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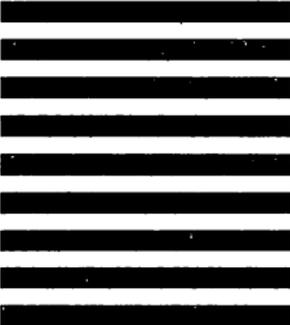
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

April 2007 • Vol. 32 No. 4

## AMERICA AT WAR

**THE LAST GUERRILLA** by Bruno Louis Moreno **24**  
“...One tough old S.O.B.”

**CROSSHAIRS AT A CROSSROADS** by E.J. Land, Jr. **32**  
USMC Snipers: Which Path Shall They Take?

**TERRORISM SITREP** by Dr. Martin Brass **60**  
Colombian cops uncover \$35 million stash of drug bucks, Turks nervous about Kurdish independence movements, smart bomb zaps Taliban chief in Afghanistan, big Chinese anti-terrorist exercises, Al Qaeda mastermind Abu Sayyaf killed in Philippines

**IRAQ: DEBATE & REALITY** by Jim Morris **62**  
There's A Lot More Going On In Iraq Than You See On TV

**COMMON SENSE** by Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.) **82**  
POTUS Gets Tough

## FEATURES

**FIGHT LIKE YOU TRAIN** by Richard Lucas **14**  
French Foreign Legion, guests, train like they will fight at CECAP Arta Plage

**MEDAL OF HONOR FOR A TWO-WAR HERO, Conclusion: Korea** **28**  
by Galen L. Geer  
Woodrow “Woody” Wilson Keeble’s Laurels Long Overdue

**BRAZIL COPS: “It’s War!”** by Dr. Martin Brass **42**  
SOF Interviews the Men On the Thin, Blue Frontline of South America’s Drug Wars

**THE GLOBAL RESPONSE PISTOL II** by Gary Paul Johnston **52**  
The Latest Masterpiece from Nighthawk

## COLUMNS

**COMMAND GUIDANCE** by Jim Morris **6**  
Don’t rely on the press corps as score-keepers, statisticians or historians

**FLAK** **8**  
From a Brit in Basrah; reader wants quiet .45 for troops; and, regarding when Bob Bushwhacked Bambi the Bear

**BULLETIN BOARD** **12**  
New law for those who would wear unauthorized medals, Guns of Afghanistan, Navy’s Crystal Ball, Jobs for vets

**THE WAR ON THE STREETS** by Officer Jim Fois (Ret.) LEAA **38**  
10 Fingers, 10 Toes, and No Holes

**COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT** by John Farnam **40**  
Some good stuff that caught Farnam’s experienced eye at SHOT 2007 in Orlando

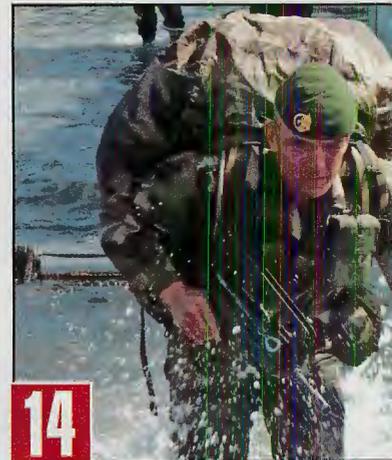
**ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER** by Denise Convertito **72**  
GG&G’s new Battle Hawk, new Uzi tritium wristwatches, Garmont T8 Tactical boot, Charter Arms’ Southpaw Undercover revolver, Buck’s New X-Tract™ Multi-Tool, Aimpoint’s MicroT-1 and Comp4 Sights



**On The Cover**  
BOPE Captain at the ready. Photo: BOPE, Page 42.



**24**



**14**



**52**

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Supply Depot **56**  
Advertisers’ Index **56**



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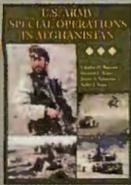


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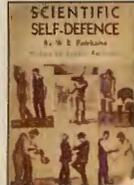
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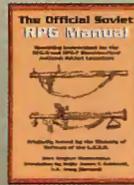
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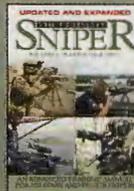
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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

By Jim Morris

## Here's A Partial Score

Remember George Carlin's line? "Here's a partial score, Villanova 13." Reporting of American combat actions are like that. All they report is American casualties. If that was all one had to go on one would think that American troops cower and wait to be slaughtered. Remember the report of 18 American Rangers being killed in Somalia? When that happened I read everything I could find about it, and watched the evening news like everybody else. Six weeks later, in *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, I learned that the Americans had killed between 600 and a thousand Somalis who were besieging them on their escape from that part of Mogadishu.

Why is this not the source of the same pride that Texans feel for the Alamo? I doubt if 10% of the American public realizes that we have a 20 to one kill ratio in Iraq, or that American battle deaths are one-tenth what they were in Vietnam after this long in combat. Nor does the American media cover acts of valor by American service personnel. The net result of this amounts to libel. Our service personnel are being cheated of the honor they deserve for the courage they have shown, and the American public is being cheated of the pride they deserve to feel for the young people who fight for them. In WWII if you won the Medal of Honor they made a movie about you. If you win it today you won't make the evening news. In my lifetime I have practiced two professions, soldiering and journalism. The one fills me with pride, the other with shame and anger.

It has been argued that the me-

dia don't print American reports of enemy casualties because they don't trust them. Fair enough. Anybody who takes anything said by a public relations person, whether military, or civilian, at face value is an idiot. Their job is not to report accurately. Their job is to make their client look good. The press still has an obligation to give their best estimate of enemy casualties. If they don't have enough knowledge of military affairs to make an estimate they're covering the wrong story, and should be doing police reports in Cincinnati. The American media seem to believe that the Heisenberg effect works in physics, but not journalism. But in the war on terror the effect goes far beyond that. Terrorism is public relations' evil twin. The media are not only part of the war, they are the key part. The terrorist's objective is not to kill Americans; it is to demoralize America. Objectivity is not part of the equation. If you're not on one side you're on the other. President Bush is not the enemy. Radical Islam is the enemy, and the way the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are covered serves radical Islam as faithfully as though radical Islam was the sole advertiser. ☒

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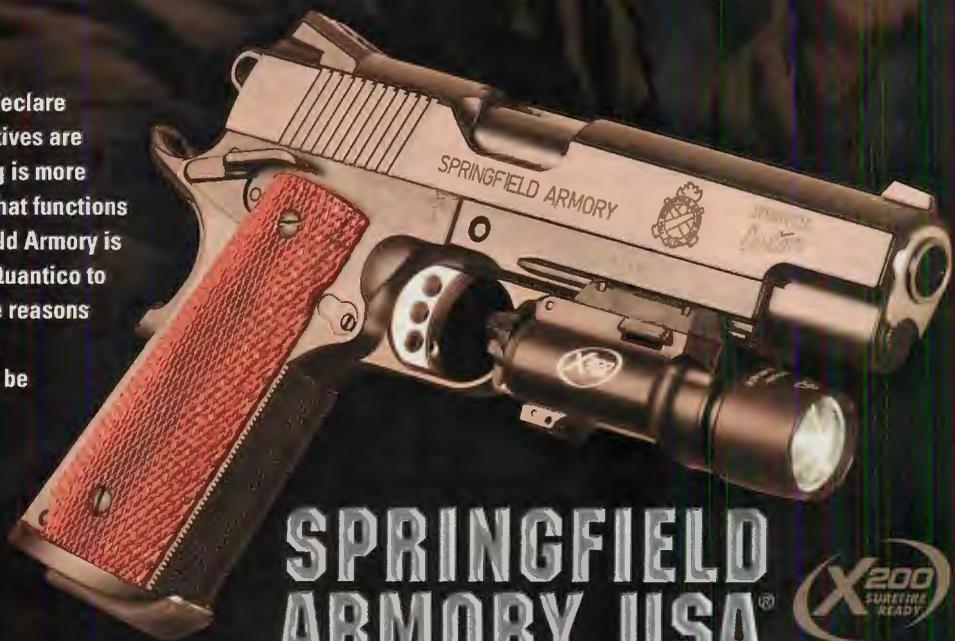
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## G'd Day to You,

What a fantastic Magazine. I've been subscribing for the last 10 - 15 years but have been reading it on and off for the last 30 years.

I'm a warrant officer serving with the British Army in Basrah; Been here since April 2006 and I'm doing a year, had to see what it's like, after all if my Colonial Cousins can do it so can I. One thing that does interest me is that your Mag is doing a lot of coverage about Baghdad but nothing Down South, how about an Article on the Brits in Basrah?

I've three months to push then once I'm back in England if an article hasn't been written, I'll simply put some points on paper and e-mail them to you, if that's OK.

I do admire the American Military, without faltering you still send those young men and women forward, outstanding. Although on the surface the American mortality rate appears to be way above our sacrifices, statistically they are (almost) the same. It is still sad however that politicians in the blink of an eye can decide to sacrifice so many brave military personnel.

Well enough of that, I guess where ever we are from, we support our own ideals and of course our National Flag, the two biggest flags in the world both standing for Freedom, Democracy, Fair Play, Honesty and Integrity. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to your Staff and to the American people, both Civilian and Military may you continue to (at-tempt) bring fairness and decency to the World. With our HELP of course.

Kind Regards,  
A.J. Hones  
Warrant Officer, Infantry  
Southern Iraq



## Hi-Cap 1911 With Threaded Barrel

I have been an SOF reader for several years and always look forward to your magazine in my mailbox. I do a lot of thinking and have thought of several products that I didn't have the money to push to fruition, only to see them show up in someone's catalog a few years later. I came up with a device that the sniper school in Quantico was (and I quote) "extremely interested in" (it is a sniper gadget). I just didn't have the money to make it happen. I have several other ideas but little money.

But that is really not why I am writing you. I have been keeping up with all the talk about the selection of the new armed forces pistol. I teach the Kentucky CCDW class with a .22 suppressed P22 Walther. The class gets all excited when they learn they will be shooting a suppressed weapon. I call it a "glorified muffler." I think all our troops should have them where possible. Is not a man's hearing worth 300 dollars? They are simple devices which, when not involved in politics, cost little to make. I sure wish someone would have told me to wear earplugs when I was young.

Anyway, I think the new pistol should be a hi-cap .45 ACP with a threaded barrel (because the .45 is subsonic and the .40 S&W is not... even though I carry a .40 229 SiG for protection). I hope I never have to use it, but one or two shots from a .40 in self defense once in a lifetime is not as damaging as fighting a war on one's hearing. Of course suppressors are not standard issue yet, but I think someday they will (and should) be. A thread protector could be installed until that happens. BTW, I think ALL 5.56's should be suppressed as a matter of health and to preserve our soldier's hearing. I would opt for that over a space ship for the Marines anytime. Thanks for listening.

Terry Gardner

## Bambi the Bear Letter #1

Congrats on the bear. His spirit should be proud to have been taken by one such as yourself.

Many thanks to Sergeant Wrathall on his insight on the rest of the "usual suspects" regarding the abandonment of Rhodesia. Please pass my e-mail address to him if possible.

Great coverage on our Snipers! There is no excuse for the problems they're encountering. Love to see the M14 still in action! You can keep your \$4000 Rem Model 24/40 etc. My loaded M1A is a 3/4" grouper. I'm sure the Marine's armorers are turning out rifles that are as good or better - at a cheaper price! (How about an article on the different configurations being used.)

Got a bunch of magazines for the troops including SOF. Is LTC Howard's address still good?

Support the troops.  
Buddy Lilley

LTC Howard and his band of stalwarts from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division will

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**SUREFIRE**

be home by the time you read this (see "Bulletin Board" this issue), but watch that column for info on Jerry Sullivan's next adopted troops there. Keep hoarding mags and other morale items, and we'll be glad to tell you where to send 'em.

## Bambi the Bear Letter #2

In reference to the article of the retired Lieutenant Colonel and his "trophy" bear, I find the concept disgusting. Articles such as this are what give ethical hunters and hunting a bad name. If this rich windbag doesn't want to stomp through the muck to hunt a bear, then he does not deserve the opportunity to kill one of these creatures at any price.

Cruising the waters edge in his comfortable boat and shooting the bear from the safety of the water, is akin to cruising the back roads in his comfy 4x4 and shooting the big elk out the window so he doesn't have to stomp in the muck. I shudder to think what a trend this may start, and I am shocked that Jim West had a part in it. It makes me wonder if ethics has a price, and that ethics only apply to those who can't afford to circumvent them.

This leads me to think that if you have enough money to buy two-two

thousand dollar guns and a fancy boat, that you can buy whatever else aids in your comfort. You have too good of a magazine to publish unethical tripe such as this. There are plenty of ethical hunters out there that are stomping through the muck and hunting their wildlife ethically that will give you good stories. Don't patronize these slobs who think that they are elite because they have the bucks to spend. What is next for this bozo? Sitting in his sauna and pushing a button on his computer so that he can kill his next trophy without

exerting himself?

I hope that you have better judgment than to publish any more ethics violations like this.

An ethical hunter,  
Bill Conrad  
New Mexico

Dear Bill:

Who are you to judge how I should hunt a bear? Can one only hunt bear "stomp-

*Continued on page 81*



# MISSION ESSENTIAL GEAR



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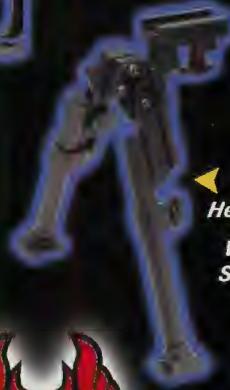
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Bearing the name-sake and ball sign of legendary Navy SEAL Paul Basal, this knife is the new choice of operational warriors throughout the globe! Designed by Basal with the Dark Ops design chief, it features all the critical items for a Modern Spec-Ops knife. The Shadow offers an extended blade length for penetrating Comm-bloc frag vests with an accelerated spearpoint tip and sharpened foretip for maximum penetration. The top edge features a bone breaker and a radical, self-cleaning BlastRip™ saw for carving survival notches in spears and anchoring notches for detonation cord. A pat pend. BarbSnap™ cutter allows for rapid notching and snapping of interdiction wires in entry ops. An abbreviated top-hilt/bottle opener works with a new serrated palmstop, allowing for a reverse grip with an astonishing six linear inches of surface area! The Shadow features a corrosion resistant finish designed to take the saltwater immersion often involved in SEAL operations. The handle is made of a low-durometer, high tensile aramid composite that is impervious to everything from aviation fuel to Al Qaeda body fluids. The handle is thinner and wider for greater mechanical advantage with deep finger grooves orienting the blade axis of the knife in the hand and dramatically increasing effective grip surface. A prominent WhipLok™ finger notch provides an axis point for hacking as well as 200 degrees of grip area, ideal with wet hands or when using gloves. The handles are field



replaceable to blend with woodland, desert or black camo schemes. Quartz impregnated inserts provide extreme circumstances grip enhancement and are replaceable should decontamination be required. The Basal Shadow utilizes the same CTV2 Blade Steel and CryoHardening techniques as the StratoFighter Folders! The hilts do not protrude forward effectively reducing the length of the blade. Hollow grinding lends to greater cutting and slashing effectiveness. Deep blood grooves keep the weight of the full .250 inch thick blade properly balanced in the hand. The black Titanium CarboNitride (TiCN) vacuum deposited finish is designed to shed the micro-fine airborne sand of Middle-Eastern deserts.

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# BULLETIN BOARD



◀ When you read this, LTC Mike Howard and his mighty men of the 3-71 Cav, 10th Mtn Div, will have rotated home from Afghanistan after a tour of very hard, very well-done work. They didn't make it home for Christmas, but sent us this picture of an Afghan reindeer, as a token of thanks for the support from SOF readers individually and through Jerry Sullivan and Support Our Troops. Watch this space for how to support Jerry's next batch of adoptees, and in the meantime keep on stashing away that jerky, trail bars, drink mixes and other comfort items and we'll let you know how to send it. Photo: Courtesy LtCol Mike Howard

▶ U.S. Army Pvt. Anton Slobodnik pulls security on an alleyway in Baghdad, Iraq, 5 Dec. 2006, while his squad is stopped at an Iraqi army outpost. Slobodnik is from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Photo: Sgt. Martin K. Newton, U.S. Army.



## The Guns of AFGHANISTAN



◀ Yes, Afghanistan is the wild, wild, west. Photo: Paul Avallone

▼ Ahah! We knew they used a crystal ball... Navy Aerographer's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Mariano Varela assesses the light at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti with a haleograph. Sailors from Lemonier's Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment visited Djiboutian counterparts to share data and techniques for weather prediction. Photo: U.S. Navy by MCS2 Roger S. Duncan



The Civil Defense symbol, created in 1939 by Charles T. Coiner, art director of the N.W. Ayer advertising agency (who also designed the National Recovery Administration's blue eagle) is being retired. The symbol is familiar to generations of Americans, who remember air raid drills, fallout shelters and the world's grungiest survival crackers. Noted Richard Grefe, executive director of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, "The old mark fits in the same category of simplicity and impact occupied by the London Underground map."



## Stolen Valor Act

Senate Bill S-1998, The Stolen Valor Act, sailed through the House before being signed into law by President Bush. Hats off to lawmakers for working in a wholesome bipartisan manner with its sponsor, Colorado Congressman and veteran John T. Salazar, and to Ms. Pam Sterner of Pueblo, Colorado for her efforts initiating and authoring this bill, and Jug Burkett for his years of effort bringing this problem into the spotlight.

Phony war "heroes" beware: Now you are going to jail for stealing the honor of our nation's true heroes. The meat of the new law provides: "Whoever falsely represents... to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States, any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration, or medal, or any colorable imitation of such item shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than six months, or both." And for medals of higher degree it provides, "If a decoration or medal involved... is a distinguished-service cross... a Navy cross... an Air Force cross... a silver star... a Purple Heart... or any replacement or duplicate medal for such medal as authorized by law... the offender shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both."

False wearing or unauthorized production or commerce in the Medal of Honor is protected under existing law.

## Jobs for Vets & Adopt-A-Veteran

If you know of any military veteran/retiree who is looking for a job, you can refer them to the following outstanding web site: <http://www.vetjobs.com>.

Founder/president Ted Daywalt of VetJobs has been providing this excellent service for many years and is well known in the industry. The hiring employer pays for the job match - there is no charge to the vet.

Probably by the time you read this, the Adopt-A-Veteran program will be up and running. It is a program for volunteers to just be a one-on-one friend to a hospitalized, home bound or disabled veteran and there will be no charge to the participants. In Phoenix the program will be coordinated by ViCaP—a division of the Beatitudes

Center, the Veteran's

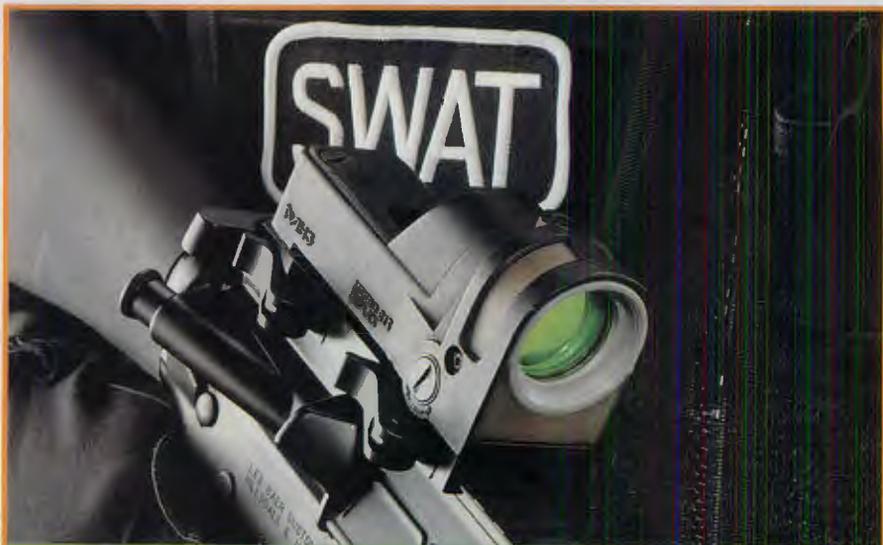
Administration, Arizona Dept. of Veteran Services and U.S.Vets. Check out the Vet Jobs website for information on this program as develops.

