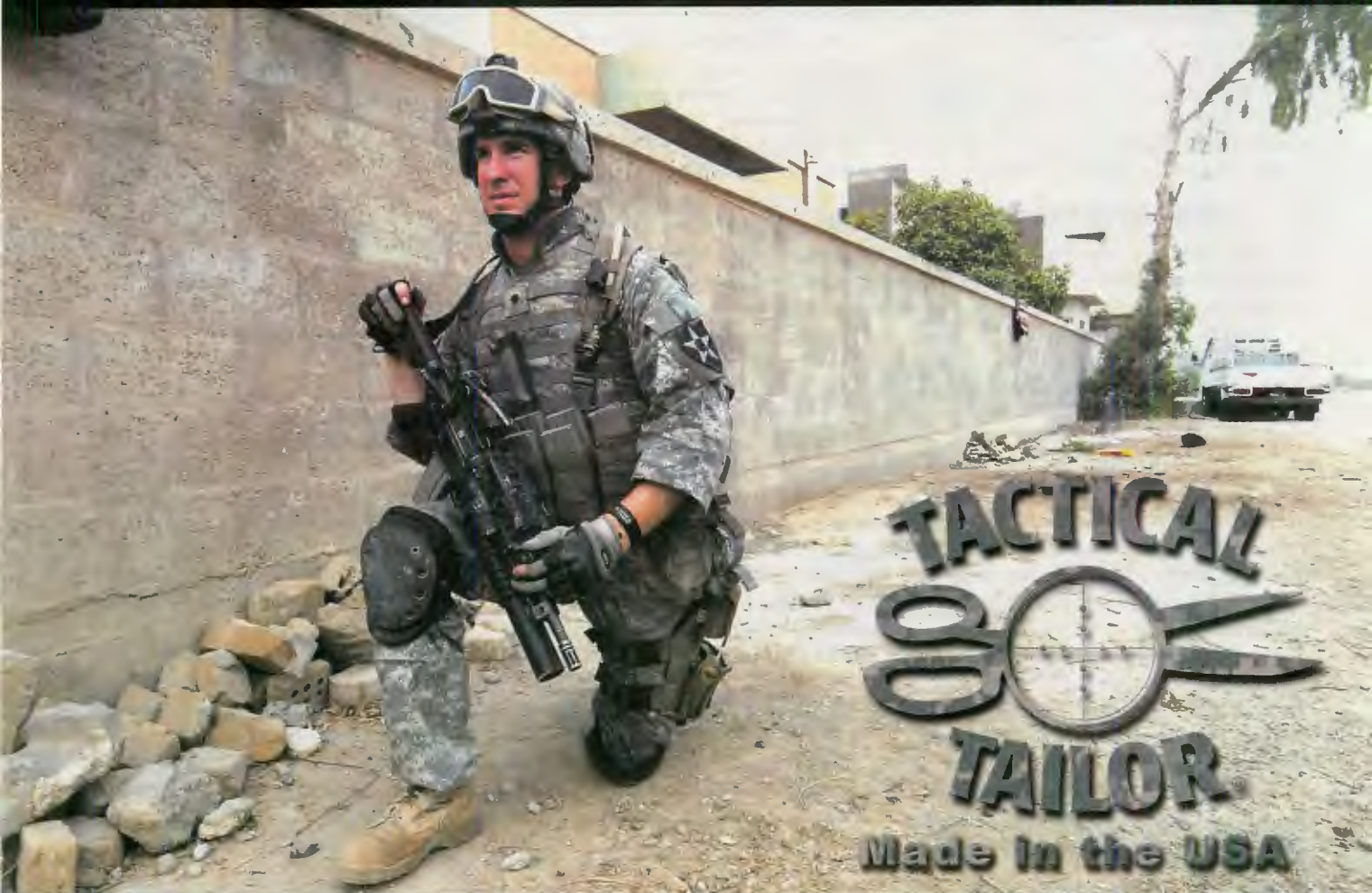
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underground throughout the city as well as the banlieus.

"There's a lot of criminal and drug activity right here in the Champs Elysee," he said, shattering my naive image of the famous section of Paris where I had lived unsuspectingly for years. "Drug traffickers often meet here."

"Knives Are My Passion"

Since guns are not legal in France, Perrin focuses on the alternative defensive weapon—knives.

"Knives are my passion," he said. "Ironically, I am more well known for my knives in the United States than I am in France."

Perrin has designed a knife for Emerson Knives, Inc. USA, called La Griffe (claw).

"I designed two models for Spyderco, the Street Bowie and the Street Beat—basically a scaled down version of the other one, a street Bowie 'Commander'," he said.

"I joined the French infantry a long time ago, where I served for two years, and became a sergeant. I like the military on one hand, and don't like it on another."

The aspect that he liked compelled

him to join the Army reserves after his enlistment.

The administrative features he didn't like drove the tough, free spirited adrenalin-seeking soldier to pursue a colorful life of adventure.

"I worked for security as a freelancer for five to six years in France and in other parts of Europe. In the professional security business, you don't talk about your job. I never use the name of my regiment because it is a question of security in the world of security law enforcement and military." I obviously wasn't going to get any more details of his past security assignments.

"I joined the French security society, but after some problems inside the formal security world, I quit the society and started free lancing. I had a knife customer who was a member of the French Air Force. He had a contact with the Special Forces and I taught them close combat techniques, knives, rifles, bayonets, and MPTN (without weapons) for four or five years.

"Street Gang War Techniques Are Like Any War Techniques"

"I made contacts with the French Gendarmes (police), and taught for sev-



Perrin trekking with dog during a snow storm.

eral years for the Gendarmerie school. The techniques were not urban guerilla warfare but similar, since the systems used for fighting in the streets are the same as those used for war," Perrin continued.

He hooked up with two pros.

"Then I contracted to teach Swiss troops with friends, one who is a French Special Forces sniper and one who was a Colonel in the Swiss Army. We taught the Nuro Defense System (NDS) which incorporates a wide variety of fighting techniques, including unarmed combat.

A Formidable Team

"One is Philippe Perotti, the other one a Swiss Army Infantry senior officer. Perotti is a former special forces NCO, who served for 17 years in the famous Premier régiment parachutiste d'infanterie de marine (1er RPIMa). There he developed a training regimen, partially based on the work of Cooper and Taylor, for the four basic infantry weapons (rifle, pistol, light machine gun, scoped rifle) and the two special weapons (submachine-gun and shotgun).

"But, beyond the technical aspect, he developed a complete shooting system for the individual, the "binome" (two man), the fire team, and the squad.

"Then he trained "Instructors", for individual training with rifles and pistols, "Advanced Instructors" for two-man tactics with all weapons, and "Senior Instructors" for collective training and coaching of the former ones. This program was a great success, and is still in use today.

"When Philippe retired from the military in 2000, he met in one of my

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courses this Swiss Officer, who had a similar approach and created similar techniques for the Swiss military. Together, they founded NDS and began to write handbooks on shooting technique and related material (10 in four years), and taught for the public and the private sector.

"They worked with the Swiss and French infantry school, the French "Commando-Marine and "Commando de l'Air", the Bundeswehr, and several Police agencies and Security companies in Europe.

"The difference is the whole idea. The 'N' in NDS stands for Neuron. You train to think tactically. The brain is your weapon... 'D' stands for Defense. And 'System' stands for the instructor, who teaches a system, not just a technique.

"The NDS society has written books on pistol and rifle techniques, which are used throughout Europe in the army or law enforcement. Military and law enforcement insiders don't think that they receive good training officially, and prefer the NDS system. In France, the NDS

is not affiliated with the government, but those who work for the government train with the group.

"Most people think the gun is dangerous. But look at the ghettos. Those gangsters don't have a gun, they have Molotovs and rocks, the same goes for the Gaza strip"

Switzerland Earns Title of "USA of Europe"—With the Right to Bear Arms

"Many military people come to study inside Switzerland in many different locations. For me, Switzerland is the USA of Europe. If you are a citizen, you can carry your gun. That is impossible in England, France, and Germany, even if one is a good citizen. It is all about controlling you."

A few years ago, I would have been surprised at the need for personal secu-

rity in Switzerland. But I had just come from Geneva, where signs were posted in many public places, such as trains and bus stations and airports, warning the unsuspecting travelers and locals to be on guard for violent robbery and muggings that have become all too frequent.

Perrin presented a graphic explanation of how the rampant violence develops.

"Its very easy. Imagine you are very young and don't have an education, but everyone has a TV. What will you think about the world if you watch all the TV violence? Everyone

has a good car and jewelry and you are thinking 'am I going to work selling shoes for 1,000 euros a month all my life, or should I traffic drugs and use violence to take a lot more money the easy way?"

"The youth don't have a good example. There are no heroes, like we had General Le Clercs, and Captain Berge, the founder of the French SAS or Kiefer, the French Marine commander. Today the hero is a rough man with a big

Continued on page 76

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BLACKCATS

Bad Juju in Northern I Corps

By Nathaniel R. Helms

Frequent SOF contributor Nat Helms was a door gunner with the Black Cat's 2nd Flight Platoon from August 1968, to October 1969. He flew primarily out of Hue Citadel in Back Cat 725, manned by Crew Chief Jim Wall and Aircraft Commander Mr. Klopher. Helms ETS'd as a SP/4.

Blackcat's slicks lining up for combat assault in bad weather.
Photo: Tom Pullen and 282nd Assault Helicopter Association



Enemy bullets passing through a helicopter's thin skin make curious tick-tick-tick sounds audible above the rush of air and blast of guns normal in combat.

The fabled "Blackcats" of the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade, knew that ticking sound pretty well. They heard it often during six years of combat in South Vietnam supporting every friendly warrior who needed a ride or a rocket in northern I Corps. Its 21 UH-1 "Huey" helicopters represented the entire complement of unattached rotary-winged assets in the enemy-infested region.

The Blackcats flew out of Marble Mountain Air Facility, a joint Marine Corps/Army aviation operation lying on the peaceful shores of the South China Sea at the fringes of DaNang. On the southern edge of the runway was a Special Forces camp for a "B" Team the Cats frequently supported. Framing the scene was a stout guard of huge limestone karsts owned by

whoever was standing on them that day. Air America's blue and silver helicopters and planes were frequent visitors while carrying spooks into Laos and Cambodia. Occasionally a pair of Blackcats with a gunship escort headed west to the Laotian border where people had a bad habit of disappearing forever – or almost so. Several 282nd aircraft went missing in '68 alone.

Occasionally, missing Blackcats are still found. On 25 July 1995 a joint Vietnamese-U.S. recovery team found two M60 machine guns, human teeth, a small piece of bone, and evidence of a flight suit about a two-day walk from Quang Tri. The remains were all that was left of a Blackcat slick that disappeared more than three decades before, carrying seven souls. DNA evidence obtained by Army forensic investigators in Hawaii determined the teeth and bone fragment belonged to Warrant Officer Charles I. Stanly, of Cleveland, Ohio, one of many Cats who disappeared in the mysterious

Annamese Cordillera.

Despite the risks, living at Marble Mountain was a splendid life. The crappers actually flushed and all anyone needed for water was a spigot. Chow was served on real plates four times a day. The water came running hot or cold into porcelain sinks and aluminum showers. It was a luxury many of the gunners had forgotten before they volunteered to fly a gun instead of hump one.

The opportunities for dying in northern I Corps were even better. Mr. Charles was nowhere and everywhere all the time. A handful of choppers full of their South Vietnamese brethren didn't particularly impress the North Vietnamese regulars and hardcore Viet Cong (VC) battalions that made I Corps arguably the toughest place to fly in South Vietnam. While the nation focused on big, helicopter-flush divisions, Blackcats dodged everything from homemade cross bows to 37 mike-mike anti-aircraft guns that turned luckless Hueys into de-

Sampans discovered on the water after dark were considered targets of opportunity and mercilessly attacked. The Blackcats destroyed hundreds of sampans during its six years of combat operations. Photo: Nat Helms



bris fields. Whether carrying the fearsome South Vietnamese "Hac Bao," cowboy booted CIA spooks, Marine Force Recon, Phoenix assassins, Special Forces MAG-SOG teams, feisty ARVN 1st Infantry Division grunts, or live chow, the Cats flew into every deadly LZ in I Corps.

Dangerous – But With A Good View

The hardworking maintenance guys shared the dangers. Day and night, 122 mm rockets, 82mm and 120mm mortars pounded the runways and barracks areas of Marble Mountain, looking for helicopters or the men working around the unprotected hangers and operations areas. It was a big target and hard to miss. Several 282nd men died and 19 were wounded in one night in '68 when a rocket slammed into a barracks of exhausted hanger apes.

