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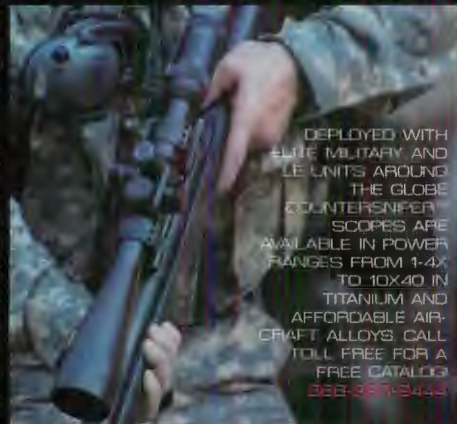
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Spc. William McGrath gets a spare magazine from Spc. Cory Barton during a firefight. Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall



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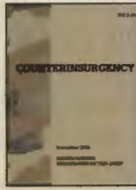
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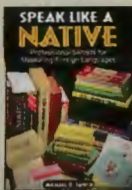
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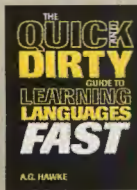
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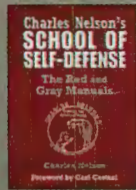


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COMMAND GUIDANCE

By Larry Pratt, Executive Director,
Gun Owners of America

The Virginia Tech Shooting: Gun Bans Are the Problem, Not the Solution

When will we learn that being defenseless is a bad defense?

All the school shootings that have ended abruptly in the last 10 years were stopped because a law-abiding citizen -- a potential victim -- had a gun.

The latest school shooting demands an immediate end to the gun-free zone law that leaves the nation's schools at the mercy of madmen. It is irresponsibly dangerous to tell citizens that they may not have guns at schools. The Virginia Tech shooting shows that killers have no concern about a gun ban when murder is in their hearts.

Not far from Virginia Tech, a killer was stopped at the Appalachian School of Law when two students were able to go off campus to their vehicles and get their guns, which they used to subdue the killer. Sadly, not even that awkward defense was available at Virginia Tech.

Isn't it interesting that Utah and Oregon are the only two states that allow faculty to carry guns on campus. And isn't it interesting that you haven't read about any school or university shootings in Utah or Oregon? Why not? Because criminals don't like having their victims shoot back at them. That's why the American people want an end to this ineffective gun ban.

Pollsters have found that 85% of Americans would find it appropriate for a principal or

teacher to use "a gun at school to defend the lives of students" to stop a school massacre (Research 2000 poll).

The words of Virginia Tech spokesman, Larry Hincker, should be haunting him in the wake of the massacre at his school. Last year, a bill was killed in the Virginia legislature to enable those with concealed weapons permits to carry their guns at schools. Hincker said that, "I'm sure the university community is appreciative of the General Assembly's actions because this will help parents, students, faculty and visitors feel safe on our campus."

Gun Owners of America has called on Congress to repeal its deadly law requiring gun-free school zones. Likewise, the call has been made to state legislatures to enact legislation enabling people with concealed carry permits to be able to have their weapons with them in schools. ✕

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CAIR Package

Thank you for mentioning CAIR in your SITREP. Looked them up on the web and found lots of interesting sites and dialog: <http://www.meforum.org/article/916> was one site. Here is an excerpt:

To fully appreciate what it means that more than half of U.S. mosques are promoting Saudi Islam, we refer to the Freedom House report, "Saudi Publications on Hate Ideology Invade American Mosques." It explains that Saudi documents disseminated at U.S. mosques are telling America's Muslims that it is a religious obligation for them to hate Christians and Jews and warning that Muslims should not have Christians and Jews as friends, nor should they help them.[100]

This is scary rhetoric and should not be ignored. I'm grateful for our intelligence gathering capabilities, of which I once was a part (U.S. Army Security Agency). This is a "cold" war that America cannot afford to lose. The communists have done well by using our laws and freedoms against us – now the radical Muslims are doing the same.

Thanks for keeping up with what is going on around the world and not being afraid to report it to your readers.

Keep up the good work,
Jerry Lucky

Hunts, Harvests and Handicaps

In regards to the letter criticizing the bear hunt in the April 2007 issue, I guess hunting ethics is in the eye of the beholder. I am from rainy western Washington, and believe me, I've spent my share of time slogging through the muck in Washington and Oregon in pursuit of game. Now I have Multiple Sclerosis and am confined to a wheelchair. Yet my dream is to hunt wild hogs with my buddy. I don't have the money for it, but those dreams live on, even if my legs don't. Naturally I will have to go on a hunt for disabled and handicapped hunters, so stomping the muck is out for me. Does that make me unethical? It is the only way I can continue my passion for hunting, just as access by boat was the only way the good Colonel could get a bear out of that area. We all have to adapt to the situation, and I don't recall that bear being tied to a pole so it could be shot. I don't think denigration and name-calling was called for.

Bob Johnson
Bremerton, WA



Woodrow Wilson Keeble ►

After reading this story in the last couple of SOF issues I became very intrigued. You see my father used to tell a story about a big Indian they called "Chief" in the Korean War. I do not know my father's unit during the war nor did I pay much attention to this story. Recently my brother-in-law mentioned it to me (my father lived with him and my sister), how my father mentioned this story to him also. It seems the "Chief" was known to be a crack shot and used to go out on patrol/recon for days with just chocolate bars in his pockets.

Now for the interesting part: Mr. Wilson was wounded in combat during the dates of October 15-19th. My father Fred Herbert Davies Jr., a corporal in the USMC at the time, was wounded in action on October 26, 1952. When I read these last dates in your April 2007 issue the hair on the back of my neck stood up. My father has since passed away as a result of complications from Parkinson's disease and I have my office adorned with his service pictures, Purple Heart and other items. Any info from any one would be greatly appreciated. I also have numerous pictures of my father and his squad in the field dating back to June 10th 1952. I used to find it strange when I was younger that a Marine spoke so highly (almost in amazement) of a regular Army soldier. It is only after all these years I learn there was nothing regular about the "Chief."

Robert Davies



Why There Are Snipers

I'm writing in response to an article written in the April 2007 issue of your fine magazine. The article is titled *Brazil Cops: It's War*, written by Dr. Martin Brass. On the top of page 46 of that issue, a photograph was printed that shows a hostage taker with a woman in his arms.

Earlier today, on the Independent Film Channel I saw a documentary on that very hostage situation. The film's title was *Bus 174*. The filmmaker clearly wants his audience to feel sorry for Sandro (the name of the hostage taker), but the reason I am writing is in regards to the last 10 minutes of this documentary film.

I am no expert on hostage rescue or police tactics, but methinks the Brazilian police screwed up on this one. The perpetrator had not shot anyone until the very end of the situation, and only then because a cop had rushed Sandro and tried to shoot him with what appears to be a sub-machine gun. The cop missed, from 1 1/2 feet away. This is very clearly seen from multiple camera

Continued on page 23



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BULLETIN BOARD



(top) High-Speed Vessel Swift II arrives in Yokosuka, Japan for a routine port call. Photo: PO1 Paul J. Phelps, USN **(middle)** Big Dog robots trot around in the shadow of a V-22 Osprey while given commands via remote control at Marine Air Corps Station New River, NC. DARPA is considering plans to weaponize the robots, or use them to carry loads for Marine grunts. Photo: L/CPL M.L. Meier, USMC **(bottom)** Coasties from the Cutters Hamilton (WHEC 715) and Sherman (WHEC 720) unload some 42,845 pounds of coke from the Panamanian-flagged Gatun, in a record-breaking maritime seizure in March. The joint operation involved the USCG, DEA, DoJ, DHS as well as the Panamanian government. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard

CORRECTION:

U.S. TACTICAL SUPPLY INC. contact information was incorrectly stated in the May, 2007 SHOT article. Please contact them at (541)928-8645 or visit www.ustacticalsupply.com.

Ted Szabo's Legacy of Innovation at Para-Ordnance

Ted Szabo, the innovative president of Para-Ordnance Mfg. Inc., passed away on Wednesday 28 March 2007 at the age of 60. A gifted engineer and designer, Szabo founded the company in the 1985 with his friend, Thanos Polyzos.

In 1988, Para-Ordnance introduced an innovation that Szabo – and legions of M1911 aficionados – had dreamt about for decades: a high-capacity frame and magazine for Model 1911 pistols, which solved the handgunners' dilemma of choosing between the superior stopping power of the .45 ACP cartridge and the impressive magazine capacity and firepower of the 9mm Parabellum.

For the first time in history, Model 1911 pistol owners no longer had to compromise, and could enjoy an increase in magazine capacity from 7 rounds to 13. The high-capacity frame assembly became Para's first step in a long series of needed improvements upon the original John M. Browning design.

Szabo's passion was the 1911 pistol, or what he called, "the best platform for an auto-loading pistol." While he was intrigued with John Browning's original designs, Szabo had "...always wanted to pick up where his design left off and carry the technology forward to the next level." Szabo's creative genius drove him to further ponder why there could not be an easier, smoother double-action trigger system: His development of a true light double-action (LDA) trigger system won his company an unprecedented four "Gunny" awards from *Guns & Ammo* magazine.

Never content to rest on his laurels, Szabo was constantly looking for ways to improve the 1911 pistol. The design of the extractor, he felt, was a weak link that needed to be improved. The result was Para's patented Power Extractor™ with its 50% larger claw that produces controlled feeding and positive extraction of the empty case.

While Szabo's desire was always to "significantly improve a product" he had another passion, and that was championing gun rights. His family fled his na-

Continued on page 81



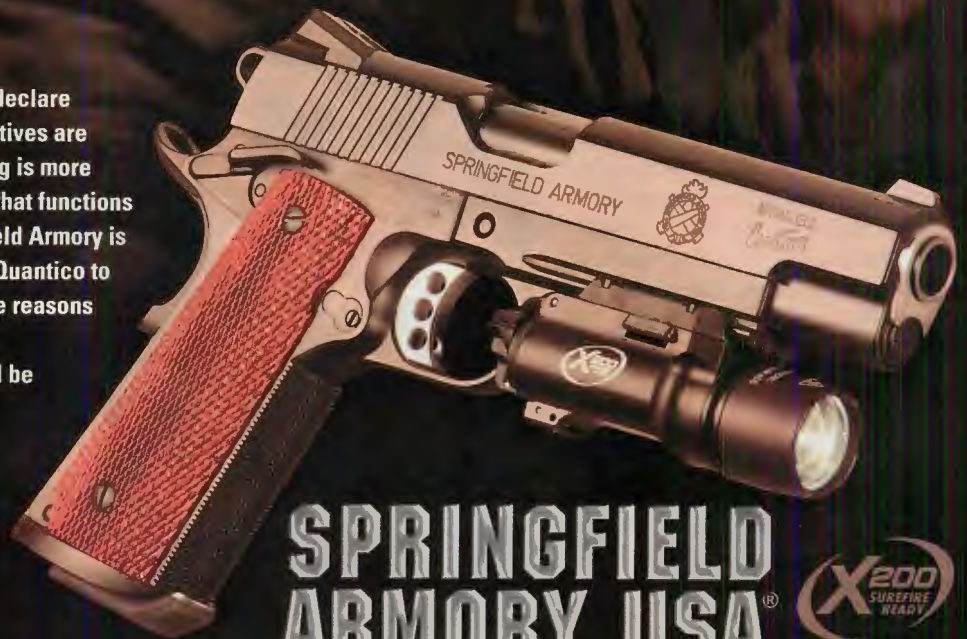
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The Iraqi E Kill



Jonathan Kephart holds his buddy's rifle while he gets the obligatory "Hi, Mom, I'm in the Middle East" photo. Photo: Courtesy Burton R. Kephart

Greater love hath no man, that he who



On 8 April 04,

while conducting MSR (main supply route) patrol in Baghdad, Iraq, Specialist Jonathan Kephart displayed exemplary bravery and courage, saving the lives of his fellow patrolmen from an overwhelming enemy force.

Throughout the morning of 8 April, numerous convoys and MP patrols were ambushed and/or received IED strikes in western Baghdad. Kephart was assigned as a .50 gunner in the 2nd Squad of 4th Platoon, 230th Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 16th MP Brigade (ABN). I was then serving as the platoon sergeant and went with this patrol, as the fighting and enemy contact was on the increase that day. First Sergeant Hawn, Private First Class Porter and I gathered all the ammo we could from any personnel staying behind. I requested a medic to go with us and Sergeant Divirgilio was tasked.

Our Battle Platforms were as follows: #1, Sgt. Stephen Mandernach (squad leader), Specialist Amy Kovac Driver, Spc. Jonathon Kephart .50 Gunner, Sgt. Serana Divirgilio Medic; #2, Sgt.

Michael Grant (team leader), Spc. Beatriz Torres Driver, Private James Hale Gunner; #3, Sgt. Tina Woods (team leader), Spc. Eduardo Figueroa Driver, Pfc. Ramon Suarez Gunner.

On the Road

I rode with Platform #3, Sgt. Woods. From the time we headed out the west gate from BIAP (Baghdad International Airport), we received small-arms and mortar fire while on patrol that morning. While heading north on MSR Tampa, we were notified on the radio that an MP Patrol was receiving fire in the vicinity of CP 46, and had two disabled vehicles with blown tires. We informed Big Dawg CP (230th MP Company) we had extra tires but my vehicle was experiencing some mechanical problems (its top speed was about 45-50 mph), but that we would get there as fast as we could. As we got closer, Big Dawg CP informed us to take ASR



(background) While Kephart's team engaged the enemy, 230th MP Company's First shirt took this photo of the burning oil tankers from Camp Victory, eight miles away – not knowing at the moment that his troops were locked in mortal combat there. Photo: First Sergeant Hawn, used by permission

ight-Klick Zone

**One Man's Faith, Courage,
Professionalism, Saves Comrades**

By Edwin M. Rossman Jr.,
MSG, USA 230th
MP Company

would lay down his life for his brother.

(alternate supply route) Sword over to 46A. ASR Sword had been closed several hours earlier to all friendly forces, due to the amount of ambushes and IEDs. We exited off of Tampa at CP 40 and headed East on Sword. Sgt. Grant was point with an M249 squad automatic weapon, I was in the middle with a MK19 grenade launcher and Sgt. Mandernach, and Spc. Kephart was trail with a .50. As soon as we passed CP 41, we started receiving small-arms fire from the left, right, front and rear of road. We were all in the kill zone.

Reaction Drill

The patrol started evasive driving and returned fire. Spc. Kephart immediately engaged the enemy, inflicting casualties or pinning them down. Then the ambush got worse. The patrol received fire from mortars, RPGs, machine guns and small arms,

and exploding improvised explosives devices (IEDs). We were driving in a built-up area of adobe and brick one-to three-story buildings. There were at any given time 30-50 people on each side of the road firing on us. They were lined up behind walls, vehicles, in windows, on roofs, and the berms that ran parallel with the road. There were also women and children lined along the road yelling and cheering. I ordered all the drivers to continue taking evasive action, swerving back and forth making us difficult targets. The gunners engaged targets from left to right. I observed all three

gunners rake the berms and buildings with their fire, laying down a good suppressive fire. Spc. Kephart was also making well-placed, controlled shots, taking out enemy combatants. I

(right) SGT Mandernach, the squad leader who was in the vehicle with SPC Kephart the day of the battle, stands in front sign at Camp Victory, Baghdad Intl Airport (BIAP). Photo: Author's files



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A photo taken at Camp Victory two days before the battle (6 April), right as things were heating up, shows the troops who were in the battle where Specialist Kephart died. At far left is PFC Ramon Suarez, author's gunner; SPC Kephart; SPC (now SGT) Kovac, the driver of Kephart's vehicle; and SPC Figeroura, author's driver during the battle. Kephart and Kovac were close battle buddies: Kovac's sister asked Kep to make sure he protected her sister while in Iraq, and he did, he gave his life. Photo: Author's files

Ma Deuce Will Reach

watched numerous enemy elements take casualties as a result of Spc. Kephart, who was firing from the vehicle behind me: If they weren't being hit, they were diving for cover and staying pinned down by the fire from Spc. Kephart.

Even enemy personnel who were barely exposed behind cover, were being taken out by Spc. Kephart. At this point I decided to keep going, as I felt if we slowed down and turned around we would be easier targets, and we were almost to the aid of the

other MP Patrol. SGT Mandernach and I both requested Air Support through Big Dawg CP. All Air Support was tied up. SPC Kephart fired the .50 cal until the belt of ammo was hit, exploded and put the gun out of action. He was passed up Spc. Kovac's M249, which he immediately began firing at the enemy. When we got to CP 45 (one check point away from the MP patrol that was disabled and under fire) there were two oil tanker trucks blocking both lanes of travel and burning intensely.

Thick black smoke was going hundreds of feet in the air and covering the left and right side of the roads for at least 100 meters. Enemy personnel were also throwing debris out in the road and moving to the overpass to fire on us. We halted in a staggered formation. Then IED's started going off around Sgt. Grant's vehicle, followed by an RPG that deflected off his turret shield. (Sgt. Grant informed me later that Hale yelled "RPG" and ducked into the vehicle when it hit).

I could not see ahead of CP 45: There were no alternate routes, and it was clear we could not go through. I ordered the patrol to fall back to CP 40/Tampa intersection. We bounded

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Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kephart,

I am so sorry for the loss of your son Jonathan. I know this a very difficult time for you right now, but I would like to tell you how much your son meant to me, this platoon, and his country. I have been Jonathan's Platoon Sergeant for the past year. I have watched him involve into the quintessential soldier. He never complained, always helped, gave 100%, knew his Warrior tasks and job, and just an all around outstanding young man. He had no differences with anyone. Jonathan was everyone's friend, and you considered yourself lucky to say you knew him. The platoon and I were blessed to have him in our lives. He was that one in a million person who had a profound impact on everyone he met. You couldn't help but like Kep. You raised a very good man. I used to use Kep (that is how we referred to Jonathan) as a role model for my other soldiers. (The not so good ones). I said many times why can't you guys be like Kep. I use to ask Jonathan to go out of his way and keep an eye on my "misguided" soldiers. And of course he would, and be a positive influence on them. But the number one trait I remember about SPC Kephart is he cared and loved his fellow platoon members dearly. It was never more prevalent, than on the day of 8 April. I was there with him when he laid his life down for his fellow soldiers. I would like to tell you his story exactly as it happened.

The morning of 8 Apr 04, there were numerous convoys and a MP patrol was being ambushed and receiving IED strikes. SPC Kephart's squad was tasked to get ready roll out the wire and assist. As we got ready to go, I saw SPC Kephart up in the turret of his vehicle getting his .50 cal ready.