## Carter Center Board Members Pack It In

Fourteen members of an advisory board at the Carter Center have resigned, saying they could "no longer in good conscience continue to serve" following publication of former President Jimmy Carter's controversial

book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*.

"It seems that you have turned to a world of advocacy, including even malicious advocacy," the board members wrote in a letter, a copy of which was reviewed by *The Wall Street Journal*. "We can no longer endorse your strident and uncompromising position. This is not the Carter Center or Jimmy Carter we came to respect and support. Therefore it is with sadness and regret that we hereby tender our resignation from the Board of Councilors of the Carter Center effective immediately." ✕



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Rappelling with FAMAS rifle at the ready, a Legionnaire descends mountainside at CECAP.



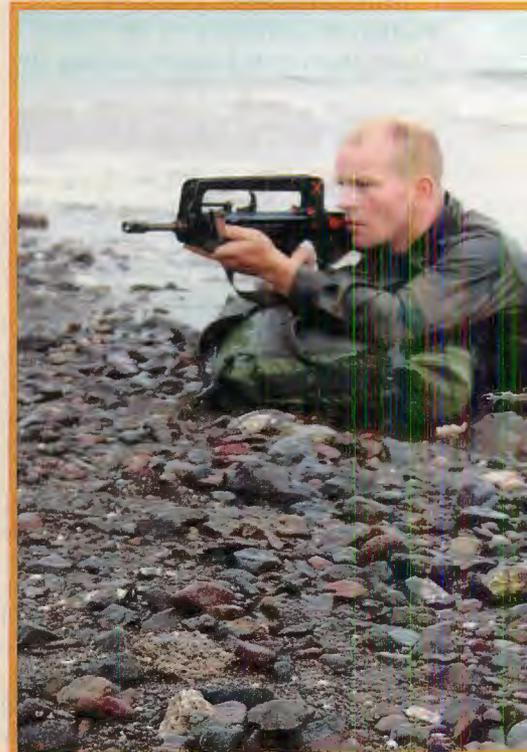
# One of the World's Most Professional Fighting Forces, and Guests, Train Like They Will Fight, at CECAP Arta Plage

Text & Photos by Richard Lucas

**W**e head west after leaving the 13 DBLE (*Demi Brigade Légion Etrangère*), the Legion's main base in Djibouti City, the capital and only city in the east African country of Djibouti. The National Route No.1 that we are on is the lifeline of the country, the main commercial artery for transport of goods from neighboring Ethiopia to the port of Djibouti. We pass through a couple villages, past truck stops and depots, isolated points on a barren map. After about 40 kilometers or so, we turn off the paved highway, leaving the small vein of human activity, and take a dirt track heading north across a broad stretch of desert. As we follow the dusty road deeper into the tough, arid landscape, I spot a few tents and the occasional herder with his flocks – the only inhabitants in this austere region.

The CECAP (*Centre d'Entrainement*

# Fight Like You Train





One student traverses a rope, while another scales a pipe up sheer cliff at CECAP. Note skull and crossbones and inscription that means "hell's way."

Commando Arta Plage), the French Foreign Legion commando training center, lies due north, on the south shore of the Gulf of Tadjoura, an arm of the Red Sea. As we cross the dusty plain, craggy hills appear on both sides and we continue across the sand and rock until we reach Oued

Amphibian assault starts before the waters edge, as trainees fire prone from the surf at CECAP.



Der Ela, a dry river bed that cuts through the mountains, creating a narrow pass to the sea. The only signs of civilization are the kilometer signs that mark our progress and an occasional pyramid of stones painted red and green, the colors of the Legion. Once out of the magnificent gorge of dry rock we cross a flat plain with only a few kilometers remaining until we reach the sea and the CECAP. Suddenly, painted on the side of the cliff, I spot an immense skull and crossbones with the inscription "Voie de l'Inconscient" ("Hell's Way") marking the location of the formidable commando obstacle course. To the U.S. Marines who went through the training center last year it was "Hell's Way." The steel cables and concrete blocks attached to the sheer rock cliff make up the dozen obstacles for which Arta Plage

has gained a reputation as being one of the most difficult and challenging commando schools in the world.

For more than a hundred and fifty years, French troops have been present in the strategically located country of Djibouti. The 13 Demi-Brigade de la Legion Etrangère, created in 1940 as part of the Free French forces during World War II, was permanently stationed here in 1962. From the beginning, the Legion used the Arta Plage area for training. The isolated area with good access to the sea is ideal for amphibious maneuvers and the rough terrain is excellent for desert training. As time went on, tents were replaced by solid structures and, under the direction of the legionnaire Sgt. Cavagna, the commando courses were set up.

In 1982 the center was officially established and authorized to issue the prestigious Arta Plage Commando qualification badge. Since then the center evolved and acquired a solid expertise in training troops for

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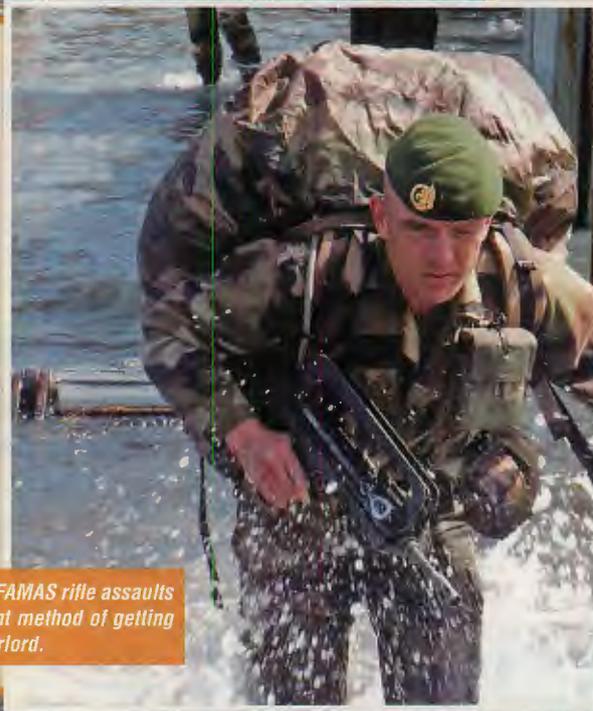
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*If trainees are going to learn how to infil through barbed wire – might as well do it at night. Such training also teaches teamwork.*



combat in desert conditions and amphibious operations. Today the training center is composed of more than 20 structures. The facilities in the main building include the captain's office, a dining area and rec room for the instructors, the communications center, and the kitchens. On either side are maintenance shops, the infirmary, staff quarters and storage facilities. Behind are open-air cabins for the trainees and the electrical generators and water purification facilities, which make the center capable of several weeks of autonomous

*Legionnaire trainee with full field pack and FAMAS rifle assaults off a mechanized landing craft – an efficient method of getting troops in the fight ever since Operation Overlord.*



operation.

Upon arrival at Arta Plage the soldiers are put through a series of physical tests to determine if they are prepared to handle the three weeks of rigorous training that lie ahead of them. The test includes push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, squats, an upper-body rope climb and mile run. Also, a 200-meter swim with weapon, where the soldier must drop the rifle in about 10 feet of water, dive down and retrieve it and return to shore. Normally out of a platoon-size group of 40 or so soldiers, of a well-trained active, combat-ready unit, four or five fail the entrance test.

Capt. Le Bihan, officer in command of the center explains, "This is a really difficult training course here at the CECAP and it can be dangerous if certain precautions aren't taken. Our first and foremost priority is the safety of the participants. The first thing is to make sure that they are physically and mentally prepared to handle the course. So we begin with a barrage of tests as a way of avoiding injuries and accidents later on during the school." Other security measures include the presence of a medical officer and a Legion medic. Radio contact with the 13<sup>th</sup> DBLE main base is maintained in case of serious injury where evacuation by

*Continued on page 20*

*Zodiac inflatable assault boats plow through idyllic East African waters to land on a Djibouti beach.*

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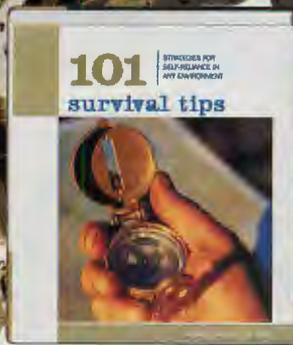
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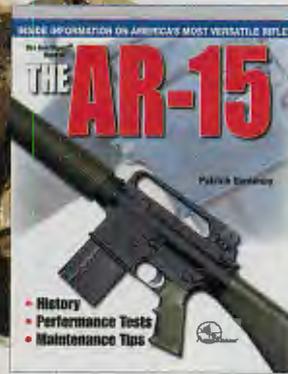
The muzzle velocity of the M-16 is 3,110 feet per second.\*

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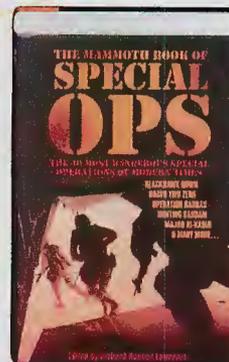
\*M16A1 firing 55 grain, .223 round



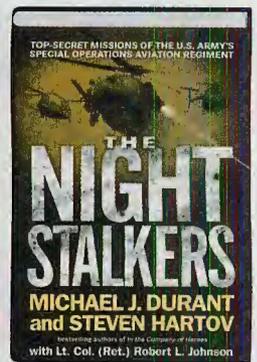
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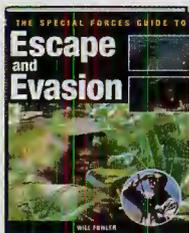
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As warfare evolves in the 21st century, Special Operations take on a more pivotal role than ever: Here are 40 of the most critical missions in recent years—including the US Delta forces in Somalia, and many more. *Illustrations.*  
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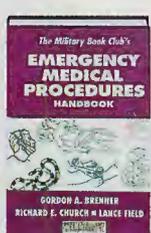
The men of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) are notoriously reticent about their work. But because Michael Durant is one of them, they talked. The result: a true insider's look at SOAR (A) combat missions.  
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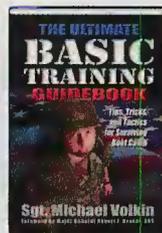
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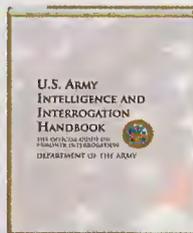
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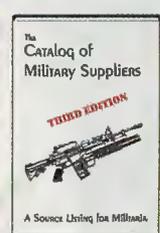
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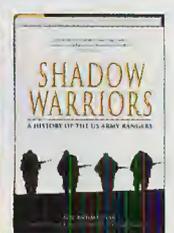
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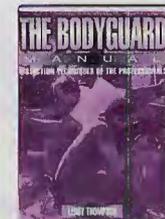
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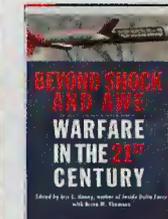
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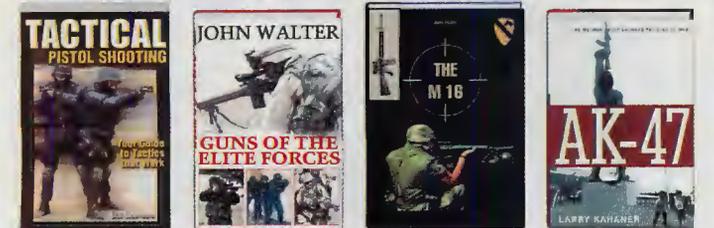


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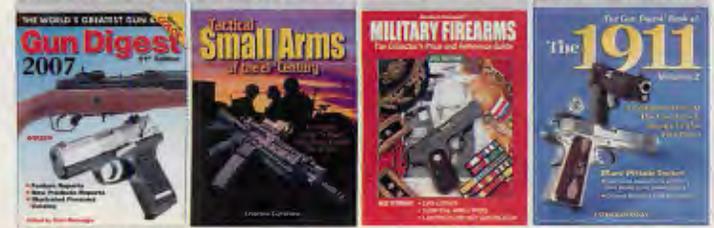
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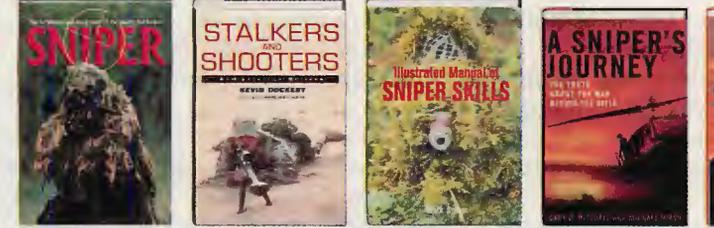
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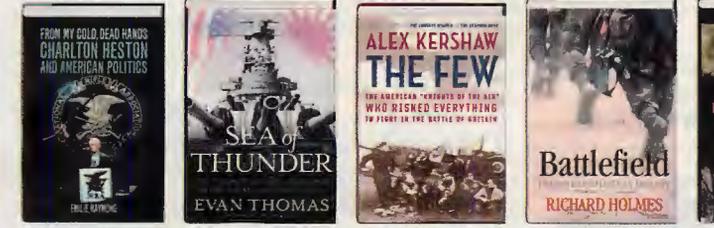
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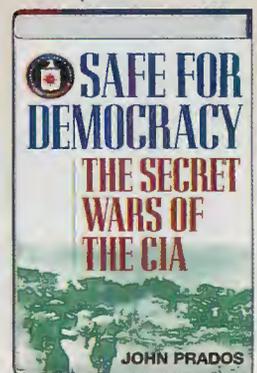
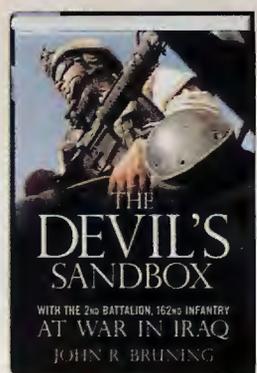
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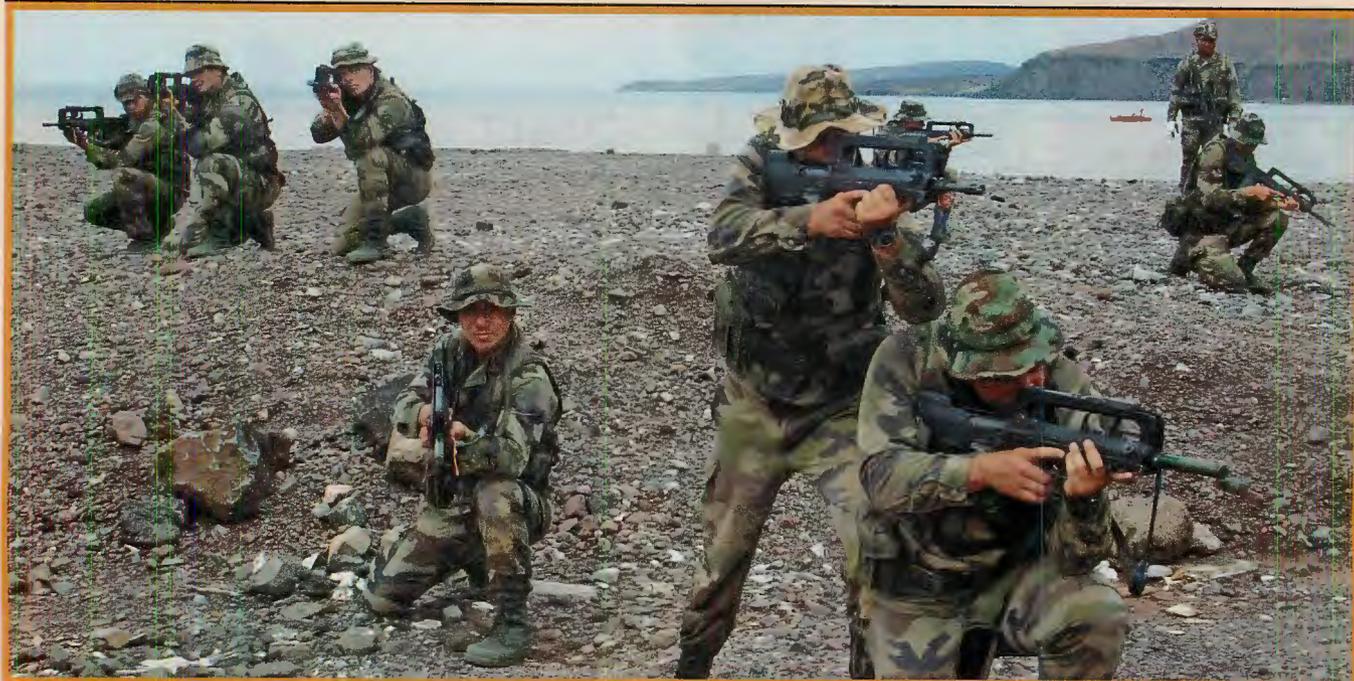
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Small-unit tactics are practiced on the beach, as trainees would form up after debarking assault craft.

helicopter would be called for.

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**Combat in rough terrain:** Rappelling, rope work for building bridges, overcoming obstacles.

**Survival training:** Camouflage and concealment, aquatic survival, navigation, improvised explosives, hand-to-hand combat, etc.

**Armored vehicles:** Debarking, combat with coordinated armor support.

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From left, the Ultra CDP II™ .45 ACP, Aegis II™ 9mm and Ultra RCP II™ .45 ACP along with the new Kimber LifeAct™ Guardian Angel™ non-lethal self defense device.

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*Continuing the Legacy*

## Portrait of an Instructor: Arta Plage

Corporal Imre Andras is near the end of his two-year assignment as an instructor at Arta Plage. His enlistment in the French Foreign Legion began at the Legion recruitment office in Strasbourg, capital of the Alsace region of France.

"Back home in Hungary things were OK. I was working at different small jobs, but I wanted to do something different. Something more exciting, more of an adventure. I had heard about the Legion and had spoken with a couple guys who had been in. Finally I gathered up my courage and decided to give it a try. So one day I bought a train ticket and set off for Strasbourg, the nearest French city. When I arrived at the station I got a taxi and using what English and the little French I knew, explained to the driver what I wanted. He dropped me off in front of the Legion recruitment office at the regional military headquarters, the "Quartier Lecourbe."

I was shown a film and given information in Hungarian as to what we could expect in enlisting and the different possibilities they offered. In brief what it was all about. We all went through a preliminary medical exam and those who were selected and still sure they wanted to enlist were put on a train and sent to Legion Headquarters in Aubagne in the south of France. I spent three weeks there going through tests and selection procedures before being sent to basic training at 4<sup>th</sup> Legion Regiment based at Castelnaudary."