Another night in September, 1968 the "Zulu Company" mixed guard of Marines and soldiers manning the watchtowers guarding the compound, watched an ammunition-laden U.S. Navy LST docked down the road get launched several hundred feet into the sky by a few VC with small satchel charges and big balls. For more than a minute it climbed end-over-end, spewing exploding ammunition into the sky. Meanwhile 122s and mortars slammed into the runways and revetments, damaging several aircraft tied down for the night. Screaming sirens added to the night music. Joe Cunico, a gunner in 2nd Flight Platoon, calls the sight "incredible."

"It went up with ammo blowing out of it all over the sky," Cunico remembers almost 40 years later. "I was on Zulu Guard when it happened. Fireworks have never been the same for me since."



An Air America "C" model slick slinging cargo to some no-doubt secret and mysterious place inside Laos. Photo: Nat Helms

Daily combat was a given for the flight crews. The gunships and two platoons of trash haulers both carried four-man crews; two officers for pilots, and an enlisted crew chief and gunner. All were volunteers. The troop-carrying UH-1 "D" and "H" models nicknamed "slicks" were protected by the two enlisted men manning 7.62 mm M60s on pintle mounts in both cavernous doorways. The older "B" and "C" model gunship gunners fired cut-down "free Sixties" suspended from the interior on bungee cords. They also cared for their 7.62mm mini-guns, 2.75-inch rockets, 40mm

grenade launchers and whatever else they could hang off the overweight birds. The pilots were a mixed bag of very young warrant and commissioned officers who drove their ships like overamped hot rods.

The slicks on Firefly standby mounted searchlights and flare tubs at night to provide illumination so the gunners to hose down "gooks in the wire" and VC sampans that haunted the canals at night. The enemy hated Firefly and worked hard to put out its lights.

The slick crews flew more often and were frequently in mortal danger,



Plexiglas plaque named the "Death Bear" plaque that was awarded to the 2nd Flight Platoon crew who claimed the most kills for a single month. (Crew Chief Jim Wall.) The unofficial prize was claimed by Wall and Blackcat #725 on two separate occasions. Photo: Nat Helms

but the enemy really hated the gunships and spared nothing to shoot them down. It was a toss-up who got the worse deal. Both specialties offered dying a grisly death if the ship went down around Mr. Charles – 2nd Flight Platoon Crew Chief Jim Wall remembers:

“Everybody was killing everybody, a regular bloody free-for-all,” Wall describes the time. “I got the Dead Bear Plaque twice for having the most kills in the platoon for the month. We were taking hits and getting kills everyday.” And he was a slick rider!

You Call, We Hazul

Within the capabilities of the Blackcat's slicks and “Alleycat” gunships were combat assaults, medical evacuations, resupply, defoliation, visual reconnaissance, command and control, firefly missions, armed escort, suppressive fire, close support and any other mission requested of them. One slick was observed rustling a water buffalo: The unfortunate animal got punched off over the Perfume River when it became irate while dangling from a cargo strap. Reinforcements, ammo, plywood, C-rations, pigs, chickens, and bags of rice were delivered daily by slicks. Crank time was usually 0500 and the crews often flew until midnight. Night time extractions under fire and medivacs anytime were a specialty.

The year 1968 was typical for the sky fighters. The usually frenetic tempo rose to fever pitch on January 21, when the two-ship “Hue Section” complied with a desperate resupply and medevac request from the South Vietnamese Regional Army Headquarters at Houng Hoa. The night before the position had sustained a powerful

ground attack.

On short final into the beleaguered compound, Crew Chief Maurice Seghetti was hit by ground fire. CWO Tom Pullen, the aircraft commander, and WO Richard Gilmore evaded further damage before diverting to Quang Tri. Col. Joseph Seymoe, the senior advisor for Quang Tri Province, administered first aid to Seghetti during the 30-minute flight. Seymoe called for reinforcements and more Blackcats from DaNang. A combat assault was quickly arranged from eager volunteers.

WO Gerald L. McKinsey, Jr. (Mac to his friends) was one of the pilots whose crew answered the call. Meanwhile, Pullen dropped off Seghetti and borrowed a young Marine to replace him. Then he rejoined the action. Eventually five slicks arrived from DaNang carrying Ruff-Puffs (RF-PF -Vietnamese Regional & Popular Forces) and two ships filled with ammo and supplies. The Alleycats flew cover.

Intense ground fire around Houng Hoa forced the assault to divert south to an old French fort on a mountain top near Khe Sanh. When the flight landed, NVA regulars emerged from their hiding places and began firing at point-blank range. The lead ship, piloted by Mac McKinsey and carrying Col Seymoe, was hit on the right side and burst into flames before rolling over the embankment.

Two ships landed to help the downed crew. Gunner PFC Jerry Elliott never returned to his ship and a pilot aboard another helicopter was wounded. The severely wounded ships and men escaped the LZ and made emergency landings at Khe Sanh, Quang Tri and Dong Ha.

Mac McKinsey survived the crash but was killed on the ground while providing covering fire for the rescue attempt. Col. Seymoe was killed in the crash. Sgt. Billy D. Hill, a gunner, and Elliott are still listed MIA. Cpt. Tom Stiner and Sgt. Danny Williams, crewmembers flying with Mac, escaped from the area, evaded the NVA ground forces and walked to Khe Sanh. They were picked up the next day by a Hue Detachment ship.

Desperate Times at Hue

Shortly after 0300 hours on the 31st of January, several regiments of NVA overran the city of Hue and surrounded the MACV compound there. While defending the MACV perimeter from the so-called “Austrian” bunker, WO Dwight A. Dedrick, WO Mark J. Skulborstad, WO John R. Aye, Gilmore and Pullen were severely wounded, leaving Lt Bob Ford the only operational pilot in the Hue detachment.

Desi F. Ford, an Aussie Army advisor, provided covering fire with a machine gun while the pilots were evacuated and the position reinforced. The pilots he saved credited Ford's brave stand with preventing the enemy from entering the compound. Grounded gunner Lowell Truscott radioed other aviators and talked them into flying into the Navy's “LCM Ramp” north of Hue University to medevac the wounded Blackcat pilots. Truscott, along with Cats James Payne, Robert Brown, and Bob Gray, made three trips through the NVA-held city to transport the wounded pilots to the landing-craft ramp. Dedrick, the “Dangerous Duck,” died later that day in Phu Bai from the wounds he received at Hue. The other wounded



Army of the Republic of Vietnam cavalry unit laagered up in lowlands of northern I Corps in 1969. The Cav unit belonged to the 1st ARVN Division. The Blackcats provided all the aerial assets assigned to the division. Photo: Nat Helms

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An Air America Swiss-made Pilatus Porter PT6 STOL aircraft, was an eight-seat, high wing monoplane of all-metal construction that could land on a dime. Photo: Nat Helms

Hue aviators eventually went home.

The Blackcats didn't know they were trapped in the infamous Tet Offensive of 1968. All they knew was they were fighting for their lives. During the siege of Hue, the 282nd was assigned the task of keeping supplies flowing into the city. North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong Main Force soldiers had closed off all supply routes into the city except the Perfume River, which extends past Hue and empties into the South China Sea. Meanwhile, their cronies went around the city murdering more than 5,000 civilians. U.S. Marines, ARVNs, and 1st Cav "Sky Troopers" battled them for the next 33 days.

All supplies and medical evacuations had to be transported over this river route by Navy shallow-draft landing craft or heli-lifted to

the Hue hospital pad. The Alleycats were assigned the primary mission of providing aerial escort for the Navy during the river run and a secondary mission of providing close air support whenever possible.

The weather during this period was below normal flight minimums, with ceilings of 500 feet or less and visibility of ½ to 1 mile with rain and fog. Despite the low clouds and poor visibility the Alleycats covered the boats on the river and the slicks airlifted supplies in and medivac wounded out of Hue. Blackcat helicopters "engaged automatic anti-aircraft emplacements and rocket launchers in an attempt to break the NVA stranglehold on Hue. At times the ground fire was so intense that ships were forced into the clouds for concealment," according to the unit history for the time period.

When the Tet Offensive ended, helicopters of the 282nd had flown more than 1,200 hours – 50 days worth of time - in the defense of Hue. The slicks carried more than 235,000 pounds of cargo, 247 medevacs and delivered more than 5,500 reinforcements into the hospital pad. As a result of the Blackcats' heroic actions, unit members earned one Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, sixteen Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Bronze Stars, 31 Air Medals with "V" for Valor and 15 Purple Hearts, company historical records show. It was a tough first two months, in a real tough year.

Exciting Times – If You Like That Sort of Thing

Probably the most exciting day for the 282nd after the '68 Tet Offensive was 25 July 1968, during Operation Lam San 241 supporting 1st ARVN Division, north of Hue. The Blackcats were tasked with transporting 560 troops into one landing zone. The lift was broken down into two elements of four ships each. After artillery prep from 1700 on July 24, to 1300 July 25 and numerous air strikes, the first lift went into the LZ and encountered heavy fire, but the second lift was already committed. The first ship of the second lift took 18 hits with no crew injuries before ending up grounded at LZ Stud. The ships lifted the remaining troops to alternate LZ's and completed their mission. While five of the eight ships took 33 hits collectively,



An ARVN firebase on a mountain top at the eastern edge of the Ashua Valley. The mighty Ashua was a dangerous place full of rock-filled clouds and North Vietnamese gunners itching to shoot something down. Photo: Nat Helms

no crew members were injured.

After covering the combat assault the Alleycats were diverted to support ARVN troops in the Hoi An area south of DaNang. Enemy targets were engaged throughout the afternoon and as night fell, the Firefly ship was called to illuminate targets in the area. Four structures and 30 sampans were destroyed and one .50 caliber machine gun was silenced. It remained hot there that entire summer.

On 12 November, 1968 the Alleycat gunships reached a milestone of sorts when a light fire team on a medevac escort mission, raised the platoon's kill total to over 2,000 since the inception of the platoon in April of 1967. The record was made in a nondescript village about 20 miles southeast of DaNang when 13 enemy soldiers were confirmed dead, according to unit historian 1st Lieutenant Thomas Prince.

Five days later, a routine firefly mission triggered a battle in Dien Ban, 10 miles southeast of DaNang. About 0400, a Firefly Team led by CWO Klopher was escorted by two Alleycats to Dien Ban. Waiting for the team were an estimated NVA battal-

ion and VC company that had already attacked the town and adjacent ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) compound. Klopher's crew alternately illuminated and fired up the enemy all night, literally burning out four M60s, including two that were borrowed. The two Alleycat escorts made gun runs throughout the remaining darkness, coming in hot under the free-floating flares.

Daylight brought team after team of Alleycats attacking targets so Blackcat slicks from 1st and 2nd Platoons could provide desperately needed medevacs and re-supply. Again the night of the 17th and the morning of the 18th, enemy troops massed and attacked before being repulsed with the help of the Firefly teams. Total results from two days of flying were the destruction of one 75 mm recoilless rifle, one .51 cal anti-aircraft gun, one 62 mm mortar, one flame thrower, a large radio and more than 100 enemy killed by air.

About 0500 on the morning of 23 December, a light fire-team of two Alleycats was called to support troops of the 1st ARVN (Hac Bao) Rangers in an operation near An Hoa, 20 miles southwest of DaNang. The ground

troops reported heavy casualties from a .50 cal. machine gun and mortar position. While trying to locate the positions, a Black Cat Command and Control Ship was hit and forced to return to An Hoa. At the day's end, two Blackcat slicks had been grounded and a third damaged by ground fire. Both the Alleycat ships also received battle damage and one was forced to return to DaNang where a replacement was obtained. The end result was one .50 cal. machine gun and one mortar destroyed and more than 50 enemy killed by air. The bang that started the year was still booming.