SPC Kephart asked, "Sergeant, how you doing?"

I replied, "Good Kep, thank you for asking"

"Are you ready Kep?"

He replied confidently, Roger Sergeant.

We were attacked along a total stretch of 8km's in a firefight lasting 20-30 minutes. We were engaged by a superior number force. The "HELLRAISERS" platoon was trying to reach another MP patrol who was down and receiving fire. We fought for 4 km's trying to get to the other MP's. We got within a few hundred meters, and the enemy had the road blocked with two burning oil tanker trucks and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's). There was no way around. We had to fall back the way we came. On the way back through the ambush, SPC Kephart was pretty much at my 12 o'clock position and I had more eyes on him than anyone else in the patrol. I saw him better than anyone else. Up ahead, there were about 30 enemy personnel on the right side of the road with small arms and RPG's getting ready to fire on us. SPC Kephart swung to the right and opened fire. When SPC Kephart returned fire hitting several of the enemy, the rest turned and fired directly at him. While SPC Kephart was exchanging fire with that group I saw an RPG hit his turret. I saw Kephart go down in the turret, come up for a second, then go back down. He did not come up again.

Jonathan kept the fire hot on the enemy, and never stopped. Even when he was receiving heavy fire directly at himself, he laid down cover fire at great risk and peril to himself. He was constantly exposed in that turret and was trying to get his fellow MP's out of the ambush. I know at one point when I looked at him, watching as he poured fire into the enemy troops, I knew we had a chance to make it out of there. If SPC Kephart had not been so relentless, we would have suffered heavy casualties. SPC Kephart gave his life

that day protecting and defending his brothers and sisters. His deep, caring, loyalty, and love for his fellow platoon members showed that day. That is what I will remember the most about Jonathan.

(I actually started writing this letter to you last week. I worked on it between taking care of his personal affairs, grieving, and still continuing on with the mission. I hope you don't mind that I used some if it for Jonathan's Memorial Service and Jonathan's Award). I recommended Jonathan for the Silver Star. As of this moment, it was approved at every level, and I hope it goes through. Last week, the Provost General of the Army (one of two highest ranking Military Police in the Army) was briefed on Jonathan's sacrifice. In the words of Gen Ryder, SPC Kephart is a true American hero. I will never forget nor will I let anyone forget the brave selfless act your son made. I will tell his story to every soldier and citizen who will listen. I hope my son grows up to be as strong, courageous, and honorable as Jonathan. The world would be that much better of a place if there were more like him. But unfortunately there isn't, and that's what made him so special. I still go out every day to inspect and check on the soldiers, and I still can't help but look for him. I miss Kep being there to brighten my day. We miss him very much.

In closing, I want you to know I had Jonathan's memorial video taped. I would like to send you a copy. I enclosed a copy of the Stars & Stripes that has a one-page article on Jonathan (page 5). I hoped you received the flowers in time for the service from the platoon. The soldiers / friends of Jonathan have also chipped in to get you something from us to help honor the memory of your son. Hopefully you will receive it in the next few weeks. My wife Patty has been helping us arrange all of this on behalf of the platoon deployed. She knew Jonathan too and cared very much for him too.

You and your family has been my prayers everyday and I will continue to pray for you during this period of mourning and loss. A day doesn't go by that I don't think of you. We should have never made it out of that ambush, but we did, because of him. SPC Kephart is a hero, my hero, our hero.

If there is anything I can do to be of assistance, please contact me.

God Bless,

Edwin Rossman
SFC, USA
Platoon Sergeant

away from CP 45 and headed west down ASR Sword. Up to CP 45, I estimate we went through approximately 4 kilometers of Kill Zone. After the initial turn-around and bounding back, Sgt. Grant and I were in the west lane and Sgt. Mandernach was still in the east lane heading west. I ordered the patrols to bound back and for Sgt. Mandernach's vehicle to get back over to our (west-bound) lane -- but there was so much debris, so many blown-up vehicles, and damage to the road from other battles, they could not cross over.

Out Of The Trap

As we traveled west, Spc. Kephart found a safe break, and while still under fire and returning fire, yelled for his team to cross over a break in the guard rail/median, bringing them over into my lane, placing them in the center of the patrol. I was now in the trail position and Spc. Kephart was directly in front of me as we traveled back the way we came in. On the way back, Spc. Kephart was heavily engaging the enemy at the berms, buildings, roofs, and wherever the enemy was hiding, and once again firing at us. The fire was even heavier going back. (I don't believe the enemy initially expected us [or anyone else] to come down ASR Sword, as all the coalition forces had pulled out earlier.) Spc. Kephart was now firing an M4 at the enemy from the turret. Sgt. Mandernach later informed me they passed up two M4s and ammo to Kephart, while Sgt. Mandernach rendered the jammed M249 functional. He reloaded it and handed it back to Kephart. I later learned that Sgt. Divirgilio was continuously passing up ammo to Kephart during the battle. Then Sgt. Grant called in over the radio "Road Block, Road Block! Turn right, turn right!" There were metal strips with spikes in the road, which had three IEDs on them. That obstacle had not been there when we entered the ambush. Luckily, there was a paved exit road to the right of the obstacle, so we drove around it and immediately came back onto ASR Sword. A few second later, Sgt. Grant and Kephart's vehicles had their tires shot out. Now we were going really slowly. I saw my driver, Spc. Figueroa, put his window down and stick his M4 out the window. I heard him fire two bursts and then I saw an orange and white vehicle (possibly a taxi) roll/coast off the road as if out of control. I then heard Suarez yell, "you got him, you got him!" I later learned Figueroa observed the vehicle pull up next to ours and the driver started firing an AK47 at Suarez up in the turret. Figueroa took out the driver, as witnessed by Suarez and myself. I later learned from the other soldiers that Sgt. Grant had also fired his M203 at a mortar position and hit it. Numerous times, I watched RPGs fly at Kephart's and the other vehicles, from all directions.

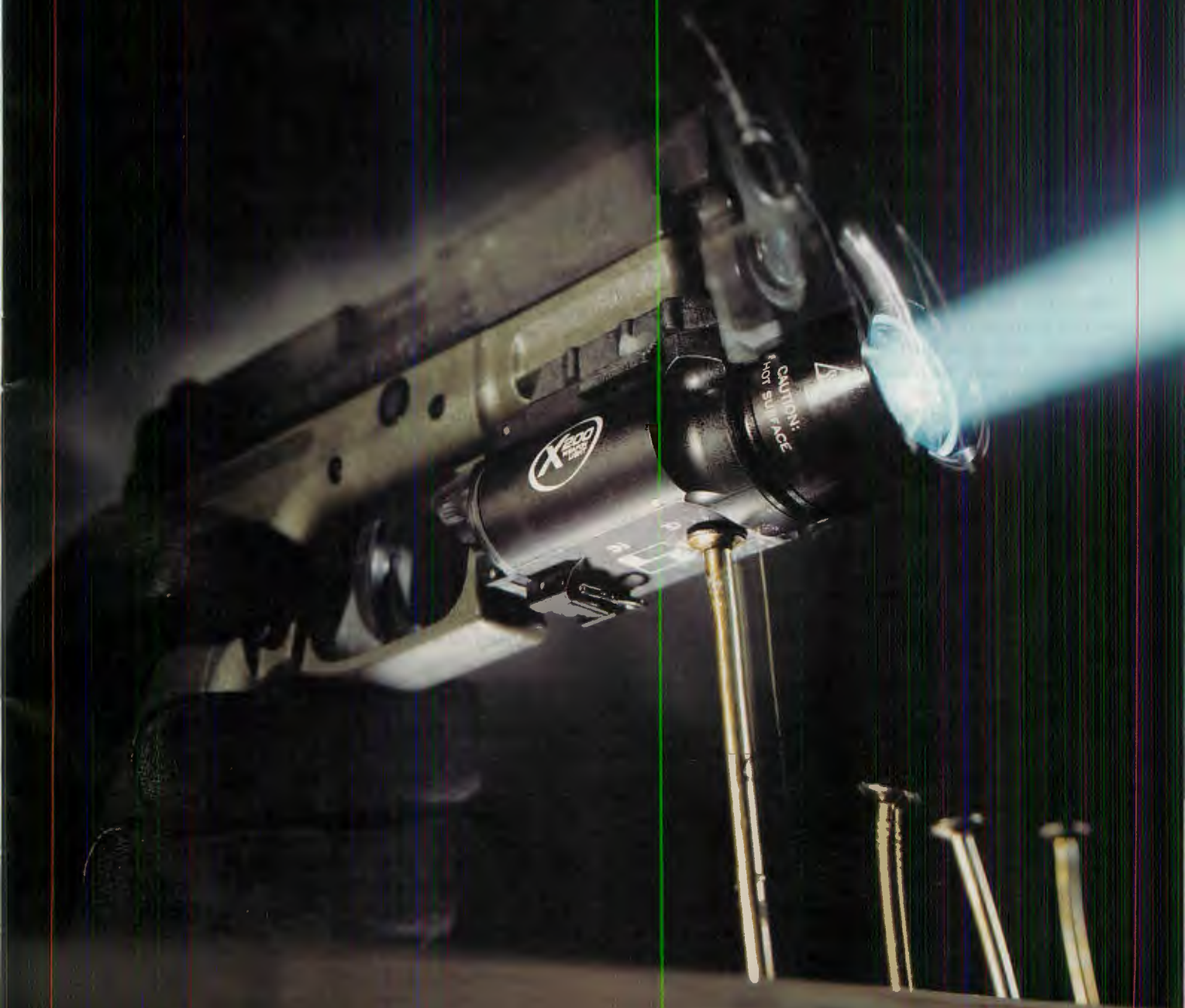
Down, But Not Out

Up ahead, there were about 30 enemy personnel on the right side of the road with small arms

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and RPGs getting ready to fire on us. Spc. Kephart swung to the right and opened fire. When Kephart returned fire, hitting several of the enemy, the rest turned and fired directly at him. Kephart and the enemy exchanged heavy fire with each other for a couple of seconds. While Kephart engaged in this firefight, I saw an RPG hit his turret. There was an explosion and black smoke, throwing the AT-4 off the vehicle. Suarez yelled "Kephart's hit!" I saw Kephart go down in the turret, come up for a second, then go back down. The vehicle started slowing down and had black smoke pouring out of the vehicle hatch. I tried to reach them on the radio but negative contact. I yelled at my team to get up to the vehicle and keep laying down fire, I needed to see if they were all right. I pulled up next to the vehicle and saw Spc. Kovac still driving. She appeared uninjured, was calm and focused. I couldn't believe she was still conscious and unhurt from the blast. I did not see anyone else moving in the vehicle. I motioned for Kovac to keep going and told my team to fall back behind them and provide cover. A minute later, Spc. Mandernach called over the radio and said Kephart had been hit in the head and right shoulder and was hurt badly. The initial explosion had damaged the speakers and left Sgt. Mandernach momentarily stunned. When he came to, he called on the radio, which was still working.

I then remembered there was a big open area in the cloverleaf at the intersection of Sword and Tampa, which would make a good LZ. I sent in a 9-Line to the CP. Then Sgt. Mandernach



Author kneels beside crate of confiscated weapons seized by Hellraiser Platoon with the Iraqi Highway Patrol, part of the largest weapons cache the 16th MP ARBN Brigade had yet seized, in Southern Iraq near An Naseriyah, July 2004.
Photo: Author's Files

appeared in the turret with the M249 and began engaging the enemy. A few seconds later, another tire on Sgt. Mandernach's vehicle was shot out,

which forced us to start slowing down. The fire from the enemy seemed to get more intense the slower we drove, but we had to provide cover for the disabled vehicle. I saw several of the enemy get in vehicles and drive out onto the outer road. I looked in the mirror and saw vehicles coming up behind us on those roads. I yelled at Suarez there were vehicles coming up and Suarez yelled back there were vehicles coming from the left and right. I clearly felt the enemy could tell we were disabled and was coming after us. We were almost to checkpoint CP 41 when I saw 1st Platoon (call Sign 01M0, Staff Sergeant Deleon and 1st Lieutenant Meeks).

Trying To Save The Troop Who Saved His Comrades

As we passed CP 41, most of the fire subsided. I called to 01M0 to stop and not to go any further, as they were about to enter an ambush. Their patrol halted immediately. Then I heard a MK19 being fired into the kill zone. I would later talk to Sgt. Michael Williams, 1st Platoon, 230th MP CO, who told me he fired the MK19 and held off the enemy. Because of his quick actions, no enemy elements pursued us out of the kill zone. 01M0 provided security for us for another kilometer to the Rally Point at CP 40A. A 341 MP patrol also responded and assisted. We arrived at CP 40A and set up security in the center of the cloverleaf exit ramp. I had 01M0 and the 341

As Remembered By A Responder and Friend

I was out on patrol the day Jonathan was hit. I was also in the lead truck that went out to help his squad. I remember that day like it was yesterday, and think about it often. I have 11 years in service and have been training for a time such as the time we spent in Iraq, but even with all the training one can not express the feelings you have after going through something like this. The squad I was with had returned to Camp Liberty to repair a tire on one of our trucks earlier that morning.

A few of us had been talking about how this trip to Iraq was almost like us going to Kosovo. While we waited for Sgt. Martin's truck to come back up on line I was listening to the radio; I then started hearing traffic from Jonathan's squad and how they started receiving fire. I could hear the voices of Sgt. Grant and some of the other NCO's that were with the squad. I can remember yelling at Ssg. Deleon and telling him that we had to get out there to help; he then got the word that we had a green light to go join the fight.

My truck took off first, driven by Spc. McTague with Spc. Dudzik in the turret. The whole way there I heard everything over the radio and kept thinking that we had to get there in a hurry because those guys out there were our friends. We sped down MSR Tampa and then went down against the flow of traffic on MSR Sword. I then saw the three trucks from 4th platoon heading our way in bad shape: they were smoking, tires flat and looked like they had just driven through hell. I then told Spc. McTague to drive past their patrol and get between them and the two old white pick-up trucks that appeared to be chasing the

damaged squad.

My truck then turned sideways to block anyone else from coming down the road; Ssg. Deleon and Sgt. Martin then positioned their trucks to take up front and rear security for Jonathan's squad and began escorting them out of the area. My truck began taking small arms fire, and my gunner was having a little trouble; I then ordered my gunner down inside the truck, I had to pull him down inside. I climbed up on top of my truck and saw that our weapon was having some difficulties. I corrected the problem and returned fire on the two pick-up trucks that were shooting at us; after the two trucks had been taken out I had my driver catch up and take up rear security behind the other elements.

On the way back down MSR Sword towards Tampa, we had people shooting at us from windows; it was like a scene from the movie *Blackhawk Down*. I could remember the whole time thinking to myself that I wished we could have arrived there earlier to help. It made it worse when we arrived at the intersection of Sword and Tampa, where we learned that we had one down, who was Spc. Jonathan R. Kephart. As soon as I heard that I started thinking of all the times that I had engaged in conversations with Jonathan, from the times back in Germany to the time we sat outside in Kuwait. Jonathan will always be missed... and I still wish that we would have gotten there a little sooner. ☘

*Ssg. Mike H. Williams,
1st PLT 2nd SQD 230th MP Co. (now Ft. Jackson, SC)*

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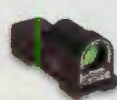
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patrol provide 360-degree security. The patrols stopped all traffic. We had a secure LZ.

I ran up to the vehicle that was hit and found Sgt. Divirgilio rendering aid to Kephart and Spc. Kovac trying to reassure him. Spc. Kephart had numerous shrapnel wounds to the right side of his body. His worse injury was at the base of his head. (His Kevlar had at least 40-50 shrapnel tears, with only one hole.)

I saw two entrance wounds to his left arm and shoulder. I thought immediately that was odd, as he was hit from the right side with the RPG. It was later determined at his autopsy per CID, I spoke to the investigating agent myself, that he did in fact receive two bullet wounds on his left side. I grabbed personnel and told them to start changing the two tires and 341 MPs jumped right in and helped. Twice a group of three cars came to the direction of the intersection and Sgt. Grant ordered Pvt. Hale to fire warning shots. As soon as Hale fired at the ground in front of the vehicles, they very quickly exited the area.

Ssg. Deleon's patrol also engaged

enemy vehicles coming up to our perimeter at the LZ. I called Big Dawg CP and they said the medevac was on the way. We switched to the medevac frequency but could not get hold of our in-bound bird due to heavy radio traffic. Later, I would learn there were as many as 100 firefights going on in Baghdad at that same moment, with numerous wounded. I called and gave the CP a LACE report (we were in the red with vehicles and black with ammo) and notified them that Kephart had gone unconscious and was getting worse. I requested for them to check on the status of our medevac. I also informed the CP we were changing tires and now should be able to do a self-recovery. After about 30 minutes, and two other helicopters rerouted to higher-priority wounded soldiers, the third air medevac finally arrived. Sgt. Grant marked it with smoke and brought the chopper in. I had a ground litter standing by and we got Kephart out and to the medevac. The Medical Officer on board attempted to stabilize him. Kephart stopped breathing. His pulse was weak. Sgt. Divirgilio started to try and resuscitate Kephart. We then put him in the

helicopter, I sent Kovac with him, as they were battle buddies.

A Hero Is Called Home

Sgt. Divirgilio then checked on everyone again for injuries. Sgt. Mandernach and Sgt. Divirgilio both had hearing damage and some shrapnel wounds. I assisted Sgt. Divirgilio putting a bandage on her left arm. As we got accountability for everyone and started to leave, Sgt. Grant's vehicle transmission went out -- it had been damaged by an IED or mortar blast. We hooked up a tow bar and moved out. As we started moving, the tire we just changed on Sgt. Mandernach's vehicle started to go flat -- it was damaged on the back of the vehicle during the ambush. With no more tires, and towing a vehicle, we were going extremely slowly, approximately 15-20 MPH. I called the CP and explained our situation and how we were easy targets. I requested air support, as we would be moving through an area where we received mortar fire earlier, and other convoys had been ambushed. The CP could not get air support: They were all tied up. As we got closer to BIAP, we were driving now about 15 MPH, and Sgt. Mandernach was now on his rim. I could see the Chateau over-looking gate 7.

I called the CP and asked for a wrecker to meet us at Gate #7, and inquired about some Bradley support (they were parked at the Gate) to come out and assist, as we were sitting ducks. I further asked the CP to contact the First Sergeant to make arrangements to place the vehicle out of sight so it could be cleaned of Kephart's blood before any of the soldiers saw it. The Company Operations TAC OPS, Master Sergeant Mandeville, took care of the vehicle later that evening. We finally arrived at Gate 7, and got final accountability of all personnel and equipment.