"I did pretty well at basic so I had a choice as to where I would go, so I choose the 2<sup>nd</sup> REP the Legion paratroop regiment. At Calvi, 2<sup>nd</sup> REP Headquarters, I was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> company, the mountain company, specialized in rough terrain combat and winter conditions. I served eight years with the "2nd" and was ski and Alpine qualified. When I finished the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of Command School, the Instructor level certificate, I applied for a post here at Arta Plage."

"At the CECAP my specialty is climbing techniques, rappelling and rope work, whatever has to do with mountain combat. But here at the center we are all crossed-trained so we can replace another instructor if need be or just as a change of pace to break up the routine."

"All in all I'm glad I spent two years here. We've got a good team of instructors and relations with the soldiers who come to the school have been excellent. You know we're not here to give them a hard time or to break them. We want them to do their best, to succeed and try to help them as much as we can. There's a lot of satisfaction seeing them graduate and [be] proud that they've earned the right to wear the CECAP Commando medal." ❄

intensity combat. The afternoons are usually reserved for classes on desert camouflage, explosives, first aid, squad formation on water and land, land-navigation skills, knot tying for rope bridges, desert and water survival and hand-to-hand combat. As these skills are learned they are applied in the field training sessions. The classroom training and rest periods are carried out at regular intervals to allow the men to recuperate after the activities requiring sustained physical effort.

The school emphasizes individual weapons training with live-fire exercises on the rifle range and in simulated combat situations such as ambushes, debarkation from rafts or armored vehicles, and evacuation of wounded under fire, etc. Here the goal is to coordinate firepower for maximum effect and develop the reflexes needed for efficiency in combat.

At the end of the program, the trainees are sent out on a three-day operation where they put the skills learned during the training into practical use. To reach their objectives they have to overcome obstacles, navigate through miles of rough terrain, deploy for combat, regroup, reconnoiter with helicopters or surface vessels and continue on, both day and night. Once the missions are accomplished, they return to the training center to receive the coveted Arta Plage Commando qualification.

March 2002 Arta Plage celebrated its 20th anniversary. At present, the center receives and trains about 400



*Training in an urban setting has become more important among allies in the war against terrorism.*

commandos a year. Most are members of the French forces posted in Djibouti. The majority are from Legion units on attachment to the 13<sup>th</sup> DBLE, others include the French and Djibouti Army units and French Air Force pilots who go through a special two-week program designed for pilot survival.

In November 2002, for the first time, American troops were received at the school. The group comprised U.S. Army Rangers and U.S. Marines, members of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa stationed at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, went through the training alongside a group of legionnaires from the 1<sup>st</sup> REG, the Legion's combat engineer regiment. Out of the 34 American GIs who began the school, 25 succeeded and now wear the CECAP medal on their uniforms.

Some of the Americans who par-

*Continued on page 81*



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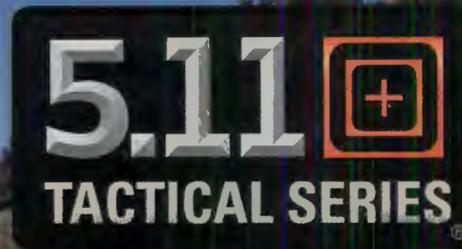


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# THE LAST



# GUERRILLA

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**“...One Tough Old S.O.B.”** By Bruno Luis Moreno  
Photos From Author's Files

*Few Americans have ever heard of him, but he controls the largest, deadliest narco-guerrilla army in the world. Old “Sureshot’s” narco-funded gunslingers range over the mountains, valleys, jungles and plains of Colombia... and beyond. How has he been able to fight for so long, and still survive? Here SOF takes a hard look at Manuel Marulanda Velez, leader of FARC.*

“In the communist revolutionary conflicts that have slowly burned in the Western Hemisphere since the

1960s, he is the last guerrilla,” says Major Andy Messing, U.S. Army Special Forces (retired). Messing, the executive director of the Washington-based National Defense Council Foundation, ought to know, as he has made a career out of studying guerrilla, unconventional and irregular warfare in Colombia and Latin America for the past three decades. He has even interviewed FARC guerrillas face-to-face.

### The Old Rebel

Born in 1928 to a peasant family in Quindio, the coffee-growing region

of Colombia, “Old Sureshot’s” known biography is a mix of folklore and fact. The oldest of five kids, he was a natural leader who took charge wherever he was. In the 1950s he was a woodcutter who hooked up with the Communist Party of Colombia. It is rumored that he assassinated an army officer who was tutoring local people, when the captain would not pay him extortion money: One day he confronted the captain in the town square and shot him in the face with a rusty, old pistol and then fled to the mountains.

He became known as a sly, crafty

tactical commander who always escaped the Army's grasp. It is rumored that for a time in the 1970s he lived in Havana with a Cuban woman, then returned to Colombia with Cuban advisors fresh from combat experience in Angola. "He has been declared dead hundreds of times by the Colombian Army, but let's face it: He's still here," says a retired intelligence officer. "Manuel Marulanda Velez is the last of a dying breed who have actually kept a guerrilla army in the field, fighting a long string of Colombian governments for close to 45 years now," he continued.

Martulanda is popularly known as the "Tirofijo" (sureshot) in his native Colombia. It is said he is almost a fantasy-like character who has become more legend than true military commander in the longest-running conflict in the Western Hemisphere. However, he is responsible for part of the 250,000 Colombians killed in the ongoing, bloody conflict. He is also responsible for taking some 60 American citizens hostage and murdering 15 of them. Three U.S. defense contractors are being held hostage by the FARC as this is written. Many Colombia experts still contend that he is the supreme *Commandante* today, ordering assassinations and tactical operations nationwide.

When he became a guerrilla with the Patriotic Union in the 1960s, he assumed the nickname of "Sureshot." He is not known to have ever married, but has reportedly fathered more than 50 children with various women. That may be the reason he is actually called "Sureshot," offers a smiling Special Forces master sergeant from the 7th Group. One of his daughters, Olga Marin, is said to be a FARC officer who lives as a guest of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

"This guy should be studied carefully: He's



Muzzle of his Galil in the dirt, a FARC field commander folds up a captured Colombian flag after an attack that killed 19 policemen. (below) Colombian National Policeman killed during FARC attack ordered by Commandante "Sureshot." More than six thousand policemen have been killed in the line of duty since 1990.



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"Sureshot's" handiwork: In a 2004 attack on a village in southwest Colombia, 33 people were slaughtered by the FARC. Some were set ablaze.

a survivor," says Messing. This assessment, by one of the foremost authorities on low-intensity conflict, is a begrudging acknowledgement to the narco-guerrilla's toughness and longevity. It goes without saying, that to lead the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) for more than four decades is an amazing ac-

complishment. He's done it because he has been able to parlay Marxist ideology with agrarian reform, political misdirection, vicious criminal acts and drug trafficking to finance it all – in a country where brutal violence is the norm, rather than the exception. In sum: he's one tough, old S.O.B.

## Unmasking the Truth

Messing, who has made dozens of fact-finding and humanitarian-assistance missions to Colombia, has actually met with FARC *commandantes*, face-to-face, to discuss "Sureshot." "It's one of the most unusual situations I've found myself in," he says. "In the 1980s they (FARC) were living off support from the commies in Russia and Cuba, today they are the largest narco-guerrilla organization on the face of the earth." He added, "they gave up socialism when they got their Gold Cards."

For years, Messing's old comrades in the Special Forces community were convinced that the Colombian guerrillas were using the drug trade to fund their operations. Ample evidence linked the Nicaragan Sandinistas to the FARC in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In 1996, Messing briefed congressmen, senators and senior members of the National Security Council in the Clinton administration on the change taking place, where guerrillas went into the narco-business, supporting themselves by growing, producing and trafficking cocaine and heroin. He takes no comfort in knowing that he

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made the correct call on this matter. Like the failures in dealing with Al Queda and other terror organizations elements of our intelligence agencies were obviously asleep at the switch in that period.

The key point here, is that when "Sureshot" turned FARC into a world-class drug cartel it took years and years to do it. The FARC hired businessmen from all over the globe to set up and teach them to run the drug trade, launder money and get more weapons. According to official reports, this slow, insidious process went unnoticed by the DEA and special operators until the mid-1990s when Messing and others sounded the wakeup call.

U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Myles Frechette (1994-1997) declared to journalist Robert Novak in 1996, "there was no direct linkage of the FARC to drug trafficking." On 14 February 1997, Major Messing testified before a Congressional Oversight Committee and basically accused the Ambassador of hiding the truth. Within four months, Ambassador Frechette was quietly moved out of Bogota and the preparation for what was later

known as "Plan Colombia" had begun. Due in part to Messing's reports to Congress, the FARC was finally placed on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). Today, sorry to say, little progress has been made in the fight against FARC and narco-terrorism in Colombia. It's clear that the effort by the U.S. State Department has failed. With Colombian cocaine and heroin pouring into the United States, the facts outweigh the State Department's bogus claims of success.

With the destruction of the Medellin and Cali drug cartels by the Colombian National Police and our DEA in the early 1990s, our intel folks (for political reasons) ignored the fact that the Colombian guerrillas had gone into the drug business. "The State Department weenies turned a blind eye to the obvious change, and the Clinton White House was happily content to deal with Bosnia, and Monica Lewinsky," says a former DEA agent with long service in Colombia. "Guys like Andy Messing were attacked by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement,

*Continued on page 77*

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# MEDAL OF HONOR FOR A TWO-WAR HERO

## CONCLUSION - KOREA

### Woodrow "Woody" Wilson Keeble's Laurels Long Overdue

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

After volunteering for Korea in 1952, the hero of Guadalcanal joined the replacement pool and was ultimately assigned to the 1st Platoon, Golf Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, a unit that had been badly bloodied. Contact with Communist Chinese 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.

At 0500 hrs on October 13, the 1st Battalion, supported with the 2nd Platoon of medium M4E8 tanks and an Anti-tank platoon, led the offensive in an attack of "Objective 'Able'" (map coordinates are given in official documents, but no other identifying features). The individual objectives for the battalion's companies were or-

ganized as: Alpha Company to seize objectives One and Two, Bravo Company objectives Three and Four and Charlie Company objective Able.

The 3rd Battalion, augmented by 1st Platoon, Company D of the 6th Medium tank Battalion, was to seize Objective "B." The S-3 After-Action Report vaguely reports that, "Due to heavy resistance neither objective was secured the first day." On the morning of October 14, Kilo Company was attacked by a CCF battalion and was forced to withdraw from its night position. On the morning of the 14th the First and Third Battalions resumed their attack and by 1100 hours both Objectives Alpha and Baker had been secured.

The forward momentum of the 24th Division's attack, with the ROK 2nd and 6th Divisions on its left and right flanks respectively, sent shock waves into the CCF command. Although they had been using the wrangling of the truce talks in Panmunjom to re-supply their units and bring up replacements, the U.S. Air Force bomb-

ing campaign had slowed both. CCF commanders ordered their units to make greater exertions to prevent the loss of more key terrain features.

### The Cannon Fodder In Reserve

Those orders didn't stop the northward movement of the 24th Division, but it did slow it. On the battlefield of the 19th Infantry, the bloodletting was just beginning. Former Master Sergeant Fred Whitehead, a platoon leader for Charlie Company, told Merry Helm that when he returned to regiment it became obvious that the command had planned for the meat grinder the 19th had been thrown into. "They knew what kind of casualties they were going to have. They had men sitting back there [regiment], all they had to do was bring them up on the line."

The 2nd Battalion, which included Keeble in Golf Company, was in reserve and was not committed to the attack until the afternoon of October 15, when it went on the assault to secure Objectives "D" and "E," an as-



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



*The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Vietnam Veterans' Color Guard and the Wahpeton Color Guard present the colors, including the tribal colors, at a Ceremony honoring Keeble and to present duplicate medals to his widow. Color Guard Members Are: traditional staff bearers Dwayne Wanna and Ed Williams, rifle Guards Jay Renbill and Perry Lufkins, American flag Gerald Thompson, POW Flag Dayton VN Veterans Assn. Souboy, and Tribal Flag by Darrell White. Photo provided by Galen L. Geer*

sault that dragged on until mid-afternoon the following day. This assault was costly for the battalion and it began to lose its officers at an alarming rate. By the end of the day all of Golf Company's officers were either dead or wounded. Sometime on the afternoon of the assault, Keeble was wounded for the first time and was evacuated to the battalion aid station where several shrapnel wounds were treated.

First Sergeant Kosumo Joe Sagami, in 1961 told the Wahpeton, North Dakota *Farmer-Globe* newspaper the story of the fighting and Keeble's role. According to Sagami, Keeble refused to stay in the aid station and voluntarily returned to Golf Company and rejoined his unit for all night-fight on the slopes of the nameless objectives, identified only by map coordinates.

After fighting throughout the night and most of the following day (October 16) the battalion secured Objective "D" at 1520 hrs and three hours later (at 1830 hours) Objective "F" was secured but the battalion continued fighting against determined CCF forces in the vicinity of the objective. During the fight, Keeble was wounded in the morning but refused evacuation and insisted he be treated by the company medic and returned to duty.

### Doing What He Does Best

The intense fighting had drained all the ammunition from Keeble's platoon and they could not be resupplied, forcing them to withdraw

from the hill. To resume the attack the support platoon moved forward. As the new attack unfolded into a bitter small arms battle, the platoon was caught in what officials later wrote was: "murderous automatic weapons and small-arms fire, thereby halt-

ing their advance." Keeble could see that the attack had stalled and the platoon was being chopped to pieces by the deadly fire being poured into the exposed troops. Keeble, although wounded, volunteered to lead the assault and rushed forward. The citation for the Silver Star he earned that afternoon, which was reprinted in the history of the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry, reads in part:

"Sgt. Keeble, with complete disregard for his own safety, volunteered to lead it into the attack. Advancing well ahead of the other men, he fired an enemy automatic weapon from the hip until it ran out of ammunition, and then continued to deliver marching fire with his own rifle. The platoon, inspired by his fearlessness, quickly overran the objective and forced the enemy to flee in wild disorder, leaving 15 dead behind."

During this assault, Keeble was wounded a third time and again refused any treatment other than the Battalion aid station. Sagami remembers that Keeble had fragmentation wounds in his chest, both arms, left thigh, right calf, knee and right thigh. Despite his wounds Keeble remained with the Battalion, which had secured



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its objective while the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions pressed the attack.

The battle of the Kumsong valley was more than units of soldiers moving back and forth over a series of hills. For the Chinese, it had rapidly become an unacceptable salient into their lines. The UN Forces, although slowed in seizing individual objectives, were making steady progress and putting renewed pressure on the CCF forces after the lull that had followed the opening of peace talks. The advance had pushed several miles toward the town of Kumsong and the Chinese were bleeding badly from the unexpected losses. To slow the steady advance and inflict greater losses on both the U.S. 24<sup>th</sup> Division and the flanking ROK divisions, the CCF began firing massed artillery. Records of official radio transmissions reporting the effect of the barrage indicate that some of the artillery rounds were falling within 20 yards of the regimental aid station. To stem the flow of incoming rounds the 24<sup>th</sup> Division's artillery answered with concentrated counter-battery and anti-personnel firing.

Throughout the battle area the hilltops had become killing zones. Dead and wounded soldiers of both sides left their blood on the rocky slopes. CCF artillery pounded hilltop positions and division artillery pounded communist positions. Each new assault became a smaller meat grinder in the giant Operation Nomad-Polar grinder that was burning up human lives at an unprecedented rate for the war.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of October the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion began its attack on Objective "K" which officially was just another set of nameless hilltops in the seemingly endless progression of hilltop objectives. Unlike other objectives these hills are numbered - 675 and 770.

If there is a warrior's fate, and a man is always preparing for the moment when fate calls him because those around him need his leadership and courage, Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble was approaching that moment of his life. He had set foot upon his warrior path 10 years earlier on another hill on Guadalcanal. Perhaps he sensed this hill would be different and that was why he was there and refusing the medical evacuation.

On the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> of October Sgt. Keeble was bleeding



*Although a very strong man, Keeble's multiple war wounds plagued him throughout his life, and he died from their effects at the age of 62. Photo Courtesy Richland County Museum, Wahpeton ND.*

from the wounds he'd received on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Dale Dickie, now of Defiance, Ohio remembered Keeble's wounds and told Merry Helm that "I saw him (Keeble) and his uniform was all full of little holes from a grenade... I made him peel off his clothes — and he was all full of little splintery holes like buckshot."

### **Can't Keep a Good Man Down**

Dicky took Keeble to the aid station and the medic, Dale Selby, pulled shrapnel splinters from Keeble's body. Keeble's wounds included a badly damaged knee and he was limping. Knowing the battalion was about to go on the assault of hills 675 and 770 the medic, the first sergeant and the men of Keeble's platoon urged him to remain at the aid station. Keeble refused. Sagami remembered that by the time Keeble had returned to the battalion's forward positions Keeble was limping and weak from the multiple wounds and he told the newspaper: "upon reporting to me I could not help but notice that his wounds were still bleeding on the most part. He had to exert himself to raise his weapon and forced to limp with his crippled legs." No one in the company believed Keeble would be able to endure the climb the company would make on the next assault. Keeble refused to be evacuated and joined his platoon.

The decision to allow Keeble to

*Continued on page 47*

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# Crosshairs Crossroads

## USMC Snipers: Which Path Shall They Take?

By E. J. Land, Jr.

*The author put these thoughts on paper nearly a year ago, and they are now even more pertinent in view of the many letters we have received from snipers in the field.*

The fate of United States Marine Corps snipers is at a crossroads. The tragic deaths of six snipers and their security personnel over the past few months in Iraq suggest the path the Corps is taking may have grave, unintended consequences. Not the least of those consequences is a dilution of the mission, training, skills and safety

of these very unique combatants, to the degree that further tragedy in Iraq or wherever Marines find themselves in harm's way may be inevitable.

A close look at the circumstances that led to the sniper deaths in Iraq reveals a wealth of information about the state of snipers and sniping today, the bulk of which appears strangely self-contradictory. One very important outcome, however, is the bittersweet opportunity to openly and candidly discuss the nature, role and deployment (past, present, and future) of Marine snipers. It's a discussion that

needs to be held among the highest echelons of Marine Corps leadership as well as among those Marines in the field from Division to the individual combatant hunched behind cover awaiting his next adrenaline-laced set of orders.

In one very real sense, the deaths of these young Marines are directly attributable to the success of Marine snipers in general, and of Marine snipers operating in Iraq in specific. At no time in U.S. Marine Corps history has the role of the Marine sniper been so visible to so many. Therein lies the



*Sgt. Dain Doughty, honor graduate of the Scout Sniper Basic Course at Camp Lejeune, demonstrates how a sniper "gets lost" in his environment – one of many important fieldcraft skills. USMC Photo by L/Cpl Adam Johnston*

crux of the thesis of this article.

### **Shock, Awe and Public Sniping**

On the night of 21 March 2003, America and the world watched as ton after ton of precision bombs signaled the official start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Viewers continued to hold their television vigil on April 9<sup>th</sup> when images of the first units of Marines entering Baghdad cycled around the world to be fed into the nightly news. Those young Marines promptly set about helping Iraqi citizens topple a massive, far-larger-than-life statue

of Saddam Hussein that dominated a public square.