These few accounts from 1968 are but a tiny part of the business-as-usual tasks performed by the 282nd for more than six years. The Blackcats never quit providing superior aviation support, until it was unceremoniously sent home in 1970. Former Blackcat CO Robert Webster, now 72, the commander during late 1968 and early 1969 summed it all up from his home in Georgia:

"The 282nd was a good company," he said, "a damn fine company that really did its job well. They were good men." ✕

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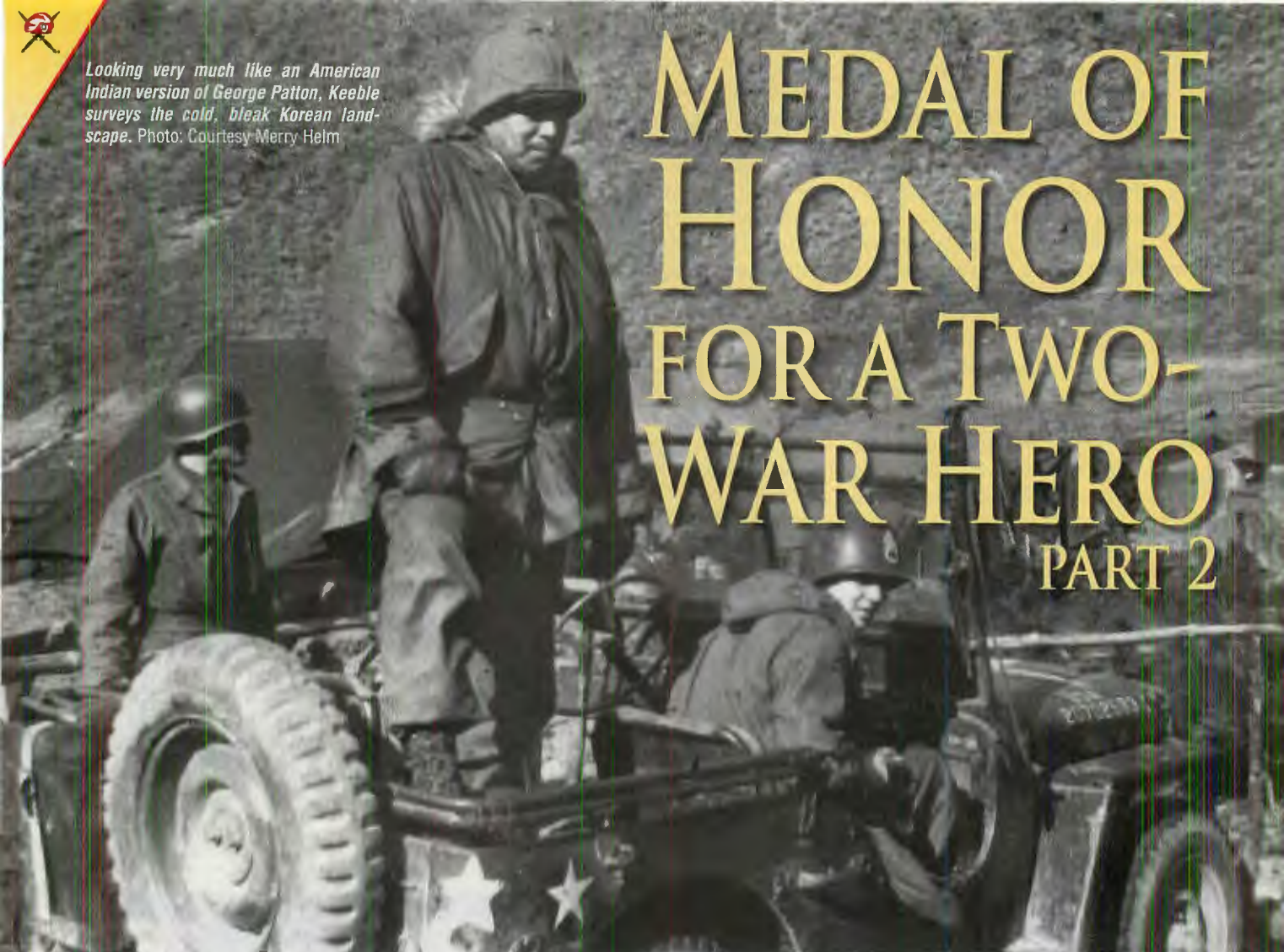
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Looking very much like an American Indian version of George Patton, Keeble surveys the cold, bleak Korean landscape. Photo: Courtesy Merry Helm

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR A TWO-WAR HERO

PART 2

Woodrow “Woody” Wilson Keeble’s Laurels Long Overdue

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

Last month the National Guard unit from Dakota farm country had linked up with the Marines who were about to defend crucial Henderson field on Guadalcanal against a massive Japanese counter attack – the first test of battle for these new troops, and a test that would bring to the fore the individual heroism typical of those from the American heartland, and in particular a Sioux Indian named Woodrow Wilson Keeble.

From The South Pacific to Dakota, to Korea

By 23 October about 20,000 Japanese had massed on the banks of the Matanikau River and were ready to exploit the anticipated breakthrough by the main attack on the southern side of Henderson Field, against Chesty Puller’s 1/7 Marines. Puller’s Marines had already bloodied Maruyama when

they caught 2,000 Japanese troops in bivouac and poured mortar and machine gun fire into the bivouac, killing 700 Japanese before they could escape into the jungle.

Now, General Maruyama had led another 7,000 men through thick jungle and over two stream crossings to mount a night attack on the Americans’ southern line, where he intended to force a breach and break through onto Henderson Field.

Maruyama’s force had been landed in the relative lull that followed the disastrous attack against Edson’s Marines a month earlier on Bloody Ridge. The Japanese, however, were now reorganized, re-supplied and had replaced their losses with combat-hardened veterans. The Japanese were not going to underestimate the Marines, which they now characterized as “criminals recruited from

American prisons.” But intelligence reports to Kawaguchi and Maruyama dismissed the newly arrived 164th as being inconsequential because they were green American National Guard troops, and intelligence assured the Japanese command that the GIs would break and run under a relentless night attack by Maruyama’s veterans.

The Japanese attack began shortly after full dark and the bulk of the attack was against Puller’s Marines. To insure the First and Second of the 164th remained pinned to their sectors of the line, the Japanese attacked throughout the night. But Japanese intelligence had learned that Puller’s Marines were stretched thin across a two-battalion front and the 3rd Battalion of the 164th was in reserve north of the Henderson Bomber Field. The Japanese command did not consider reinforcement by the green GIs to be



The 19th Infantry, the "Rock of Chickamauga" from the American War Between the states, and its parent 24th Infantry "Taro Leaf" Division had been badly mauled in Korea, but they got lucky when they drew Sgt. Woodrow Keeble from the replacement pool. Photo: U.S. Army, Courtesy of Merry Helm

a threat to their plan.

To launch his attack, Maruyama hurled six battalions of his Sendai Division against Puller's Marines. To shore up the Marine line, Colonel Moore shifted two platoons of Golf Company and one from Echo Company from the 2nd Battalion to Puller's Marines. For the next two hours the reinforced 7th Marine line held against repeated human wave Banzi attacks and the fighting remained close quarters. Pockets of Japanese soldiers would burst from the surrounding jungle to assault the American defenders and by 2300 hours the Marines were being worn down and Puller's battalion was less than 500 men facing several thousand Japanese. If the line broke, then the route to Henderson Field, via Bloody Ridge, would be open and 1st and 2nd Battalions would be cut off and unable to defend the

airfield.

Holding That Line

At 2340 hours Puller requested the 3rd Battalion move forward to reinforce the Marines. The battalion began a forced march over unfamiliar terrain to reach the beleaguered Marines. Throughout the battle Japanese Naval ships and artillery positioned on the surrounding hills pummeled the battlefield, hampering the battalion's movement. North Dakota soldiers who had never seen more trees than a farmer's windbreak on a farmstead struggled through choking jungle, a pounding monsoon rain and foot-gripping mud in pitch darkness so bleak each man held onto the packs of the man in front to avoid becoming lost. The GIs were going into battle to face an undefeated enemy – until Guadalcanal.

At 0230 hours on 25 October, the first elements of the 3rd Battalion with the Battalion's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Hall, leading the column, linked up with Puller. The two officers led the battalion down the line, which was engaged in fierce close quarter combat, and began ordering soldiers into the battle, sometimes by squad and other times by twos and threes to reinforce the line. The Japanese knew they were close to achieving their breakthrough and renewed their fierce attacks. In isolated pockets they had managed to achieve minor breakthroughs and were trying to exploit their gains. By 0330 all three battalions of the 164th were fully committed to the battle along the entire south and eastern perimeters of Henderson Field. Every gun available was firing. Puller's two 37mm anti-tank gun crews were firing

anti-personnel and canister rounds that cut swaths through the attacking Japanese. The barrels of the Marine 105mm Howitzers became red hot and crews were firing at a range of only 1000 meters. The 60mm mortar crews were firing so furiously that the tubes glowed red in the darkness and yet the Japanese attack did not slow.

Into this desperate fight Private Woodrow Wilson Keeble, a full blood Sioux Indian, slipped, stumbled and fell, as did his brothers-in-arms. In one of the great ironies of America both his ancestors and the ancestors of the men he stood beside had fought as enemies to the death on frontier battlefields less than a century before. Now, together, they stood shoulder to shoulder

View of the hills from the South-West, that the Communist Chinese held – and that it was the mission of Keeble's unit to assault and occupy. Terrain advantage? This is the very definition. Courtesy Merry Helm



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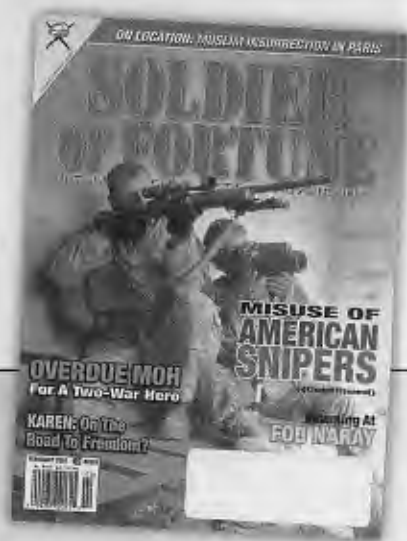
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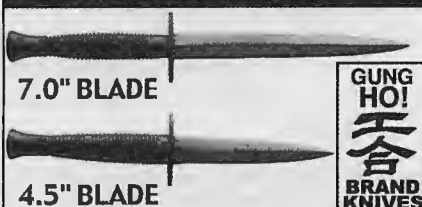
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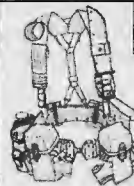
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The Communist Chinese forces the 24th Infantry Division were largely hardened veterans of combat with the Japanese and/or the Nationalist Chinese. They knew how to fight and they knew how to dig in – and it was the mission of Keeble's outfit to dislodge them and move them back for tactical advantage when the armistice was signed. Photo: U.S. Army Courtesy Merry Helm

against a common foe. Keeble's people had lost their ancestral lands but in that loss there must have begun a transition of the warrior blood of the Dakota and Lakota (Sioux), Cheyenne, Navajo, Nez Perce and all the tribes of the Native American people,

unbelievable." The green GIs and veteran Marines fought back with every weapon they had against the attackers. The Americans fired their machineguns until the barrels warped and they'd exhausted their ammunition. They fired their new M1 rifles

into a new warrior. Keeble was a warrior, an American Dakota warrior and his blood coursed with the spirit of the warriors before him. America was his home and he stood in that jungle to fight an enemy who threatened his home. Marines and GIs fought side-by-side with Keeble. James Fenelon, a soldier of the 164th remembers Keeble that night: "His [Keeble's] gun just never stopped - - no matter where you were, there were Japanese. He [Keeble] was

until they were too hot to load then they fixed bayonets and fought off the long, lethal bayonets of the Japanese that flashed grimly in the light of flares, exploding grenades, mortars and artillery.

Every Hand, Every Weapon, Where Heroes Are Found

In desperation to stand their ground American Marines and GIs used entrenching tools, combat knives, their steel helmets and even bare fists against their attackers. At the height of the battle the Japanese drove a wedge 75 yards deep and 50 yards wide into the American line and were threatening to breach the line. To close it, Puller turned his 60mm mortars on it and pounded every square yard with mortar fire./

When the smoke of battle cleared on the morning of 26 October 1942, the 3rd Battalion had suffered only 26 KIA, 52 WIA and 4 MIA but in front of them were the shattered, lifeless bodies of more than a thousand of their enemy's army. But, the battle of Henderson Field was not over. The enemy would return. Before the Japanese could again attack the American lines Vandergrift reorganized the units.

Continued on page 62

WHO ARE THE SIOUX?

American history is filled with famous and courageous people and among the most famous are the Sioux. Their history is one of pride, victory and an ultimate defeat that has tainted history with a bitterness that remains unresolved.