We had been under almost constant attack for 4 kilometers up and 4 back, for a total stretch of 8 Klicks. The on-duty 230th MP OPS SGT/RTO on duty, Sergeant Fishel, said we had been there 45-60 minutes. We had been engaged by a force of highly superior numbers, consisting of 300-500 enemy personnel. At any given time there were 20-50 personnel on each side of the road firing at us. The enemy was not wearing uniforms but was dressed in miss-matched civilian clothing.

Continued on page 22

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Having Fired Their Best Shot, They Survived

Between the three platforms, we fired approximately 12,000 rounds of ammunition: It served us well that 1st Sergeant Hawn had collected all the extra ammo he could muster from the Headquarters element. I believe there were snipers making deliberate, aimed shots, basing this conclusion on the fact that I heard single hits on the vehicle and one round hit Sgt. Grant's vehicle window dead-center where his face was. It also was significant that several tires got shot out in approximately the same area of the kill zone.

Courage When It Counted Most

Judging from the volume of firepower, roadblocks/barricades and IED's that were detonated, the enemy had been determined to kill or capture us all. Fortunately, due to the incredible resolve, courage and professionalism I saw SPC Kephart display, the rest of the detail did make it out alive. If at any time he had faltered, panicked, quit firing his guns, not paid attention to the road/IEDs,

didn't adhere to platoon SOP, applied improper loading, unloading, and malfunctions corrections/procedures on their weapons, it would have been a lot of worse and I am sure we would have sustained more casualties. Spc. Kephart was calm and never lost his nerve. He communicated effectively at all times, and at key points even led his team.

Through Spc. Kephart's vigilance and high state of situational awareness, he kept the patrol out of several bad situations. With vehicles being forced to turn around at the halfway point, bounding backwards, and engaging targets to the left and right, there was a tremendous potential for fratricide. But due to the weapon discipline and good communication from Kephart, there was none. On the way back through the ambush, Spc. Kephart was mostly at my 12 o'clock position and I had more eyes on him than anyone else in the patrol. He kept his fire hot on the enemy, and never stopped. Even when he was receiving heavy fire directly at himself, he laid down cover fire at great risk and peril to himself. He was constantly exposed in that turret but was determined to get his fellow MPs out

of the ambush. At one point when I looked at him, watching as he poured fire into the enemy troops, I knew we had a chance to make it out of there. Somewhere during the fight on ASR Sword, Spc. Kephart received two bullet wounds but did not go down until his vehicle was hit with the RPG. Instead, he stayed in the turret, continued the fight, killing the enemy, and shepherding his patrol through a virtual gauntlet of death. Had Kephart not been so courageous or had he not executed his Warrior's drills and tasks so superbly, we would have suffered heavy casualties.

Jonathan Kephart was a hero that day. I will make sure every young soldier I meet knows his story and the sacrifice he made, giving his life protecting and defending his brothers and sisters. ✕

Epilogue:

Two more men who had served with the Hellraiser Platoon fell to enemy action last November. SSG Gregory McCoy was killed 9 Nov 06 by IED in Baghdad, and SSG Michael Shank was killed 28 Nov 06, also by an IED, in Afghanistan.

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angles, as the bus was completely surrounded by both media and police.

That said, if BOPE snipers had been able [allowed to] to do their job hours earlier (the bad guy had previously take a random shot at the crowd), the female victim would probably be alive today.

I intend to copy this movie onto a DVD-r and sending it to you, so you can make your own, decision on it.

I'm not trying to criticize the author or the story, I'm just trying to pointing out some additional information. Anyway, keep up the good work. Your magazine continues to be one of my favorites. I should also point out that I am a student at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, North Dakota, and am using another story "Medal of Honor for a Two-War Hero" written by Galen L Geer as source material for a paper I have to write for my Native American Studies class. I have to write four papers on prominent Native Americans, and if a two-war veteran and potential



Medal of Honor recipient doesn't count as "prominent," then I don't know what does.

Well Worth The Subscription Price

It is great to have SOF come to my mailbox again! I wasn't able to subscribe for a while

because of high cost of living expenses from being laid off, but everything is back on track. New job. New priorities, and SOF Magazine is a major priority. The subscription price may have gone up, but the price is worth every penny.

Robert Cobretti

Incomplete Magazine, Apr. '07

Sir, I have been reading and purchasing you fine magazine and since 1977. (I still have that first magazine). As a Guard and Reserve vet, and a Law Enforcement Officer for over 20 years, I have always enjoyed your mag. I just purchased your April 2007 issue and eagerly awaited

reading it when I got home.

Upon reviewing it, I found that several pages were missing from the issue. Pages 20 to 24, and 62 to 67. The store I purchased your magazine had a "no return" policy. It appears it was a mistake in processing the magazine. I wanted to let you know that, in my opinion, LTC Brown has always published a quality product, since I have been reading it for the last 30 years. I hope this was just an isolated incident.

I'm a bit disappointed in not being able to read the two featured articles on the CECAP and on our troops in Iraq. I remember when you guys were the only people who would publish stories about Afghanistan during the 70's and early 80's. Looking forward to new stories and issues.

Thank you,
Bruce Swanson, (Former ILT, Armor, USAR)

Normally, a defective magazine – they're pretty rare – is just returned to the retailer, and he in turn returns it to the distributor with any unsold copies and they are in turn charged back to the publisher. Folks buy SOF to get the whole story, after all! ☒

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Preempting Iran's ISLAMABOMB



Can SpecOps or High-Tech Preempt the Islamabomb?

By Warren Gray

The looming nuclear crisis in Iran has fueled endless speculation about U.S. contingency war plans, focusing primarily on large-scale military operations, and even potential nuclear response options. The threat is clear and undeniable. When President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took office on 3 August 2005, as the ninth president of Iran, he openly stated that Israel had no right to exist as a nation, and that given the opportunity, Iran would wipe Israel off the map. Since then, the radical, theocratic Iranian regime has relentlessly pursued a uranium enrichment program, in direct violation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968. Their constant references to the United States of America as the "Great Satan," and their undisputed position as the world's leading source of state-sponsored terrorism leave no doubts regarding Iranian intentions.

Iran's nuclear program is divided among a number of key facilities,

the most significant of which is the Bushehr nuclear power plant, housing a pair of Russian-built, one-thousand-megawatt turbine reactors along the Persian Gulf coast. The Tehran Nuclear Research Center has a small, five-megawatt, American-made research reactor, used primarily for open research into nuclear power. A centrifuge workshop at the Kalaye Electric Company near Tehran was found to have traces of enriched uranium. And in central Iran, the Esfahan Nuclear Technology Center contains four small Chinese research reactors. There are other, smaller laboratories all over the country. The heavy-water facility at Arak produces plutonium, and the underground conversion facility at Natanz, north of Esfahan, provides enriched, weapons-grade uranium-235. It's a highly advanced complex, with nearly a thousand gas centrifuges. Obviously, such uranium enrichment is not only very expensive, but totally unnecessary for civil-

ian nuclear power.

The inescapable truth is that Iran is building nuclear weapons, and has the means to launch them via the new Shahab-3B ballistic missile, which is already capable of reaching Israel. The Israelis, however, possess their own, nuclear-armed Jericho-2 missiles at the Sedot Mikha base south of Tel Aviv, and would certainly respond aggressively to any nuclear, chemical, or biological attack on their homeland.

With the American Congress and people seriously divided over the handling of the current war in Iraq, however, many cannot possibly envision another front in Iran, no matter what the provocation may be. But is full-scale war the only option? Can Iran's militant nuclear ambitions be seriously affected in some other way? If so, how? Would Israel take action if America hesitated? What would be the international repercussions? And finally, can America afford *not* to act in Iran?

USAF B-2A Stealth Bomber from the 325th Bomb Squadron drops a GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) during exercise Combat Hammer, a Weapon System Evaluation Program (WSEP). Photo: TSGT Michael Ammons, USAF



French-built reactor at Osirak. The brilliant, daylight raid by eight F-16s with six F-15 air defense escorts succeeded because of absolute secrecy, discipline, and experience, after all efforts at diplomacy had failed. The Israeli pilots used ordinary, unguided iron bombs, diving on the reactor dome one aircraft at a time. Fourteen of the 16 bombs dropped were direct hits, and the reactor dome collapsed inwardly, falling on the shattered fuel rods and smothering most of the possible radiation leakage. The entire attack took only a minute and a half, with perfect results. There was only one casualty, a French physicist working for the Iraqis inside Osirak was recruited by the Mossad, and was planting a beacon inside the reactor room when the jets arrived on target. Unfortunately, he didn't get out in time.

A Spirited Strike Option

The lessons of the stunning, secret Osirak mission were far-reaching, leading Iran to disperse their own nuclear facilities, bury some deep underground, and defend others, such as Bushehr, with batteries of I-HAWK anti-aircraft missiles. But recent advances in stealth technology and aircraft targeting systems have dramatically changed the way that bombing is conducted. We now have the ability to conduct extremely high-precision targeting, even at night or in adverse weather conditions. Just one F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter is far more accurate and effective than hundreds of B-17 bombers were in World War Two, and creates far less collateral damage. A single B-2A Spirit stealth bomber can be as effective as eight F-117s, with the added advantage of being able to strike through cloud cover and during severe storms with GPS-guided munitions. In fact, F-117s were originally designed to support covert operations at night as special "silver bullet" platforms. Only as the concept evolved did the Nighthawk become integrated with other bombing and attack missions, and now the Pentagon plans to retire all of them within the next few years.

Startling advances in bomb technology have resulted in new, enhanced bombs with triple guidance systems: a laser seeker in the nose, backed up by a tail-mounted GPS receiver, with tertiary inertial guidance in case all else fails. They can be employed under virtually all conditions with

SpecOps or Surgical Strikes?

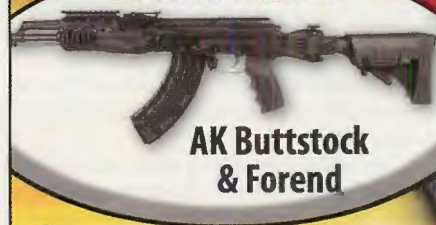
Covert special operations may be capable of degrading Iran's nuclear program seriously enough to give them pause, to delay nuclear weapons integration long enough to give other avenues, even diplomatic measures, an opportunity to ultimately resolve the regional crisis. These are very small-scale, limited options, which may even be able to conceal American involvement, but to consider them requires thinking outside of the conventional warfare box. Obliterating every nuclear facility within the vast nation of Iran may be possible, but not without engaging in full-scale warfare, and the attendant tremendous costs in time, effort, resources, and human lives on both sides of the conflict.

In neighboring Iraq, Saddam Hussein's early nuclear ambitions were shattered on the late afternoon of Sunday, 7 June 1981, when a highly covert Israeli air strike pounded the

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

By Tom Parks

Dear Friend,

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

YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS

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

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

Quick Kill Methods of Instant Hypnotic Domination over ANYONE!

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

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

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

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

The Night My Life Changed Forever

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Radiate Unstoppable Confidence and Magnetize Everyone In The Room

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

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

cause he likes to keep all the profits for himself.

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

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

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

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

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

I Go Wherever I Want and I Get Whatever I Want

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

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

MAKE THEM BEG!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I Am DEADLY Serious.

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

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

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

VICTORY IS AUTOMATIC

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

"Thrive In Chaos!"

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

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

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

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

"THIS STUFF WORKS!"

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

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

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

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

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

How To Tell If Someone Is Lying

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manifest An Overflow of Greatness

in your life and the lives of others.

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

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

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

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

"I KNEW I should've done that!"

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

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

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

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

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

Get Anyone To Do Anything You Want Anytime, Anywhere

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Andrew Scott

quer anyone else!

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

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

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

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amazing accuracy, and the availability of new explosive compounds, penetrator casings, and thermobaric warheads significantly increases lethality options. These bombs are certainly powerful enough to level nuclear reactors the size of those at Bushehr. Israel has one hundred of the latest GBU-28 penetrator bombs for their F-15I strike fighters, but the United States has even more advanced variants available.

Your Bird, Sir?

Meticulous planners down to the last, tiny detail, the Israelis at Osirak didn't just attack from the air, however. In order to be absolutely certain of hitting the right target the very first time, an Israeli special operations team of commandos and pathfinders laid homing beacons around the target during the previous night. They left absolutely nothing to chance, placing "eyes on target" on the ground, as well.

There have been recent reports of American Special Forces and civilian government personnel training *Mujaheddin-e Khalq* (MEK) guerillas, part of a large militant organization of Iranian exiles living in Iraq, and harshly

USAF B-2A Stealth Bomber from the 325th Bomb Squadron. Photo: TSGT Michael Ammons, USAF



persecuted by the Hussein regime. These combat-seasoned, Farsi-speaking warriors, although technically classified as an anti-Iranian "terrorist group" by the State Department, certainly have the potential to participate in covert special operations against Iran as scouts, advisors, linguists, and even frontline soldiers on the ground, as part of a coordinated effort with U.S. special operations forces.

Covert operations, by their very nature, must often be small and com-

partmented for total secrecy. One plausible example of a clandestine strike scenario, described in great detail in my latest book, *Persian Ghost*, might involve a tiny team of expert mission planners with Pentagon authority to "borrow" small numbers of in-place military assets to maintain the secrecy of the mission. The U.S. already has Navy SEALs and special operations boats stationed in the Persian Gulf region, helicopters in Iraq,

Continued on page 48

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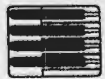


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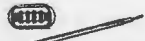
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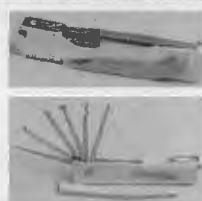
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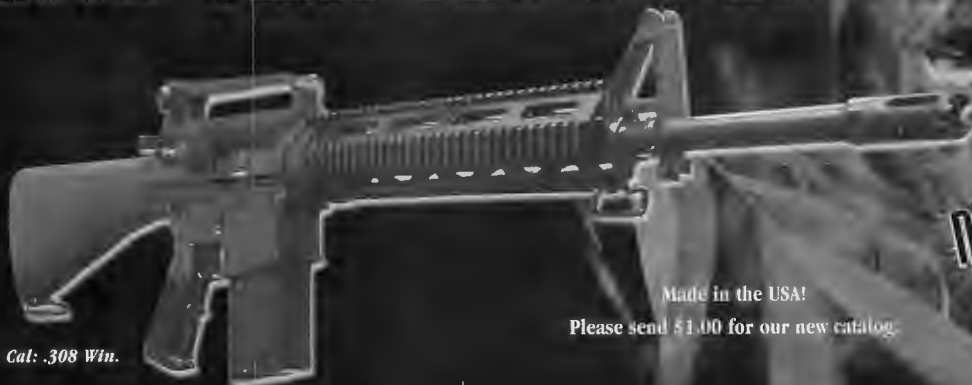
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A South African Merc Speaks

Betrayal by the South African Government After Failed Coup in Equatorial Guinea — The “Kuwait of Africa”

By Dr. Martin Brass

A South African Merc recently sent an urgent plea to *SOF*:

“Can You Help?”

“My name is Bok (war name). I am a South African, and I was one of the contractors involved in the failed attempt to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea in March 2004.

“I am sending you this email, because I understand that *SOF* published some articles about the coup plot in 2005 (Feb-April three parts). Now, none of us (the 70 or so guys involved) made any contact with the

media during the time after we were released from prison in Zimbabwe.

“The case is currently in court in South Africa, and the bottom line is that so far, three of the state witnesses actually testified that the South African government (amongst others) was involved in this.

“I don’t know who wrote the articles for your magazine, but I got the name of Robert K Brown (RKB). I would like to bring him up to date as to what’s happening right now with the case, and why we decided to get involved. I’m sure you can under-

stand that there is more than meets the eye.

“I hope you can help me in this.”

SOF Sets The Record Straight

As you might suspect, we were as anxious to talk to him, as he was with us.

As you might also suspect, RKB was animated, vividly recalling those exciting days of revolutions, coups, and counter revolutions, that he had spent in Africa, fighting tyrants.

The attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea in 2004 was one of the most



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convoluted, bizarre African thrillers, certainly of Frederick Forsyth quality, with shocking twists and turns, with high profile players, arms traders, and reckless mercs.

Not to mention the number one motive of such intrigue—greed.

As in so many of such plots, the big boys behind the scenes skated, while the courageous ones doing their dirty work fried.

Bok, a 35-year old, has spend most of his adult life as a professional soldier. He was a member of a South African counter terrorist special task force unit until 1999, and then served as a private civilian contractor in Iraq until 2003.

A brutal six-month stint in the dreaded Chikurubi Zimbabwe prison interrupted his real life 007 career.

Outraged, betrayed and bullied by political opportunists, he wanted *SOF* to tell the world his side of the story.

“Media coverage of the trial was only in local newspapers and on local TV news in South Africa. That is why I thought to contact you. We wanted the world to know what was going



(opposite page) Executive Outcomes (EO) personnel unload ammo in Angola while carrying out military operations in Angola in the '90's. EO executive operators recruited the bulk of their personnel from the famous 32 "Buffalo" Battalion, composed of white officers and black enlisted personnel, that earned its bones fighting the communists in South West Africa and Angola. (this page) February, March and April 2005 issues in which we covered the coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea.



to do something, but didn't know exactly what it was.

A Green Light Leading To A Bizarre Nightmare

“He took me to meet with Nick du Toit, a

on,” Bok said.

An Oily Coup to Overthrow Equatorial Guinea is Hatched

“I was recruited by Rey, a colleague of mine,” Bok rehashed the nightmare that began three years earlier.”

Rey and I came back from Iraq in Feb, 2004. We were hired by a security firm to provide protection for General Jay Gardner, the U. S. predecessor to Brenner. We worked for NY police commissioner Bernard Kerik.

“Rey told me that he was recruited



special forces guy working all over Africa and well connected in Equatorial Guinea,” Bok recollected.

“Well, du Toit may be a special forces guy, but his real claim to fame is as an internationally acclaimed arms dealer.

“We are going to execute a coup,” du Toit announced to Bok and Rey.

“Are you really serious?” we were stunned,” Bok recalled every detail. “I didn't know which country. I thought maybe Swaziland, which had serious political problems.

“It is Equatorial Guinea,” du Toit informed us.

“What is going on in Equatorial Guinea?” we asked du Toit with suspicion.

