

# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

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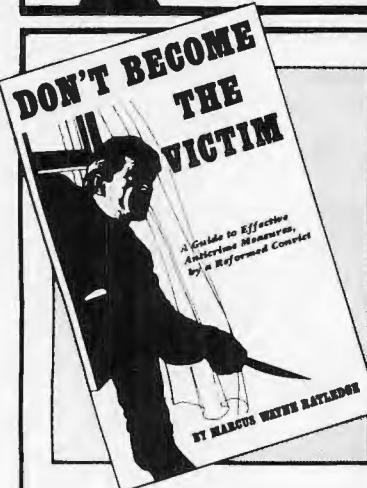
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Jimmy Carter once called this book's author "the most dangerous criminal in the history of Georgia." Now Ratledge's inside story on crime avoidance is here. Shoplifters, con artists, auto thieves, muggers, robbers, even rapists and murderers—Ratledge gives you specific, down-to-earth details on how to avoid becoming the victims of crime. This is not just another "leave on a light and lock your doors" anticrime book. It is gutsy, real-life guide on effective anticrime measures told by a reformed criminal and gifted writer. In fact, Ratledge is presently incarcerated in a Georgia state prison. Each year, over \$20 billion is lost to crime in America. You owe it to yourself, your family, and your community to do your part to help correct this disturbing situation—with the practical help of *Don't Become The Victim*. 5½ x 8½, softcover, 9 chapters, 120 pp. ISBN 0-87364-211-2 \$6.00

### GET EVEN: The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks by George Hayduke

The latest word in do-it-yourself "justice" for everyman makes the other harassment books look like a Sunday school picnic. *The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks* teaches you how to get even whether wronged by an enemy, victimized by a credit card company, or just ripped off by any number of obnoxious individuals and menacing organizations. The methods range from simple pranks to sophisticated techniques of devastation. "George Hayduke" is a master of revenge whose wisdom will help put you on top of any situation where you formerly felt helpless. The book is brimming with anecdotes describing ingenious tactics that have been successfully employed by veteran tricksters. For entertainment purposes only! 5½ x 8½, hardcover, 190 pp. ISBN 0-87364-186-8 \$9.95

### THE REVENGE BOOK by Bob Smith

Over the phone lines and through the mails, in the hands of messengers and on the backs of vermin, *The Revenge Book* tells you how to strike out anonymously at those vexing individuals who make life miserable. Revenge artist Bob Smith paints a shadowy panorama of vengeance that is guaranteed to inspire wickedly devious grins on the faces of good guys everywhere. Enrage your target's spouse. Shock his neighbors and business associates with sordid tales of debauchery. Turn the world against him. In short, reduce him to a quivering mass of paranoid jello with what is perhaps the most sophisticated and well-written of all the revenge books. It took a mastermind like Smith to brew up this devilish concoction of trickery, which we understandably offer for entertainment purposes only! 5½ x 8½, softcover, cartoons, 90 pp. ISBN 0-87364-210-4 \$6.00

### THEY SHOOT TO KILL: a psycho-survey of criminal sniping by Ronald Tobias

There are, conservatively speaking, anywhere between 6,000 and 8,000 sniping incidents occurring yearly in the U.S. which result either in physical harm or property damage. Written with unflinching regard to detail, *They Shoot To Kill* defines the drama and devastation that one armed person can create, without warning. In-depth research and on-edge accounts take readers behind the scenes of snipers both notorious and obscure. Professional criminologists, psychologists, law enforcement officials, and the general public will find this study of criminal sniping an educational—and absolutely engrossing—reading experience.