Arguably, our digital society's ability to ramp up the visibility of images of war broadcast to the public parallels the equally uncharacteristic visibility and unprecedented recognition the sniper is receiving from fellow Marines, including commanding officers in Iraq, versus the virtual anonymity surrounding their ventures in the jungles of Vietnam.

Traditionally, Marine sniper teams operate apart from the majority of fellow combat troops. They ply their le-

thal trade under deep cover, purposely isolated from observing eyes, from a multitude of ever-changing positions. Operating under stealth conditions keeps the sniper alive in the field. Unfortunately, the cloak of secrecy associated with sniping also perpetuates a mix of emotions, even among fellow Marines, about the character and mission of the sniper. Some verge on myth; some can be downright hostile. That quest for anonymity also speaks volumes about the true character of the Marine Corps sniper.

### **A Cadre Apart**

The deliberate isolation of sniper activity from other frontline troops allows the sniper to focus entirely on his mission and to employ the skills vital to that mission's success. Throughout the duration of Vietnam, no Marine sniper including the late, legendary Carlos Hathcock was ever awarded a commendation for feats of combat sniping marksmanship. Then, only members of sniper teams knew with absolute certainty what the man behind the trigger accomplished.

During Vietnam, it was not in the Marine sniper's nature to seek approval by medal for doing his job. While the Marine sniper's training and character have not changed, the current mode of conducting warfare and the way Marine snipers are commanded and deployed in Iraq is unintentionally undermining virtually everything the sniper is taught – lessons that save Marine lives. The Iraqi conflict has already seen Marine snipers on the receiving end of two Bronze and one Silver Star for their combat rifle craft. Even that much deserved recognition plays a major factor in the threat to those same young Marines.

Snipers prefer a low-profile existence in every sense of the word. Traditionally, they seek only the inward satisfaction of a job well done. By training and, some might argue, by their genetic makeup, the Marine sniper is first and foremost the consummate team player. The sniper provides invaluable support to his fellow combatant's with each shot fired. Whether the projectile's target is selected from the opposition's command staff or its pool of grunts, certain death (at some distances, silent) instills paralyzing fear in an enemy and gives fellow Marines an edge in combat.

The increased visibility of the Marine sniper among fellow Marines and

unit commanders associated with the present Iraqi war is one of the pivotal problems the Corps must identify and deal with if Marine snipers are to accomplish their mission and preserve their lives. Visibility flies in the face of virtually every trait of the Marine sniper.

Historically, the term “sniper” originated among British Imperial troops stationed in India during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Then the marksman able to hit the speedy and seemingly impossible to shoot little birds was dubbed a “sniper.” In combat, however, the effective use of the combat sniper is attributed to the German Army of World War I. The American military sniper’s genealogy might also be traced to the then-unconventional fighting style of the Revolutionary War era hunter/citizen-soldier who sent well-aimed rounds from custom-crafted long rifles, from behind cover and concealment, towards the smoothbore-armed British and Hessian occupational troops.

### The Enemy As Prey

The emphasis on “hunters” and “hunting” is deliberate. The skills developed in the forest and field – stalking, observation, understanding the nature and habits of the prey, avoiding detection, and delivering a single lethal shot from a hidden position – and

those personal characteristics associated with hunting cultures around the world – are the same U.S. Marine Corps Scout-Sniper training instills in its graduates.

The fraternity of the world’s great hunting cultures is the closest analogy to the brotherhood of U.S. Marine snipers. They are expert in stalking, observing and the art of precision long-range shooting. Like the Arctic, African, or Native-American hunter, the sniper above all else observes every detail of the environment around him. Depending upon the terrain and geographic locale, the wind, trees, grass, birds, even the insects provide vital intel. Like the ancient hunter in search of bison, elk or antelope, the sniper holds no malice for his enemy. He develops a kindred feeling that comes from endless hours watching, studying and learning his quarry’s every move. He respects his enemy and demonstrates that respect through the discipline, conviction and ethics with which he conducts his ev-



Maj. E.J. Land, Executive Officer Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, Va. 1970

ery action in combat.

### Spoiled by Success?

Unfortunately, the early days of sniping in Iraq brought such unbridled success in dispatching large numbers of poorly trained and confused enemy personnel in record time that the snipers’ sense of respect for his foe all but vanished. Young Marine snipers grew complacent in their open disrespect for the intelligence of the typical veteran of Saddam Hussein’s military apparatus. That seductive air of complacency, where respect for the enemy gives way to arrogant bravado, can and does prove fatal – to Marines, not the enemy.

The period where the opposition encountered by U.S. forces was mainly a display of sheer buffoonery by Saddam’s ill-trained and confused military personnel, where Marine snipers could log large numbers of confirmed kills, as high as 50 to 60, taken down at a rate, in some cases, of a dozen or so in 20 to 30 minutes, is no more. Now, highly trained and combat-seasoned professionals from Bosnia, Afghanistan, and other Muslim military training centers of anti-American hatred are mounting the bulk of the Iraqi insurgency. That transition to a well-trained enemy is all too graphically illustrated where the loss of a U.S. Marine Corps M40 sniper rifle quickly translates into single-round,



Sgt. Aaron Torian of Regimental Combat Team 5 examines a modified, scoped Mauser 98 rifle one of his marines found on a patrol south of Fallujah. Not all “insurgent” weapons are as crude – and Coalition forces now face trained veteran snipers from the conflicts in Afghanistan and elsewhere, who have modern weapons. USMC Photo by GSgt. Mark Oliva

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headshot fatalities among U.S. combat personnel less than 24 hours later.

Another vital lesson as yet not learned in Iraq regarding the best use of Marine snipers, also stems from the initial success of their marksmanship prowess. As every present and former drill instructor will attest, "a little bit of knowledge" more often than not results in big trouble. That bit of DI wisdom, unfortunately, aptly describes the all-to-familiar use of snipers in Iraq today. It is causing sniper resources to be deployed in ways that

intrinsically undermine the ability of the sniper to function as he has been trained.

As currently configured in Iraq, Marine snipers operate at Battalion-level command. With no disrespect intended, Marine officers unfamiliar with the tradition and full value of sniper deployment are impressed with the efficiency and skills of the Marine sniper. They see the killing power of the sniper's M40 bolt gun and recognize the sniper's ingrained observational skills. They then fall into the "one size fits all" thinking that the skills of the sniper make him the perfect candidate for a variety of other wartime tasks. Consequently, snipers are being inserted into reconnaissance roles to gather G2 Intel.

### Scouting Vs. Intel Gathering

This mutation of the Marine sniper is also reflected in the gear he's required to carry. Unlike the lean years of Vietnam when knife, ammo, water, a few grenades and very little else were the only accessories carried into the bush, the Marine sniper in Iraq is expected to deploy with a full rucksack. And while the M40 bolt-action sniper rifle is considered the premier arm for one-shot precision fire from a concealed position, the potential of running into close quarter contact trouble on a recon mission demands the added firepower of an M16 at the very least.



*Precision shooting skills are an important facet, but only one facet, of a sniper's tradecraft. Author reasons that highly trained snipers should be used on sniper missions, not incidental missions for which they happen to be qualified. Photo: Courtesy Dick Swan, A.R.M.S.*

Worse, and this is the single most culpable reason for the unacceptable degree of sniper loss in Iraq, the first premise of sniper deployment is being countermanded by orders issued from Battalion by officers who simply do not have the first clue of proper sniper technique. Snipers are being ordered to return multiple times to previous positions to observe enemy operations.

The truth of the matter is that the tragic incidents referenced at the top of this article that saw snipers ambushed, occurred as a direct result of their orders to return to posts previously abandoned. In each incident, the enemy was waiting and the hunters became the hunted. Snipers are taught to never, never establish a pattern of activity. Predictability is the way most prey – whether four-legged or two – is tracked, trapped and killed. That's why snipers, the successful ones, are undetectable, unpredictable, and constantly on the move.

Snipers are not prima donnas who demand special treatment and care. They are important combat resources that provide vital support for combat operations. Their job requires the complete focus of their every sense and razor sharpness of their entire mental faculties. They must be well-rested in advance of a mission if they are to bring into play the multiplicity of skills and attention to detail that successful sniping demands. That

includes the ability to move undetected into position, to determine that position from their on-site evaluation of the immediate landscape, and their ability to pick and choose targets as they see them fitting into their mission.

### Intel Is Secondary

Intel gathering is not their key mission. The mission of the sniper is, put in the most cold and candid terms possible, "to kill." Their ability to achieve that objective instills fear in the enemy.

The Iraq experience is proving the correctness and

immediate need for the adoption of a much-discussed-and-debated concept of exactly where snipers best fit within the Corps organization table. Specifically, the fate of U.S. Marine Corps snipers depends upon the very demonstrable need for a Scout-Sniper Company at the Division level. Basing snipers at the Battalion level just doesn't work. Iraq is the on-job-training proof of that faulty pudding. Until and unless all Marine officers go through the Corps Scout-Sniper training, a highly unlikely scenario, locating a sniper company – commanded by sniper-trained officers – is the only logical solution to both the needs of the Corps and the safety and continued effectiveness of its snipers for generations of warfare to come.

Creating a sniper company operating out of the Division is not without precedent and is quite logical if snipers are thought of in a capacity similar to artillery, air, armor, and reconnaissance support, all of which are on-call for battalion needs. The U.S. Marine Corps sniper is every bit as unique a combat support weapon as Marine Air, Armor or Artillery. Deploying the Corps sniper resources similarly is the logical solution to the tragic problems being demonstrated in Iraq today. ❧

*A retired Marine officer, E. J. Land is well known in the sniper community.*

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# THE WAR ON THE STREETS

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

## 10 Fingers, 10 Toes, and No Holes

America's law enforcement and military professionals have many things in common: They volunteered into service and they are often the best, brightest and bravest that America has to put forward. Both are often attacked after they shoot someone.

They share the fundamental right to end their tour of duty the same way they started it, with ten fingers, ten toes and NO holes! To make sure this happens, the good guy sometimes needs to shoot the bad guy!

Increasingly often the life-and-death choices made by these professionals face serious political and legal review... potentially life-altering review. This process can be both distracting and catastrophic.

When an officer or military member uses force, they should be allowed to focus on their own safety and survival. Too often now, one of the last thoughts running through their minds – even while taking slack from the trigger – is a creeping, gnawing fear that their assets, their careers and their very freedom, may be in grave danger because of pulling the trigger. This is simply unacceptable!

The problem is, sadly, POLITICS.

Professionals, both military and law enforcement, too often believe that politics is something dirty, something best to be avoided. Others are so disgusted with politics that they have chosen to abandon this field of battle entirely. Still others believe that they are powerless to effect any change, and say, "why bother" or "what difference can I make." Some believe that they can bury their heads in the sand and ignore it – with the misguided hope that if they ignore it hard enough, long enough, it will simply go away.

Those who believe this are dead WRONG!

Whether you sit in the sand of the desert or in a cruiser the problem and solution is the same: YOU!

Politics is not just theoretical: It will be the 'Politicos' – supported by the media – who will be calling for your head on a pike after a shooting! Depending on whom we elect, they will

be helping – or damning you to hell for making the split-second decision to pull the trigger.

We cannot let the fear of post shooting vilification cause our shooters to hesitate or lose focus on their survival! Survival means staying safe, not hesitating. Anything less is simply wrong and unacceptable; but we can't fight – let alone win – unless you join in!

Ask yourself: How many political groups have you paid dues to this year? (Have you logged on to [www.leaa.org](http://www.leaa.org) and sent your annual dues of \$26 to join LEAA yet?) Did you send a letter to the editor of your local paper this past election cycle? Did you, your family, or friends volunteer any time to help the better candidate or put a bumper sticker on your family vehicle? If you answer no, then you are part of the problem!

This past November's election is a fading memory. To protect future defenders we must focus on the political battles of tomorrow! Winning requires that you become engaged in the fight!

Military and Police choose to serve at the tip of the spear, they put on a uniform, choose to strap on or pick up a gun and go towards the sound of battle, they swear an oath to the U.S. Constitution, and volunteer to go into "Harm's Way." They are the defenders of our society with whom all in society have a compact: You defend us and we, in turn, support you!

Police and Military have the fundamental right to end their tour of duty the same way they started: ten fingers, ten toes and NO holes! – and that means that sometimes you DO have to shoot the bad guy!

What happens next is up to each and every one of you. Join the fight! ✕

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



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## 2007 SHOT Show Review

### Farnam's Gunslinger Diary

By John Farnam

Here is some of what caught my eye at the 2007 SHOT Show in Orlando:

- SIG's new .223 fighting rifle, the M556, is about to start shipping. Copies I saw were very nice: Light, short, handy! In handguns, the 229, 226, 220, and 239 in the manually-decocking (DA/SA) version will soon be available with SIG's new "short reset" trigger. It is a vast improvement over the old system. Second shots are now available via a significantly shortened reset, and the reset itself is distinct and crisp. This represents an important product upgrade! [www.sigarms.com](http://www.sigarms.com)

- Glock had their new 21SF on display. Upper is the same as a G21, but the grip is significantly smaller and slimmer. Basically, it's a G21 with a RO-BAR-style grip reduction and ambidextrous magazine release! The G21 has always been too big for my hand. The G21SF fits just fine! G21SF magazines will work in the G21, but not the other way around. In the entire Glock display, I didn't see any pistol with a manual

safety. If one exists, they're not showing it! [www.glock.com](http://www.glock.com)

- STI had on display their new "Escort," a Detonics-sized, aluminum-framed 1911 carry pistol. Short and light, this is a nice piece! [www.stiguns.com](http://www.stiguns.com)

- Action target is making the first genuine improvement in the Pepper Popper since its invention! Their "Fall-Forward Pepper Popper" features a locking gate that holds the leaning-forward Popper upright. A bullet striking the plate pushes it back just enough to release it to fall forward. So, when hit, it falls forward, not backward. Ingenious! [www.actiontarget.com](http://www.actiontarget.com)

- Detonics' "Combat Master," a copy of which I personally carry every day in my wonderful Lou Alessi shoulder holster, was on display as well as their 9-11-01, full-sized 1911. [www.detonicsusa.com](http://www.detonicsusa.com)

- EOTech's new 553 model is a good way to go for this type of rifle sight! Compact, rugged, and reliable, the 553

represents the latest product improvement. I prefer mine forward-mounted, as, when fighting, I don't like objects close to my face. [www.eotech-inc.com](http://www.eotech-inc.com)

- Kahr displayed their TP45, P45, and the new PM45, the smallest .45ACP pistol I've ever seen! For .45ACP fans, this is going to be a wonderful carry gun! Their M1 Carbine, now with a flat bolt, is very smooth and nicely finished. [www.kahr.com](http://www.kahr.com)

- DSA's wonderful FALs now feature an M16-style, adjustable rear sight! Rugged and well protected, this is a system familiar to all soldiers and Marines. Also now available is Bob Weir's collapsible/extendable stock, which greatly enhances compactness and adaptability to varying body sizes. [www.dsarms.com](http://www.dsarms.com)

- We saw Kel-Tec's new PF9, a single-column, compact 9mm pistol on the Kel-Tec pattern. Flat and compact for concealed carry. Kel-Tec is also shortly introducing a .308 caliber bullpup rifle, the RFB. In order to accommodate left-handed shooters, its empties eject out

Photo: Courtesy National Shooting Sports Foundation



the front! This represents an exciting development! [www.kel-tec.com](http://www.kel-tec.com)

- Blackhawk is now making a line of prop guns, gray and bright orange. The SERPA holster is now available in a clever, level III version and a shoulder holster! Blackhawk is also now making a proprietary weapon light, the XIPHOS, which features the same pulsulating strobe as the Gladius flashlight. [www.blackhawk.com](http://www.blackhawk.com)

- Aimpoint introduced their new M4 "Micro." Only two inches long and light! This is a vast improvement over anything they've produced up until now. Same effect, but much less weight and bulk. I'll have a copy on one of my rifles shortly! [www.aimpoint.com](http://www.aimpoint.com) ☒

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# Brazil Cops:

## Deadly Warfare

"Urban combat here is no different than it is in Iraq," Captain Joai Jacques Bushnello, head of the elite military police sniper team, the Battalion Operation of the Special Police Unit (BOPE) in Rio Brazil, told us.

"The narco-terrorists have grenades, A-K 47s, land mines, submachine guns and machineguns, the same weapons and techniques as the insurgents in Iraq," Captain Gilmar Tramountini, muscular commander of the intervention team of BOPE said.

"The drug traffickers have more years of experience here in urban war fought on home turf than even the insurgents in Iraq do. The drug gangs have controlled the Brazilian favelas (slums) for decades." The toughened military police commander Tramountini spoke from ten years of experience in the military police, six of them in the elite BOPE unit.

The Comando Vermelho (Red Command), the Terceiro Comando (Third Command) and Amigos dos Amigos (ADA) are the major gangs operating in the favelas of Brazil.

Homicide is the number one cause of death in Brazil.

During 1980-2002, the homicide rate in Brazil more than doubled, from 11.4 per 100,000 population to 28.4. In 2002, a total of 49,570 homicides were documented, according to Brazil official figures.

"Firearm-related deaths in Rio de Janeiro during the 1990s were higher than those in conflict zones such as Angola and Sierra Leone," Amnesty International reports.

## "Drugs and Guns, and More Drugs and Guns"

"It has been like this for the last 25 years," former Sao Paulo Police Col Jairo Paes de Lima told us.

We had met Col Paes at an NRA convention in Milwaukee in 2006 where he spoke of the successful fight to maintain the right to bear arms in Brazil. Col Paes had been a key player in winning the referendum, and he had invited us to Brazil.

"Brazil doesn't produce drugs, except for marijuana. The hard drugs come from outside,"

"Drugs flow in from Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia Venezuela, and Peru, all of the countries on the frontier of Brazil," Col Paes continued.

"The unpopulated densely wooded Amazon region that covers half of Brazil (nearly as big as the United States) has become a primary transit point for cocaine base to be smuggled to the United States, Europe, and Brazilian cities," Col. Paes told us.

"Guns and drugs, that's what the gangs want so they can take over more turf to sell more drugs and more guns," the veteran police commander said.

Brazil has transformed from mainly a transit point to a user state. Brazil ranks only after the USA as the second biggest consumer of cocaine, Jubilee Action Group reports.

Drug use in Brazil is rampant, with demand for the locally grown marijuana leading the list and cocaine following closely behind as it becomes readily

*(left) BOPE units conduct small unit tactical training on a regular basis.*





*(opposite)* Tough, battle-hardened Brazilian Special Police, practice searching a suspect at their headquarters. Drug gangs often conduct full scale attacks on police stations using RPG's and light machineguns. *(left)* BOPE troopers examine a typical cache of small arms seized from gang members.



# “It’s War!”

By Dr. Martin Brass, Photos by Dr. Martin Brass and BOPE Team available.

## Military Police Special Units

In Brazil, the federal police mainly gather and provide intelligence. The state police are either civil or military. The civil police are in plainclothes, and the military police are the ones in uniform.

“BOPE is a unit of the state police founded 28 years ago to deal with the increasing number of hostage situations. By the late 1980s, the units were working in the favelas. The SWAT unit provides police backup or we rescue embattled police cornered by gangs,” Capt. Bushnello told us.

We were in the high security center of the BOPE headquarters in Rio.

Several of the officers were lining up in a disciplined military fashion, preparing to end their shift and others were lining up to replace them.