“It's about oil. President Theodore Obiang is having conflicts with U.S. oil companies drilling oil offshore’, du Toit got straight to the point.

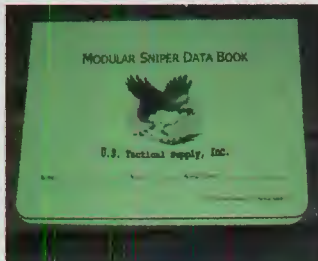
“We're interested, but it is going to be difficult because the South African government will not approve’, we told him as we dismissed the bizarre plan.

“We would not be able to come back here. We are making good money in Iraq. We can go back there’, we told him.

“The South African government

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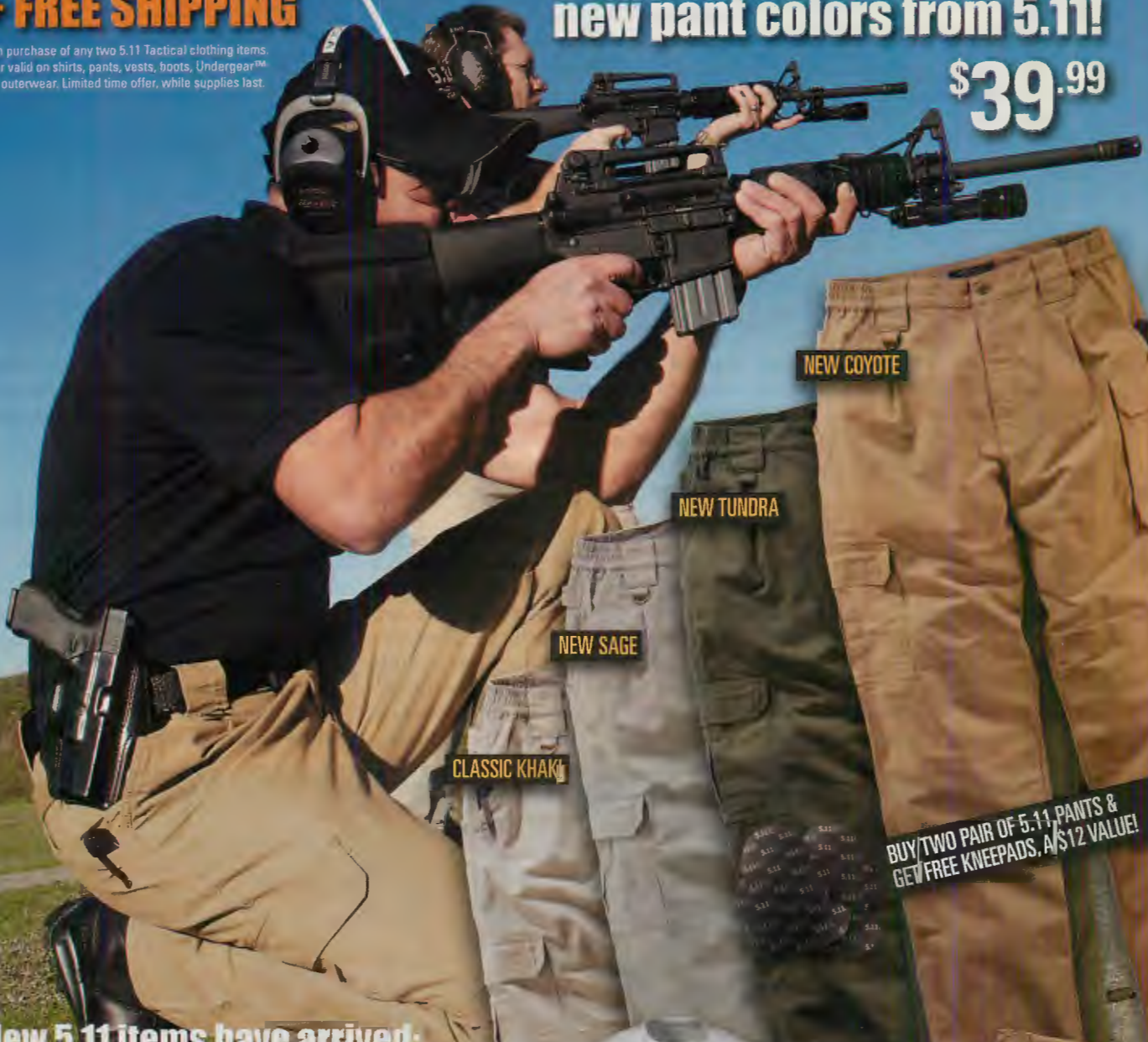
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Troops counterattack from a South African Caspir APC during an ambush exercise. Photo: Author's Files

is informed,'” du Toit reassured us. “They have given the green light in doing this operation.’

“We found it hard to believe. ‘Let’s make sure about this’, we told him, unconvinced,” Bok said.

Jefe Maximo of the African Mercs

“Rey met Simon Mann in Johannesburg,” Bok continued.

The dashing former SAS Commando officer Mann has made his mark among the great mercs, such as Mike Hoare and Bob Denard.

Mann earned his status as *jefe maximo* of the mercs when he was in-

involved in the controversial but highly effective notorious security-consulting firm Executive Outcomes in the 1990s. He and his company became the icon for merc activities in African conflicts after the end of the Cold War.

Mann had developed a keen sense for chasing oil and precious stones.

Mann and his cronies in Executive Outcomes gained instant respect and recognition by all military adventure seekers when they flew 59 men, most of them former special forces, to Angola. Their patron, the Angolan state oil company, ordered them to de-

stroy Jonas Savimbi’s Unita guerrillas which threatened the Savo oil region of northwest Angola and diamond fields in the northeast.

Down With Tyrants

Mann’s daring feat was a smashing success.

Mann had highfaluting friends in all the right, or wrong places.

One of them, British intelligence MI6 agent Nigel Morgan, sold him out, but that comes later.

Another was Mark Thatcher, the racy, self-indulgent son of former U.K. Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher.



The “grunts,” recruited for this merc mess were primarily blacks, who had been members of the South African apartheid regime’s highly effective Special Forces. Under the command of white officers, they provided the bulk of the mercs that successfully operated in Angola and Sierra Leone in the late 1990’s. Many of them, like the troops pictured above, got their combat experience fighting terrorists in South West Africa and Angola in the ‘70’s and ‘80’s.

"I think Thatcher was involved before we were recruited at the last minute, just three and a half weeks before we flew out of South Africa," Bok said.

"Simon told Rey 'this operation has been green lighted at the highest levels in South Africa'."

"What do you mean at the highest level?" RKB queried, intrigued.

"Thabo Mbeki himself—the President'."

"We were told that South Africa would benefit tremendously from oil deals if the coup was successful," Bok responded.

But it wasn't all about oil.

"Because of the poor living conditions and human rights abuses by the regime of Equatorial Guinea, we were briefed that the overthrow would be widely supported by the population," Bok emphasized.

The Revenge of the Black African Governments Against White Mercs

South Africa either duped the other U.S., U.K., Spanish and Zimbabwean governments, into being complicit in their scheme, or the coup was a joint conspiracy.

"Bulelani Ngcuka, the head of the

Scorpions, the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO) in South Africa, had approached du Toit to do the job, and had given him the green light'," Bok continued.

"We think it was a conspiracy," Bok insisted.

"The South Africa government wanted us to do the operation so they could get rid of us.

"We would be apprehended or executed, then South Africa would say, 'it is an Equatorial Guinea thing. They got what they deserved'.

"I don't think the Zimbabwe government knew what the weapons Mann was to purchase there were going to be used for.

"When Zimbabwe intelligence, the Central Intelligence Organization, interrogated us, they didn't know exactly what was going on. They found out a couple of days later.

"We were also told that the Spanish government was involved with this. They hosted Severo Moto who was in exile in Spain. The Spanish government, they said, wanted this to happen before 14 March 2004 because there were to be presidential elections in Spain.

The outgoing Spanish prime minis-

ter could sanction the new Equatorial Guinea president to seal his legacy of democracy in the former Spanish Colony—and maybe lots of oil.

The opposition to President Obiang, Severo Moto, had fled to Spain after a failed coup in Equatorial Guinea in 1997.

"We were told the British government was involved," Bok said.

High Risks Have Big Payoffs

"We would have been paid \$200,000 for five team leaders to share. The black troops would have been paid around \$20,000 each.

That was just for starters.

"There were promises of long term training contracts, retraining military and police, a coast guard and so on," Bok remembered.

A Coup Aborted

"Was there a ground plan?" RKB asked.

"The ground plan was to secure the Malabo airport, to secure a small military base and the police station, then secure the presidential palace," Bok said.

"In Zimbabwe, we were to pick up

Continued on page 74

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Farnam's Gunslinger Diary

By John Farnam

Some Shared Thoughts on Iron Sights



Making the rounds of the local gun stores, one sees the beginning of a dangerous trend. Defensive/military rifles like XCRs, Sigs, and FNs are currently being sold without iron sights (the FN has rudimentary back-up sights).

This practice keeps costs down, and most new owners want to shoot with optics anyway. In fact, many recreational/non-serious hobbyists say that they don't like iron sights, because they "obstruct the view through the optic." Of course, that "obstruction" is a vital piece of gear on any serious rifle.

However, the inconvenient fact is that there is no substitute for basic rifle skills. We can't become so enamored with technology that we are helpless and unable to proceed when batteries die, optics break, mounts become loose, et al. Similarly, just because we have GPS doesn't mean we can forget about learning to read a map and use a compass.

Serious rifle optics should be:

- Zero/minimal magnification.
- Mounted well forward of the shooter's face.
- Rugged and dependable, as well as the mounts
- Mounted so that they can be removed quickly.
- Equipped with clear, clutter-free reticles.

Basic rifle skills must be preserved. Betting one's life on a single battery and circuit, with no backup, is the dominion of fools!

Comments of Rifle Sights

On a recent hunt in a remote area of Zimbabwe, a friend had the experience of picking up his .375 H&H bolt gun, only to hear the scope rattle like a jar-full of pennies. It was a high-end, European model, but broken and totally useless. There was no indication what caused it to break.

The scope was removed, and the hunt was able to continue only because the rifle had iron sights on it.

As with military rifles, but it is equally distressing to see how few hunting rifles are wearing legitimate iron sights these days. It is a foolish omission!

Manufacturers of military rifles, like RA, FN, and SIG, offer the "no-sight option" mostly because all their rifles now come with Picatinny rails, and they want owners to select for themselves what kind of iron sights they will put on it, and where on the rail they will go, as they are easy to install at the user level. Trouble is, some naive owners never get around to putting them on. Foolish omission indeed!

Rifle Slings

Today, a friend called and wanted my advice on a sling for his new DSA/FAL. When I provide such advice, the question I usually ask first is: "What is the rifle for?" Put another way: "Whom are you trying to impress: your friends, or your enemies?"

Quite often, new purchasers have failed to think that one through. Assuming your rifle is for serious, rather than recreational, purposes, we need to know the context. In most of our Urban Rifle Classes, the context is "Domestic Policing/Domestic Personal Defense." We also instruct classes in "Military Rifle," but that context is not the same.

In Military Rifle classes, the emphasis is (1) functioning as a part of a team, (2) long-range, lethal engagement of enemy soldiers, (3) aggressively confronting, at gunpoint, persons of unknown intent, and (4) fire superiority.

In Urban Rifle classes the emphasis is on (1) functioning as an individual operator, (2) constructively interacting in a non-threatening manner, while armed, with persons of unknown intent, (3) relatively close-range, lethal engagement of VCAs who represent a direct threat to innocents, and (4) careful, individual shots, keeping in mind that the our ammunition supply is limited, resupply is unlikely, and errant

shots, by definition, are going to hit something we didn't want to hit.

Within the later context, I have the best luck with a two-point sling. The one made by Blue-Force is excellent. Three-point slings may work fine in some military situations, but they do not lend themselves to a "grab-and-go" circumstance, as they take too long to climb into and get adjusted. One-point slings are fast, but the rifle tends to "dangle." The best one-point sling currently available is made by my friend and colleague, Henk Iverson, at Strike Tactical.

When using a two-point sling, attachment points need to be on the top side of the rifle, rather than on the under side. That way, the rifle will hang right-side-up when carried in front. The front attachment point needs to be near the front sight, but it may have to be on the left side, rather than directly on top, as attachment points on top obscure the sighting plane. Any good gunsmith can get this set-up installed.

At the end of the day, I need to be able to comfortably sling my rifle in front, or to the rear, and still be able to quickly mount it from any starting posture. Also, while the rifle is mounted, I should be able to quickly shift shoulders without the sling getting in my way or preventing you from moving the rifle from one shoulder to the other.

Without a suitable sling, your serious rifle is handicapped. And, after properly equipping yourself, you need to get into an Urban Rifle Course, with a competent instructor, where you can run yourself and your equipment hard. Only then can you be relatively sure that you have respectable gear that is going to hold up and serve you adequately when it must. ❌

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"6th Degree Okinawan Karate Black Belt and Former Marine Sounds Off About Matt Furey and all the Hype Surrounding his Combat Conditioning Program"

Every time I heard about Hindu Pushups and Hindu Squats I wanted to spit right in his face!



by Mike Storms

"What a liar this guy Matt Furey is." That's what I thought when I read this guy's hype-dense ads about his bodyweight exercise program called **Combat Conditioning**. Look, I'm no sucker for junk exercise programs. Not only have I lifted weights for years, but after 26 years in martial arts where I've earned a 6th-degree Black Belt in Okinawan Karate -- and six years in the U.S. Marine Corps, I've seen it all. So to say I didn't believe **Matt Furey** when he said you can get kick-butt fit with his bodyweight calisthenics would be an understatement. Not only have I been in the USMC and been in martial arts for a long time, but I played football for most of my life and have served as the martial arts instructor for the **New Orleans Saints**. So there's no way I was going to fall for a kinky dink routine like Furey's.

Not only that but I trained with Jesse Kellum, who is pound-for-pound one of the strongest men in the world. At 220 lbs. he benched over 800 pounds and squatted 1000 pounds. I, myself, could bench over 400 pounds and dead lift over 600.

Pain, Pain, Go Away

Even so, despite my immense knowledge and background, I couldn't shake this nagging feeling that Furey might be right about what he was claiming, mostly because my shoulders, knees and back were in constant pain from my weight training routine. Yes, I was strong, but I was paying a heavy price. No one likes pain -- I don't care how much you think you "can take it" -- after awhile it's not worth it. And Furey's program promised to get me stronger and more flexible without all the joint pain I had. Not possible, I thought.

My main fear, other than being in MORE pain, was that I'd lose the strength and size I had gained from weights. Then I read about the **Great Gama** of India, a wrestler who followed Furey-style training -- and he was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. In terms of size and strength, Gama was amazing. He was 5'7" and 260 pounds of streaming steel. And that was in the early 1900's -- long before steroids.

I had heard that **Bruce Lee** did the exercises Furey teaches, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible ripped, lean, muscular look. Not to mention how lightning fast and fluid he was.

I also recalled how **Herschel Walker**, a **Heisman Trophy** winner and **All-Pro Running** back did 500 pushups and situps each day. So that made me think even more, especially because Furey's exercises were supposed to be far better versions of these pushups and situps.

A Swift Slap in the Nuts!

But the final straw for me was when I met Furey IN PERSON in November of 2001. Both of us happened to be in the same hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. I introduced myself to him and he politely shook my hand and nodded. I could tell he was in great shape, but I had no idea HOW good until I playfully flicked a punch at him later that day when he was walking down the corridor. Without missing a beat Furey reacted faster than a cobra. He slapped me in the nuts and kept right on walking. He never even broke stride. I stood in awe. I had never had anything like that happen to me. An hour later I met Furey in a restaurant, took out my Platinum American Express card and gave him carte blanche. "Send me whatever you have that will help me," I said. A few days later I received my first package from Furey in the mail and I've been hooked ever since.

If you think what you are reading is nothing but marketing hype -- then let me ask you why do you think I now train the 350+ students in my dojo in Mandeville, Louisiana (Mike Storms Karate) in **Combat Conditioning**? I train young kids as well as adults in these exercises. WHY? Because they flat-out work. They boggle the mind while getting your body into ready-for-battle condition.

In Furey's **Combat Conditioning** he challenges YOU with a test. 100 Hindu squats, followed by 50 Hindu pushups, then a one-minute back bridge.

Let me tell you, when I first got the book I figured this test would be easy, I got started. At 40 Hindu squats my thighs were blizzed. It took about 90 seconds; not long compared to my barbell squat routine at the gym.

Next, I tried the Hindu pushups. Funny thing is my legs

were still shaking. I dipped down and pushed back. At 15 my arms were throbbing. This couldn't be. No way. I could bench like there's no tomorrow and this exercise was naking me. I stopped at 27 reps. This took about 1.5 minutes, so my workout had only been 2.5 minutes long.

Then the bridge. After three unsuccessful attempts of ten seconds, I had to stop. The next day my legs, chest and arms were sore, but in a good way. I thought my legs got 10 times more work with weights, but I was wrong.

Over the course of three months my body changed big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most amazing benefits that I and thousands of others all over the world have gotten from Matt Furey's **Combat Conditioning** program. I'm betting these are important to you, too.

1. I blow-torched off my excess body fat so quickly that I could eat more than I normally did and still look better than ever.
2. I packed and chiseled functional muscle onto my legs, chest and back that I've never had before, even from weights.
3. I simultaneously doubled my strength and flexibility -- and did so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. I quadrupled my endurance inside of 30 days. Just think how much this helped my sparring. No matter what, I NEVER get tired.
5. The chronic back and shoulder pain I had from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing went away within a couple weeks. And much of that pain had been with me for nearly 10 years. It's GONE now.
6. I sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as I hit the rack I'm out like a light.
7. My self-confidence knows no bounds. Especially when I got compliments from people who hardly paid attention to me before. I honestly believe there is nothing I cannot do. I'm on top of the world.
8. I can train anywhere. I don't need more than a few square feet of carpet or pavement and I'm all set. I have absolutely no excuses and my body is loving me for it. I don't need any equipment. Just my own bodyweight.
9. I get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less. Sure, I could do more -- but I've gotten incredible results with this amount -- so why ruin a good thing?
10. I've turned back the clock. My friends tell me I look 5 -- 10 years younger. Awesome!
11. I have an explosive type of strength that weights couldn't give me. My movements are super fast even when I'm just screwing around.
12. My muscles are like a pliable and powerful tiger -- ready to pounce on prey in a heartbeat.