Included are major case histories which represent each of the different types and methods of the criminal sniper, ranging from the juvenile vandal to the psychotic mass murderer. Charles Whitman fighting to the death atop Texas Tower; David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz stalking the streets of New York City; Alain "Max" de la Tocnayre hot on de Gaulle's trail—these are criminal snipers who are internationally infamous. They are examined alongside the lesser-known snipers: Attebury, Carattini, Essex, Hayes, Unruh, and others. The author is recognized as a leading authority on criminal sniping, and has advised police departments and law agencies in such cases as the crippling attack on Hustler publisher Larry Flynt. 5½ x 8½, hardcover, 200 pp. ISBN 0-87364-207-4 \$14.95



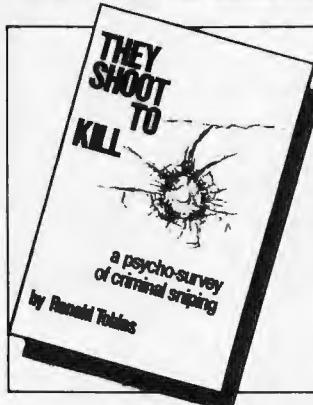
### GET EVEN 2 More Dirty Tricks From The Master of Revenge by George Hayduke

Enemies beware! Here's the outrageous sequel to George Hayduke's underground best-seller, *Get Even: The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks*. *Get Even 2* presents a wide range of all-new dirty tricks people pull to get even with big business bums, footloose spouses, lousy landlords—rip-offs of all types. Hayduke, master of revenge has recently been featured on numerous talk shows and in magazine articles. A tremendous public response ensued. People around the country flooded Hayduke with novel ideas for getting even with just about everybody; these nasty revenge techniques are included in *Get Even 2*. This inspiring volume is a product of public frustration—the little guys don't have to take it any more! Some of the topics covered are: utility companies, sweethearts, animals, lawyers, drugs, the military, mass transit, and dozens more. This is the real thing! Note: *Get Even 2* is for entertainment purposes only! 5½ x 8½, hardcover, illus. 170 pp. ISBN 0-87364-213-9 \$9.95

"Get Even: The Complete Book of Dirty Tricks is the title of a nasty little volume by George Hayduke (not his real name). It is a catalog of ways the set-up-and-mean-minded can avenge perceived injustices dealt them by those who wield a measure of power over some small corner of their lives."

According to Hayduke, the 300 or so letters he has received from *Get Even* readers suggest even more vicious revenge schemes, which he intends to put in a second volume.

Chicago Tribune



### TRAINING THE GUNFIGHTER by Capt. Timothy Mullin

An encyclopedic, collector's volume on the combat application of firearms, written for law officers and legally-armed citizens by an ex-sheriff and practicing attorney. The author provides complete historical, tactical, and legal coverage for all combat firearms, and especially their use by police. Shotguns, rifles, and handguns are studied extensively, as are special purpose weapons, such as submachine guns and silenced countersniper rifles. The author is particularly well qualified to write on this topic: he presently instructs police forces on combat pistolcraft, and provides legal advice on the use of deadly force. Sixty photos accompany the text, which also analyzes the merits of various accessories, like grips, sights, holsters, and body armor. Chapter titles include: Handgun Selection, Revolver vs. Self-loader, Bullet Styles, Carries, Stances, Burst Firing, Night Shooting, Legal Considerations, Range Construction, and 21 more. An attractive reference volume that could save your life. 8½ x 11, hardcover, photos, 220 pp. ISBN 0-87364-185-X \$24.95

Available September 1981

### LIVE OFF THE LAND IN THE CITY AND COUNTRY by Ragnar Benson

Not just another "eat roots and berries" book! Ragnar Benson, famed survival writer, looks back at his experiences while living off the land—even in the city—for the past 40 years. He reveals a totally practical survival program that is unlike any other. Contrary to similar authors, Benson believes that wild, fresh game (not plants) is the best source of nutrition in a survival context. Even in urban habitats, game is always plentiful—if you know how to find it.

Yet Benson's all-new book covers much more. A separate chapter details how to make your own cache tubes—a big money saver—and also which supplies to store away in them. [Hint: it's not that expensive freeze-dried stuff.] Gives hands-on advice about survival medicine, firearms, reloading, fuel storage, diesel generators, retreating, etc. Other comprehensive, photo-illustrated chapters explain how to raise livestock and vegetables/grains on your retreat the smart way. Drawing from his Indian background, he analyzes their good example of living comfortably and cheaply without the trappings of modern society. A gold mine of native American lore about: curing hides, preserving meats and vegetables without refrigeration, foraging and trapping the Indian way, and much more. Benson even provides plans for building your own A-frame cabin, just like his own, from local timber in one summer—3,000 square feet of living space for under \$10,000!