The police in the station looked serious, on edge, preparing for the expected violence that a New Year in Rio brings.

They had also begun the training and preparations for the Pan American Games in July. They were expecting big trouble, they said.

“32 police officers per day check in to the BOPE center. There are 370 officers in total in Rio state. Rio is one of a total of 27 states in Brazil. All of the

states supposedly have the equivalent of the special BOPE units. Each unit has four companies: tactical, administrative, assault, and our intervention rescue team with four negotiators and eight snipers. The other teams have one sniper each.

“To be accepted in the intervention unit, the officer must have 6 years of tactical work in the slums.

## BOPE Keeps a Low Profile

The most ‘successful’ (most kills) police sniper, a muscular, lean, Brazilian with cautious piercing eyes walked into the office, curious to see what all the commotion was about. He refused to discuss his missions or the number of drug barons and their sycophants he had taken out lest any report give the human rights organizations ammunition to pounce on him.

We soon found out that the Brazilian police, much like the Colombian police, fear the international human rights groups more than the drug lords. With the drug lords, they can often anticipate the threat, they said, but with the human rights groups, they have no defenses. Many

*Since their lives are on the line daily, BOPE personnel realize the importance of rigorous and through marksmanship training.*

groups, locally based and internationally funded, the police believe, are often politically motivated. They fear biased reporting and clueless do-gooders that jeopardize their missions and jobs.

The previous year, Amnesty International had written a lengthy, scathing report indicting the Brazilian Military police.

The report “They come in Shooting,” stated that between 1999 and 2004, police in the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo killed 9,889 people in situations registered officially as “resistance followed by death”.

Many were children.

## Children Soldiers

The report accused the Brazilian police of refusing to keep the favelas secure.

It failed to focus on the point that these children have guns, grenades and land mines or that the gangs had





Even though BOPE units face continual combat in the conventional sense of the word, morale is high as is recruiting.

tongues cut out, or much worse.

Last year, police arrested a butcher from Parada de Lucas who was said to specialize in cutting up the bodies of young men killed in gang encounters, but he was soon mysteriously released. The butcher has since disappeared, the *Washington Times* reports.

"In Rio's 680 favelas – where about 25% of the city's 12 million

Human rights abuses were rampant under the military rule that ended three decades ago. In 1985, Brazil transformed from a military dictatorship to a democracy. The police have had to fight that scandalous legacy.

### From Cop to Criminal

Brazilians fear the formidable police on one hand, while others recognize their prowess, yet free to bribe the corrupt ones.

"My husband does not have his gun registered, so when he got caught he just paid the police and they left him alone," one Brazilian professional told us.

"The wages for police officers are so low and the risks so high, that some feel justified in taking bribes, and others take a cut in the drug trade," another Brazilian said.

Illegal police death squads "mineiros" thrived during the military regime and after its collapse. The original motive was to clean up the streets, which meant cleaning up the criminals. But many of the self appointed vigilante cops were soon on the take, seduced by

turned the ghettos into no go zones.

4,000 children under the age of eighteen have been killed in the last 14 years reports British anthropologist Luke Dowdney.

More children are shot to death in Brazil due to gang violence than in the child soldier recruiting, drug producing, brutal FARC infested neighboring Colombia, or in any other country in the world for that matter.

Residents who snitch have had their

people live – this has led to the creation of no-go areas controlled by rival gangs such as Red Command and Third Command, who organize and arm the children. Children as young as four have guns and are used as 'little planes'—to use the jargon of the street—trafficking drugs and messages between sellers and buyers," Jubilee Campaign and Action Group reported after research in the deaths of children on the streets of Brazil.

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the millions of dollars the traffickers were raking in.

The illegal police militias organized their own criminal enterprises and began to offer protection to the racketeers, extorting from the locals who joined the gangs, and blackmailing the local residents.

Residents had to fear not only the drug ringleaders, but also the illegal police mafiosos.

"Last year two off duty vigilante cops barged into a local bar and cut loose with gunfire at close range, killing customers who they suspected. Thirty died, innocent and guilty alike," a prominent Brazilian who wished to stay anonymous told us.

The government has targeted abusive police, arresting hundreds, and cleaning up the police force in the last five years. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva introduced a reform package in his 2002 election campaign, the *Sistema Único de Segurança Pública* (SUSP), the Single Public Security System. The emphasis was human rights.

"What many don't realize is that 300 police officers are killed every year in the country," Col Paes said.

### Priorities, Please

"Politicians sometimes make their decisions based on their fear of human rights scrutiny, rather than based on the safety of victims," the Brazilian police, like their counterparts in Colombia, were anxious to tell their side of the story.

Captain Bushnello pulled out photos of a crazed looking black man holding a terrified girl hostage in a bus. Brazilians are an ethnic mix, including Europeans, mainly Portuguese left from the colonial years, nearly 50% are Black or mulatto, and the rest Amerindian, Southeast Asian, Arabs, and other immigrant descendants.

"The human rights groups and media gathered to make sure that all of the kidnapper's rights were upheld.

"The governor, did not allow us to kill the aggressor, obviously whacked out on drugs and extremely dangerous, because it was not good public relations. The hostage taker's head was popping up all over the media.

"We were helpless, unable to try to save her life, although he made an easy target, and we could have taken him out without harming the child.

"The murderous bastard killed the child.

"The police killed him, but it was too late for her.

"We could not do our job, but we determined that next time we would not be helpless."

"The girl had lost her life needlessly, why? To teach extremists a tragic lesson" Captain Tramountini said vehemently, clearly remembering the senselessness of watching the girl's brutal murder.

### Bugger the Politically Correct

"One month ago, in a similar nerve wracking, terrifying scenario, a kidnapper hijacked a bus and captured 38 people as hostages. He first released 24 of them in the standoff, then five more at a time until there were seven left. We feared for the seven, as we knew that negotiations were not going to go any further, the kidnapper was getting more violent, desperate and suicidal.

"Disregarding the hysteria of the media and those insisting that he not be harmed, then police killed him and saved the seven hostages.

"The hostage taker was a crazed husband that didn't want to accept a divorce and wanted to stop the bus that she was in and kill her and everyone on board before he took himself out."

"We saved everyone," he said with professional pride. This time politicians didn't intervene, but we did not care what they said. We are cops and couldn't stand by as he murdered his hostages.

### Drug Traffickers Distribute Income

The captains took us on the roof of the BOPE headquarters located on the top of a hill overlooking the dazzling, scenic coastal city. The rambling concrete building once housed a failed casino that hosted whatever nefarious activities go on in nightclubs in the wild tourist city that boasts the spectacular Copacabana and Ipanema Marti-Gra type beach carnivals and fiestas.

The view of the famous city was breathtaking, with steep hills and rolling valleys that led to beautiful beaches and the waters of the calm Atlantic Ocean.



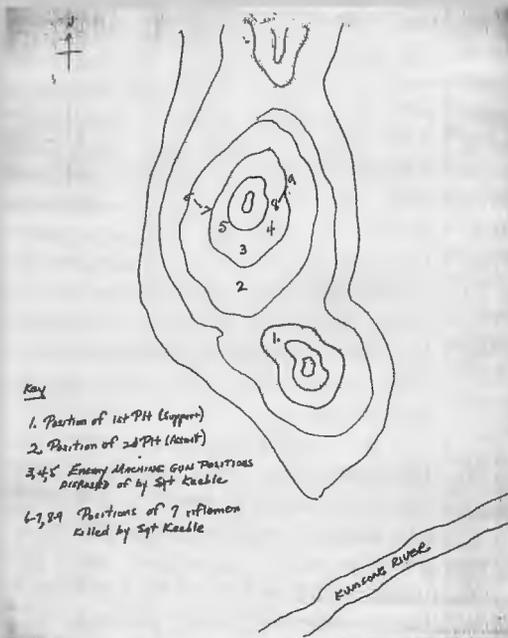
(top) Left wing politician prevented BOPE snipers from whacking nutso hostage taker as did not want "adverse publicity." Thug subsequently killed hostage. (Remaining photos) Police often fight gangs from their armored vehicles. Gang violence in U.S. ghettos pale into insignificance when compared to shoot outs in Brazilian cities. BOPE units train for urban combat since over 300 police are killed a year in Brazil.

In the distance, the revered statue of Christo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer of the Open Arms), atop Corcovado Mountain, was majestically outlined in the clear December summer sky.

The calm paradise concealed the troubled undercurrents.

Copacabana and Ipanema beaches are displays of wealth and wanton waste, where obscenely rich Brazilians

Continued on page 74



This hand-drawn after-action map accompanied Keeble's Distinguished Service Cross paperwork. Map from Official 24th Infantry Division Archives on Keeble MOH Recommendation.

join the assault was made, in part, by the fact that all the officers of Golf Company had been killed or wounded during the previous actions. Keeble and one other Sergeant were the two highest-ranking men in the company.

Because Keeble had more combat experience he was placed in overall command.

The assault on Hill 675 began with Golf Company moving up a ridge that led directly to the summit. The terrain was typical of Korea with steep, scrub wood-covered slopes on either side of the ridge, forcing the company to slow its advance in the face of fanatical resistance by entrenched CCF forces. By the end of the first day the company's advance was a crawl and they had made very little headway up the hill.

The battalion's two other companies were east of Golf Company and separated from Golf by a deep, nearly impenetrable ravine. Fox Company had run headlong into a well-entrenched CCF force and during the fighting on October 19<sup>th</sup>

the company was nearly wiped out. The Chinese were fighting back with unexpected determination. M/Sgt Fred Whitehead recalled the intensity of the fighting in Operation Nomad: "We were pinned down by the Chi-

nese right after we went on the attack. I was told there were only five [men] left in the platoon that evening, and the platoon runner was the highest ranking person still on the line."

Echo Company, which had attacked on an eastern ridge, fought its way north, up the ridge toward the crest but was thrown off the hill by a CCF counter-attack that evening.

According to the after-action report by the S3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion "made slow but steady progress during the day of the 19<sup>th</sup> of October." The report is incredibly optimistic and does not indicate the resistance encountered, the staggering losses and the bogged down attack. On the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> the plan of attack was altered and Keeble's Golf Company moved east to reinforce the shattered Fox Company. The attack was renewed but the primary thrust was shifted to the east. When the attack began, Keeble positioned himself with the support platoon that was to provide supporting fire for the attack. From that position he would be able to watch the assault and direct the automatic weapons fire.

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## Up Close, Personal, And Very, Very Good

At the very first, the assault platoons, made up of survivors of Fox Company and Golf's First and Third Platoons, quickly ran into trouble. Lawrence Orcutt of Hoopa, California told AP reporter James MacPherson that he watched Keeble leave the safety of the support platoon and crawl into the midst of the unfolding hillside battle to begin a one-man assault. Former Private First Class Ervin Koehler told *Soldier of Fortune* magazine what happened after Keeble reached the embattled platoons: "He was right beside me," Koehler said, "I was manning a machinegun and he sort of stood up and told me to move that I was going to get hit by an artillery round if I stayed there. So I moved and sure enough a round hit right where I'd been shooting from but by then Chief [Keeble] was moving up the hill and I watched him and tried to fire my gun to support him but he was so close to the Chinese."

Keeble told the men of the platoon to stay put while he took out the machineguns that had the platoons

pinned to the hillside. Al Moore, who was in Keeble's platoon remembers the nightmare and told Merry Helm: "We were pinned down in a trap and they were throwing so many grenades at us the grenades looked like flocks of blackbirds coming over."

The interlocking machinegun fire, rifle fire and grenades from the entrenched enemy was threatening to wipe out the assault platoons and the support platoons were preparing to join the stalled assault when Keeble, limping from a wounded knee, bleeding from previous wounds, took several hand grenades and his rifle and began crawling from rock to rock. The official citation reads in part: "Ignoring the vicious stream of fire, which the enemy crew trained on him, he activated a grenade and, throwing it with great accuracy, successfully destroyed the position."

Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble launched a one-man assault against the determined communists. He was a warrior by birth and he'd been forged into steel in the jungles of the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945. Led by the spirits of the proud warriors of the Dakota, Keeble was fighting

and fighting smart. Every moment of his adult life had been leading to the next two hours. While his company of soldiers was pinned down on the cold slopes behind him, he fought. Former Lieutenant William Nichols said, "he (Keeble) had an uncanny ability to read the land and move through it." Keeble's assault on the communists was just starting and after he destroyed the first machinegun he began crawling and rushing to another position for his assault on the second gun.

The Chinese Communists realized the lone soldier attacking them could break the stranglehold they had on the trapped Americans on the slope. They turned a barrage of hand grenades and rifle fire on Keeble. One of the grenades exploded in front of him, knocking him backwards. Wounded by shrapnel and stunned by the explosion he shrugged off the pain and cleared his head and resumed his attack. Official after-action reports and the DSC citation cite Keeble's ignoring the frantic efforts to stop him. Once in position to attack the second gun, Keeble pulled the pin on a grenade and despite bleeding wounds to both

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arms he raised himself up and threw the grenade while rifle fire pinged and grenades exploded around him. His grenade was into the strike zone he had thrown his baseballs into and the machinegun position was destroyed.

### The One-Man Army from the Dakotas

Suddenly, the lone American became the greatest threat to the CCF soldiers and they were desperate to stop him. They turned all of their rifle and the remaining machinegun fire on Keeble, who dodged the bullets and grenades. The assault platoons, now free of the fire that had trapped them, renewed their assault. Keeble, however, was not finished. The citation reads: "Stunned by an enemy concussion grenade, he hesitated only long enough to regain his senses, then renewed his assault and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position with exceptionally accurate rifle fire."

Free of the trap and "Inspired by his courageous example, the friendly troops swept the enemy from the hill and secured the important objective." Keeble's two-hour, one-man assault carried the fight and had saved the lives of most of the men of Golf Company and the survivors of Fox Company. Without his selfless two-hour single-handed attack the CCF forces would have been able to destroy the two companies on the side of the hill.

The Chinese lost more than a hill when Keeble's men overran hill 770: When the company reached the reverse slope they discovered a CCF command bunker with a trove of intelligence. Four days later the assault to secure the new phase lines was completed at a horrendous loss of life. During the battle the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment was subjected to 1506 CCF artillery rounds, 2344 mortar rounds and 879 "mixed" artillery and mortar rounds. The CCF lost 1230 confirmed KIA, another 1406 estimated KIA and 2138 WIA.

Within two days of the battle for the hills 670 and 770, Keeble's men began recommending him for the Medal of Honor. But, Keeble's heroism wasn't finished. A month after the battle for 770 Keeble was leading a combat patrol on hill 747 when he won his second Bronze Star with "V" after he led the patrol through a minefield and out of an ambush without a casualty. As for the Medal of Honor he was recommended for? The first recommen-

Dakota he was greeted as a hero but he didn't believe it. Over the years he struggled with the pain from his wounds and the Veteran's Administration hospital was, at the time, slow to respond to his needs and he was frequently forced to pawn his medals for cash. One long-time Wahpeton resident told the Associated Press he remembers seeing Woody's medals on display in a jewelry store.

As the years passed and the veterans who fought beside Keeble die, fewer and fewer witnesses remain to tell the story of the "Big Sioux Indian from Wahpeton, North Dakota." Those who remain remember how he saved their lives and turned the tide of battle, some from Guadalcanal and others from Korea.

Perhaps one man is meant to be the hero of a battle because of the blood coursing through his veins. Woodrow Wilson Keeble's blood on Guadalcanal and Korea's hills is the blood of legend - the Dakota of the American West - and he is an American hero.

Woody Keeble died at the age of 62 from complications of his Korean War wounds. He is buried in Sisselton, North Dakota and a simple, soldier's tombstone marks the hero's grave. ✕



*Holding a PPS43 burp gun, Keeble towers over a ChiCom Goryunov medium machinegun. These were not war trophies to Keeble: when Golf company ran out of ammo he grabbed communist automatic weapons and, firing from the hip, continued the assault.* Photo Courtesy Richland County Museum, Wahpeton ND

dation was lost, as was the second but after the second recommendation was submitted, with affidavits from the men in his company, Keeble was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

### A Hero Returns, Unacknowledged

The warrior who was needed on October 19 and 20 didn't fade away until he was rotated to Japan in 1952. When he finally came home to North

confirm it. Just before deadline for this issue of SOF we contacted North Dakota Senator Kent Conrad's office and we were told they had heard the same rumors, however, they had been unable to confirm them. Conrad's office also pointed out that if and when President Bush authorizes the MOH for Keeble, the President would call Keeble's family before making the official announcement. - GLG

## UPDATE

SOF Continues to monitor sources in Washington, D.C. regarding the status of Keeble's Medal of Honor, and while the unofficial rumor mill has it that former Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld had signed off with approval of the MOH for Keeble, no source is willing to go out on a limb and

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# The Global Response Pistol II

**The Latest Masterpiece from Nighthawk**

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

Almost a century ago John Moses Browning gave the world what is arguably the finest fighting pistol ever, the Model of 1911. Copied by more companies than can be counted on both hands, the 1911 has not only been equaled, but also improved upon.

With the original Model of 1911 the old saying, "you get what you pay for," was true, but with some 1911 pistols made today, the equally valid saying, "let the buyer beware," too often comes into play. Although 1911-type pistols retailing for only a few hundred dollars will shoot for

a while, one that you can really bet your life on will cost at least several times that amount.

Having begun my 1911 experience 50 years ago with a World War I Colt, I have been fortunate to have owned and used more 1911's than the years that have followed, not to mention the scores of 1911 pistols I have tested and evaluated during that time. The 1911 improvements that have come and gone are more than I would try to count, with many of them amounting to little more than interesting trash.

The inexperienced buyer can eas-

ily overload a 1911 with useless gimmicks, some of which may have merit for competition, but are worthless or dangerous in the real world. Being frequently asked about the myriad of add-ons, my answer is to keep the pistol simple with only those attributes that have value.

One new company that makes nothing but 1911 style pistols knows what it takes to produce a state-of-the-art 1911 pistol, and while this company turns out some beautiful specimens, the 1911s it makes for serious social business are truly worthy of consid-

*With its excellent trigger and sights, the GRP II is a pleasure to shoot and it proved match accurate.*





Ready for duty with the Military, law enforcement, or personal protection, Nighthawk's Global Response Pistol II is top-of-the-line in every way.

eration, and especially the model in question here.

This company is Nighthawk Custom, and it houses some of the best 1911 experts in the world. Offering an impressive line-up of custom 1911 pistols, Nighthawk makes something for everyone, as long as "everyone" knows the very highest quality when he sees it. For me, that something consists of a pistol I would choose for the most demanding circumstances.

### The GRP

Having been fortunate to be able to test and evaluate several Nighthawk .45 ACP 1911-style pistols during the past year, one that impressed me greatly was the Global Response Pistol (GRP).

Being appropriately named for the crucial times in which we find ourselves, the GRP is a full-size 5-inch barrel 1911 pistol. As such, it is similar to Nighthawk's other full-size 1911s, with one major difference: The GRP has an integral frame rail. Often referred to as a "Picatinny" (Pic) rail,

it is correctly a M1913 rail after its official U.S. Military designation.

The GRP comes with a Nighthawk proprietary 5-inch stainless match grade barrel with a bushing to match. A conventional recoil spring guide system is standard instead of a full-length guide rod. Just behind the muzzle, a Novak Trijicon Night Sight is dovetailed into the slide and on both sides of the slide are forward cocking grooves. Not just for show, these forward grooves are useful for safely checking the chamber for the presence of a loaded round.