So there you have it. The 12 reasons why **Combat Conditioning** is the best fitness program on the planet. I now do these exercises everyday and they are FAR easier than when I started. I won't go a day without them. But forget about me.

Take a look at what some others in the military have to say about this program:

Matt, I am a US Marine stationed overseas. I am also a wrestler/Judoka and the Marine who developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. I use your courses regularly. I like your no-nonsense approach. Particularly as I get older, bodyweight exercises are quick, flexible, all-encompassing and convenient. Keep up the good work!

Lt Colonel George Bristol -- USMC

Mr. Furey, We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12 -- 1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir.

**Bonner Cummings
Yosemite, CA**

Dear Matt, When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt

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better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I, AND the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot. TREAT'EM ROUGH!

CPT Judd D. Mahfouz -- Infantry

*Dear Mr. Furey, Let me say I have benefited a lot from both your **Combat Conditioning** and **Combat Abs** book. I am a Marine stationed on Okinawa, Japan and I do a lot of kickboxing and NHB fighting on the side. Your exercises have given me a tremendous advantage and combined with my other routines (shadowboxing, sparring, bagwork, wind sprints, and grappling drills) have gotten me into the best shape of my life.*

LCpl Sandor Devenyi -- United States Marine Corps

*Dear Matt, Being a U.S. Marine in a field unit, I spend much of my time in Physical Training, and I'll admit, I thought that I was in peak physical condition. 2 months ago I began your **Combat Conditioning** program and quickly realized that I had been missing something. While platoon PT consists of mostly running and incorporates some bodyweight exercises (i.e. pushups, pull-ups, crunches) I had been spending the bulk of my personal training time in the weight room, lifting heavy. It embarrassed me the first time I tried to do a reverse pushup and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last 2 months. My 3 mile run time has dropped to below 18 minutes, I've lost a good 10 lbs and my body fat has dropped 4%. You can see the difference and God knows, I can feel the difference. I've introduced the rest of my squad to your program. Thanks for helping us kick ass and take names in a hellish and unforgiving manner.*

D "Bubba" Byng -- LCPL, USMC

"Golf" Co, MCS Battalion

Matt Furey's Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness & Combat Sports has 48 super effective bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Order now and you'll receive 3 free Special Reports on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

Your total investment in this no nonsense book is only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H U.S. (foreign orders add \$12). Order online at www.mattfurey.com. Or pick up the phone right now and call 1 813 994 8267 to order.

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Latin America Watch

By Jay Mallin Sr.



Hugo Chávez: More Dangerous Than Fidel Castro?

Can The Venezuelan Strong Man Take Fidel's Place?

The day after President Bush addressed the United Nations General Assembly in September 2006, another speaker before the Assembly stated:

"And the devil came here yesterday. Yesterday the devil came here. Right here." (He dramatically crosses himself.) "And it smells of sulfur still today."

Who called the U.S.'s beloved president a "devil," literally before the whole world? A demented Democrat? No, it was Hugo Rafael Chávez, president and near-dictator of Venezuela. (On other occasions Chávez has referred to Bush as a "donkey," "asshole," "imperialist" and "political corpse.")

Earlier in the year Chávez had been defeated in an effort to win a seat on the Security Council for Venezuela. This had not in the least dampened Chávez's global ambitions. He was now engaging in a verbal joust with the President of the United States.

For Chávez's ambitions are truly international. As a result he is increasingly compared with a until-now better known leader, Cuba's Fidel Castro. With dictators virtually passé in Latin America, with wars just about outlawed, with democracies mostly dull, Venezuela's semi-dictator has provided the only real color in the politics of the continent since Fidel Castro began to fade. Is Chávez the new Castro? In what ways are they alike; in what ways do they differ?

Rise of The Venezuelan Strongman

The details of Castro's life are generally known: Born to a middle-class farmer family, Catholic education, university activist, led an unsuccessful attack in July 1953 against one of the key forts held by dictator Fulgencio Batista's army, imprisoned, pardoned, went to Mexico to organize an expedition against Batista, landing in December 1956, heavy losses but resulting guerrilla campaign that after two years brought victory, sets up a new government, forms an alliance with the Soviet Union, rules for over 46 years, even after the Soviet Union collapses.

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SUREFIRE

Chávez has only become well-known in recent years. Hugo Chávez Frías was born in the town of Sabaneta, in western Venezuela, on 28 July 1954. The son of provincial school-teachers, he is what Venezuelans call a *bachaco*, a man of mixed race. Accepted into the Venezuelan Military Academy in 1971, he obtained a college-level degree in engineering in the military sciences. He graduated as a second lieutenant on 5 July 1975.

Chávez joined the paratroop corps and began an ascent through the ranks of the army. In 1982 he joined other officers in forming the "Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement," named for Simón Bolívar, 19th century father of Venezuelan independence. The young officers were nationalists and they were angry about the corruption that had long been a part of Venezuelan governance.

In 1989 political calm was shattered when riots erupted, with more than 200 people killed. This was the so-called *Caracazo*, and it was caused by an economic austerity program launched by then-President Carlos Andres Pérez. Subsequently, in February 1992, a group of army lieutenant colonels led by Hugo Chávez mounted an unsuccessful coup attempt, asserting that the events of 1989 showed that the political system no longer served the interests of the people. Chávez was court martialed and sent to prison, where he remained until pardoned after two years. A second coup attempt by other officers followed in November in 1992. It also failed.

In 1993, however, Congress impeached Pérez on corruption charges. There was deep popular dissatisfaction with the traditional political parties.

When Chávez got out of prison in 1994 he began campaigning with a political organization he had established, the *Movimiento V República*. Chávez visited Cuba and was given a hero's welcome by Castro. Chávez was now running for president, and in 1998 the *Movimiento al Socialismo* party announced its support for Chávez's bid. A group of leftist parties

allied around his MVR won 34 percent of the seats in Congress.

Chávez campaigned on a platform of political reform, constitutional change and a crackdown on corruption. In December, he won the presidency. His election ended the two-party rule that had long been in place. Chávez's platform appealed to the poor, but the country's elite, who also had long been in power, were concerned. To them Chávez was a *palurdo*, an ambitious lower-class person.

With dictators virtually passé in Latin America, with wars just about outlawed, with democracies mostly dull, Venezuela's semi-dictator has provided the only real color in the politics of the continent since Fidel Castro began to fade.

He, in turn, called them "oligarchs" and "capitalists."

A Constituent Assembly, controlled by Chávez, wrote a new constitution, which was adopted in a national referendum. Chávez ran for president again and was reelected.

In 2002 Chávez confronted the most serious threat to his rule. In February he had fired a retired general from the presidency of the state-owned oil company, *Petroleos de Venezuela*, and replaced him with a former communist militant. To protest this, officials and employees of the firm launched a production slowdown. On 11 April some 200,000 people marched in Caracas to demand Chávez's resignation. The march was peaceful at first but then a group of Chávez followers fired on the protesters. Fifteen people were killed. Chávez opponents called it a "massacre."

The military decided to act. That same day the head of Venezuela's National Guard (army), Gen. Alberto Camacho Káiruz, announced that the military had taken control of the country from Chávez. In a televised address Camacho charged that the Chávez administration had "abandoned its functions." The armed force

es chief of staff, Gen. Bernabe Carrero Cubero, stated that military leaders had asked the president to resign and call for new elections. The country's business leaders, its largest labor confederation, its top military men and its most influential media joined forces against Chávez. Whether the United States was also involved is not known. Certainly, Washington was pleased. At minimum it had advance word of the coup, probably from its military attache. Chávez later assailed

U.S. intervention; the U.S. denied it.

Chávez, however, was not beaten. There was an emotional outpouring of demonstrations by supporters in city slums and towns across the country. The coup collapsed. Chávez, who was being held, was released and returned to power on 14 April. Chávez was now firmly in control and would remain so from then on.

He withstood a recall referendum in August 2004. A parliamentary election in late 2005, boycotted by some opponents, gave Chávez supporters control of the National Assembly, and on 3 December 2006 he was easily re-elected to another six-year term.

On one of his many visits to Havana, Chávez said that the two countries were sailing towards "the same sea of happiness." As the two fun-loving leaders merrily sail together, in what ways are Hugo Chávez and Fidel Castro alike and in what ways do they differ?

Fidel Castro came from university activism and a civil war. Chávez came from barracks and a political path.

Castro seized foreign and Cuban companies ("Little Seizure"), without compensation.

Chávez is throwing out foreign companies partnered with Venezuelan firms. Whether there will be compensation is uncertain.

Would You Like Some Oil, Little Latin Leaders?

Castro used his army and surrogate guerrillas in an effort to spread *fidelismo* throughout Latin America and much of Africa. Chávez is keeping the Venezuelan army home; he is using

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dollars from Venezuelan oil to spread his influence. Castro sent expeditions; Chávez sends expenditures.

Cuba is wealthy in sugar, but Castro could use few profits to further his ambitions. He had to barter much of his sugar for essential Soviet petroleum. Chávez has no such demands on the wealth of Venezuelan oil.

Castro has tolerated no opposition in Cuba. I heard him once say, "You are with the Revolution or you are against it." In Venezuela a significant opposition functions. Chávez has defeated his opponents, not crushed them. (There have been, however, ominous pressures on human rights and representative democracy.)

Castro is not religious. Chávez is, judging by the frequency of his crossing himself in public.

Both men like baseball, and on at least one Chávez visit to Havana they went through the motions of playing against each other.

Castro's charisma and gift of gab have been a major factor in maintaining his power. His magnetic personal-

ity is as effective when talking with an individual as when addressing one million people in a plaza. As *Time's* correspondent, I would listen at night to Castro's speeches and watch his TV appearances. I would reach the point

as an air, naval and land base for the U.S.S.R. Furthermore, Castro's drive to extend *fidelismo* throughout Latin America was a major destabilizing factor in a region of top importance to the U.S. And, of course, the attempt to install Soviet missiles in Cuba almost led to a world conflict.

Chávez seems more bent on extending his personal influence than in spreading any ideology. He is using a form of populism – he calls it "Socialism for the 21st Century" – as a platform for his ambitions. But the ideology seems to be a facade more than a driving factor.

Will there be a serious crisis between Venezuela and

the United States, something beyond name-calling? Such a crisis would be in neither nation's interest. Venezuela is the fifth largest petroleum supplier to the U.S. – some 1,000,000 barrels daily. Might Chávez, in a fit of anger, cut off this flow? The Venezuelan army is quite happy to sit back and let Chávez extend Venezuelan "glory" to other countries. But cut off the supply to the U.S. and risk war? No way.

Chávez himself said (in March): "We do not deny the great market that the United States is and that we have maintained and are determined and interested in maintaining." Not only does Venezuela export to the United States, it also has a considerable investment in refineries in the States and what Chávez called "our great company, Citgo."

Castro wanted to be the *líder de las Américas*. He never succeeded. Hugo Chávez may not become *the* leader, but he certainly is fast becoming one of the leaders.

Even so, the day may come when the military grow weary of so much of Venezuela's wealth being sent abroad while hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans live in poverty.

The slums of Caracas are still very much there. ☒

As a journalist, Jay Mallin Sr. has covered Cuba for more than 60 years. He was a correspondent for *Time* and other publications and was one of the original contributors to *SOF*. Mallin co-directed a study of the Cuban military for the Pentagon. He has written more than a dozen books, including *Fortress Cuba*, *Covering Castro and History of the Cuban Military*.

On one of his many visits to Havana, Chávez said that the two countries were sailing towards "the same sea of happiness."

I told myself: Tonight I'll listen for no more than an hour or two. I never could turn Castro off. Chávez has personality but only a bit of the charisma that characterizes Castro.

An astute observer of the Latin American scene, former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, has said: "Thanks to unlimited oil revenues (for now) and an endless stream of Cuban doctors [over 10,000], educators and security personnel – and soon, bountiful supplies of Russian arms made in Venezuela – the new Caribbean caudillo is on a roll. Chávez has skillfully exploited the disappointment of the region's poor with the economic reforms of the past two decades; he is (for now) delivering the goods: bare-bones health care, literacy campaigns, price controls on food staples. Chávez is extending his reach [to other countries] ... through generous handouts...."

Chávez is spreading his wealth to various receptive countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. For big Argentina he provided cash to help a troubled state-run dairy company and took on \$3 billion of Argentina's foreign debt. For small Nicaragua he cancelled a \$32 million debt and is funding preparatory work for an oil refinery. His U.S. subsidiary, Citgo, is even providing fuel aid to needy families in the U.S. Northeast. And Venezuelan oil is fueling the Cuban economy (53,000 barrels daily).

"Socialism for the 21st Century"

Is Chávez a security threat to the United States? Castro, because of his virtual alliance with the Soviet Union, was a menace. Cuba served



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Chinese Siberia

A Sino Reconquista In the Offing?

By Jack Wheeler

Graphics Courtesy of the Author

Back in the 19th century, a large part of Russian Siberia used to belong to China, which called the region its Maritime Provinces. The day is coming when Siberia will be Chinese once again.

It was thanks to a sociopathic lunatic named Hong Xiuquang (1814-1864) that China lost the region to Russia in the first place.

In 1843, Hong read a Bible tract by a Chinese Christian missionary, and decided that he was the younger brother of Jesus Christ, and as the New Messiah, God instructed him to rid China of its Ching Dynasty rulers.

His movement, *Taiping Tianguo* (Heavenly Kingdom of Peace), gained millions of followers and precipitated the deadliest civil war in human history. Between 1851 and 1864, the Taiping Rebellion cost China 50 million lives.

It was finally defeated by an English officer leading the Ching Imperial Army. His victory forever earned him the sobriquet Charles "Chinese" Gordon. Hong poisoned himself.

During the Taiping chaos, China was unable to defend her borders and Russia's Czar Alexander II (1818-1885) saw his chance to achieve his country's dream of warm-water ports on the Pacific Ocean. He assigned the task to his Governor of Eastern Siberia, Nikolay Muravyov (1809-1881), and Russian General Gennady Nevelskoy (1813-1876), who proceeded to move some 20,000 Baikal and Amur Cossacks east of the Amur-Ussuri Rivers and onto Sakhalin Island.

By 1858, Russian control of the region was a *fait accompli*. On May 28th at the Siberian town of Aigun, the representative of the Chinese Emperor was forced to sign the Treaty of Aigun, which ceded these Chinese Maritime Provinces to Russia. For this, Muravyov was granted the title Count Amursky ("of the Amur") by the Czar.

This history puts into perspective a recent news story by Russia's only independent television station, Ren TV, reporting from Vladivostok:

The emerging demographic situation developing here between Russia and China is simply catastrophic. The crisis is due to the creeping expansion of thousands of Chinese migrants. Chinese workers entering Siberia are replacing Russians who are not prepared to toil 12 hours a day for a pittance.

Chinese students are taught that Siberia is their land, stolen from China in the 19th century. It is suspected by many Russians here that China is subsidizing the migration of its citizens. Demographers predict that by 2025 Chinese will be the Russian Far East's predominant ethnic group. Then, it is feared, they will gain the right to vote and demand union with China.

Eastern Siberia, or the Russian Far East (the right half of "Siberia 1900" map shown here) is 6.2 million square kilometers (2.4 million square miles), almost 65% the size of the entire United States including Alaska (9.6msk, 3.6msm). The total population is 6.7 million, or a little over one person per square kilometer.



(above) In 1845, before China's disastrous civil war, South Eastern Siberia belonged to China.

(below) Seizing the opportunity to expand territory at the expense of a weakened neighbor, in 1858 Russian forces occupied South Eastern Siberia, claiming it for the Czar.



In northern China or Manchuria (not China as a whole, but right across the border from Russian Siberia) it's 130 people per square kilometer.

And what is more "catastrophic" than these demographics are those of Russia's as a whole: Russia's population is falling off a cliff. In 1991, at the collapse of the Soviet Union, there were 165 million Russians. Now there are 140 million, a smaller population than Pakistan's. By 2025, it will be below 120 million.

The life expectancy of the average Russian man is now 57, due to epidemic alcoholism (millions of Russian men drink a gallon of vodka a week), AIDS, and a fourth-world health/medical system. Millions of Russian women are sterile because they've had so many abortions (the preferred Russian method of birth control).

In the Russian Far East, Russian women who still can have babies are marrying Chinese immigrant men - because they make so much better husbands. They are not drunk all the time, they're not beat-you-up abusive, they work hard, and they turn their paycheck over to their wives. This is a

(left) The confluence of these three bordering states illustrates how China lost this access to the Sea of Japan. They want it back. Other border disputes between Russia (then the USSR) and China, over territory far less strategic, have already erupted into gunfire.

Russian women's marital paradise.

Russia's military is as bad off as its health care system. Its draftee troops are mercilessly mistreated and have no morale. Its equipment old and rusted, its technology obsolete, it couldn't take on Poland much less China. Its nukes are useless as the Chinese have lots as well and would be the last men standing in an exchange.

The geopolitical bottom line is that there is no way Russia is going to be able to hold on to Siberia for much longer. Within 20 years or less, it's going to be Chinese Siberia.

Jack Wheeler, known as the "Indiana Jones" of the right for all his daring adventures, is Editor of To The Point, a subscription-based geopolitical intelligence website at www.tothepointnews.com. For further information on Dr. Wheeler's newsletter--which RKB heartily endorses--email: info@tothepointnews.com



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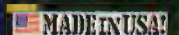


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The Venezuelan Land Grab

Would Chavez Really Seize the Dutch West Indies?

By Harold Hutchinson

As Fidel Castro dodders toward oblivion, head of a dysfunctional state with no current sponsor outside the hemisphere, Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez seems poised to become the Latin-American strong-man that Yankees love to hate. Very well funded through oil revenues that not even imposed socialism can interrupt, Chavez has embarked on a massive military buildup that gives observers pause because it is beyond the usual stock-pile of offensive toys that such up-and-coming dictators like to assemble as their Barney Fife badge of office. Multiple purchases of such items as submarines with no crews to run – or even maintain -- them, strike some observers as comically over-funded but harmless. Others worry that when a loose cannon buys a lot of hammers, everything in the area may start to look like a walnut.

These concerns were not allayed by Chavez' remarks about

taking back the Dutch West Indies. Was this empty saber rattling just because he now has a lot of sabers, observers wondered, or is he actually daft enough to try it? The whole idea may have blown over after his oil ministers explained he might have to get an honest job if he starts a war that would interrupt the flow of oil revenue, or perhaps his defense ministers explained it might not be a good idea to give Quick-Draw Bush a rationale for "coming to the aid of an ally." At any rate, it poses an interesting scenario and we asked military analyst Harold Hutchinson to have a look.