The actual name "Sioux" is the Anglicized Algonquin compound word "Nadouéssioux" which is rooted in the Iroquois "Nadowe" with the suffix "siu." Although frequently interpreted as insulting many linguists believe the name actually is making reference to the Dakota people's one time reverence for serpents. Other linguists claim the word is "natowessiwak" and may ultimately have its source as a proto-Algonquian term having to do with foreign language. Whatever the source the name "Sioux" remains in thick of controversy although many of the Native American people of the three major groups continue to call themselves "Sioux" as does the Federal Government of the United States.

There are three distinct groups of Sioux: the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota. The westernmost Sioux are the Lakota or Teton group, who are best known for their hunting and warrior culture. The Dakota group is the Isanti and they are the Santee or Dakota group. The last and smallest group is the Ihanktowan-Ihanktowana or Yankton-Yanktonai or Nakota.

The Dakota Sioux are best remembered for the 1862 Sioux Uprising that began in 1857 in Spirit Lake, Iowa. When the fighting finally ended, 303 of the Santee Sioux were found guilty of war crimes and condemned to hanging but Abraham Lincoln spared 284 warriors however 38 warriors were ordered hanged by Lincoln, which remains the largest mass-execution in U.S. history.

The most famous battle between the Sioux and the United States military remains, however, the Battle of the Little Bighorn when Custer's 7th Cavalry was defeated with Custer and all of his men killed in the famous battle.

All of the Sioux peoples ranks among the most famous but it was Jediah Smith's journal that provides the glimpse of the people from whose stock Woodrow Wilson Keeble descended. Smith described the Sioux as the most moral, with superior intelligence, stature and manner of living, writing, "In the moral scale, as their appearance would indicate, they rank above the mass of Indians."

Among history's greatest warriors are Sioux warriors, including: Crazy Horse (who killed Custer) Sitting Bull and Red Cloud, who defeated the U.S. Army and forced the army to remove their forts from Powder River region, a victory that stood until the ultimate defeat of the Sioux on December 29, 1890 with the Wounded Knee Massacre. Today's Sioux are still among the most courageous warriors and serve with pride in the U.S. Military. To this date, however, no Sioux has received the Medal of Honor, although proportionately Native Americans have won more Medals of Honor than any other ethnic group. -- GLG

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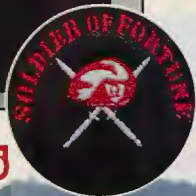
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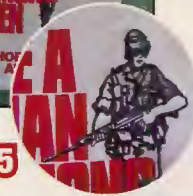
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By Dr. Martin Brass

1. RUSSIA WHO SAID THE COLD WAR ENDED? It just reincarnated, and it's heating up: Moscow delivers Tor-M1 air-defense missile systems to Iran, defying U.S. arms-boycott-to-Iran order. Moscow reportedly enters \$700 million contract with Iran to supply 29 missile systems to Iran. Tor-M1 can identify up to 48 targets and fire at two targets simultaneously at a height of up to 20,000 feet. MISCHIEF-MAKING Russians are building Bushehr nuclear power plant.

AMERICA AT WAR

1

2. NORTH KOREA LONG, HUNGRY WINTER drives those with \$20 to pay to cross over into China. China exploits situation and pushes for Chinese Communism to be implemented.

3. CHINA PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY FOMENTS TERROR in Southeast Asia with goal of taking over strategic Malacca Straits, says official Congressional paper: PLA behind supply of arms and training to insurgencies in India.

4. THAILAND ISLAMIC TERRORISTS drive out Buddhists and kill innocents in drive-by shootings.

5. PHILIPPINES BOUNTIES ON TERR'S HEADS pays off: 155 criminals caught, \$834,000 paid to informants.


6


6. CANADA WAR GAMES OR OLYMPIC GAMES? Military so squeezed it can't handle both 2,300 troop NATO deployment in Afghanistan and security of 2010 Winter Olympic games.

7. UNITED STATES HAWAII SPY RING SELLS B-52 BOMBER technology to China. Globalization backfires as Indian-born defense contractor indicted for spying and allegedly helping China develop cruise missile with engine exhaust system undetectable by radar, and missile capable of intercepting U.S. missiles. AL-QAEDA'S GLOBAL REVOLUTIONARY CREED mimics Marxism-Leninism and can be discredited with great effort, according to RAND Corp. DOOM IN IRAQ Kissinger says military victory is impossible in Iraq.


8. COSTA RICA SUBMARINE OF FORTUNE: Home-made submarine with 2.7 tons of cocaine worth \$90 million headed to U.S. from Colombia, detected when it refused to stay submerged. Four drug runners apprehended.


9. ECUADOR BIG HIT FOR DRUG WAR: U.S. to be expelled from crucial anti-drug base in South America. Government plans to turn base into airport.


 **10. UNITED KINGDOM** **BLOWING UP RUSSIA: TERROR FROM WITHIN**, author ex-agent, Col. Aleksander Litvinenko, who dared to criticize Russian President Vladimir Putin, poisoned by polonium-210. Andrei Lugovoy and Dmitry Kovtun, the last to see Litvinenko, also poisoned. **ANONYMOUS "EVIL FORCES" ASSASSINS** snuck poison that attacks the nervous system, heart, lungs, liver and kidneys, into ex-agent's food after mystery meeting.

 **11. GERMANY** **TORTURE BOSS MEETS UP WITH HUSSEIN BROTHERS: MASTER COMMUNIST SPY MARKUS WOLF** bites the dust. Stalinist spy's 40-year rabid resistance against West German democracy infiltrated 30,000 agents during Cold War. WOLF supported the neo-Nazi movement, armed and trained assassins in West Germany. Wolf tortured and imprisoned thousands of defiant East Germans.


 **12. TURKEY** **TURK-IRAN COMMISSION** to fight Kurdish PKK terrorism operating in both countries, takes off.


 **13. ISRAEL** **ANTI-MISSILE ACTIVE PROTECTION SYSTEM** with radar that can detect incoming missiles built as defensive tactic against Hezbollah. Dozens of Israeli Merkava tanks were destroyed with Russian Kornet missiles during last summer's Lebanon-Israel war.

 **14. IRAQ** **DEATH-SQUAD FEMALE SHIITES** head to Baghdad to target Sunnis with bayonets and handguns equipped with silencers. **ASSASSINS WITH FAKE DOCUMENTS** will pose as Sunnis displaced by Shiites, warns Sunni intel.


 **15. AFGHANISTAN** **SMART BOMBS WEAPONS OF CHOICE** - Summer Offensive whacked 1000 Taliban with bombs, A-10s and F-16s.

 **16. SAUDI ARABIA** **SAVE THE MONARCHY: ANTI-ISLAMIC-TERRORISM HIGH-TECH WALL** worth \$12 billion to be built along 900-kilometer Iraq-Saudi border.

 **17. GUINEA-BISSAU** **DRUG TRANSIT-HAVEN BUST** nets one ton of cocaine from South America headed for unknown location. Drug traffickers released, as law enforcement has all but collapsed in the impoverished, war-torn country.

 **18. NIGERIA** **OPERATION SAMARIA**, "holy confrontation" launched to train and send 50,000 Nigerian Christian missionaries in next 15 years to evangelize Muslims from Nigeria to Saudi Arabia.

 **19. SOMALIA** **ETHIOPIAN TROOPS** deployed to support government and keep violent Islamic courts from infiltrating Ethiopia. Yemen, Kenya and Uganda join the struggle against the Islamic Courts.

 **20. SOUTH AFRICA** **AIR FORCE SETS TROOP** racial goal to 75% black and 25% white from current 81% white membership: Transition risks recruitment of unseasoned fighter pilots and increase in accidents.

Fighting positions were repaired and improved even while Japanese artillery and Naval gunfire shelled the line and supply route and Japanese Zeros strafed the American lines.

Puller's Marines were pulled into a battalion-sized position to the right flank of the 3rd Battalion, which allowed the 2nd Battalion to link up with the 3rd's left flank. After repairing their defenses and being re-supplied, the battalions, still under constant artillery and naval gunfire, settled in to face the next assault.

The second round of attacks began at midnight with more frantic Japanese human wave attacks against the 3rd and 2nd Battalions. The concentration of the second assault was against the 3rd Battalion's left and 2nd Battalion's

right flanks. Official army reports of the battle state that it was the intent of the Japanese to force a breakthrough at the position where the 3rd and 2nd joined because a road at this juncture led directly to Henderson Field. Hyakutake had been so confident of the breakthrough that he had moved heavy weapons to this point to exploit the expected breakthrough and drive to Henderson Field.

The 164th didn't collapse. At the height of the fighting the men from North Dakota, a state of farms and tiny villages and small towns, some without electricity, fought back. Once again the soldiers fought bayonet to bayonet, knife to knife and with their bare hands. None of them knew or cared that their blood was writing history. After the war, when the history of the 164th in World War II was

compiled by the historian who wrote 36 words to chronicle the actions of Woodrow Wilson Keeble in the most desperate hours of the battle:

In the thick of battle, when heavily outnumbered, the men would rally around the big full blood Sioux Indian from Wahpeton, North Dakota, whose accuracy with the B.A.R. and grenades was legendary through the outfit.

The Measure of A Hero

The United States would have won the war whether Woody Keeble stood his ground or not. But how many more lives, on both sides, would it have cost if the line had failed? Would it have held without Keeble for the men to rally around? Guadalcanal's Henderson Field was the first key to the series of locks in the long road to victory and peace. The shouting, crying and dying of the night built fear upon fear in soldiers' guts. There comes a moment in a battle when every man wants to see something that tells him it can be won. Victory in battle does not come from the shouting fanatic who seeks glory but from the sight of a humble man who seizes his fear and faces it down. After the war the historian who wrote 36 words about Keeble did so because Keeble had been what the soldiers needed for inspiration in those desperate hours.

Woodrow Wilson Keeble became "Woody" and "The Chief" to the men of his outfit. They learned to trust him and knew that he was a warrior who fought hard but he fought smart and he kept those around him alive. Woody was a huge man, standing a head higher than most men, and his body was wide. He was a gentle giant who wrestled with his buddies and never hurt them, spoke softly and was always willing to share. But that fateful night he stood up and fought. The fighting had been some of the most ferocious of the entire war. The men of the 164th earned both the Presidential and Naval Citations for their part of the desperate battle. General A. A. Vandergrift, Commanding General of the First Marine Division, wrote a citation to the men of the 164th and Chesty Puller, the Marine's Marine, praised them for their resolute courage.

Sometime during the fighting Keeble also rescued two fellow soldiers and he was wounded, earning his first Purple Heart. But, after this fight he dropped from attention.

A bear of a man and a natural leader, Keeble kept his men alive in Korea by showing them how to kill the enemy that was trying to kill them. Photo: Lieutenant William Nichols, courtesy Merry Helm



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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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Army records show he participated in every campaign of the 164th as it battled its way across the Pacific, and on Bougainville in February, 1944 he earned his first Bronze Star for Valor but his heroic actions on the Canal remain largely ignored except by the men who served with him.

Today, we can only surmise where and how Woody Wilson Keeble fought in those last battles of World War II. We know he had learned how to stay alive in combat and to keep others alive. If there were such a thing as a soldier's destiny perhaps in some strange way the man called "Chief" was honing his skills as if the warrior blood in him knew that his place and time would be in the next war.

Did Woodrow Wilson Keeble change the course of history in World War II? From a realistic point of view it is hard to believe that a single American soldier could have had so much influence, yet historians universally agree that the Battle of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal was pivotal to our ultimate victory. After that battle the Imperial Japanese Army was never able to mount an offensive campaign against the Armed Forces of the United States. From then on,

every campaign the Japanese fought was defensive in nature. Yet, truthfully, can we state that a private in the United States Army National Guard was so important to a battle that history revolves around his actions? No. Emphatically no! Yet, when the evidence is reviewed and the advice of one of America's most celebrated movie directors, John Ford, is considered from *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend." we must consider the legend of Woody Keeble on Guadalcanal.

Perhaps it is true, as it is written in the book of the 164th Infantry Regiment, that when the soldiers were outnumbered and that crucial line between the Japanese and Henderson Field was about to collapse, Private Woodrow Wilson Keeble, a Dakota warrior, took his place in history and turned the tide of battle. The history of warfare is replete with instances where the "want of a nail" turned the tide against, and based on the recollection of those who were with him on Guadalcanal, we can but assume the obverse is true as well. We will never know the truth, only the legend.