Heading rearward, we find a lowered and flared ejection port and an internal high-performance extractor, one of the most important parts of any autopistol. On the right side of the slide are engraved the letters GRP and on the rear of the slide is a genuine Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable Rear Sight with tritium night inserts. In addition to the finest inter-

nal components available, there is an extended thumb safety, "beavertail" humped grip safety, flat 20-LPI checkered mainspring housing, and a front strap checkered with 30 LPI for an optimal gripping surface. The mouth of the magazine well is also perfectly beveled.

Not a double cutout, as in 1911-A1 pistols, that area on the sides of the frame behind the trigger is a blended radius on Nighthawk 1911 pistols.

### Unique Lanyard

Did I forget to mention the lanyard loop? Infinitely superior to the original, this lanyard is more of a mount that is essentially hidden from constituting any interference with normal operation of the pistol. Consisting of a cross pin through the lower rear corner of the mainspring housing, the GRP's lanyard bridges a deep recess cut with a ball mill. If you need it, it's there and if you don't you'll forget all

## Accuracy Chart

Five 5-Round Hand-Held 25-Yard Groups Using Alpha Chrony.  
Elev: 7000', Temp: 81°, Humid: 51%

.45 ACP Cartridge	Muzzle Vel	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Black Hills 185 gr. JHP	1027 fps	1.91"	2.14"	2.06"
CORBON 165 gr. P.B.	1198 fps	1.98"	2.19"	2.12"
Federal 165 gr. Pers Def	1021 fps	2.06"	2.17"	2.11"
Wolf 230 gr. FMJ	818 fps	2.18"	2.24"	2.21"



(top) Among the few parts not finished in matte black PermaKote are the GRP II's stainless steel barrel and bushing and its alloy match trigger. Note the slide stop pin machined even with the frame. (middle) On the GRP II's G10 grips is laser engraved the Nighthawk logo and the sights are genuine Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable Night Sights. (bottom) No full-length guide rod here. The GRP II is a pistol meant for serious defensive use and easy field-stripping.



about it.

A fine carry/bevel job completes the package with all sharp edges superbly removed as only a master gunsmith can do. The GRP is finished in a matte black Perma Kote. Nighthawk's Craig Gholson tells me this finish is four times as durable as polymer finishes and costs four times as much.

As with Colt's return to the production of Series 70 1911 pistols and all 1911's made for the military and the FBI, there is no firing pin safety in Nighthawk's pistols, but instead an ultra-light titanium firing pin and a special firing pin spring. It has long my opinion that this is the best solution to the remote problem of a round discharging from the pistol being dropped on the muzzle. What's more, this simple solution eliminates a number of tiny parts and does not affect the trigger pull.

Coming standard on the GRP is a set of LaserGrips from Crimson Trace and also an 8-round ACT-MAG magazine from PSI-LLC, with extended base bearing the Nighthawk logo. However, the GRP also comes with a set of Nighthawk's "gator" grips. Made of nearly indestructible G10, these grips provide great purchase when holding the gun, yet are relatively kind to clothing when worn concealed. On either side of these grips is the Nighthawk logo. All of this comes in a professional-grade green zipper case, with an extra ACT-MAG.

### Flush Slide Stop Pin

Oh, one more point. The end of the slide stop pin is machined flush with the frame. This is a simple fix to the potential of pushing out a protruding pin when firing the pistol under stress. Yes, it's happened to me at least a half-dozen times and if it can happen, it will. Stop whining about disassembly – just use the point of a bullet or some other device.

### SureFire X200

Optional with the Nighthawk GRP is SureFire's X200 Tactical Weapon Light, with its powerful LED providing 60 lumens of blinding light.

## Specifications: Nighthawk Global Response Pistol

Caliber:	.45 ACP
Muzzle Velocity:	900 fps.
Barrel Length:	4.25-inch stainless steel match.
Overall Length:	7.75".
Weight:	39 oz.
Feed Device:	8-round box magazine by ACT-MAG.
Safety:	Thumb safety and grip safety.
Sights:	(front) Novak Night Sight dovetailed to slide. (rear) Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable Night Sight
Grips:	G10 "Gator" grips.
Finish:	Matte Black Perma Kote.

Speaking of light, the X200 ads only about an ounce of weight to any pistol yet is made of super-strong synthetic. Another optional accessory is Nighthawk's new basket weave holster, with the Nighthawk logo.

### Trigger Time

My sample Nighthawk GRP is of the highest quality, with a silky smooth operation, and an ideal barrel/slide/frame fit, but its trigger also takes first prize. Trigger letoff proved to be ideal, breaking crisply at about 3 pounds. Accuracy from the GRP averaged about 2 inches for me at 25 yards hand-held off the bench, but many other shooters report groups of about one inch at the same distance. No malfunctions occurred with a variety of .45 ACP ammunition

### Field Stripping

To accomplish takedown, there is nothing special to do, except to make sure the GRP is completely unloaded (nothing in its mouth and nothing to feed it). Then simply disassemble the pistol as with any standard GI 1911, although you will find the components to have a slightly tighter fit. However, no tools are required for normal take-

down. Now the GRP has company.

### The GRP II

Where the GRP is a 5-inch "Government" size 1911 pistol, the GRP II in an all steel pistol with a 4.25-inch barrel making it the overall length and weight of the Colt Combat Commander. Like the full-size GRP, the "Two" comes with a spare ACT-MAG and the same green case, but without the LaserGrips and with the "Gator" grips with the Nighthawk logo being standard equipment. The owner/operator can supply a set of LaserGrips, or install an internal LaserMax system that allows use of the grips of choice.

What else? The GRP II comes standard without a framerail, but one can be had as an option. Personally, if I wanted a 1911 pistol with a light-mounting rail, I think I'd choose a 5" gun instead of a compact. It's up to you, as you can have it either way with Nighthawk. That's it, all other aspects of the GRP II are identical to those of the GRP described above. The pictures will tell the whole story, almost.

Trigger time with the 4.25-inch GRP II was every bit as good as with

*Continued on page 58*

# RKB's pick for NRA Board of Directors

## "Vote for Silver Star Recipient Steve Schreiner

for NRA Board of Directors. I am encouraging NRA Board of Directors voters to utilize the 'bullet ballot' procedure. If you vote just for Schreiner, you increase his chances of being elected.\*"

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

## Why vote for Steve Schreiner?

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

He is a noted supporter of the Second Amendment as exemplified by the following:

1. President, Firearms Coalition of Colorado;
2. Awarded NRA's Best Volunteer Organization of the Year;
3. Successfully Fought for Colorado's CCW;
4. Highly Successful Registered Lobbyist at Colorado Legislature;
5. Fought against semi-auto ban, magazine bans and "safe storage bills";
6. Member of NRA's Grassroots Committee.

### What I stand for:

1. We need to reach out to everyone, especially the younger generation, using their means of accessing information, about the positive aspects of the National Rifle Association and the Second Amendment;
2. We need more emphasis on range development and protection of existing ranges;
3. We need to protect our shooting rights in National Forests and on other Federal lands.

*Steve Schreiner, President, Firearms Coalition of Colorado*

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

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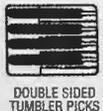


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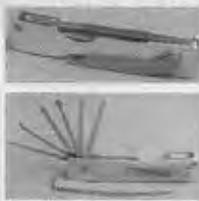


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1071 Knives.....	56	Extreme Outfitters.....	67	Maxell.....	67	SOF Subscription.....	49-71
A-1 Ratchet Belt.....	56	FS Commando Knives.....	56	Military-Book Club.....	18-19	SOF T-shirts.....	59
Advanced Vehicle Systems.....	58	G G G.....	10	MGI.....	77	SOG Nutrition.....	48
American Watch.....	17	Global School Inv.....	56	Natural Strength.....	56	Southern Ordnance.....	80
ATI.....	15	Gunsite Academy.....	41	NIC Law Enforcement.....	27	Specter Gear.....	51
ARMS.....	70	Hurley & Withington/TFT.....	37	One Stop Knife Shop.....	67	Specwarops.....	58
Bear Forensics.....	44	Inner City.....	80	Ons.....	2	Springfield Armory.....	7
Best Made Designs.....	39	Initial Attack.....	64	Paladin Press.....	5	Steve Schreiner.....	55
Blackhawk Products.....	C3	Inter-American Security.....	57	Para Ordnance.....	79	Steve Arnold Gunroom.....	55
Campco.....	75	Kestrel.....	28	Razi.....	80	Surefire.....	9
Challenge Coin.....	78	Kimber Meproflight.....	13	PK Knives.....	57	Tactical Tailor.....	31
Chase-Durer.....	C-4	Kimber.....	21	RM Equipment.....	20	Tamiami Int'l.....	57
Counter Sniper.....	3	Kimber 1911.....	25	Sabre Defence.....	65	Tapco.....	78
Command Arms.....	45	LA Police.....	23	Salute Products.....	29	Trijicon.....	10-11
Dark Ops.....	11	Laser Devices.....	41	Shadow Ent.....	76	Tactical Tailor.....	31
Detonics.....	39	Lemur Books.....	57	Shadow Spear.....	30	Texas Tactical Supply.....	38
DPMS.....	35	Lifestyles.....	57	Silverman's.....	57	US Tactical Supply.....	30
DSA.....	68	Lone Wolf Ent.....	27	SOF Advertising.....		United States Academy of PI.....	57
EO Tech.....	74	Matt Furey.....	69	SOF Back issues.....	47	Wiggy's.....	80

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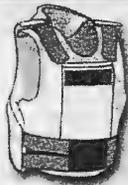
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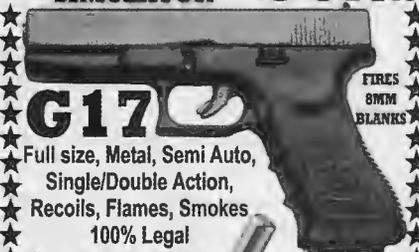
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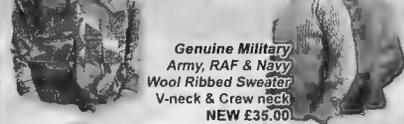


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(left) The GRP II's lanyard mount is "buried" into the checkered steel mainspring housing totally out of the way until you need it. (right) Perfect machine checkering abounds on the front strap of the GRP II and the pistol's exterior surface is devoid of sharp edges.

the 5-inch GRP, even with the slightly shorter sight radius. Muzzle flip was probably slightly less, due to the GRP II's shorter slide, as shorter slides have less leverage. I was surprised how well I could shoot with it despite its shorter sight radius. Yes, it also comes standard with the Novak Extreme Duty Adjustable Rear Sight, so one can squeeze out that last bit of tuning for the .45 ACP cartridge used.

### Druthers

There are a couple of things I would change about the GRP II, but for the life of me, I can't remember what they are. Seriously, this is the one of the most perfect combat pistols of its size I have ever used.

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# TERRORISM

# SITREP

By Dr. Martin Brass

**1. RUSSIA** THREE DOZEN TOR-M1 short range anti-aircraft missiles to be delivered to Iran.

**2. CHINA** LARGE-SCALE JOINT ANTI-TERRORISM exercises conducted for first time by member countries of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) in Kazakhstan. Chinese military command plans joint training with Russian, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan troops. **TERRORISM NOT GOOD FOR big-money-making CHINA.**

## AMERICA AT WAR

**3. BANGLADESH** CIVIL WAR FEARED in impoverished country, if elections flop.

**4. PHILIPPINES** ABU SAYYAF, AL QAEDA MASTERMIND who snatched three Americans in 2001 and masterminded bloody attacks, dies in gunbattle.

**5. UNITED STATES** COSTLY WAR has taken 3000 U.S. troops, requires \$15 billion annually in equipment repair. HUGE INCREASE in U.S. troop deployment to Iraq proposed to reinforce Sunnis slaughtered by Shias whom U.S. empowered. Too late for Iraqi Christians, half of whom have been driven out or murdered. **SADDAM'S HANGING BUNGLED** Iraqis and Bush administration drop the ball with the dictator.

**6. COLOMBIA** POLICE-DIG UNEARTHS FORTUNES in Cali, decades old drug center: \$19 million drug stash found in one dig, \$16 mil in another. DEA ARRESTS 117 DRUG TRAFFICKERS, members of ring that smuggled \$7.5 million in drugs to United States: 55 kilos heroin, 173 kilos cocaine headed to U.S. seized. **LEFTIST REBELS KILL 12** troops and police in one attack.

**7. VENEZUELA** DRUG BARONS fly cocaine into Haiti and Caribbean. U.S./Haiti agreement to allow U.S. Coast Guard to patrol seas, sends traffickers to the air.

**8. THE NETHERLANDS** VAN GOGH KILLERS Hofstadgroup imprisoned: Members Mohammed Boujari and Samir Azzouz have bank accounts frozen. U.S. MUSLIM TERRORIST Jason Walters, still free, also loses funds.

**9. CZECH REPUBLIC** DRUNKEN RUSSIAN PASSENGER threatening hijack with bomb forces AEROFLOT Airbus A-320 airliner from Moscow to Geneva to land in Prague.

**10. SPAIN** AIRPORT EXPLOSION blamed on ETA Basque separatists rips ETA-government cease-fire.

**11. TURKEY** TROOPS STAND BY fearful of movement for Iraqi Kurdish independence, threatening Turkish border and internal instability as Turkish Kurds prepare for statehood.

**12. ISRAEL (GAZA STRIP)** HIZBOLLAH calling for new elections to gain control. Smuggling-tunnel building is on the rise.

**13. IRAQ** OLLIE NORTH'S TEAM MEMBERS KILLED BY IED: Medic Christopher "Doc" Anderson, U.S. Navy officer Megan McClung, U.S. Marine Corps Captain Travis Patriquin, killed on 5 December as they escorted North and his Fox News team. IRANIAN ELITE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS captured by U.S. military. CAPTURED STASH INCLUDES weapons lists, documents pertaining to shipments of weapons into Iraq, organizational charts, telephone records and maps, among other sensitive intelligence information. Two top officials expelled to Iran.

**14. SAUDI ARABIA** ACCUSES IRANIAN MERCENARY MILITIAS of controlling enclave in Iraq; Saudis threaten military action against Iran.

**15. IRAN** U.S. NEMESIS PRESIDENT AHMADINEJAD on his way out? Win by opposition in 15 December elections could lead to forcing early presidential elections. U.S. DEPLOYS PATRIOT MISSILE battalion to Persian Gulf to intercept missile attacks.

**16. AFGHANISTAN** SMART BOMB TAKES OUT TALIBAN CHIEF MULLAH OSMANI when commandos tracked his satellite phone. Forensics confirmed his remains. TALIBAN MILITARY CHIEF KILLED by U.S. forces. U.S. SpecOps comprise one third of powerful commando teams that took out more than 1,000 Taliban during Operation Medusa.

**17. PAKISTAN** TALIBAN SAFE HAVENS along Afghan border allow terrorists to operate freely.

**18. INDIA** BOMB SQUAD NABS TWO TERRORISTS with 40 bags of chemicals on Delhi train.

**19. NIGERIA** CAR BOMB EXPLODES outside government building in oil-rich Niger River Delta. TERRORISTS usually target overseas companies, marking the first targeting of government installations by a militant group.

**20. SOMALIA** ITS WAR! Says Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, sending 15-20,000 troops to fight 2,000 Eritrean troops. ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ATTACKS for third time: 500 Eritrean ISLAMIC COURTS troop supporters killed.

**21. SOUTH AFRICA** PEOPLE AGAINST GANGSTERISM AND DRUGS, terror organization from 1990s, members locked up after police receive threats that pipe bomb attacks were staged against Cape Town tourist areas.



# IRAQ: Debate



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OFFENSE

# te & Reality

## There's a Lot More Going On In Iraq Than You See on TV

By Jim Morris, Photos Courtesy DoD



*U.S. Army Soldiers provide security for Iraqi engineers assessing the damage to a major oil pipeline caused by an improvised explosive device on Oct. 5, 2006. The Soldiers are assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Bendet, U.S. Air Force.*

Most Americans get their news from television. The point of terrorism is to demoralize one's enemy through fear; the point of television is to sell airtime, usually by manipulating fear. In the near term, Arab terrorism and American television are natural allies.

For four years we have watched the war in Iraq, and the debate about that war, rage across our screens in a cool pattern of colored dots. Guerrilla Warfare is a complicated business. It doesn't fit well into sound bites. There are relevant factors that don't seem to be under discussion.

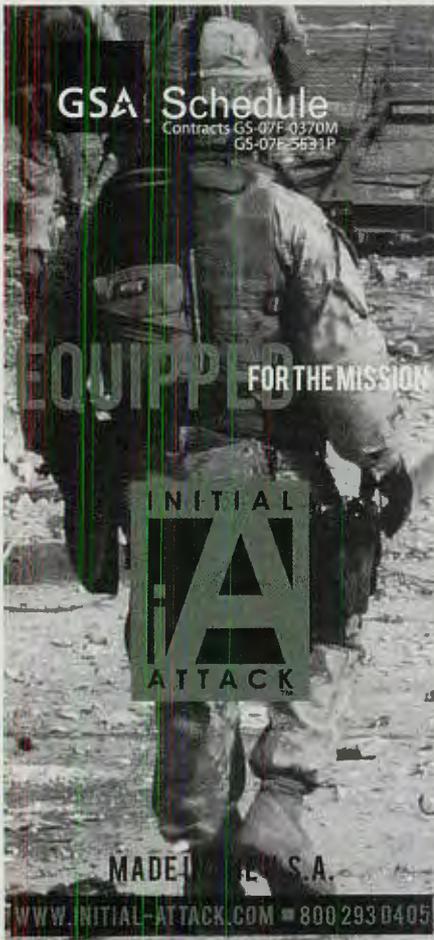
I was not in favor of the war in Iraq, because, as a student of guerrilla warfare I anticipated a situation not too different from the one we're now confronted with. I'm going to put in a few quotes here, from columns I wrote for the San Diego *READER* during the invasion. This is not to prove that I'm prescient, but to demonstrate that I have not come to these views late.

Here's a quote from the very first column, when the Americans were still in Kuwait. "The notion that we, the United States, can create a stable democracy in the Middle East strikes me as hubris of the highest order. But it's possible. We managed to create fairly stable, fairly democratic regimes in Japan and the Philippines after World War Two, and they're still functioning more or less in that mode. So maybe this will work. But it's a very long shot."

### Great Timing

And from a subsequent column: "A couple of weeks ago Jay Leno did a gag about how the Japanese had offered to send troops to help out in Iraq. 'Great timing,' he said, the message being that the Japanese had come on board when the war was over. Chris Matthews, on MSNBC's *Hardball* expressed great surprise that people are still killing each other in Iraq. One got the impression he thought that the administration had misled him, that once Saddam's statue was down, it should be clear sailing from then on.

U.S. Army Soldiers from Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division drive by burning oil fields while convoying to Al Jawala, Iraq, Sept. 22, 2006, to conduct a cordon and search operation with the Iraqi army. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Bendet



“What universe do these people live in?”

“To me the surprise is that we’ve faced so little opposition, not so much. In the universe I live in, when you put in an invasion you get a resistance movement.”

And later in the same column: “Remember when the Clinton administration announced that we would bring the troops home from Bosnia after one year? I laughed out loud. It was like telling a group of high school graduates they would begin college in September and pick up their degrees just before Christmas break. Some things take time. Re-creating a society takes at least a generation, usually closer to two.