If Venezuelan

dictator Hugo Chavez made a grab for the Dutch West Indies (specifically the islands of Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire), could the Dutch really do anything about it? The Dutch military is no slouch, having performed peacekeeping missions in the Balkans, and has served alongside the U.S. military in Operation Iraqi Freedom. However, these have been relatively small contingents of land forces as opposed to a major naval-air campaign, which reclaiming those islands would entail (see the British effort to reclaim the Falklands

in 1982).

The Venezuelan claim to these islands is not very historical. Instead, Chavez claims that the Dutch might let the United States use them to invade Venezuela. Or in other words, because they might be used as a jump-off point for the invasion of Venezuela, Venezuela has the right to invade them first - rather like Nazi Germany "needed" Poland to protect itself against Russia.

The Royal Netherlands Navy is small, but has very good ships and sailors. This force carries a lengthy tradition going back centuries (when

this navy beat back the English in the Anglo-Dutch war). Their new *De Zeven Provinciën*-class destroyers are good ships armed with SM-2MR and Evolved Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles and Harpoon anti-ship missiles. The *Karel Doorman*-class frigates are also good vessels as well, armed with Sea Sparrows and Harpoons. There is also a landing platform dock vessel, the *Rotterdam*, with a second vessel, the *Johan Van Witt*, entering service this year.

The Royal Netherlands Air Force is also potent, but primarily designed

Continued on page 50

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and bombers in Oman, and on the island of Diego Garcia. A carrier strike group is already on patrol off the coast of Iran, armed with F-18 fighters and Tomahawk missiles. Careful cooperation between these forces could result in a highly successful secret operation, possibly without revealing American intentions or involvement, the military equivalent of an unsolved, drive-by shooting, in civilian terms.

At the same time, we must recognize that Israel will feel compelled to respond vigorously to the Iranian threat, and will certainly consider a wide range of air strike options, including covert scenarios based in part on their enormously successful Osirak raid. It remains to be seen who will strike first, the United States or Israel.

If handled properly, the Depart-

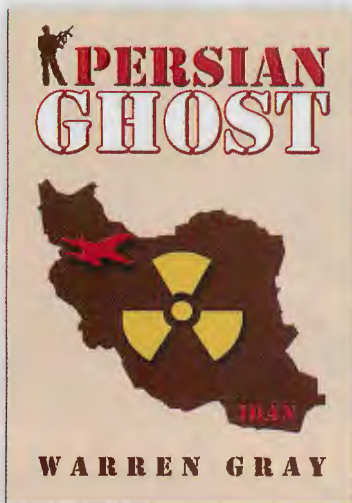
ment of Defense is certainly capable of conducting a single, crippling raid against the Bushehr reactors, the cornerstone of Iran's nuclear program. The application of minimum force in a high-precision, surgical strike can often accomplish desired objectives with sufficient deniability that the enemy is unsure of how to respond, and open hostilities are averted. Stealth, speed, and surprise are the critical ingredients for success. We have the capability, but do we have the will to use it?

While the Iron Is Hot?

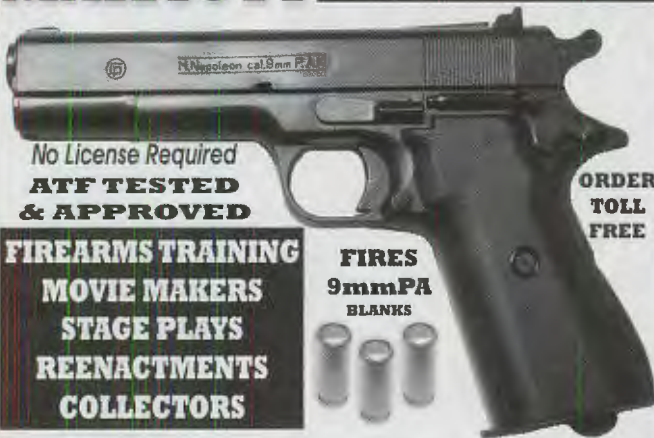
The window of opportunity may not be very large. Iran has ordered, and has begun receiving, a vast array of new Russian SA-10 and SA-15 missiles, advanced radar, T-90 tanks, and fighter aircraft. Target area defenses are growing, and stealth may be the only viable option for a limited-scale raid on a single facility. But Israel will certainly feel

greater imminent danger from Iran's nuclear threat, already within missile range of the Shahab-3B. In that case, the most significant question may not be whether America acts, but whether it acts *in time* to prevent a nuclear war in the volatile Middle East. ☒

Warren Gray is a former career intelligence officer with experience in special operations and counterterrorism. He served in the Middle East, earned parachutist wings, eight more military qualification badges, and twenty military medals. He holds four college degrees, including a Master of Aeronautical Science degree, and was a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Targeting School. His latest book, *Persian Ghost*, is an incredibly detailed and realistic novel about a covert special operation conducted against Iran's nuclear reactors at Bushehr. It's currently available from PublishAmerica at www.publishamerica.com. Warren Gray's web site may be viewed at www.freewebs.com/warrengray.



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from 844 (to Bonaire) to 965 (to Aruba) kilometers from the combat zone. The F-16's range is 2642 kilometers, but that figure is misleading. Combat eats up fuel very rapidly (often due to the use of afterburners), and as a result, the potential combat zone, even with aerial refueling, is at the edge of the F-

16 for a war in Europe. It consists of 108 F-16A Fighting Falcons with a mid-life upgrade, making them very capable against aerial opponents. This is the bulk of their combat power. They have 30 AH-64D Longbow Apaches being delivered, and only three KDC-10F aerial refueling aircraft (comparable to the KC-10) for their entire force. This is a force that has a lot of teeth, but very little tail.

Defense From A Distance Is Harder

In the event that Venezuela should seize Aruba, Curacao, and/or Bonaire, Chavez will have a lot of places for the Venezuelan Air Force to fly from, that are within easy flying distance to the conflict zone (or even on the islands themselves). The nearest Dutch territory is St. Marteen, which is anywhere



16's combat radius (usually a third of the aircraft's range – in this case, 880 kilometers). Drop tanks could extend the range, but that means giving up some payload. This is a situation much like what the Luftwaffe faced in 1940 in the Battle of Britain, only this time, it would be an inability to provide sustained air cover for naval vessels as opposed to the inability to properly escort strike aircraft. As Admiral Sir Thomas

(left to right) Considering their formidable arsenal of Stinger AA missiles, attacking Dutch territory by air could prove very costly. Photo: Royal Netherlands Air Force • With the ability to launch Tomahawk missiles from sea at high-value targets, the Dutch Navy can extend its reach – and reaction time – dramatically. Photo: U.S. Navy • Once one of the World's leading maritime nations, the Dutch still sail a world-class force. Included in the current armada are the new Walrus-class subs that have four 21-inch torpedo tubes. They carry 20 weapons on board, Mk 48 torpedoes or Harpoon anti-ship missiles. Photo: Royal Netherlands Navy



Phillips, commander of Force Z (HMS Prince of Wales and Repulse), found out in 1941, a naval force sailing under hostile skies has an exciting and short life. To talk with Sir Tom Phillips, one will need a real-life version of Melinda Gordon.

The present Dutch deployment (a battalion of troops and a flight of F-16s over three islands) is small, and a bluff. If Venezuela calls the bluff, the Dutch are in trouble. Even if the Dutch forces were reinforced to include a battalion on each island, and a full squadron of F-16s, they are outnumbered by a potential invasion force (Venezuela has four battalions in their marine corps, plus an airborne regiment and a paratroop regiment). The local Dutch F-16s would be outnumbered by the Venezuelan Air Force, which has 15 Mirage 5s, 18 F-16As, and 18 F-5As, with 24 Su-30s on order. Reports of a Venezuelan purchase of MiG-29s appear to have fallen through. The Venezuelan Navy, with six Lupo-class frigates and two Type 209 submarines (plus nine Kilo-class submarines on order), could also

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The North Atlantic Treaty

One of the biggest factors that could come into play if Venezuela were to attempt an invasion of the Dutch West Indies is the North Atlantic Treaty. Article V of the treaty states: "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area."

In essence, this would indicate that an attack on one member (in this case, the Netherlands) would be treated as an attack on all NATO countries. However, there is a catch, specifically, in Article VI:

"For the purpose of Article 5, an armed attack on one or more of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack:

- on the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian Departments of France (2), on the territory of or on the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer;

- on the forces, vessels, or aircraft of any of the Parties, when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the Parties were stationed on the date when the Treaty entered into force or the Mediterranean Sea or the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer."

"North of the Tropic of Cancer" is the operable phrase here. Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao are all south of that line at 23 degrees, 26 minutes, and 22 seconds north latitude. This is the loophole that could make life difficult for the Dutch. NATO might not be obligated to assist the Dutch. In 1982, the Royal Navy was on its own to liberate the Falklands. They got some assistance in the form of AIM-9L Sidewinders and intelligence from the United States, but the Royal Navy did the fighting on its own. ✕

Landing Platform Dock vessels such as the Rotterdam can provide floating demarcation points for the Royal Dutch Marines – a well-trained, motivated, and equipped force. The Rotterdam can carry a battalion of troops and six helicopters. (below) When Hr. Ms. Pelikaan (A8904) made a call in Curacao last November, she received a tumultuous welcome – it's always good to receive reassurance from home. Photos: Royal Netherlands Navy



create problems for any Dutch effort to recapture the islands.

Hit the Enemy In the Wallet?

The Dutch submarine force of four Walrus-class diesel-electric submarines could, in theory, try to interdict Venezuelan oil exports, but they are subject to limitations. The primary limitation is their diesel-electric powerplant, which provides a top speed of 39 kilometers per hour. These subs have a range of 18,520 kilometers, but that is at a speed of 16.7 kilometers per hour.

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SUREFIRE

Dutch Military Assets

The Royal Netherlands Navy and the Royal Netherlands Air Force are potent forces with modern equipment. Here is a quick rundown on the major combat units:

De Zeven Provinciën-class frigates: This class of four 6,000-ton vessels is equipped with powerful surface-to-air missiles (the SM-2MR) and surface-to-surface missiles (the Harpoon). These vessels will be equipped with the NH90 anti-submarine helicopter when they enter service. Two will be equipped with BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Karel Doorman-class frigates: The eight 2,800-ton frigates were commissioned from 1991-1995. Six will be sold off by the end of 2007, two to Belgium, two to Chile, and two to Portugal. Equipped with Sea Sparrow missiles and Harpoon anti-ship missiles, each carries one Lynx helicopter.

Walrus-class submarine: A 2,450-ton submarine with four 21-inch torpedo tubes. Carries a total of twenty weapons (Mk 48 torpedoes or Harpoon anti-ship missiles). Top speed: 20 knots submerged.

Rotterdam-class LPD: Two 14,000-ton vessels, each with the ability to carry a battalion of troops and six helicopters. Two near-sister ships are in service with the Spanish Navy.

F-16AM Falcon: These F-16As received a mid-life upgrade, putting them roughly equivalent to the Block 50 F-16C. The Royal Netherlands Air Force has 105 of these planes in their arsenal. ✂

if the submarine travels at flank speed. While a *Walrus*-class sub could hang off Venezuela's major oil export centers, it would soon have to leave its station to return to base and refuel.

Any blockade of Venezuela's ports would be more about making Lloyd's of London skittish enough to pull coverage from any ship entering or leaving the ports. Actual damage would be a lot less than imagined, due to the strain of operating diesel-electric submarines across the Atlantic, and the very limited time on station, particularly after a speed run. Again, the major question could be whether St. Marteen would be a place where the Dutch could refuel and re-arm submarines.

The Dutch problem can best be described with the words, "not enough." Not enough forces to successfully repel an invasion of Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire; not enough naval power to carry out operations to retake the islands; their fighters do not have enough range; and not enough logistical support to support an operation. They certainly lack the ability to retake the islands on their own should the "Greater Venezuela" rhetoric from the Venezuelan dictator turn out to be for real, and cannot count on NATO assistance. ✂

In theory, the range is sufficient, since the distance from Rotterdam to Aruba is 7860 kilometers. However, that is in a straight line and does not account for land in between the two points, which a submarine would have to sail around.

Nor would the range figures take into account the speed the submarine is traveling. As the sub's speed increases, so does the rate of fuel consumption, which results in a corresponding decrease in range – and the range decreases quickly

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This operator fires the XM110 equipped with a Harris Bipod. The Harris Bipod has performed extremely well.

The Army's New Sniper Rifle

SOF Tests Knight's XM110, Winner of the Army's Sniper Rifle Trials!

Text & Photos by Gary Paul Johnston

By now it is well known that the U.S. Army established a need to standardize a sniper rifle in 7.62x51mm NATO caliber. This was necessary in order to field one such rifle for precision sniping and to replace the literal myriad of sniper rifles currently in the system. For the record, these sniper rifles include the venerable M14 semi-automatic rifle and the M24 Remington bolt action rifle, the Mk 11 and others, which have been purchased by individual SOCOM units.

In the wake of 9/11 and America's entry into the Global War On Terrorism (G-WOT), most of the remaining 40,000 M14 rifles in the U.S. military's inventory (mostly the U.S. Navy) have been taken out of storage in order to be re-built as precision semi-automatic rifles for

sniping use. Many of these rifles that weren't destroyed during the Clinton Era were given to "friendly" countries and there has also begun a move to "buy" some of them back.

The M14's popularity as a sniper rifle dates back to its development as a National Match competition rifle during the 1960's, its evolution into

the M21 Sniper Rifle used in the Vietnam War, and its evolution into the XM25 Sniper Rifle by the U.S. Army and Navy in the years that followed. Properly fitted, the M14 is capable of extremely good accuracy and is highly reliable, but it has had less than optimum results from being used with a sound suppressor. Still, the M14 has made the transition into a 21st Century Sniper Rifle as the DMR (Designated Marksman Rifle) by the United States Marine Corps and its more recent transformation by the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

Being a highly modified Model 700 Remington bolt-action repeating rifle, the M24 is capable of great precision accuracy. However, lessons were re-learned in Somalia and in

Continued on page 62



A new feature found on the XM110 is KAC's ambidextrous magazine release, seen here on a prototype receiver in the white.

By Dr. Martin Brass

1. RUSSIA U.S. AIR AND GROUND OPERATION to bring Iran "to its knees" suspected by Russian military intelligence services, as U.S. military builds up in area. Intel sources uncertain as to when anticipated attack might be launched.

2. PHILIPPINES COMMUNIST REBEL NPA refuses to negotiate peace talks with government.

AMERICA AT WAR

1

3. UNITED STATES FLYING IMAMS SUE passengers who complained of their chanting and praying before boarding, speaking of Saddam, cursing the U.S., and acting suspiciously. FUGITIVE ILLEGAL ALIENS number 623,292, including fugitives posing a threat to the nation or community, many with a violent criminal history. CIVIL WAR II? 90,000 LAPD cops "overwhelmed" by 150-200,000 armed Mexican Mestizo and Asian gangs fighting turf war, says **Chittum**, author of *Civil War II, The Coming Breakup of America*. SUPER TERRORIST MASTERMIND Khalid Sheikh Muhammad admits complicity in 39 terrorist plots, including 9-11 and WTC bombing in 1993, the 2001 attempted shoe bombing of AA Flight 63 from Paris, and the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in the Philippines.

3

4

2

4. MEXICO DRUG THUGS ASSASSINATE police chief of Monterrey's district, Mexico's richest municipality, his wife and two others in an attack on a jewelry store.

5. GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA KUDOS TO ACLU FOR ITS MESSAGE TO TERROR SUSPECTS: "The ACLU applauds the Supreme Court for its decision today declining to grant special, expedited review of claims by Guantanamo prisoners that their detention is illegal. We believe our armed forces must have the power to detain accused terror suspects for as long as necessary to prevent them from re-joining the field of battle. Throughout our nation's history, enemy soldiers -- who at least wore the uniform -- were held indefinitely for exactly that reason, and no serious person believed that the judiciary knew better how to fight a war than the army....today, where our terrorist enemies fight by stealth and intend to obtain weapons of mass destruction incomparably more deadly than any we have ever faced."

6. UNITED KINGDOM AL QAEDA PLANS REVEALED in trial -- 29 schemes were in the works, including crashing a plane into Heathrow Airport.

7. NETHERLANDS ISLAMIC RECRUITS include Dutch natives, women and teens, as many European citizens join the "Iraqi recruitment network in Europe."

8. GERMANY BOMB THREAT shuts down airport.

9. FRANCE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION RULES -- CARTOONIST CLEARED: Newspaper that published caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed and was sued by angry Muslims prevails. Court ruled that caricatures not intended to insult Muslims.

10. SAUDI ARABIA IED MANUFACTURING LAB with explosives and munitions, sodium nitrate and ammonium nitrate found. Jihad websites instruct in IED production, military tactics, explosives, and rocket technology.

11. IRAQ IRANIAN ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS (QUDS) OFFICERS DEFECT, weakening Iran's support of insurgents. Iraqi deaths increased 15% in Baghdad in March: More than 2000, civilians, military and police killed -- 87 U.S. deaths reported.

17. NIGERIA KIDNAPPERS SNATCH Scottish oil worker from rig, 40 miles off Niger River Delta.

18. ZIMBABWE DISAPPEARANCES IN THE DARK: Tyrant President Mugabe's opponents kidnapped and beaten in terror campaign. Police destroy opposition's offices and take documents in 27-year reign of repression. Muga ravaged country's assets, creating 100% inflation annually, leaving 80% jobless.

19. VENEZUELA ARRESTED: AUC, COLOMBIAN "MILITIA" members, while attempting to extort money from small businesses.

20. COLOMBIA CORRUPTION AND INCOMPETENCE cited as causes for 1,239 police officers' dismissal in 2006; 407 officers killed in the line of duty. Accuses army of complicity in death of more than 200 civilians. Army wrongly accused of rebel actions. Military tampered with police evidence and investigations. EXTORTION RACKET lines pockets of rebels and paramilitaries as each charges huge "security" fees to commercial interests.

21. BRAZIL SOFSOURCES: "CIVIL WAR IS ON IN RIO!" Thirty-eight cops killed and many civilians gunned down in crossfire between cops and drug thugs. "LEGALIZE DRUGS" says desperate Rio mayor, to help reduce gang violence that dominates the city. "MONSTROUS" BLOODY STABBING: Treasurer of NGO pilfering funds for poor children, hired hit men to slaughter three French aid workers.