The following narrative of Keeble

in Korean War, much of it compiled from the official documents uncovered by history researcher, radio writer and documentary film producer Merry Helm, is verifiably true; It is not legend, though Keeble's story is indeed the stuff from which legends are created. What follows is the story of an American soldier who is also a Sioux (Dakota) Indian who should have been given the Medal of Honor. That is a wrong we hope will soon be corrected.

Resting, For the Next War

According to newspaper accounts, Woody Keeble was discharged from the Army in 1945 and he returned to Wahpeton, North Dakota where he resumed his easygoing lifestyle. In the small farming community, he was the gentle giant. He played baseball and worked at the Indian School. When the Korean War broke out in June, 1950 Keeble watched the war unfold, reenlisting in the North Dakota National Guard in January, 1951 to rejoin his old outfit, the 164th Infantry. Keeble was now 33 years old and no longer a young man. While the 164th was being organized at Camp Rucker, Alabama a call went out for volun-

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teers for duty in Korea. Retired Brigadier General E. Duane Holly, who had been Keeble's company commander in 1951 said, "Keeble volunteered for Korea to allow a young soldier to remain stateside with his family."

What motivated Woody Keeble to return to active duty has become part of the North Dakota legend surrounding him. Simon Cofrancesco was a Corporal who trained with Keeble at Camp Rucker, and had asked Keeble why he volunteered for Korea: Keeble explained, "Someone has to teach these kids how to fight." Keeble had survived some of the bloodiest fighting of World War II and he did know how to fight. After volunteering he joined the replacement pool and was ultimately assigned to the 1st Platoon, Golf Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. The division had fought through the entire Korean War and was being rebuilt with replacements and refitted with new equipment. Throughout September 1952 the division had been training in preparation for moving back to the line for a new major UN offensive.

On October 5, the 24th ID began its forward movement toward the region of the Kumsong Valley to replace

the battle weary 7th Infantry Division along Phase Line Wyoming. Command After-Action Reports written by the S-2 officer, Captain Charles M. Post for the 19th Infantry, describe the regiment's movement to the front line positions and a number of positions forward of the main line. On October 7, the same day the regiment's relief of the 7th Division was complete, the 19th Infantry began a series of combat patrols to access the strength and position of the communist forces it faced. During the day, platoon-sized combat patrols were conducted in the no-man's land between the CCF and UN lines and at night the regiment sent out ambush patrols to interdict CCF night movements.

Contact with CCF units was immediate and the 19th learned it was facing the 596th Regiment, 199th Division of the 67th Army Corps. To keep the Chinese off balance and maintain an aggressive posture as General Ridgeway attempted to anchor the UN lines across the Korean peninsula, the 19th Infantry maintained constant aggressive combat patrols until the morning of October 13, when the entire regiment jumped off their static lines and attacked the CCF forces to launch Op-

eration Nomad. Accounts of the battle in the S-2 After Action reports state: "The enemy stubbornly resisted the advance of our forces, giving ground grudgingly and in some cases counter-attacking in an attempt to regain lost key terrain features."

Intelligence reports prior to the operation indicated that the Chinese Communist People's Volunteer Army was securing their positions for the winter and the CCPA was intending to force the peace talks into a stalemate. The goal of Operation Nomad, part of Nomad-Polar, was to accomplish several objectives: prevent the CPVA command from continuing to frustrate the resumed peace talks, force elements of the CPVA from their intended winter line and strengthen the UN lines across the breadth of the Korean peninsula by securing Phase Line Missouri and linking up with X Corps which was attacking toward the Hwachon Reservoir. ✕

In next month's stirring conclusion, Woodrow Wilson Keeble does just what he enlisted to do: "show those young boys how to fight." And he does it with indomitable personal courage, skill, and daring – the stuff of legends.

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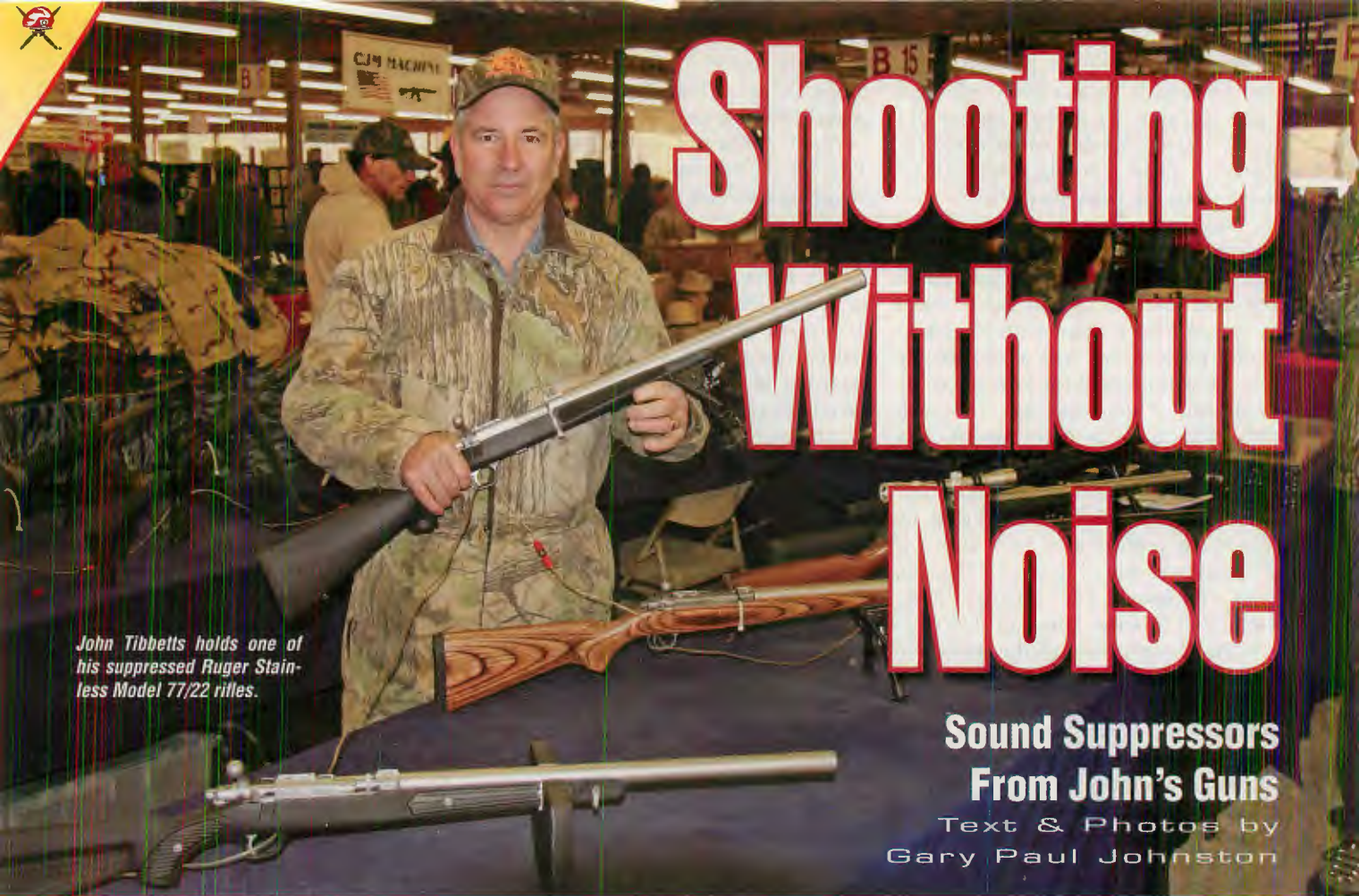
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John Tibbetts holds one of his suppressed Ruger Stainless Model 77/22 rifles.

Shooting Without Noise

Sound Suppressors From John's Guns

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

Years ago, I had an original brochure from the Maxim Company printed around the turn of the Century. Pictured on the cover were two young ladies in long dresses with their hair up and a little boy in knickers, all standing on the front lawn of a huge mansion that looked like it belonged to Teddy Roosevelt.

The ladies each were holding Winchester Model 1890 slide action .22 rifles and the little boy was holding a hand-held device used to throw glass balls and a large supply of them were at his feet. The title of the brochure was "Shooting without Noise," and inside it was a detailed explanation of the merits of what most refer to as "silencers."

I mention this advertisement to illustrate the original intention of the development of the sound suppressor, or "gun muffler," as many of us prefer to call such a device. Far from being a tool of criminals, the sound suppressor was intended to be used for recreational shooting, so as not to disturb others, as well as for the comfort of the one doing the shooting.

During World War I, shortly after the Maxim suppressor was designed, it was used on Springfield Model 1903

.30 caliber sniper rifles with some success in preventing the (surviving) Huns from determining exactly where the shots were coming from. Col. Townsend Wheelen wrote of firing a suppressor-equipped Springfield down a railroad track, recalling that as the sonic crack was reflected back from telegraph poles, it sounded to the shooter like a burst from a distant machine gun. In wars since, the suppressor has played – and continues to play – a vital role in the effectiveness of U.S. military snipers.

How it Works

Although it might seem otherwise, there's really no magic to a sound suppressor, other than genius in design. Most of the noise created from a shot comes from the super-expanding hot gasses as they leave the muzzle behind the bullet. The key is to contain these gasses long enough to allow them to expand, cool and lose some of their hyper velocity before they escape into the atmosphere in front of the shooter. Here's a very simple example:

It was discovered that firing a sub-caliber device in the larger barrel of the host firearm has an extremely quieting effect on the shot. Typical is the

.22 rimfire sub-caliber device used in a .30-06 1903 Springfield rifle for training. The roughly 20 inches of .30 caliber bore the little .22 travels down sufficiently allow the gas from that little cartridge to cool and expand relatively slowly, before entering the open air.

In an actual sound suppressor for a .22 caliber firearms, the hot gasses travel in a straight line all the way down the barrel as they push the bullet to optimum velocity. However, when the bullet leaves the barrel it continues in a straight line while the gasses are diffused.

As an illustration, let's use two sprinters in a 100-yard dash, one right on the heels of the other. Just as hot gasses follow a bullet down the bore, both sprinters travel with equal speed for the first 50 yards until the second sprinter is forced to run through a maze for the second 50 yards while the first continues to run straight. Like the gasses entering the suppressor, as the second runner zigzags his way down the course, he begins to fall behind the first, because he is now running roughly four times as far as the first to get to the finish line. He also begins to tire much faster, hav-



Johnston found this John's Guns Suppressor-equipped M4A1 Carbine to handle superbly.

ing to use more energy to turn with each zig and zag, and he slows down. By the time he exits the maze to reach the end of the line he is far behind and much slower than the first runner.

Now you're getting an idea of how a sound suppressor works, and there is almost no difference between one designed for a .22 rimfire from one for a larger caliber. The main differences are in the size, strength and materials used.

There have been a variety of differences in the way sound suppressors divert the expanding gasses. Most use finned baffles, some have spiraled baffles and some have a combination of both. Some suppressors use finned baffles in combination with sections filled with small metal parts, such as short pieces of small tubing or rivets, or steel mesh. Some combine an expansion chamber that surrounds the barrel to serve as a temporary holding tank for some of the gasses.

The effect of the suppressor is often referred to as "confusing" the hot gasses, but it is really diffusing them. However you want to think of it, all of the action within the suppressor takes place for only a tiny millisecond, but it is enough to eliminate all but a small bit of sound. What one really hears is the sonic crack in the case of bullets traveling at supersonic speed, hot gas escaping from the exhaust port of some piston-operated mechanisms, or the metallic action of the mechanism itself.

Felt Recoil Attenuation

In addition to sound suppression, a suppressor provides some attenu-

ation of felt recoil due to its added weight, but that's not all there is to it. Because the gasses reside inside the suppressor for a short time, they have a tendency to push the suppressor forward slightly not unlike a muzzle brake, and with it, the firearm.

Organized Crime

Just as people demanded mufflers on automobiles at the turn of the Century, mufflers on firearms were well received by both users and spectators, that is until criminals began using them after organized crime gained power during the Great Depression. Typical of bureaucratic response, in 1934, these so-called "silencers" became strictly controlled by the Government for everyone, except

organized crime figures who did as they pleased while law abiding U.S. Citizens were subject to a \$200 tax and registration in order to be able to shoot rats in the hen house without disturbing egg production with the loud noise made by a firearm. The alternative was to face a strict jail sentence for possessing one illegally, something law-abiding citizens will not risk. This law effectively banned most legal ownership of sound suppressors for decades even though a suppressor cost only about \$20 in those days.