“In 1963 I was getting ready to go to Vietnam for the first time. I met a Special Forces sergeant who said flatly that it would take 35 years to accomplish what we had set out to do in Vietnam. He didn’t say why, and I didn’t learn why until I went there.

“I saw, we all saw, and nobody in Washington saw, that it takes at least a generation to re-create a society. Nobody ever really changes his or her mind about anything. Once their basic attitudes about life, and how it is lived, are formed, they are

pretty much set. To make competent generals you have to train them as lieutenants, and keep at it through all their promotions until you have good senior leaders. We did exactly half of that job in Vietnam, threw up our hands, and sold out the competent lieutenant colonels we had made.

### Fascist Dictatorship

“Iraq has been under a fascist dictatorship for three decades. Self-reliance, initiative, personal responsibility; these things have all been beaten out of them. They won’t come back by issuing a proclamation, or waving a magic wand. They will come back through patience, kindness, and setting a decent example.

“Americans tend to think in the near term. Government doesn’t think past next year’s budget. Big Business is even worse. It doesn’t think past the next quarterly profit and loss statement. We insist on the quick fix, instant gratification, shake ‘n’ bake. We don’t want to build it to last; we just don’t want it to fall apart on our watch. We get played for suckers by cultures that plan a couple of centuries down the road.

“If we’re out of Iraq in two years, it will be either another fascist dictatorship or an Islamic ‘Republic’ in 10.

“One of the greatest mistakes we could make would be to blow into Iraq and think we, the great Americans, are going to show the simple natives how it’s really done. The resolution of every war is a process of cross-culturalization. We’re going to learn at least as much from the Iraqis as we teach them, like it or not.”

So now it’s four years down the road and the cry is that Iraq has failed and it’s time to pull out. Well, no, Iraq is going rather better than these things usually go. We got the Philippines in 1898 and gave them independence in 1945. Yes, WWII intervened, but 1945 was about when we’d planned to do it before WWII. The definitive work on guerrilla warfare is credited to Mao Zedong. It was probably written by Lin Biao, but never mind. The title of the book is *Protracted War*. Guerrilla war is not measured in years. It is measured in generations.

Japan, our other example, was occupied in 1946 and the occupation was formally ended in 1952, six years, without war. But that was a thoroughly conquered, racially homogenous, disciplined, stable society, completely rallied around the emper-

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or, who wholeheartedly supported democracy.

We got out of Nicaragua in two years, from 1910 to 1912, but I don't think anybody would call what we left behind a "democracy." They really don't grow on trees. We occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934 and at the end of that time it was still...Haiti.

## Intelligence

Here are some quotes from another invasion column: "The *sine qua non* of guerrilla warfare is Intelligence. Not just timely intelligence, but immediate intelligence. Not the kind where you send it up the line and the big brains at the top of the chain of command mull it over and make a plan and send you out to go get 'em. With that method the bad guys are long gone when you come for them. To succeed against a guerrilla campaign, the guy who gets the intel acts on it...right now.

"A model for what I'm talking about was described by my friend Rick Rescorla, who served in both the British and American armies. When he died Rick was Senior Vice President for Corporate Security of Morgan Stanley in the World Trade Center. He was killed on 9/11, but is given credit for personally saving the lives of all but seven Morgan Stanley employees, two of whom were Rick and his deputy: twenty-seven hundred people, almost as many as those who died.

"In the late fifties Rick was a corporal in a British airborne intelligence unit on Cyprus. When they'd pick up a terrorist they'd encourage him to discuss his associates and their whereabouts. Then they'd visit his friends about 0300 the next morning – one-stop shopping, with no messy coordination with the chain of command.

"The best model for our counter-guerrilla campaign is not Vietnam, but the French war in Algeria. They didn't do what they set out to do, which was to keep their colony. But they did do what we claim is our objective in Iraq: They pacified the country and left behind a relatively democratic regime that did not evaporate like the dew in the desert.

"Remember the movie *The Battle of Algiers*? The French paras would find a terr in the warrens of Algiers, and hotwire him. Then when he spilled his guts they'd roll up his net before the word got out. They did this over



Marines prepare to attach a sling fastened to a M198 Medium Howitzer onto a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in Al Asad, Iraq, on Nov. 29, 2006. The Super Stallion, from Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 465, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), will airlift the howitzer to Barwana, Iraq. DoD photo by Gunnery Sgt. Michael Q. Retana

and over again."

Nobody likes torture. I don't recommend it. In Vietnam my best interrogation tools were coffee and cigarettes. And no I don't mean that I stubbed the cigarette out in anybody's eye. We just made them happy and chatted them up.

But in that circumstance we were looking for background info. In Iraq you have about three hours to get a prisoner to spill his guts, and then you go looking for the people that he gave up. Without that intel you're going in blind, and you lose a lot of GIs going in blind in the cities.

Truly, I have done little but fight guerrillas, study guerrilla warfare, cover it, write four books, and edit more than 200 about it, since 1962, and the only way I know to effectively fight urban guerrillas is to get a prisoner to talk and then act on what he says before the other guys move, which they do every day.

I'm not sure why the Geneva Convention should apply to an enemy who lops off the heads of captured American civilians. What I hear on television is that we shouldn't torture our enemies because they will treat our own POWs badly. Apparently people who appear on television don't watch television.

I don't care how you get the information. You can use the coffee and cigarette method if it works. You can shoot the guy up with Pentothal, or you can hook him up to a field tele-

phone.

But, if you give the military an assignment, and then take away the only method to achieve it that has ever worked, you really incur an obligation to come up with another method.

I don't like torture, or believe it's a good way to get information. But, that said, if, as a commander, I capture a prisoner, and that prisoner has information that has the potential to save the life of even one of my men that prisoner will give me that information.

## Weapons of Mass Destruction

The media and political opposition have played a huge game of Gotcha over our failure to find Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq. Well, a smoking gun would have been nice, but we didn't find one. It seems to me a more realistic question would be "Would Saddam have WMD now if we hadn't invaded?" The answer is almost certainly yes.

My old sources in the Middle East believe that Saddam's entire WMD program was taken to Syria in a convoy of Russian trucks. I think they're probably right. If you knew who my sources were you'd probably be more inclined to believe this than you are now, but I want to keep them as sources, and I want to keep them alive.

Was WMD enough reason to invade? I don't think so, but fair is fair. If Saddam were still in power he

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would have chemical and biological weapons, and probably be looking into building a few nukes, just to get them before Iran, and to look better than Kim Jong-Il.

## Casualties

American casualties in Iraq are minuscule compared to those of any major previous conflict. It's about as dangerous to ride a motorcycle in California, as it is to be a combat infantryman in Iraq. I certainly don't want to minimize the tragedy of the loss of even one soldier, especially for his family and friends. But the truth is that we have lost barely as many people in this war as we lost on 9/11, and I believe that if it hadn't been for this war drawing terrorists into Iraq we would have had more than one more 9/11 in the United States, possibly costing many more lives.

We lost more people in the first hour at both Normandy and Iwo Jima than we have lost in Iraq. In the amount of time we've spent in Iraq we'd lost something like 30,000 American lives in Vietnam. In many fields of endeavor a one thousand percent improvement is looked on as something of a success. Not appar-

ently in warfare as it is reported in the American media.

## The Media

If you read the memoirs of American commanders in WWII you'll see how important they thought the backing of the American people was. In the history of the U.S. we have only fought one major war without censorship, and it's the only one we lost.

Since Vietnam and Watergate the media has seen its role as adversarial with the U.S. government. This is not objectivity. We need a free press to keep government honest, but the press also needs to free itself of its reliance on fear to motivate sales. In this era the media sees its job as to find fault, or something that can be interpreted as fault, or something that could possibly prove to be a fault later.

Briefly, after we invaded Afghanistan, I was MSNBC's talking head on Special Operations. That ended when they got General Wayne Downing, commander of all U.S. Special Operations during the Gulf War. Even my mother would admit that he knows more about this stuff than I do.

But it was an amazing experience. The first question I was asked on the

air was the dumbest question I have ever been asked by anybody, and that's coming from a man who taught basic training for two years and freshman English for three. The occasion was the funeral of SFC Nathan Chapman, the first American soldier killed by the enemy in Afghanistan. The anchor was Lester Holt, and he asked me, incredulously, "How could this have happened?"

I hope I didn't look too stunned. We were something like a month into a major war and we had our first KIA. That's a tragedy, but it's also a miracle, which is what I said.

We've won a lot of little wars since Vietnam, but I've never seen the phrase "American victory" in the media. For American journalists "American victory" is an oxymoron.

It may well be that it is impossible, under those circumstances, for the U.S. to win any major war that lasts longer than two months. When the victory becomes old news everything is seen as a defeat. It may be impossible to wage any war in which our immediate survival is not threatened.

This may be a good thing, but I'd like to see it decided as a matter of policy, not by default, as a matter of

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

# TACTICAL POWER

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

By Matt Furey

Best-selling author of *Combat Conditioning*

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

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

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

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

### **What I discovered shocked me from head to toe!**

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

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

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

### **Who is Combat Conditioning for?**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Even One Minute a Day Brings Results!**

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

**Time is not the issue!**



### **Matt Furey**

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

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

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

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

### **New Results from Forgotten Exercises**

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

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

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

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

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

### **12 Ways Combat Conditioning Will Change Your Life!**

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

1. Cranks up your metabolism so you burn excess body fat a lot, lot faster. This means fitting into the clothes you WANT to wear.
2. Packs attractive and healthy functional muscles (not grotesque) onto your entire body
3. Simultaneously doubles your strength and flexibility - and does so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. Quadruples your endurance inside of 30 days. Never get tired again.
5. Within a couple weeks, it often eliminates chronic back and shoulder pain from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing - or other forms of abuse.
6. Sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as you hit the rack you're out like a light.
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](http://www.mattfurey.com).

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SCF 07/05



A Polish army soldier from the Polish maneuver group at Camp Echo, Iraq, searches a passenger of a suspicious vehicle during a mounted patrol in Diwaniyah, Iraq, Oct. 27, 2006. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Price

news coverage.

### The Lightning Rod Effect

It has been said that the war in Iraq has galvanized the terrorist infrastructure and created more terrorists who are now pouring into the area. There

is something to this, but it is also true that the terrorists were already galvanized. I'd much rather have them going into Iraq and being smashed like bugs on the windshield of the U.S. military (We have a twenty-to-one kill ratio) than pouring into the United

States to set off dirty nuclear bombs in our major cities.

These guys are not deep thinkers. They are hotheads. Rather than spend years educating themselves and training to blend into the U.S. population it's far easier for them to head for Iraq where the food, language, and population are familiar, and there are Americans to kill (or try to).

Right now Iraq is a bigger draw than we are. This will change the day we leave Iraq, whether in victory or defeat.

The things that keep terrorists out of the United States right now are that it's difficult to get here, and once here there aren't very many jihadis who can blend into the local population. It certainly isn't our border security that stops them. If we can't keep grape pickers out, we can't keep terrorists out.

And they are actively organizing a terrorist infrastructure in Latin America, where they do fit in better.

If I'm right it may take 30 years to win in Iraq, with casualties at the present rate. It may also be that this is the best deal we're going to get. That's something to think about before we just get tired and bail.

On the other hand, it's possible to

*Continued on page 81*

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

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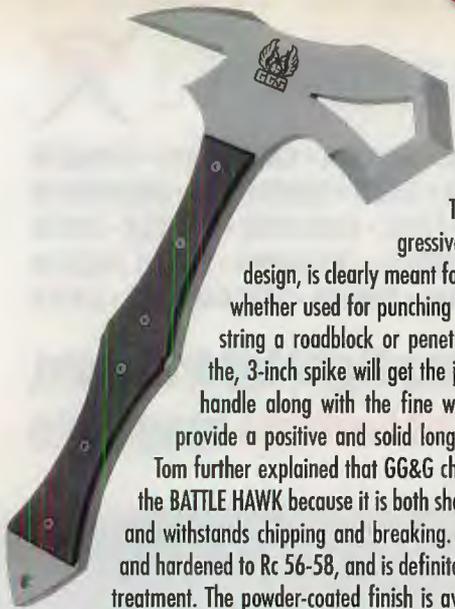
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# ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER



## GG&G BATTLE HAWK

GG&G introduced 10 new tactical products at the 2007 Shot Show. Here, Thomas Newhall, President of GG&G points out some of the features of the new GG&G BATTLE HAWK Tactical Tomahawk to one of thousands of dealers in attendance. As Tom pointed out, the BATTLE HAWK Tactical Tomahawk is an extreme-use combat tool.

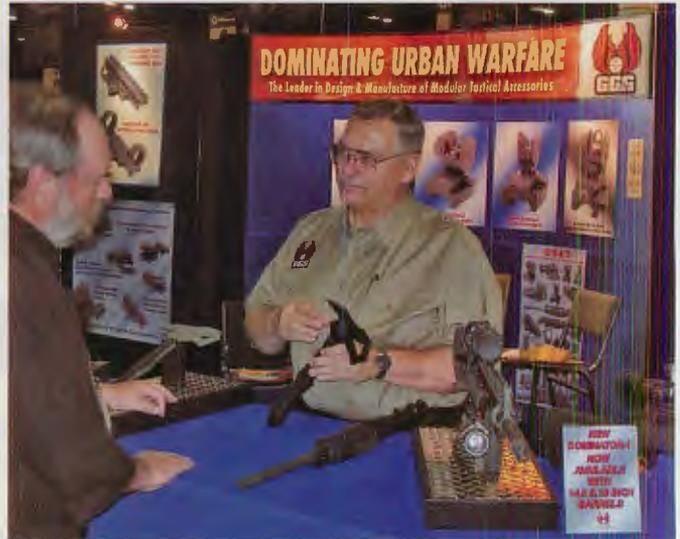
The overall geometry and aggressive multiple cutting-edge Tanto design, is clearly meant for aggressive use. In addition, whether used for punching holes in a 55-gallon drum to string a roadblock or penetrating aircraft for extraction the, 3-inch spike will get the job done. The double-contour handle along with the fine weave G10KG Micarta scales, provide a positive and solid long-and-short grip for the user.

Tom further explained that GG&G chose Crucible S7 tool steel for the BATTLE HAWK because it is both shock-and high-impact resistant and withstands chipping and breaking. The material is heat-treated and hardened to Rc 56-58, and is definitely meant to hold up to tough treatment. The powder-coated finish is available in four matte colors,

black, OD green, desert tan, and combat gray. To complete the package, a black Kydex sheath is included with Tec-Loc fastener.

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## UNDERCOVER SOUTHPAW

Charter Arms new Undercover Southpaw is a true left-hand revolver. The Southpaw's cylinder release is on the right side and the cylinder opens to the right side so the left-handed shooter's weak hand (right hand) can do a more efficient and safer reload (especially for the new shooter who is purchasing a one time handgun for self defense).

The Southpaw required unique engineering and retooling but even though production numbers may not be that of its right-hand sibling the Undercover Lite, Charter was still able to hold the MSRP at a scant \$16.00 higher (\$375.00). These novel, ultra-compact revolvers (most compact and lightest in the industry) come with an exposed hammer for both single-and double-action firing.

Model: Undercover Southpaw (Model Number 93820) • Caliber: .38 Special +P • Capacity: 5 rounds • Weight: 12 ounces (super-tough 7075 aircraft aluminum alloy, one-piece, solid side plate frame) • Barrel length: 2 inches • Price: \$3375

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## BUCK'S NEW 730 X-TRACT™ MULTI-TOOL

Leave it to the preeminent American knife designers at Buck to, ahem, cut to the chase and introduce a no-compromise tool that features a full-size Buck knife blade, plus good-size and husky needle-nose pliers, which are spring-loaded to facilitate repetitive chores. The blade opens with one hand, and the pliers deploy with one hand, as do a Phillips screwdriver at one end and a square-bar screwdriver at the other end. There is also a classic can/bottle opener. Everything locks open for use. And there is a lanyard ring for those who work off the ground or around water.



The pliers have integrated wire-cutters (10 gauge). The 3" drop-point blade, of 420HC stainless, is partially serrated, has grip ridges for blade control and a thumb stud for easy opening. Easy-slide screwdrivers are a #2 Phillips and a 3/16" square bar. The durable thermoplastic handle has a steel frame, ergonomically shaped for comfort. It comes with an easy-to-carry sheath. It is 7-1/4" open, 4-1/4" closed. It weighs 5.6 oz.

This is a tool you will use, not just carry. MSRP for Black, Platinum, Blue and Red models is \$50; the Realtree Camo version is \$55. And, of course, it is backed by Buck's 4-Ever warranty.

**Buck Knives, Dept. SOF**  
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## AIMPOINT'S MICRO T-1 AND COMPM4 SIGHTS

Built to offer the same battle-proven ruggedness as larger Aimpoint sights, the Micro T-1 is able to perform under extreme conditions while adding negligible size and weight to your weapon weighing only 3.6 ounces. The Micro T-1 is suitable for use on rifles, carbines, shotguns, sub-machine guns and handguns. It's also ideal for use as a stand-alone sight and can be "piggybacked" on top of larger magnifying scopes, night vision or thermal imaging optics, and comes complete with a patent-pending integral Picatinny mount that is keyed into the sight body to absorb recoil.

The Micro T-1 is a 1X (non magnifying) parallax-free optic that features a 4 MOA red dot for faster target acquisition. The Micro T-1 is waterproof to 25 meters (80 feet) and features Aimpoint's state-of-the-art ACET diode technology allowing the Micro T-1 to operate continuously for over 5 years on a single CR-2032 battery.

The new CompM4 has been standardized as the Army's new M68CCO. It features a 2 MOA dot size making it perfectly suited for use on Aimpoint's 3X Magnifier scope module and is waterproof to 45 meters (150 feet) improves upon Aimpoint's existing ACET diode circuitry allowing the sight to run constantly for over 8 years on a single AA battery.

The CompM4 also features a QRP2 Picatinny rail mount, eliminating the need for a separate mounting ring and can be used on any weapon with a Picatinny rail mounting system. Vertical and cantilever spacers are available to allow the sight to fit on all M16 and M4 carbine variants.

Optimized for use with all generations of night vision devices, both the CompM4 and the Micro T-1 features manual adjustment switches with multiple night vision compatible settings and daylight settings.

**Aimpoint Inc., Dept. SOF**  
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and tourists squander fortunes.

The corrupt, scandalous “democratic” oligarchy of Brazil and its cronies who comprise 1% of the population, scarf up more than 50% of the income, according to *Brazil in Focus*. One-fifth of Brazilians have only 2 percent of the national income, many living on as little as \$2 a day.

Brazil is the South American country with the greatest inequality in income distribution, and worldwide ranks in the bottom three poor countries, including Swaziland and South Africa in the size of its disproportionately poor classes.

The injustices have paved the road for even more corrupt and infinitely more brutal authorities, the crime bosses.

“To your left, you see a favela that used to be so crime infested and violent that police could not go in,” Capt. Bushnell said.

At the bottom of the hill below the station, a ghetto with shabby multi-story shacks with broken windows and crumbling walls bustled with thousands of poorly garbed men, women, and children.



These elite Brazilian police use armored cars to penetrate the ghettos or police stations under siege by well armed gangs. Note firing ports in side of vehicle.

“On the right,” he said, “you see multi-million dollar mansions and skyscrapers. But in those streets are violent enclaves of drug activity and trafficking.”