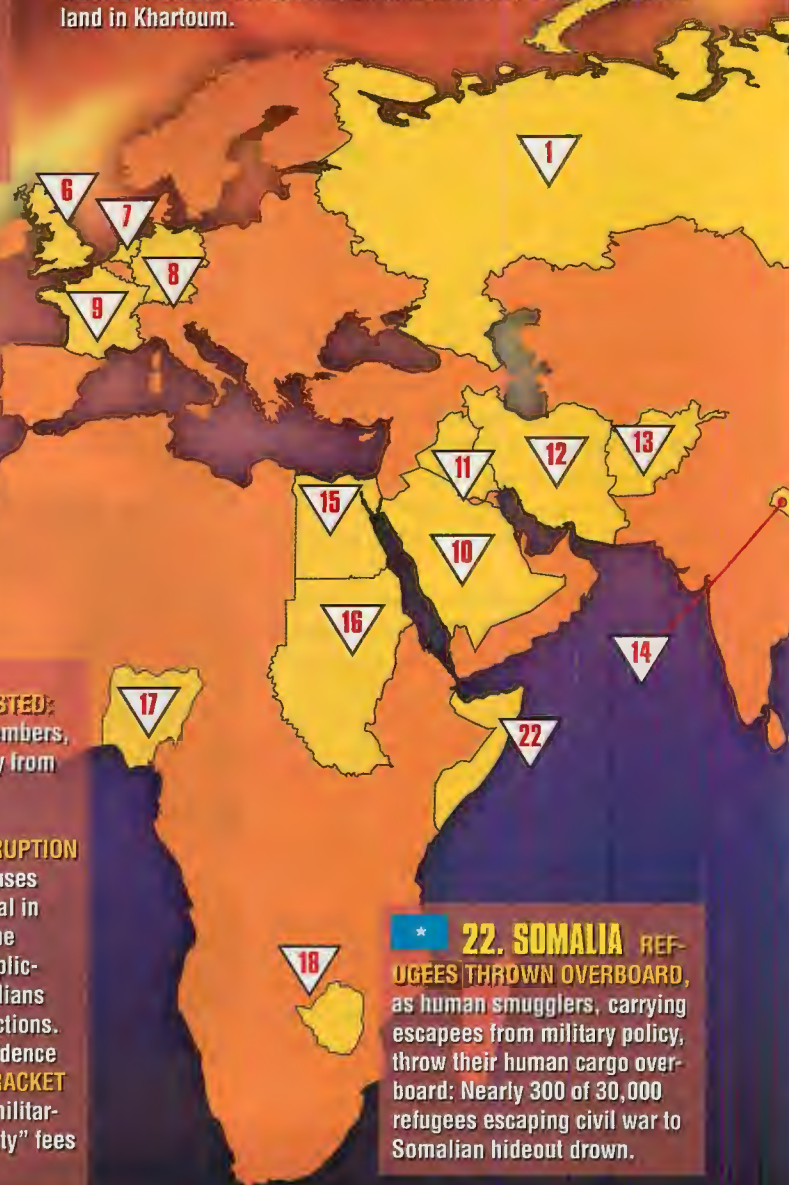
12. IRAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD SEIZES AND RELEASES 15 Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel accused of infiltrating Iran waters -- strange game for a country expecting U.S. to attack.

13. AFGHANISTAN TALIBAN CHIEF DEPLOYS thousands of suicide bombers to Afghanistan, to "turn our motherland into the graveyard of the U.S. forces and their families should wait for their dead bodies."

14. NEPAL MAOIST FACTIONS in Nepal devolving into criminal gangs.

15. EGYPT ARMS BUILDUP IN GAZA sets off alarms: 10,000 Hamas and Fatah troops train and arm new recruits.

16. SUDAN KNIFE WEILDING HIJACKER diverts Sudan Airways plane from Libya. Pilot convinces madman, who wanted to meet U.S. and British ambassadors, to allow plane to land in Khartoum.



22. SOMALIA REFUGEES THROWN OVERBOARD, as human smugglers, carrying escapees from military policy, throw their human cargo overboard: Nearly 300 of 30,000 refugees escaping civil war to Somalian hideout drown.

target-rich environments encountered in the G-WOT that a self-loading rifle can be fired in succession 4 to 5 times faster than a bolt action rifle. Thus, the Army was determined to standardize a semi-automatic sniper rifle.

The third rifle mentioned is the Mk 11, a refined version of the SR-25 (Stoner Rifle-25) rifle, which is made by Knight's Armament Company, of Titusville, Florida. Like the others, the Mk 11 is chambered for the 7.6x51mm NATO cartridge, but it contains modifications dictated by the U.S. Navy SEALs, which is a member of the SOCOM. However, using the Mk 11 identified issues that the Army found desirable in an AR10-style sniper rifle.

In an effort to obtain an optimum 7.62mm NATO Sniper Rifle, the Army issued a solicitation for a rifle to meet the specification of what it called the Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS). Note that, as opposed to the Mk 11 Sniper Rifle and others, the rifle meeting SASS requirements would not be produced in selective fire. Previously, some self-loading sniper rifles were looked upon as support weapons for the main sniper rifle, which was often a bolt-action repeater. While these self-loading support sniper rifles could be used alongside the repeating rifle, they were not considered as being on a par with the primary sniping rifle, but could be used in a selective fire role in case of an attack.

With the obvious merits of current self-loading sniper rifles, these weapons came to be seen as the potential equal to the bolt-action repeater in accuracy, not to mention their superiority in a target rich environment such as has been common in the G-WOT. Filling this requirement was the underlying factor of the SASS Program. The rifle itself was designated the XM110.

Without re-printing the myriad requirements of the SASS Program, the two main points of the rifle was that it was to be chambered for the 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester) cartridge, and that it be capable of semi-automatic ONLY fire. The current trend is for the sniper to transport his precision rifle slung while using an M4 or similar 5.56mm rifle for close-range defense in route, and to defend his position once deployed.

In addition to the above requirements, SASS candidate rifles were to be M1913 ("Picatinny") friendly in

Specifications: KAC M110

Caliber:	7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Win.)
Muzzle Velocity:	2571 fps (784ms)
Operation:	Direct gas, semi-automatic
Barrel Length:	20 inches (508mm)
Rate of Twist:	5 grooves, 1-in-11 inch (269mm) Right Hand Twist.
Overall Length:	39.5 inches (1003mm)
Weight:	(rifle alone) 10.44 lbs. (4.74 kg.) (with scope & bipod) 12 lbs. (5.42 kg.)
Weight of Suppressor:	1.92 lbs. (.87 kg.)
Feed Device:	20-round box magazine
Safety:	Thumb safety/selector
Sights:	(front) Folding protected post adjustable for elevation (rear) Folding aperture adjustable for windage (optics) M1913 rail mounts any current MilStd optical sight system
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Here the XM110 is fired using the GPS GripPod for support. The GripPod can be deployed instantly with one hand.

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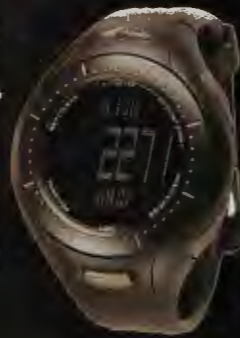


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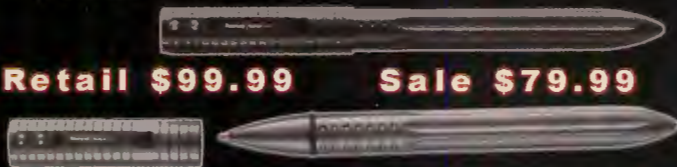
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As seen from the left side, the XM110 has its KAC Suppressor removed ready for transport.

terms of mounting a wide range of optics and other accessories, and be able to mount a sound suppressor and a bipod. Also specified were a "Match Grade" trigger, a 20-round magazine, an adjustable butt stock, and a high degree of accuracy.

A number of manufacturers answered the SASS solicitation with a variety of rifles based on either the AR-10 design or that of the FN-FAL. While all of these rifles, no doubt, performed well, where all categories

were considered, one would float to the top, and that was the submission from Knight's Armament Company (KAC). Each company submitted five rifles and each was subjected to a variety of testing criteria. All five samples were later returned to each company with a full performance report and only the company that submitted the rifles would see the report on how its rifles performed.

Report Card With a Gold Star

While I was not able to examine the reports of other submissions, I do have a copy of the report furnished to the winner, KAC. Among a long list of other impressive performances, the KAC SASS submission averaged 0.65-inch minute of angle (MOA) accuracy. While the rifles submitted by other manufacturers may be billed by names containing the acronym "SASS," only the KAC rifle was given

the US Military designation XM110.

After first seeing the KAC XM110 at the 2006 SHOT Show, I got a closer look at it several months later during the National Defense Industries Association (NDIA) meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I also saw it fired by Colonel David Lutz, USMC (ret.). Soon after, I traveled to KAC's facility in Titusville, Florida, where the XM110 is produced, for an in-depth glimpse of why the rifle won the XM110 contract.

Like the original Stoner-designed Armalite AR-10 rifle built by Armalite during the early 1950's and the AR-15/M16, SR-25 and Mk 11 rifles that followed, the XM110 operates by direct gas instead of using a gas piston system. In all of these rifles and their many clones, high-pressure gas is directed from a port in the barrel back through a tube and into the rifle's bolt carrier, which in this case acts as the rifle's gas cylinder. As the hot gas expands inside the carrier, it drives the carrier rearward against the back of the rifle's bolt, which here acts as the gas piston. As this occurs, equal gas pressure pushes forward against the bolt, thereby taking some of the rearward load away from this part and reducing the wear on its bolt lugs.

Since both the bolt and carrier travel back and forth the full-length of the operation, using the late Colonel George Chinn's description of weapon operating systems, the above rifles could be classed as long-stroke gas cylinder and piston via direct gas.

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AR-10 design, the XM110 is the latest word in the SR-25 and Mk 11, which evolved from that 60-year old design. However, the original well-proven design is only refined and is not really changed.

The one change that could be called revolutionary is in the design of the locking lugs of the bolt. Not being interchangeable with any other AR-10 descendant, this bolt is far stronger than the original.

First appearing in KAC's SR-15 and SR-16 rifles, these radiused locking lugs along with a balanced extractor and other features defined these 5.56mm rifles as arguably the finest AR-15 variants on the planet. While the selective-fire SR-16 continues in production for the military, the semi-automatic SR-15 was sadly discontinued in the wake of Nine-Eleven due to expanding military requirements. Hopefully, with KAC's giant new facility, SR-15 production will resume.

Other, less subtle changes in the XM110 include KAC's new URX (Upper Rail Extension) system, ambidextrous magazine release and a butt stock that is adjustable for length of pull. This stock also has a monopod for elevation.

Now incorporated on all KAC Stoner-type rifles, the URX rail system locks rigidly onto the barrel by tightening a nut in a method very similar to securing the barrel of a Savage Model 110 rifle. However, the top rail of the URX is first perfectly aligned with that of the upper receiver using a special fixture, and the front sight folds down into the URX rail to become part of it, when not in use. The result is a top rail as true as a monolithic system.

Quite ingenious is KAC's new ambidextrous magazine release. Effective, but simple, the release button on the left side is similar to that on the right, but is slightly lower and pivots to cam the release. This new ambidextrous release system will be incorporated into all KAC rifles.

Although it resembles a standard SR-25 fixed stock, the butt stock of the XM110 is adjustable for length of pull by turning a knurled wheel in the stock to extend or retract the butt plate. The vertical monopod raises and lowers the butt for elevation.

Using the finest materials available, more than thirty - 30 - of the most modern CNC machines produce the components of the XM110



(top to bottom) The UXR rail system handguard has a top rail with a front sight that folds down out of sight. This feature will become standard on all URX systems.

On the right side of the XM110's lower receiver is its nomenclature. Having been formally adopted, the rifle now carries the designation, M110.

By loosening a hex-head machine screw in the butt stock, the butt can be extended to increase the length, as desired.

and other rifles, as well as the KAC XM110 Sound Suppressor and other KAC products, such as the company's family of night-vision optics. All components are accordingly heat treated and finished in-house in order to maintain 100% quality control. The finish on the XM110 is the Army's new Flat Dark Earth (FDE).

KAC's Sound Suppressor

A key component of the XM110 package is the quick-attachable Knight Armament suppressor designed for it. Locating on the flash hider, this suppressor extends back to the gas block where its yoke-like locking device is pressed down to secure the suppressor to the gas block. Once mounted, the suppressor is sealed and provides a sound reduction of 30 decibels.

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KAC are the telescopic sight, bipod and carrying case. Stemming from an "if you can't beat 'em, buy 'em." philosophy, KAC furnishes each XM110 with a Leupold 3.5-10X30mm Sniper Scope, a Harris bipod and a Hardigg Storm Case.

Leupold scopes are pretty much standard throughout the U.S. Military, as are Harris Bipods. The Leupold Sniper Scope is rugged and precise and the Harris Bipod is lightweight yet tough enough for the job, and it performs. I've always maintained that extra weight in a bipod is excess weight, and the Harris proves this.

A relative newcomer to the tactical scene, the Hardigg Storm Case was an easy sell, as Hardigg cases are heads above all others, and are available for a variety of items in addition to the XM110. They also come fitted for a number of firearms and their interiors can also be custom laser cut for anything that will fit in their wide range of sizes. If that's not enough, Hardigg Cases can be had in many colors. As are virtually all aspects of the XM110 package, the Hardigg Storm Case comes in FDE color, and it holds the rifle along with spare magazines, ammunition, KAC Sound

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Trigger Time

Speaking of triggers, did I forget to mention the KAC Match Trigger? Another standard on the XM110, this two-stage trigger is precisely made and tuned at the factory to break crisply at about 3 pounds. This weight is ideal for both safety and accuracy and is the weight I prefer for all precision rifle shooting.

At the KAC range the XM110 was fired with and without the sound suppressor, and with the suppressor mounted, ear protection was not mandatory. In fact, as far as I was concerned, ear protection wasn't necessary at all. Recoil was mild and the rifle did not malfunction in any way during an afternoon of shooting at various targets.

The XM110 was fired prone from its Harris Bipod as well as a GPS GripPod. Both worked well in supporting the rifle and the GripPod weighs but a fraction of the weight.

While only informal shooting was done by a number of people with the sample rifle, I've been shooting SR-

25 rifles for years, and I can attest to their consistent sub-minute of angle (MOA) accuracy.

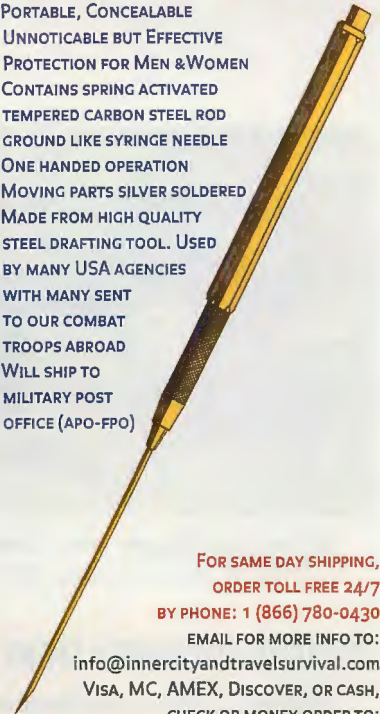
As this is written, the KAC XM110 has dropped its experimental status and has been type classified as the M110 Sniper Rifle. As such it is slated to replace all 7.62mm NATO caliber sniper rifles in the system, both self-loading and bolt-action. Only time will tell, but KAC was in full production of the rifle when I was there.

Will the M110 be available outside the U.S. Military? Yes, but only once military contracts are filled. You can buy one of the other SASS submission rifles, but not the M110, at least not yet. Also, the commercial variant may not carry the exact M110 designation, as is often common with a commercial version of a current military weapon. Either way, it will be the real McCoy and 100% MilStd.

In the meantime, the SR-25 and commercial versions of the Mk 11 in both rifle and carbine configurations are available. For information on their entire line, contact Knight Armament Company, 701 Columbia Blvd., Dept. SOF, Titusville, Florida, 32780; phone: 321-607-9900 (on the web at www.knightarmco.com). ☒

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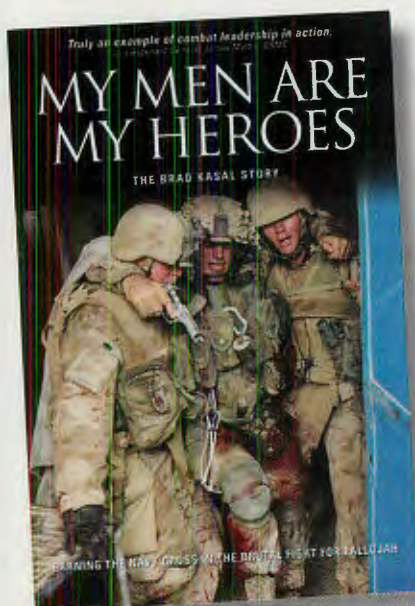
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Mann, who obviously believed the South African Government, got in worse trouble than the mercs did. He still sits in a Zimbabwe prison, waiting to be released in May, 2007.

"The Zimbabwe government wants to extradite Simon Mann to Equatorial Guinea," Bok said with concern for his collaborator.

"Don't know what the British government is going to do. Maybe they can stop it.

"A week after we were captured in Zimbabwe, a South African lawyer tried to get us extradited to South Africa. Mbeke himself said he did not want us back in South Africa.

"Although we had not committed any crime in Zimbabwe, no one wanted to touch us. It was a lengthy process and it cost a lot of money to get out of Zimbabwe.

"Bribes had to be paid to get out. I was in prison with Rey for six months, and the others were in for 14 months for violation of immigration and aviation. But they had never even left the aircraft. They were in transit. There were no grounds to keep us there for that long. It was a political thing," Bok said in frustration.

"Were you tortured?" RKB asked.

"We were tortured and interrogated as they thought we were there to overthrow Mugabe.

"We were beaten, our clothes were taken away. We were naked most of the time. The other guys were taken to Chikurubi prison. I went about a week later. They gave us no food that week. All I got was a cup of water a day.

"Did they break any bones?" RKB asked.

"They would beat you with a stick as you sat down on the ground naked, but no broken bones," Bok told it like it was.

Media Frenzy Allows a Narrow Escape

"There was a trial that took place while we were in prison in Zimbabwe. Rey and I were set free because they could find no crime. We had Equatorial Guinea visas; we never bought the weapons ourselves—Mann did that. The process took a full six months..