Today, \$200 will buy only a tiny fraction of what it could in 1934, but sound suppressors themselves often cost in excess of \$1,000. For those who can afford a suppressor, the \$200 tax is incidental, but the buyer still must undergo a lengthy background check by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, assuming the state in which they live allows ownership of sound suppressors. Well over half the states in the United States do.

John Tibbetts

With the increase in firearm enthusiasts in America, there has been an increase in sound suppressors and thus an increase in companies that design and manufacture them. One of these companies is owned by Mr. John Tibbetts and Brent Hemphill, of Texas, and is called simply John's Guns.

A combat Veteran of the Vietnam War, John Tibbetts is a patriotic American and as fine a gentleman as one could encounter. A long time



The suppressed H&K MP5 9mm SMG produces almost no noise, but also is easily controlled with a Tibbetts Suppressor mounted.



Made of the finest materials, John's Guns Suppressors mount rigidly to the barrel, as seen here.

firearm enthusiast, John Tibbetts has been designing and building sound suppressors for almost a quarter of a century. Today he and Brent Hemphill are recognized as making some of the best suppressors going.

As described above, the design of and materials used in John Tibbetts' suppressors depends on the caliber for which it is intended. Weight is a consideration, as is durability. The suppressor, like the gun it will be used on, must last for many thousands of rounds and must reduce the sound report about 32 decibels (db's) to be considered effective for most roles.

For most applications, John and Brent, like others, use high-grade stainless steels and other high-temperature alloys used in jet aircraft engines. Yes, as with mufflers on cars, sound suppressors on firearms get very hot after only a few rounds are fired. Where many rounds are fired in a short time, the suppressor can become more than one thousand degrees in temperature. Hot or cold, it must perform as designed.

I can't tell you who some of John's and Brent's customers are, but some of them don't exactly shoot guns for recreation, they don't have to pay the \$200 tax and they wear uniforms. Not long ago I got the opportunity to take a close look at the sound suppressors John Tibbetts and Brent Hemphill manufacture and I saw top quality.

I got a chance to check

out everything from .22 rimfire rifles and pistols with dedicated suppressors that surround the entire length of the barrel. These suppressed arms redefine quiet. I also saw suppressors designed for the slick little pocket pistols that have become increasingly popular, not to mention large caliber pistols, such as the .45 ACP Model 1911, Beretta M92 and many others.

When it comes to machineguns, John's Guns' suppressors can be found on a variety of sub-guns in many law enforcement agencies across America, especially the HK MP5. Equally popular are John's suppressors for short-barreled .223 caliber M16-style carbines. At close to 3000 feet per second, the .223 bullet is tough to tame when it comes to sound, but John's Guns makes suppressors for this round that reduce its signature to that of a .22 rimfire round, the report once again, being primarily due to the

bullet's sonic crack. This kind of performance goes a long way in dealing with predators where it's legal to do so. I find I can kill more prairie dogs more quickly, as they fail to recognize the threat.

However, "big boomers" like the .30 calibers really separate suppressor quality and I was pleasantly surprised when renowned machinegun manufacturer and dealer, Kent Lomont, of Salmon, Idaho, and I shot a COBBMCR .30-06 semi-automatic rifle equipped with one of John's Guns' suppressors. It was so quiet that none of us experienced any discomfort in shooting it without ear protection. The same was true with the suppressor mounted on a .308 caliber rifle. COBB also offers John's Guns suppressors on his .50 BMG rifles. I had the opportunity to shoot a suppressed .50 BMG and it reduced the report to about that of a .22 Long Rifle shot from a pistol, and, again, most of the noise was from the supersonic crack of the bullet.

Accuracy

As with all high quality sound suppressors, those from John's Guns preserve the firearm's and its ammunition's integral accuracy. In other words, the accuracy you got is the accuracy you'll get. However, preserving point of impact depends on whose barrel is used, i.e., how in-line are the threads & etc. If John's Guns mounts the suppressor, POI shift will be all but unnoticeable. However, my philoso-



John's Guns makes suppressors for virtually all popular autopistols.



This Remington 700 .308 is sub-MOA accurate -- and quiet as a proverbial mouse when fired with Tibbetts' suppressor.

phy is to mount the suppressor, sight in the gun and leave it. Removing a suppressor on a precision rifle is like removing the scope: Re-sighting in will always be necessary to insure POI.

Are sound suppressors for all law-abiding citizens? Well, perhaps not – that is generally an individual matter depending on local laws and the depth of one's pockets. They certainly have application for law enforcement, especially during tactical operations where noise from firing can distract

officers and interfere with communication. They also have great value on a precision rifle positioned on a remote perimeter prior to a high-risk warrant or a crisis incident.

A law-abiding citizen may simply want to enjoy shooting their firearm without noise, to make this traditional American practice more pleasant, or to teach new shooters proper techniques while reducing their tendency to “flinch” from the muzzle blast. Whatever your suppressor needs or desires may be, check out what's avail-

able from John's Guns, 110 Commercial, Dept. SOF, Coleman, TX 76834; phone: 325-357-4647, on the web at: www.johnsguns.us

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► Searching for weapons, Army Capt. Bradley Miller, left, watches Senior Airman Aaron Cantu and USAF Major Shawn Murphy dig inside a cave in Landikheyl, Afghanistan. Miller is assigned to Task Force Gauntlet, 10th Mountain Division, and Cantu and Murphy are from EOD/Operating Location A, attached to 63rd Ordnance Bn. Photo: U.S. Army by Cpl. Bertha A. Flores



BULLETIN BOARD • Continued from page 12

U.S. Court Awards Castro Victims \$91M

U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero has ruled that two families, whose relatives were executed by Castro agents in the 1960s, can collect \$91 million in frozen Cuban government assets held in a U.S. bank.

JP Morgan Chase Bank has been ordered to turn over \$91 million in frozen Cuban assets to Janet Ray Weininger, of Palmetto Bay, the daughter of CIA pilot Thomas "Pete" Ray, (\$23.9 million) and to the family of Howard Anderson (\$67 million), who was shot by a Cuban firing squad after the Bay of Pigs.

Both the Anderson and Weininger families had won Miami-Dade Circuit court rulings against the Cuban government, and although the Castro

regime did not fight either claim at trial, actual collection was in doubt because of a conflicting claim by Office Max over priorities in claims to frozen Cuban government assets, sequestered under the long-standing U.S. embargo

Pete Ray, an Alabama National Guard pilot, was flying for the CIA in the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, when his plane was shot up and downed. He survived after his plane crashed near a Castro HQ, but was injured in a gun battle. While being treated by Cuban doctors for his wounds, the army, on orders of the Castro brothers, killed him with a single shot to his right temple, ac-

ording to court evidence.

<http://projectboresnake.org>

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Project Bore Snake is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization that for about \$7 each, buys Bore Snakes in bulk from Hoppes and ships eight of them to American service members serving in Iraq or Afghanistan who have been nominated on their site.

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▲ **Sound Support:** pallets of equipment are taken aboard a C-17 Globemaster III at Hickam Air Base for a mission to Vietnam, which included the transport of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command members and delivery of two ultrasound units to Thuy Duong Village, Vietnam. Photo: USAF by Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

They ship four (4) kits, each with two bore snakes, to every nominated GI and ask the recipient to give the extra three kits to buddies.

Those who nominate a soldier/marine on their website also choose the type of kits (standard 9mm & 5.56mm or, special duty 7.62mm & 12.7mm).

They have shipped more than 10,000 bore snakes: Every penny raised goes for purchasing and shipping more. Testimonials from servicemen are posted on their site, many with photos (go to <http://projectboresnake.org/testimonials.html> for a look).

You can help by donating (of course) and/or nominating a GI for a kit. It doesn't cost anything to nominate someone, but why not accompany your nomination with a donation? (Nominations with donations are given priority in shipping order.)

Israel To Tank Tank

Israeli defense officials have announced that Merkava tank production is to halt within four years. The

▶ **Old Soldiers Never Die:** an enhanced A-10C Thunderbolt II taxis in during a roll-out ceremony at Davis-Monthan AFB. The new A-10C is equipped with precision engagement technology, including full integration of sensors, multi-function color displays and a new hands-on-throttle-and-stick interface. Photo: USAF by Airman 1st Class Alesia Goosic

decision had been made earlier, but was apparently bolstered by the loss of 47 Merkavas to Hizbollah attacks with Russian-made rockets during last summer's fighting in Lebanon. Designed for classic tank-on-tank battles, the Merkava had been touted as one of the safest and most cost-effective tanks ever fielded. Some

33 Israeli soldiers were lost with the 47 Merkavas knocked out during the Lebanon fighting.

Speaking of Lebanon,

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) sent representatives to Lebanon and worked with Hizbollah, U.N. officials, and the Lebanese military to ensure the safety of the animals they say were innocent victims of the war. A local group, Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (BETA) went into a war zone zoo "where animals are being kept under the horror of attacks" and rescued a baboon, a macaque, and three kittens. No word yet on the success of the outfit from Arkansas, "Military Ethical Animal League" (MEAL).

Did You Hear The One About...

One William C. Horvath, 35, of Whitefish, Montana, pleaded guilty to making false statements to his probation officer, a felony. The falsification(s) involved claims he had been a U.S. Marine, which he had not. U.S. District Judge Donald Mollo, a former Vietnam-era naval aviator,

sentenced Horvath to four months house arrest and four years probation. He also sentenced him to 50 hours standing outside the courthouse wearing a sandwich board that read, "I am a liar. I am not a Marine." And on the back it read, "I have never served my country. I have dishonored veterans of all wars." Horvath was also ordered to write letters of apology to newspapers, the U.S. Marine Corps, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion in Kalispell. The judge said Horvath must admit in the letters that he lied repeatedly about having served and having been wounded.

Kinder, Gentler, Basic?

Reflecting on the successes of all regular services in meeting their yearly recruiting goals for the period ending last September, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S. Chu noted, "part of it is changing the nature of how it treats people in basic training... less shouting at everyone, in essence, which some of you may remember from an earlier generation as being the modus operandi." Also contributing to basic graduation rates, he said, were the fact that recruits with minor and correctable medical problems were being allowed to mend, and re-cycle. Does the Duke know about this?

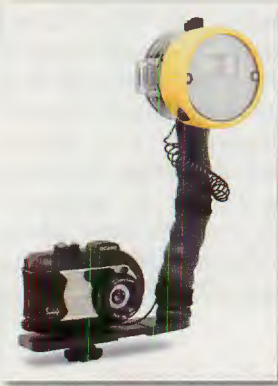
Website Thanks Troops

If you go to this web site, www.letsaythank.com you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a service member that is currently serving in Iraq. Takes just a minute, and may brighten some troop's day. Recommended.

Continued on page 77



ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER



SEALIFE DC500 UNDERWATER AND ACTION CAMERA

This new 5 megapixel, DC500 Digital Underwater Camera captures ultra-sharp, high resolution images anywhere in the Great Outdoors in addition to the underwater world. Developed with input from professional photographers, the DC500 features SeaLife's exclusive "Shark Mode™" that addresses one of the greatest concerns for outdoor and underwater photographers who use digital cameras -- "shutter lag." Shutter lag refers to the delay between when the shutter button is pressed and when the camera actually takes the picture. The "Shark Mode" virtually eliminates shutter lag by allowing users to compute and save focus range before taking the photo. Taking photographs of fast-moving fish and wildlife has never been easier.

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Bushnell introduces the new NightWatch Night Vision monocular, a rugged 2x viewer that is a great accessory for any outdoor activity or personal safety and security. The NightWatch features a 24mm objective lens, built-in infrared illuminator, tripod mount, rubber armoring and weather resistant construction. Depending upon night conditions, the effective viewing range is from 4 to 500 feet. The field of view is 105 feet at 100 yards. The built-in infrared illuminator lets the user see in complete darkness where no ambient light sources are available. The NightWatch operates on two AA batteries and comes with a soft case and Lanyard.

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Working closely with Polarion in the design process, Xousia Systems Group has now made available a top tier HID product that has an incredible output of 4,000+ Lumens, with a runtime of 90 minutes utilizing rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery cartridges. The Helios HID lights are waterproof to 165' and made from the aerospace-grade aluminum (6061 T6) coated with a Type III Hard Anodizing in a Matte Black finish. Practically, this means an individual can illuminate individuals and areas of interest with a handheld tool that were previously unreachable with conventional lighting tools. The sheer output is unprecedented in a package this compact.