### Shabby But Safe

We hiked down a narrow trail until we got to the bottom of the wooded hill. A tall fence closed off the entrance to the favela. We went through the gate and down the steps into cobbled

walks so narrow that we had to walk single file. The walkways separated the shabby buildings that were built wall to wall and several stories high.

I thought I had seen the worst in the South African townships of Soweto and other garbage infested human hell-holes, with no running water and no sewage systems.

Either this ghetto was as grim as in that African country with its abject poverty, or it is that every time I wan-

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**DEALERS WELCOME**

der through ghettos unfit for humanity, I am overwhelmed with the same sick feelings of gloom and pity mixed with guilt.

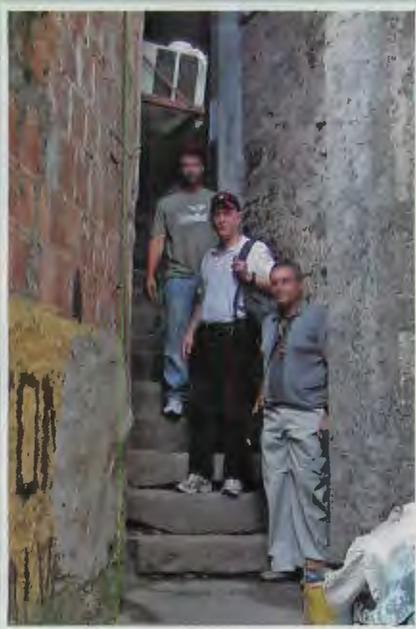
Thousands of people were living in abject squalor, with families crammed into one-room shanty apartments.

The small quarters that could only be described as hovels served as tiny markets during the day and bedrooms at night, some with a few dusty cans, others with half filled boxes of melting chocolate or soda pop or chips.

TVs were blaring from wide open, broken or non existent windows and doors as the residents tried to stay cool in the buildings smoldering from the stifling heat under the blazing summer sun.

A nauseating stench, a mixture of rancid cooking oil, stale tobacco, rotting garbage, cheap wine, and a combination of unidentifiable smells emanating from nowhere and everywhere, permeated the stuffy air.

It was the day after Christmas, but there were no signs of crumpled up wrapping paper or new toys or clothing, no leftover Christmas trees or lights brightening up this darkness in the wealthy Catholic country, the



*RKB and BOPE officers pose in one of the typical, shoulder scrunching corridors in a ghetto near BOPE headquarters. Brazilian police experience 'urban warfare' at its worst.*

eighth largest economy in the world.

Women and men, young and old, with blank looks, sat on boxes or steps staring at us as we walked by, completely unperturbed, obviously very

comfortable with the presence of the cops.

### From Fighting for Survival to Simply Existing

The proud, beaming military cops broke the miserable silence.

"This favela used to be so violent, that people feared for their lives, mothers mourned for their dead children, and men left their houses never to be seen again," the captains were proud of the result of their pacification project.

There are 700 more ghettos to clean up in Rio, virtually all of which are ruled by drug bosses.

Between 1993 and 2000, 16,426 people disappeared without a trace, most of them children, the TNI briefing reports.

The poor favela inhabitants used to be able to trace the bodies, or body parts were left on their doorstep.

But now many of those who disappeared are never heard from, having been killed by traffickers, or by illegal police death squads.

The drug barons have armed nearly 6000 children in Rio alone.

Well organized drug gangs shovel in billions of dollars in drug and arms traf-

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ficking. The drug trafficking is spread out among multitudes of gangs, rather than being run by a large mafia.

Therein lies much of the violence—turf wars among the various gangs. Drug bosses recruit the hopeless, aimless, impoverished favela inhabitants.

The recruits join the gangs mainly for money.

For two years, BBC Observatorio de Favelas followed 230 young people belonging to gangs in Rio de Janeiro's favelas.

The majority were black or of mixed race and in their late teens.

One in five of those taking part was killed, two-thirds by police.

A third group was known as "soldiers", protecting their territory from rivals.

More than half worked for more than 10 hours a day, seven days a week and the majority had been involved in armed conflicts with rival gangs.

### To Expose the Gang Bosses is a Death Sentence.

15 journalists were killed in Brazil between 1991 and 2003, Reporters Without Borders reports.

Tim Lopes, investigative reporter for Globo TV crossed the line into Red Command Drug Baron Elias Pereira da Silva, "Crazy Elias" territory, Vila Cruzeiro, where cops hardly dare to tread.

Lopes was on his way to cover one of the notorious weekend funk dances where drug bosses sell drugs and rape young girls, the *Rio Journal* reports.

Lopes had published a graphic depiction, *Drug Market* that exposed one of Pereira's open air cocaine fairs.

Rumor has it that Pereira brutally orchestrated the drug trade in 30 favelas. Police claim he was responsible for over 60 executions in one year alone.

Lopes was brutalized, beaten savagely, shot in the feet while he was still conscious before Crazy Elias executed him with a Samurai-style sword.

Da Silva Pereira was sentenced to 28 years and six months in prison

"There is no death penalty or life sentence in Brazil," Col Paes, retired commander of the police force in the capital, Brasilia, said. It is not allowed by the constitution. The accused get more than a fair trial. The maximum

as being alarmists," he continued.

### Again Well-Funded, the FARC Won't Go Away

"Sureshot was well on his way to funding and expanding his narco-army," says our former DEA agent. The ranks of the FARC swelled from a Defense Intelligence Agency estimate of 8,000 in 1955, to more than 20,000 fighters, according to Colombian Military Intelligence in 2002. "Sureshot was on his way to challenging the Colombian government *mano-y-mano*," and that he did – with deadly consequences.

The Colombian Army has claimed that it has reduced the FARC from 20,000 fighters down to an estimated 12,000 gunslingers. Most authorities challenge that declaration as severely optimistic. U.S. military advisors have told me that there are at least 18,000 fighters now, in some 80 different fronts all over the country.

Sureshot's FARC won't go away. He has built it up from some 200 rag-tag, poorly armed and equipped farmers with rusty rifles into a murderous fighting force. With the help of a booming drug trade providing more than \$1 billion a year, plus kidnapping and extortion and other lucrative criminal activity, he has made himself the overall commander of thousands and thousands of seasoned fighters.

One very alarming revelation by our retired DEA agent is the growth of the rebel's urban units. A recent string of bombings in Bogota proved that FARC is here to stay. What will happen in the future is yet to be seen. Experts predict the U.S. military and law-enforcement assistance to the Uribe government will be decreased, due to numerous considerations – not the least of which is the Colombian Army's human rights record.

How the Colombian government will react is a big question.

As you read this, Old "Sureshot" will be continuing his decades-old war with Colombia. Today, he is, as Messing characterized him, *the Last Guerrilla*. ☒

Bruno Luis Moreno is a former Special Operations officer, who recently returned from Colombia to file this report.

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sentence is 30 years for any murder, even if one commits 1000 murders. With good behavior, it is possible to serve only part of that sentence.”

### If It's Not Drugs, It's Weapons

“We have recently apprehended a bunch of guns in Paraguay that were being prepared to be sent to drug dealers in Rio. We intercepted phone calls and found out guns were coming,” Captain Tramountini described some of the team's other daily responsibilities as we examined the available weapons back in the station.

As drug trafficking increases, arms trafficking becomes a bigger racket.

In 1994, police confiscated 745 guns. By 2003, they had seized over 6000. From 1994 to 2003, nearly 26,000 guns were seized from criminals according to an impressively researched and documented 2004 Transnational Institute (TIN) briefing on Brazil.

Last May, drug lords orchestrated hundred of attacks against the police in Sao Paolo that shut the largest city in Brazil down for several days.

We asked the BOPE team whether they had such problems in Rio.

“No, we have phone taps against



drug leaders just as they do in the state of Sao Paolo. The police have taps on the suspects, they listen up, they hear about drug movements and they move in.

In Sao Paolo, the police tapped in on huge actions planned by the drug lords in prison who give orders to the traffickers outside. The police tried to move the prisoners. The prisoners had gotten word of the transfer, and they retaliated. The members outside were retaliating against politicians and civilians.

“Here in Rio, our intelligence police have good intel and intervene before

such major strikes, so what happened in Sao Paolo doesn't happen here,” Capt. Bushnello said.

Until 27 December, that is. It was our last day in Rio and all hell broke loose. ☒

*Next: Drug Lords attack police in Rio. The Special Police Unit Choque of Sao Paolo speaks.*

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

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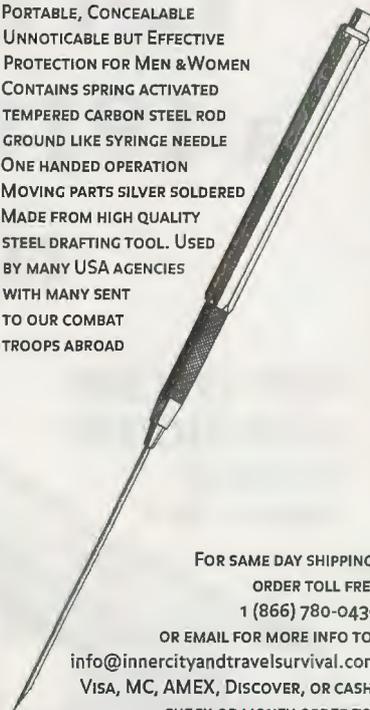
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ing through the muck?" What about hunting bear from tree stands? From blinds? From motor vessels that cruise the coast to spot a bear and then use a small craft to approach the quarry? How about hunting bear from horse back? Behind dogs? FYI, water comprised the only access to this area with a reasonable expectation of getting the animal out. Do you think it's "ethical" to "stomp through the muck" to a remote location, then leave the harvested game to rot because you can't get it out?

And one is not supposed to be "comfortable" when one hunts? But in any case, it was somewhat amusing, though boring, to gain an insight into your particular brand of "ethics." Bye-the-bye, have you ever been hunting, or are you just a judgmental weenie looking for something to snipe at? For someone who lives in the desert southwest, you sure seem to fantasize a lot about "stomping through the muck."

Am anxiously awaiting your reply.

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

ticipated in the training shared their thoughts:

According to Army Master Sgt. Chris Fields, "The reason for attending the French Commando School was to better prepare the soldiers and Marines for nautical and mountain warfare challenges in the terrain of Djibouti. These particular challenges trained each soldier and Marine for a hostile situation if one occurred in an area similar to this region."

"Through the course, the French instructor's methods of instruction and practical applications were set up very well," said Fields. "As we got physically tired and weary in our upper body, the classes moved to movements and strengthening in the lower body... in-between were classes based on knowledge. Their instructions and exercises were scheduled evenly throughout the course."

"Overall, I think everybody did extremely well in the course," commented Fields. "The challenges they faced in this course were some they will never meet again. Later on in these now-Commando's lives, whether in the military or as a civilian, if

they are faced with troubled times, it will be less of a challenge to them to overcome it."

Fields went on to say the training with the French is essential to the mission in the Horn of Africa of detecting, deterring and defeating trans-national terrorists in the region. "It enhances our operations and gives us the ability to see real world situations in an environment we are not as familiar with as the French are. It is imperative that if we are to fight together as allies, we must train together in this war on terrorism."

"It was one of the hardest training operations I've faced, but at the same time one of the better schools I've been through," said Lance Cpl. Bryan Napier, who graduated in the top five of his class. "I feel honoured to represent the American platoon in the top five. It will definitely be an experience to remember." ✕

Photo-journalist Richard Lucas is a frequent contributor to SOF Magazine. He has covered conflict situations in Africa, the Balkans, Middle East and Asia. Contact: [www.lucasvision.com](http://www.lucasvision.com).

argue that 30 years, or 100, will not win this war.

My friend Dan Hill is a Muslim, a retired army captain, and the most knowledgeable person on the Middle East I know who is not actually native to it. He points out that the sectarian lines Iraq is currently fragmenting into are the exact boundaries of the tribal areas that existed before the British created Iraq by fiat after WWI. It is his contention that Iraq is an artificial entity that can only exist through draconian measures.

In short, he believes Iraq can only exist if governed by Saddam Hussein or someone like him. If he's right then we have two choices; leave, or install another Saddam.

I would suggest, however, that if we do that we maintain the right to provide his bodyguards.

### Bought

—Okay, I know, we can't really do that. But, consider this. The American victory in Iraq was the invasion. Any subsequent victory would be Iraqi. Counterinsurgency wars are waged in countries that do not have a govern-

ment that can govern. The purpose of the fighting is to hold the insurgents at bay until the government develops that capability.

Unfortunately our State Department and the CIA do not trust anyone, at least in the Third World, who can't be bought. People who can be bought can't govern, because they have no spine, and their own people don't trust them.

Think about it. We ousted Mossadeh in Iran and put in the Shah. Within a generation he was gone, replaced by the Ayatollah Khomeini. In Cambodia we stage managed a coup to remove Prince Norodom Sihanouk, easily the most accomplished skater in Asia, and installed Lon Nol, whose only distinction was that he was the world's only head of state whose name was a palindrome. So the Khmer Rouge took over and killed almost everybody.

I was in and out of Vietnam for 10 years and the only competent officers I met who were veterans of the Indochina War had been non-Communist Viet Minh. These men were ignored in favor of officers who had fought for the French, a generation of proven losers. And when Ngo Dinh Diem

proved insufficiently malleable (He had a great technique for dealing with American diplomats: The man had a bladder of iron, and he would just give them green tea until they agreed to anything.), Diem was assassinated and succeeded by the seven dwarves.

And in Afghanistan the Northern Alliance, which actually took the country back from the Taliban, has been shunted aside for one of New Jersey's most prominent pizza chefs, who is now giving it back to the Taliban piecemeal.

Poor Jawad al-Maliki has taken a bad rap recently for displaying the quality for which he was chosen, a spine of warm, wet spaghetti. So if we want to win in Iraq and Afghanistan we better cowboy up and bring in some guys who can kick ass and take names. The press won't like it. They'll call them "warlords." But the peacelords aren't doing the job. ✕

Jim Morris is a former Special Forces officer and longtime SOF correspondent. His *SoF memoir*, *The Devil's Secret Name is in print from St. Martin's*. His novel *Above and Beyond* is in print from [www.realwarstories.com](http://www.realwarstories.com)

## POTUS Gets Tough

WASHINGTON, D.C. – So he didn't take my advice. Despite recommendations to the contrary in this column last week, President Bush announced Wednesday night that he's "committed more than 20,000 additional American troops to Iraq." That's the headline. But there's a lot more to the story. It's rife with risk – and great opportunity.

First, the good news: The most important statement of the speech was an accurate description of the present situation. Said Bush: "The challenge playing out across the broader Middle East is more than a military conflict. It is the decisive ideological struggle of our time." The president went on to acknowledge that "only the Iraqis can end the sectarian violence and secure their people," and that "failure in Iraq would be a disaster for the United States." He's dead right on all counts.

His new strategy for using U.S. forces in Baghdad follows a model now being effectively employed in Al Anbar Province. There, as we reported last month from Ramadi for FOX News, Sunni police officers, Shia Army troops and U.S. military personnel have been building police stations and driving Al Qaeda terrorists out of the provincial capital one neighborhood at a time. The administration's "New Way Forward" also concedes the need for the Maliki government to apply the rule of law equally, the necessity for provincial elections and recognition that local leaders – like Sheikh Abdel Sattar – are crucial to rallying the minority Sunni population in defending Iraq from foreign intervention.

Bush promised more "embedded" advisers to accelerate training Iraqi police and Army units, less onerous "restrictions" on U.S. troops and a desperately needed emphasis on Provincial Reconstruction Teams to improve economic resuscitation and new laws ensuring equitable distribution of Iraq's vast oil wealth. And though the masters of the mainstream media and our professional punditry generally ignored the point, instead of coddling Iran and Syria, as recommended by the Iraq Study Group, the president is choosing to confront them, promising to "destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our

enemies in Iraq."

In a clear signal to Iraq's neighbors who have been reading U.S. public opinion polls and listening to anti-war activists like Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the commander in chief announced the dispatch of "an additional carrier strike group to the region," and promised our allies – read Israel, Turkey and Saudi Arabia – additional Patriot ballistic missile defense systems. And in a straightforward appeal to Congress to relieve the very real stress on our weary military, Bush urged an increase in "the size of the active Army and Marine Corps so that America has the armed forces we need for the 21st century."

If all of these changes, not just more U.S. troops in Iraq, materialize as Bush described them on Wednesday evening, they could well help to ensure "the survival of a young democracy that is fighting for its life." Unfortunately, many of the ingredients for success are not in his hands. And therein are the great risks in his "New Way Forward."

There is no assurance that Congress will actually authorize or fund essential increases in our Army and Marine Corps. While Bush called for "talented American civilians" to deploy overseas to "build democratic institutions," he did not place the rest of the U.S. government on a war footing. Even now, the only Americans fighting this war are soldiers, sailors, airmen, Guardsmen and Marines.

Though he called on Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and the Gulf states to recognize how threatened they are by an American defeat in Iraq, there is no indication that these governments are willing to accept reality. Dispatching Condoleezza Rice to the region may help, but only if our "diplomats" refrain from tying success in Iraq to resolving "the Arab-Israeli dispute." Instead of sending our Secretary of State to the Mid-East, it might have been more fruitful for her to visit some of our new NATO allies with an appeal for more troops, and ordering most of the State Department to serve in Iraq.

But the greatest vulnerabilities to Bush's strategy reside in Baghdad and Washington. By endorsing "Iraqi gov-

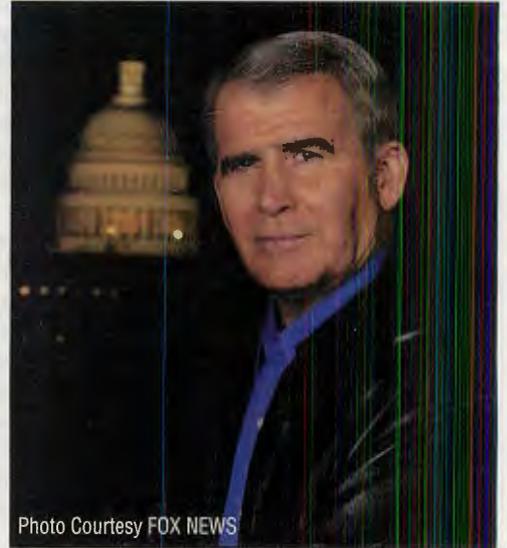


Photo Courtesy FOX NEWS

ernment plans to take responsibility for security in all of Iraq's provinces by November," Bush has defined a timeline and created political expectations here at home that the Maliki administration may be unwilling or unable to fulfill.

Though I have documented the bravery of Iraqi police and soldiers defending their own streets from terrorists, their courage has not been matched by elected officials in Baghdad. If Maliki fails to deliver on promises to crack down on the militias, equitably distribute oil wealth, reform his ministries, pay his soldiers and police and "create new jobs" in the next 10 months, the plan will collapse – no matter how many U.S. troops we send to Iraq. At that point the new leaders in Congress will likely launch an effort – as they did in 1974 with Vietnam – to cut off funding, and thereby ensure disaster.

Finally, Bush noted that the days ahead "will demand more patience, sacrifice and resolve." That's undoubtedly true. Hopefully, the "author of liberty" to whom he appealed will grant at least patience and resolve to those in Congress who have forgotten the words to that great old hymn. ✕

*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](http://www.creators.com).*

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