"As soon as they released us, they thought they had made a mistake and tried to re-arrest us. We went charging down to the aircraft. But the pilot waited for us and we got aboard. He took off 10 or 15 minutes after scheduled flight time. I don't know why he waited.

AKs, PKMs, Russian light machine guns, RPGs, 60 mm mortars, 9 mm pistols, hand grenades and obviously, a lot of ammunition.

"We had communications with us and the guys on the Malabo Island. We were to land at the airport that would have been secured by the first group by the time we arrived.

"I was a team leader, I had a team of about 15 guys. Our mission was to secure the palace. We were told the opposition would not be that fierce. Intelligence reports revealed that the security apparatus on Malabo was not in an operational state. The military police were very run down and had low morale. We were told not to expect a lot of resistance except from the palace because Obiang had about 100 Moroccans providing security.

"Nick du Toit provided intelligence as he flew in and out of Equatorial Guinea and had a good idea what was going on.

"Du Toit would have stayed at the air port and been in charge of the tactical operations center for the whole operation."

"Did you envision any foreign government becoming involved?" RKB asked.

"We were told Nigerians would help, and that the Spanish government would have ships off the coast in support of us.

Bok, du Toit and Rey never made it to Equatorial Guinea.

"Rey, Simon Mann, and I were inspecting the weapons after we landed in Zimbabwe. The weapons we asked for were not there. We were ready to abort the mission.

"The Zimbabwe officials busted us and took us to different facilities to interrogate us.

U.S. Navy Seals On Call

"State witness Ivan Pienaar told the court in the trial in South Africa in February this year that U.S. Navy Seals were also on standby. We were under the impression that the U.S., British, and Spanish governments approved the coup," Bok recounted highlights of the South African trial.

"Where did info come from that Spanish ships would be on station?" RKB asked?

"From Mann. These were people we had worked for in the past. We believed him. I would work with him again tomorrow."

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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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"If they had second thoughts, why did they not stop you?" RKB asked.

"There were TV cameras at the airport, and if it weren't for that they would have stopped us," Bok said.

Freed From Zimbabwe to Face Time in South Africa

"When we returned to South Africa, we faced different charges. They accused us of violating the Foreign Military Assistance Act, which makes rendering military assistance or logistics training outside of South Africa a crime.

"The Scorpions got a hold of us. They told us we could plead guilty and plea-bargain, pay a fine and accept a suspended sentence.

The alternative was grim.

"If we pled not guilty, we would be arrested and put in prison in South Africa. Our lawyer applied for bail. It would cost us another million Rand (\$150,000) to fight this case because it would be a high court case, not a magistrate court case.

"We were forced under political pressure to plead guilty. We had no witnesses to back us up.

"The South Africa government was not happy that we were out.

They probably thought we would be extradited to Equatorial Guinea. We were looking at up to 15 years so we decided to plea-bargain.

"Part of the plea bargain was that we had to testify against the group.

"How can we testify against the group' we said. 'The only thing we can say is the truth. We are not going to lie in court'.

"Just do a plea bargain, when it comes to court, we'll sort this out," the Scorpions told us.

"We went to court for sentencing after the plea bargain. We got suspended sentences of 5 years and a 75,000 (\$10,000) Rand fine.

Merc Brotherhood – We Are Not Knuckle Draggers

"Equatorial Guinea has Nick du Toit and the Portuguese black guys," Bok is concerned about his colleagues in the morbid prison. "They let a few guys go. We asked for South Africa government to put pressure on Equatorial Guinea to release those guys. They could have been executed.

"The South Africa government double-crossed us and we wanted them to put pressure against Equatorial Guinea government to let those guys out.

"Nigel Morgan, intelligence whore who pretended to be Mann's friend, briefed the South African government on every move we made," Rey said with repulsion. "It is unclear whether he is with MI6.

"He was a personal friend to Mann. Morgan was the link between the coup group and the South Africa government. They knew exactly what was going on. If they had wanted to stop it, they would have stopped it. They should not have let it go forward. They should have pulled us in and told us it is illegal.

"We would have stopped it immediately. They think we are problem makers all over the world. This is not the fact. We would never have done this operation if South Africa did not O.K. it. We are not knuckle draggers like some people called us.

"We are professional soldiers and we are not stupid.

A South Afrikaner Judge Cuts Through The Bull

"The South Afrikaner judge who heard the case said the South African government could have stopped the coup.

Continued on page 78

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"Rey was called as state witness. The judge asked Rey, 'Why did you plead guilty?'"

"Rey told them, 'we had no choice. They threatened us to be locked up in prison. We didn't have the money to fight the government'."

"The judge couldn't believe that South Africa could actually treat their citizens that way."

Unfortunate Soldiers of Fortune

"The other guys in Zimbabwe got in worse trouble because the Scorpions changed leadership and the new chief wanted prison sentences. That is why the court case started in February."

"I think the whole operation was betrayed by the South African government. Nigel Morgan sold us out, but so did the South African government."

"The Scorpions arrested Mark Thatcher. He paid a big fine."

"Thatcher violated the foreign military assistance act because he was in South Africa. If he had stayed in the U.K., the South Africa government would not have been able to lay their hands on him."

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“He saw South Africa as an opportunity to make money in oil.

“The one German was part of an aircrew of another aircraft. He was the guy who died.”

We asked him if the German had been tortured to death.

“We believe that he was tortured to death. Some of our guys died in Zimbabwe because of poor diet and malaria. There was no medical assistance. If you got malaria, you had to get well by yourself, and because of bad diet, the chances of survival were slim.

“We were fed boiled cabbage and a

sort of grits. We were fed three times a day each time a little bit of grits with cabbage.

Merc On Hold

“Could you have pulled it off if they had not told the Zimbabwe government?” RKB asked. “What did Equatorial Guinea know?”

“I still believe we would have been able to pull the job off, but South Africa tipped Equatorial Guinea off.

Regarding his future plans, he said, “I’m going to start a normal life with my wife,” Bok said.

His wife is an American trooper he



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Elements of author's squad deploy a home grown .50 cal. sniper rifle with Leupold scope mounted. Photo: Author's files.

place but unfortunately they did not let us help.

We asked him if he was afraid of going back to South Africa.

"Yes and no. They obviously tried to make life difficult for us, guys with our background, but I have done nothing wrong. My family is there. I won't give up on South Africa now," he said.

"Is there any possibility you will be extradited to Equatorial Guinea?"

"No. The court set everyone free last month. This whole chapter is basically over.

His thoughts were on his friends.

"Pray that the SA government will now, after everything that came to light, get Nick Du Toit and the rest out of EG, as it's their responsibility.

"We are not criminals, we operated under a false impression by the SA government that the operation was cleared at the highest levels. The U.S. state department was criticized for hiring us to work in Iraq. We have always worked for legitimate governments, and we thought that this operation was nothing less." ✕

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

met in Iraq.

"I will start doing contracts again," he said.

What message do you want us to give to the world?

"We know that Obiang killed his own uncle to take the presidency. When you see all the Equatorial Guinea reports, its bad. I think Equatorial Guinea would have been a different

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◀ Twenty C-17 Globemaster IIs of the 437th and 315th Airlift Wings take part in the largest formation exercise from a single base, while demonstrating strategic airlift capabilities while operating off the coast of Charleston, SC. Photo: MSGT Andy Dunaway, USAF

BULLETIN BOARD • Continued from page 10

tive Hungary after the tanks rolled into Budapest in 1956. "I know what it means to have your dreams of freedom crushed by a totalitarian government," said Szabo.

"We all need to support the NRA and the work they are doing for all of us. We are facing a lot of challenges as we go into 2008," said Szabo.

Co-founder Thanos Polyzos and the Para management team will continue to produce the innovative pistols that Ted Szabo created, as well as his new designs that are in development.

The SOF Papers

SOF's 30-year collection of papers, documents and photos needs a home – a proper repository/archive where this collection can be preserved for historical or academic study.

Anyone representing such a facility, or with information or suggestions regarding such an appropriate repository, is encouraged to call: 303-443-0300, FAX 303-444-5617, or email editorsof@aol.com.

SOF Seeks El Salvador Veterans

SOF is seeking contact with, or news about, the following Special Forces veterans who served in El Salvador: **Mike Kim, Tony Paniagua**. Anyone with information or a point of contact please call: 303-443-0300, FAX 303-444-5617, or email editorsof@aol.com.

LEAA Executive Director Runs for Sheriff

Long time SOF'ers will be interested to learn that Jim Fotis, head of LEAA, is running for sheriff of Prince William County, VA. Check out his website fotisforsheriff.com.

Court Rules: Sue The Scoundrels

A U.S. Court has cleared the way for 30 American families – and thousands of others – to sue the Arab Bank for knowingly transferring Saudi funds to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers, according to a report by CNSNews.com Jerusalem Bureau Chief Julie Stahl. The lawsuit claims that the Arab Bank aided terrorism by administering an "insurance plan" of the Saudi Committee in Support of the Intifada, which paid thousands of dollars to the families of suicide bombers working for Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. ☒

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Road Kill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On March 27 the solons of the U.S. Senate voted to assure defeat in Iraq by setting a “date certain” – one year from now – for the withdrawal of U.S. forces. As the 50-48 vote was being tallied, 15 British sailors and Royal Marines were being held hostage somewhere in Iran. While the barons of bombast were rushing to the microphones to crow about repudiating this president’s failed strategy, U.S. aircraft from two carrier battle groups were screaming into the air over the Persian Gulf. And in a little-noticed footnote that same afternoon, the newswires from Baghdad reported that “a U.S. soldier and a civilian contractor had been killed inside the ‘Green Zone’ in Baghdad.”

In keeping with tradition, the American soldier’s next of kin will be notified by his service, his body will be escorted home on an “Angel Flight” and at his funeral, a military honor guard will solemnly present his family with a carefully folded American flag and a Purple Heart Medal on which the profile of George Washington appears. The U.S. civilian contractor, killed by the same “indirect fire” as the U.S. soldier, will be accorded none of these courtesies. She is simply a statistic: the 161st American civilian contractor killed in Iraq since 2003. When I called a friend in Iraq to ask about the circumstances, I was told, “Who cares about the civilian? We’re just road kill.”

The disparity in how these two American casualties are treated in death may be stark – but it’s nothing new. Civilian contractors have served beside – and been treated differently than – the U.S. military since the American Revolution. From 1775 when he arrived in Boston to assume command of the Continental Army, Washington depended on civilian contractors to provide food, weapons, ammunition, transport, armories, engineering, construction, clothing and medical assistance for his troops. Though many of these civilians shared the same hardships and privations as the troops they supported, they were more often criticized than honored by our government.

Modern warfare has made civilian contractors even more essential to our military – and placed them at higher

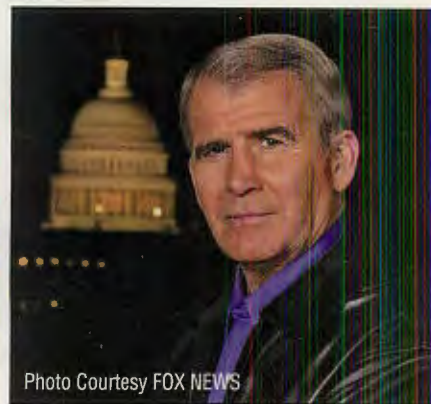
risk. Three weeks after Pearl Harbor, nearly 100 American civilian construction contractors were killed and wounded standing shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. Marines and sailors defending Wake Island. When the tiny garrison was overwhelmed on Dec. 23, 1941, more than 1,000 contractors became prisoners of the Rising Sun and scores were subsequently worked to death and massacred by their captors. None of those who died received so much as a Purple Heart.

By the time I arrived in Vietnam in 1968, tens of thousands of American civilians were backing our efforts on the battlefield. My tiny platoon outpost overlooking Khe Sanh had a half-dozen American civilians manning sophisticated communications and detection equipment. At Con Thien, our infantry battalion was supported by U.S. civilian “tech reps” who maintained and operated fire control radars, ran generators and repaired everything from sensors to heavy equipment. One of the most famous photographs of the Vietnam War’s ignominious end was an American civilian contractor’s UH-1 “Huey” helicopter evacuating desperate Vietnamese refugees from the top of 22 Gia Long Street, a half mile from the U.S. Embassy.

Today’s globe-spanning war on terror – and a much smaller U.S. military to fight it – place even greater burdens on civilian contractors. In Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, more than 350 U.S. companies and nearly 100,000 American civilians are directly engaged in supporting U.S. and coalition efforts. In Iraq, civilian contractors man and protect more than 900 convoys a month delivering food, water, clothing, fuel, weapons, ammunition and equipment to the new Iraqi police and army. Nearly all major maintenance is performed by civilian contractors, including that for U.S. forces.

On each of my eight trips to Iraq reporting on U.S. combat units for FOX News, I have eaten food prepared by these civilian contractors, bathed in and drank the water they supplied, ridden in vehicles they had armored and communicated with equipment they had installed. In northern Iraq, I documented American contractors destroying millions of tons of Saddam’s

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



ordnance so that it wouldn’t fall into the wrong hands. In Fallujah I saw the bridge where the mutilated bodies of four civilian contractors were hung by Al Qaeda in March 2004. And on every trip I’ve seen well-armed civilians from private security companies – called PSCs – protecting diplomats, sensitive installations, oil pipelines, news bureaus, Iraqi government officials and even senior U.S. military officers.

Though Gen. David Petraeus testified at his confirmation hearing on Jan. 23 that he was “secured by contract security in my last tour there,” and described the PSCs as essential to his strategy for victory, he appears to have changed his mind. Last week the Maliki government issued regulations – enforced by the U.S. military – stripping weapons from all civilian contractors unless they have a new permit issued by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI). The Catch-22 in all of this is that the MOI has yet to issue any new permits.

Lawrence T. Peter, director of the Private Security Association of Iraq, says that the new regulation “disarms virtually all PSC personnel not working directly for the U.S. government and prevents any coalition civilian traveling through Baghdad from legally carrying a weapon.” He added, “we now have American troops disarming American civilians. It just got a whole lot more dangerous to be a reporter, a reconstruction worker or a coalition diplomat in Iraq. The terrorists must love this.”

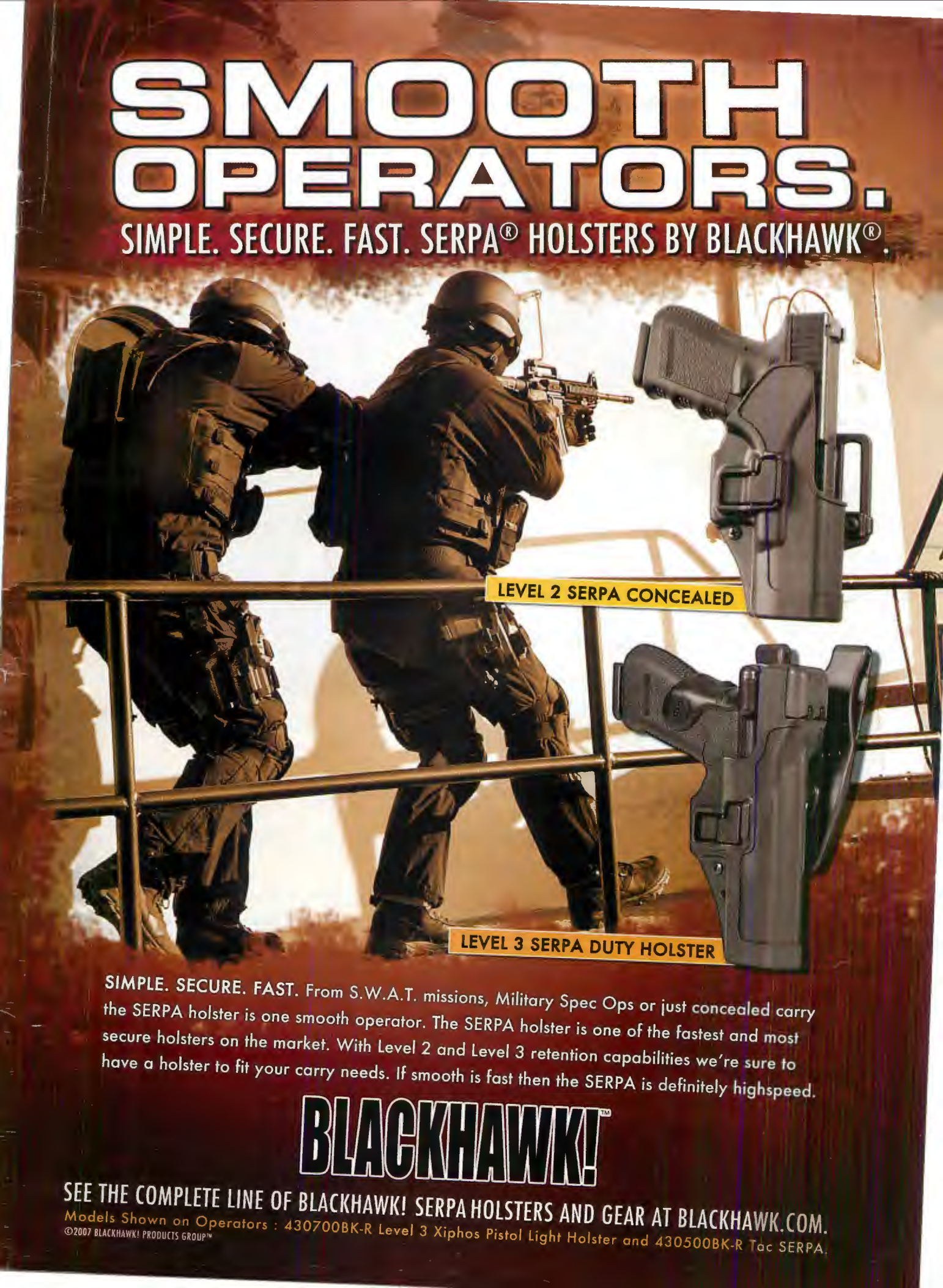
Road kill, anyone? ☒

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

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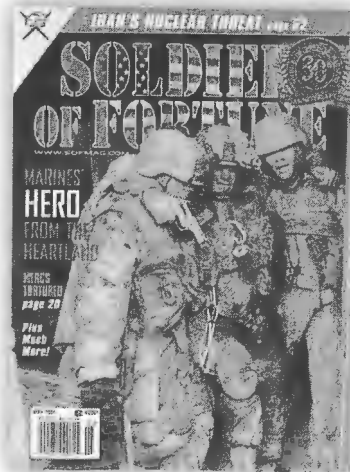
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