Xousia Systems Group, Dept. SOF

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866-901-4437 / www.xousia.com



SABRE DEFENCE INDUSTRIES SPHINX 3000 .45 ACP HANDGUN

Sabre Defence Industries, exclusive importers and distributors of the Swiss made Sphinx 3000 handguns, announces the addition of the Sphinx .45 ACP model. Designed and engineered with legendary Swiss precision, the Sphinx .45 is engineered just like its smaller brother the 9mm, with a rock solid slide and frame long block, CNC engineered from a stainless steel billet and masterfully combined with a unique grip frame in stainless steel, titanium or high strength aluminum. The heavy-section long block with integrated accessory rail tames recoil and improves balance. The grip section is ergonomically optimized to keep you on target, shot after shot, and a high cut Beavertail provides better comfort and safety. They also feature a durable satin black finish with fixed Trijicon Night Sights, aluminum grip frame and a decocking lever safety feature.

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CJ Weapons, Dept. SOF

P.O. Box 104801

Jefferson City, MO 65110

800-510-5919 / www.cjweapons.com



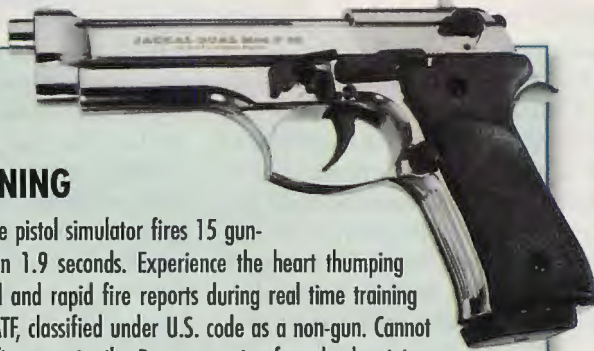
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SINGLE-POINT SLING

Buffer's Technologies Single-Point Tactical Sling is made by Eagle Industries with their durable 1 1/4-in. flat webbing for less friction and easy sliding around the body. The sling, available in khaki and black, is completely ambidextrous and attaches to the weapon through a rear lock plate or an attachment system like the Tango Down sling mount. Troops have so much equipment now that they have to maintain, and the Single-Point just makes it easier. Once it's on, they can move it around their body easily and go from a strong side to weak side shooting position without having to adjust the sling. The quick-release Fastex buckle allows users to ditch the weapon in emergencies with a quick tug on the release cord. For those who favor the maneuverability of a bungee, Buffer Technologies offers ZM Weapons' Single Point Sling. The sling has the same benefits of single-point attachment with a bungee bonus that allows the user to set enough tension for complete one-handed control. Available only in black, the ZM Weapons sling also has a quick-release ring.



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must also release Aung San Suu Kyi. Likely the Karen and other minorities would have more optimism with her and her National League for Democracy (NLD) in charge. While some Karen call for a negotiated settlement, Mahn Sha remains skeptical and sees at best an imperfect peace. The process demands transparency, stability, accountability, and rule of law, he says.

Some in the international community appear poised to reward SPDC's success in ethnic cleansing with investment in multi-national development. Refugees from Karen State prepare for diaspora – dispersion from their homeland. Many in the KNU and KNLA, in spite of loss of territory and diminished numbers, retain the revolution-

ary spirit.

A KNLA officer allows, the new roads could facilitate the Burmese Army. The dam projects could diminish the KNU and KNLA support base in the border region. Immigration to third countries could further erode that base. But there is no talk of surrender. He says that without an equitable resolution, the struggle would adapt and continue, perhaps shifting to the interior.

Ner Dah says that once the Karen achieve freedom, he would like to live in the U.S. "I dream of a good family life, talking to friends, talking about good stuff, but only when we gain freedom in Burma." Without peace he says, "I will continue

fighting until I'm 80 then hand over (the role) to my daughter or son." He plans to join in celebrating his father's 80th birthday later this year.

Major Tha Su, speaking in the 7th Brigade area inside Myanmar, says, "I want peace and for all Karen people to work together for peace. I hope there will be peace soon. I cannot see, but I trust and I hope." ✕

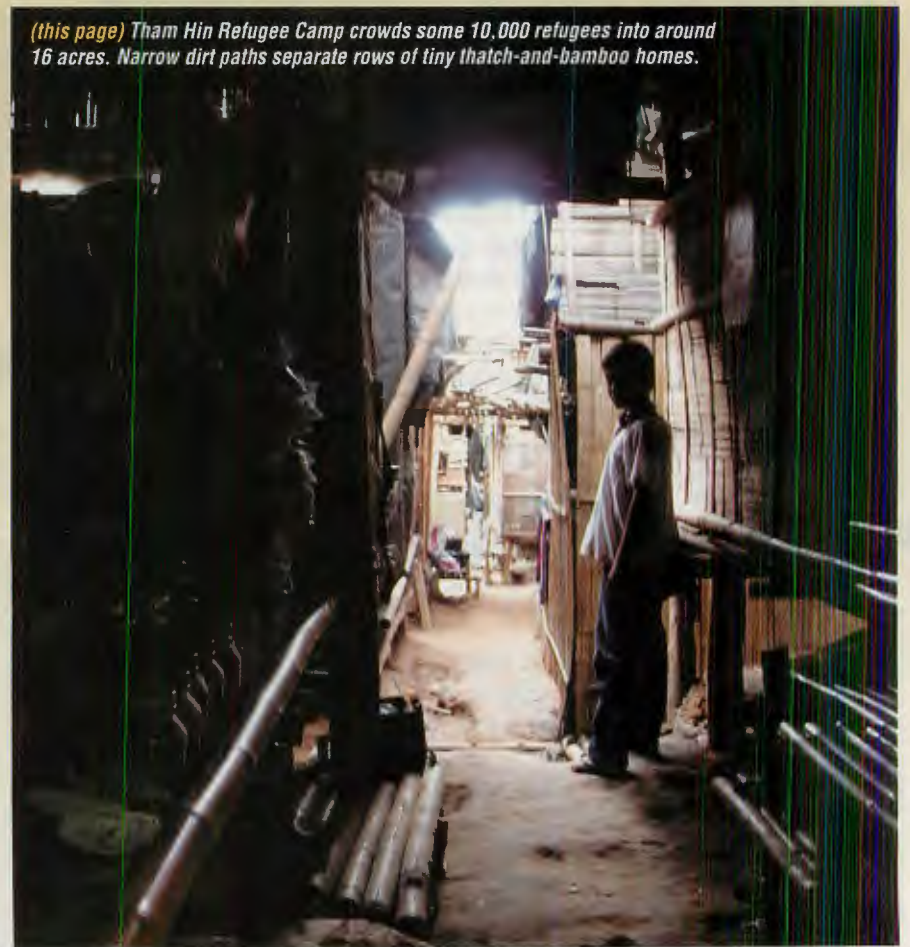
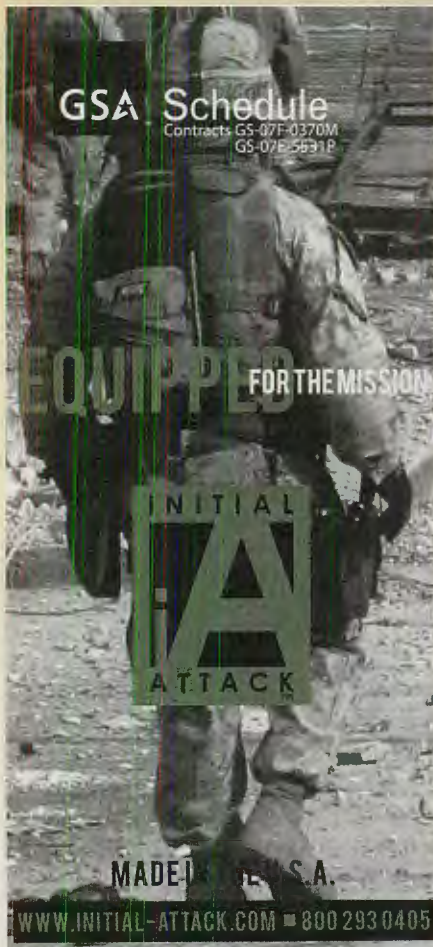
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www.dictatorwatch.org

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www.freeburmarangers.org

or e-mail info@freeburmarangers.org



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



The Para-Ordnance P-16 holds 16+1 rounds of .40 S&W ammunition, more than any other .40 cal. autopistol.

Will it Happen?

Will SOCOM adopt the P-16? Probably not. It just might make too much sense, not to mention internal and external politics. Even though the pistol contract will now be much smaller than before, the competition for a new pistol will be stiff, if for no other reason than the advertising. At least seven major firearm companies including Colt have new pistols ready to submit, although not all are sure they want to get involved. As this is written it is a "wait and see" situation as far as the military goes.

However, for America's law enforcement and private citizens there is plenty of seeing with no waiting. This new family of Para-Ordnance pistols is here as you read this, and while you may not be able to get them in all the color combinations as the show-n-tell pistols we received, you can have a Para-Ordnance in a hi cap, single column, single action, LDA, with or without a light rail, in several calibers, in any size, in stainless or blue or in colors including flat dark earth, and it doesn't get much better than that.

In addition to the features already mentioned, all 5" Para-Ordnance pis-

tols will accept LaserMax sights and all such single column pistols will accept Crimson Trace LaserGrips.

With weight a major factor in the selection of a new pistol for SOCOM, it's pretty clear that pistols with polymer frames are being looked at very seriously. Where does this leave Para-Ordnance? Don't ask/don't tell, as that'll have to wait for another article.

If you like the traditional Model of 1911, or you'd like it in the slickest double action you've ever seen, check out all the new Para-Ordnance pistols at your dealers, or contact Para-Ordnance Mfg., Inc., 980 Tapscott Rd., Dept. SOF, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1X 1C3; phone: 416-297-7855, on the web at www.paraord.com. ☒

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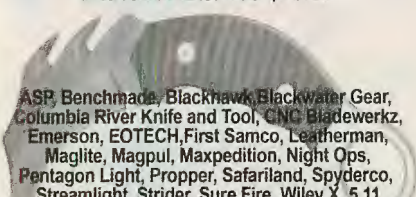
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www.texastacticalsupply.com

THE FRENCH FIGHT BACK • Continued from page 46

mouth.

"In France, you don't have a real punishment for a bad boy. Putting him in jail is no solution. If someone stole a car and you throw him in jail for one year, he meets up with lots of other predators and studies other illegal techniques.

"France is a very nice country and I love it. Paris is no more dangerous

than London or NY, or any place you have a big concentration of people. You will always have criminals.

From Immigrant Sanctuaries to Mafioso Havens

"This is Paris," he said, as he drew a large circle, with smaller circles portraying the suburbs.

Continued on page 78



Two of Perrin's military line of knives--the military bowie and the ppf(perotti perrin fighter), a double edge fighter.

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McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants, Inc. served up complimentary meals to 18,000 U.S. Veterans last Veteran's Day. They've been doing it for eight years, and they're going to do it again next year. They call it their Veterans Appreciation Event. We call it patriotism in action, which began in 1999 as a grassroots effort at just one restaurant and was expanded nationwide due to the positive response from U.S. veterans, customers and government officials, including President Bush and the Department of Veterans Affairs. As part of this program, the Company offers complimentary entrées to U.S. military veterans.

"We are extremely proud of our nation's veterans and grateful for their service and sacrifice on behalf of this country. Providing 18,000 veterans with a complimentary entrée and

a meal out with family and friends is our way of saying thank you."

There are 64 McCormick & Schmick's in 24 states, and they are worth looking for if you like Officer's Mess and EM Club prices. Check their site for locations near you: www.McCormickandSchmicks.com.

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If you are trying to determine what medals you, or a family member, are authorized, contact the NPRC. You can visit their website at <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html>

You may request the additional information on line at the following address: www.vetrecs.archives.gov or www.nara.gov or submit a copy of a DD 214 to

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(Thanks to Denise Marsico, Management Analyst, Clothing & Heraldry PSID Customer Service Office [Email Denise.Marsico@dla.mil])

www.Give2TheTroops.org

Give2TheTroops.org was founded by Andi Grant, is headquartered in Rocky Hill, Connecticut and has eight branches throughout the country. They are incorporated and certified as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity organization, so donations to Give2TheTroops are tax deductible (check with your own tax wonk).

Since its inception in December 2002, Give2theTroops has mailed more than 17,500 care packages filled with letters, cards, snacks, DVD movies, toiletries, games, phone cards, clothing, and electronics to support and boost the morale of U.S. troops in harm's way. Go to their web site to find their location nearest you, what they need, and how you can help. ✕

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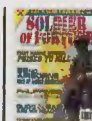
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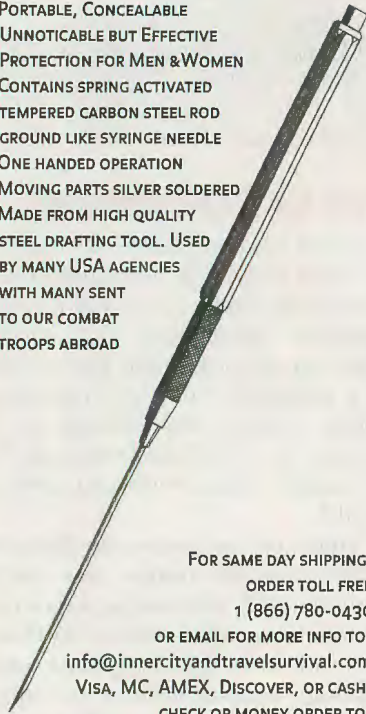
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FRENCH • Continued from page 76

"In the circle you have perhaps six enclaves in the 1970s. Many small suburbs were established to put up a big bunch of immigrants. This city is for sleeping and living. The apartments are jammed

and for a long time you have connections by train to come to work in Paris, then go back home to live in total autonomy. After 1976 and the problem with the petrol, many became unemployed. There was no work. They may not speak good French, have the right color or the right good look.

"In this city you start another economic system by stealing, drug traffic, stolen cars, whatever illegal activity

"25 years later the government builds trains between the ghetto and the city then the people from the ghettos have contact points for rendezvous in Paris. Its simple, in life you have two solutions, either you work or not, and if not you steal and use crime for making money if government help is not enough. But if there is no choice to work, the option is to become a criminal.

"And now much is outsourced to China, where labor is cheap.

Scold the Thugs, But Don't Touch

"The French policeman is like all other policemen. 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 and can't take control. In France the policeman'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 violence. This problem is not new, but you didn't have the same hysterical coverage by the media.

"A rioter throws a Molotov cocktail at the police in a deadly attack. The police have no weapons for putting out the fire. It is the same as trying to stop a fire with this," he said as he picked up a small glass half full of water.

Political Correctness Criminalizes the Law Abiding Citizen

"Policemen have no real power. They just observe. Sometimes they arrest one 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 immigrant children have French citizenship.

"If I have a problem with two bad boys and I want to use violence to protect myself, I become the criminal. With today's politically correct thinking in the world, it is not possible to resolve this situation.

"Say you have a man living inside the small city and he's attacked by gangs. If these people start to shoot, the victim has no choice but to use violence. Then you have five or six men

From the Mount:

The Prophet, Churchill

(Published in 1899!)

"How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy. The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live. A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity. The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong to some man as his absolute property, either as a child, a wife, or a concubine, must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men. Individual Moslems may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyzes the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step; and were it not that Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science, the science against which it had vainly struggled, the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome."

Sir Winston Churchill (*The River War*, first edition, Vol. II, pages 248-50)

attacked, you start a civil war like in Yugoslavia.

"If you don't have punishment for all -white yellow, brown, Arab, the community is in danger. You open the door for more treacherous problems to start.

"It's the Gutless Politicians"

"The real problem in France is not immigration, the problem is the politicians who don't have the guts to make decisions. If you have a limit on immigration of five percent, you have no problem, but when you start allowing more than ten percent, you have a problem. You have then the phenomenon of concentrations of nationalities that make their area similar to their country of origin. You do not have integration. That is the philosophy in France.

"The problem goes back to the 1950s and 1960s. The French took people from Algeria and Morocco for cheap labor, for manufacturing cars, or whatever. They don't have good living conditions and get paid low wages. After ten years, the family comes to join the guest worker. Then you have

a son and daughter, they are French and they go to school but are not accepted by society because they have Algerian origin.

"France ruled Algeria from 1833 to 1962. The French Algerians come to France to work and live and you didn't have a real problem with integration, but then the young people were born and they didn't have the same culture of the French in schools.

"During the Algerian war, you had Algerian people fight for the French, the Harkis, who were not supported when they were shipped to the South of France.

"Why do people join Islam? It's basic. They want an education, a set of rules for their lives. Islam is one of the religions that has a very nice communication and support when one has no support from society or family. Professors don't explain this. Many TV heroes are gangsters or make easy money.

"For me, the problem of the 21st century is not religion. Religion is designed to help people have a good life. But the problem is the people who explain the religion. Religion is good

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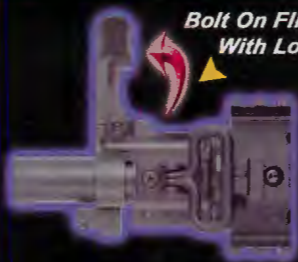
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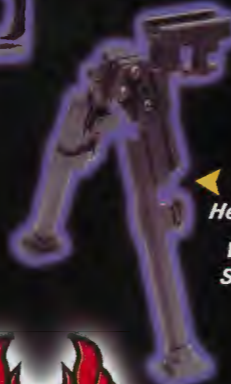
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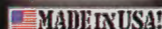


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and successful combat operation to be conducted in Afghanistan since 2002...As has been made very clear to me by my superiors, it is no exaggeration to say that the future of NATO, and of Afghanistan, hung in the balance."

Frasier noted his admiration for the unit adding, "The personal courage demonstrated time and again by the soldiers of Task Force 31 was remarkable, and I stand in awe of their mission focus, offensive spirit, and dedication...You are true warriors and epitomize the traits expected from the Special Forces community."

For the company commander, the success of the Special Forces-led operation hinged on the seamless and unified effort of both the conventional and unconventional forces.

"As the Global War on Terrorism continues, I believe we will see more of the need for U.S. infantry companies and Special Forces companies to work together for the common goal of ridding Afghanistan of the Taliban," he said. "The Battle of Sperwan Ghar should serve as an example of how conventional and unconventional U.S. combat forces can continue to compliment each other in winning this war." ✕



U.S. Special Forces ground commander and 10th Mountain Division Infantry company commander, Capt. Steven Helm, display Taliban propaganda discovered September 14 during operation, code name, MEDUSA in southern Afghanistan. Multiple caches of weapons, ammunition and Taliban propaganda were retrieved throughout the villages in the Panjway District during the operation. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Cauley)

because the story of religion is to help in life's path, but if your leader is bad, you see bad results.

"Antagonists in every religion want power for bad reasons.

"The solution is to change the politics. The only reality of immigration is money. Companies want people to work for low wages. There has to be real punishment for the criminal and the politicians have to propose real work with real payment.

"Let's say a riot starts in the Paris

suburb Saint Denis, you contact the leader of this and you pay the gang boss to stop the problem. That technique has been used for the last twenty years.

It was déjà vu. Texas Ranger Joaquin Jackson had presented the same solutions for the violent wars on the U.S. Southern Border in the January issue of SOF. ✕

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

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ing to the U.S. Constitution after you arrive here, that is when the rest of us should help the authorities to re-define you with deportation. And all of the street demonstrations and nasty behavior in the world won't help you, when you come here to destroy the U.S. Constitution.

My advice? Read the Constitution, take it to heart and live it every day. Be an American and you will be welcome!

Larry Russell Fisher ✕

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MADE IN AMERICA

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.

Winning the War

RAMADI, Iraq — "We're here to win." That's how a U.S. Marine corporal put it when I asked him what he was doing in Iraq. He spoke looking squarely into our TV camera — a more intimidating experience for him than the RPG fire he had just faced on the streets of this beleaguered city. When I pressed this 20-year-old from the heartland of America to tell me what "winning" meant to him, he was straightforward: "That's when these people don't need me to guard this street so their kids can go to school — when they can do it themselves."

The young corporal and I were standing outside a small elementary school in this shattered city, the capital of the largest province in Iraq. Al Qaeda terrorists had told local authorities — on pain of death — not to allow this female academic institution to un-shutter its doors. Apparently, little girls learning math and science pose a significant threat to radical Islamic jihadists.

Defiant parents appealed to the newly reconstituted Iraqi police for protection from the terrorists, and the police turned to Lt. Col. Bill Jurney, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. The little school is in his "A/O" (area of operations) in downtown Ramadi — a city of more than 400,000.

Jurney told the police that if they would man a new security sub-station in the same block as the school, his Marines would "back-stop" the cops. Despite murderous threats from Al Qaeda thugs, the police agreed. Aided by U.S. Navy Seabees, soldiers of the "Ready First" Combat Brigade of the 1st Armored Division and the Marines of 1/6, a police sub-station was constructed, literally overnight, in an abandoned building.

When the terror cell that had ruled this neighborhood for months attacked the new Iraqi police post, their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jabbar Inad al Namrawee, led an all-Iraqi QRF (quick reaction force) into the battle. In the ensuing gunfight, Jabbar was shot through the calf by an AK-47-wielding terrorist. By the time the battle was done, more than a dozen terrorists were dead and the

police, who call themselves "The sons of al Anbar," earned new respect from Ramadi's war-weary civilians.

Now, little more than a week after the fight, Jabbar is back at work, with fresh scars on his leg. His policemen patrol this neighborhood's streets, the little school has re-opened and Jurney's Marines are providing pencils, notebooks and backpacks to the children, as well as kerosene to heat their classrooms.

Opening police stations and girls' schools on the mean streets of Ramadi may not appear to be great victories to the critics of this war. But they are precisely the kind of events that need to happen countless times for the United States to claim victory in Iraq. Maj. Scott Kish, who leads the Civil Affairs Group attached to 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, notes that these actions "spawn success" because they "encourage Iraqis to take charge of their own destiny."

Getting the people of Iraq to take charge of their own destiny hasn't been easy. Though the Iraqi people voted in overwhelming numbers in last December's national elections, no one in Mesopotamia — other than exiles who have returned since Saddam's demise — has experienced living in a democracy. Western institutions of civil governance and discourse are as unfamiliar to the people here as the language spoken by their liberators. It has been an especially difficult transition in al Anbar — long a stronghold of Sunni opposition to U.S. forces and more recently, the democratically elected Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

After the all-out, U.S.-led fight for Fallujah in 2004, Ramadi became the home base for Al Qaeda, and the call to civil war. Everyone here — Americans, Iraqis and foreign-supported terrorists — knows that if Ramadi can be secured, half the battle for the future of Iraq will have been won.

Despite reports in the U.S. media to the contrary — the week we arrived in Ramadi a Washington Post headline blared "Anbar Picture Grows Clearer, and Bleaker" — the war here

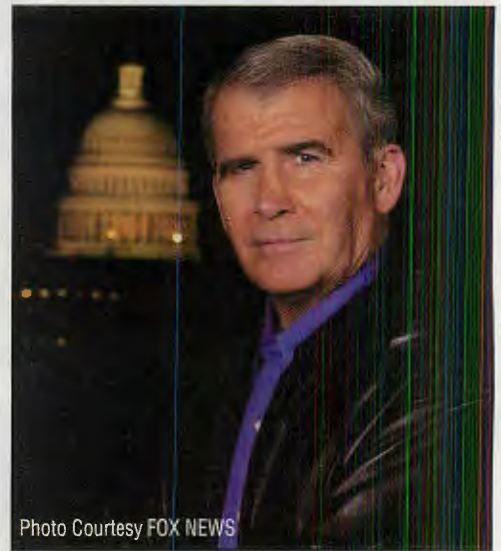


Photo Courtesy FOX NEWS

is being won. A predominantly Shia army and the Sunni police now man a Joint Coordination Center with their U.S. Army and Marine counterparts. Terrorists who once engaged in hours-long gunfights with U.S. units have been reduced to planting IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and occasional sniper, rocket and mortar attacks. Ramadi is still a dangerous place, but less so today than in any of our five previous trips to this city.

The Iraqis and Americans working together in Ramadi have no doubt that they can prevail in this fight. But privately, they wonder if Baghdad and Washington have that same vision. One U.S. officer told me, "the Iraqi security forces have plenty of courage, but some of their troops and cops out here haven't been paid for three months. Their problems are getting beans, bullets, Band-Aids and bucks from Baghdad."

Helping the Iraqis overcome those "five B's" must become a priority for Washington. Brave young American riflemen have shown the Iraqis how to fight and protect civilians. Now the civil leadership in Baghdad needs to be shown how to keep its own troops fed, equipped and paid. Only then can U.S. troops be sure that they really are winning. ✖

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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