This complete guide to surviving in style is, of course, written in Benson's lively, down-home manner. Survivalists, retreaters, backpackers, and anyone else wishing to develop a more self-sufficient lifestyle should definitely have this one in their libraries! 5½ x 8½, hardcover, 15 chapters, 60 photos, 230 pp. ISBN 0-87364-200-7 \$14.95

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### COMBAT SURVIVAL

Never before available to the public. An extremely useful, comprehensive training manual on physical and combat survival, tactics, and techniques. Our inside sources believe that this is the same manual used to instruct Great Britain's elite Special Air Service (SAS). These specialists in secret warfare were responsible for the daring 1980 hostage rescue operation at the Iranian embassy in London. *Combat Survival* illustrates combat and survival training and tactical methods useful in similar ops, as well as general survival conditions. Also contains rare info on evading and silencing guard dogs, sabotage and intelligence gathering, navigating under survival conditions, and much more. Includes over 100 detailed line drawings and valuable charts. Chapter titles include: Evasion; Survival Navigation; Improvisation and Escape Kit; Contacting Agents; Dog Evasion; Wild Foods; Animal Traps and Snares; Fishing; Water; Survival Still; Shelter; Primitive Medicine; and four more. 8½ x 11, softcover, illus., 156 pp. ISBN 0-87364-212-0 \$12.95



### SECRETS OF THE NINJA by Ashida Kim

Are Ninja the ultimate warriors? Read the *Secrets of the Ninja* and discover why this 2,000-year-old sect of silent stalkers has made headlines in the Western world after centuries of claiming horrified respect in the Orient. The Ninja were called Wizards of Invisibility. Certainly, at the height of their art, they were absolutely *unseeable*. And now, Paladin unveils the deepest, darkest secrets of those ancient assassins. Learn how you, too, can enter rooms unseen, climb vertical walls, and scout unknown territory in ways even more stealthy than the original Indians ever used.

A practicing Ninja himself, author Ashida Kim offers excellent instruction in the Silent Way. Step-by-step, prodigiously photo-illustrated chapters cover meditation methods, principles of light and shadow, escapes from holds, fighting multiple adversaries, *Inpo* (The Art of Hiding), *Pa Pu* (Night Walking Ability), and many other *Secrets of the Ninja*. The Ninja approach is not always empty-handed—here's how the grappling hook, *Ninja-To* (sword), rope, and other devices can work to a Ninja's advantage. Understand what it means to operate the Silent Way and gain unique insight into this shrouded realm of martial arts.

Over two years in the making, this beautifully designed collector's volume is, without doubt, the finest Ninja training work ever published. Do not confuse *Secrets of the Ninja* with any other book on the subject. With over 160 vivid action photographs, 15 chapters, and 200 big pages, this book far outstrips any attempted imitation. This is the real thing! 5½ x 8½, hardcover, drawings, 160 photos, 200 pp. ISBN 0-87364-234-1 \$14.95

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**MANTRAPPING**  
by Ragnar Benson

*Mantrapping* is the first book ever published to explain how to capture that most dangerous animal: man. Ragnar Benson, well known as the author of *Survival Poaching*, has based this gut-wrenching book on his own personal mantrapping experiences while on special assignments in Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Cuba. You have to see this one to believe it! Reveals over a dozen different traps specifically designed to catch and kill humans. Illustrated with detailed line drawings covering such mantraps as the Malaysian Hawk, the Andes Mountain Trail Trap, the Sheepeater's Rock Fall, and the Cuban Water Trap. Survivalists can use these systems to help protect their retreats. As Benson says: "To know how to trap your enemy is to know how to avoid being trapped yourself." Each trap is constructed with primitive materials and tools. Includes a special chapter on the philosophy of mantrapping. 7 x 8½, softcover, 15 chapters, illus., 88 pp.

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Just a few of the how-to subjects covered: fertilizers, paints, chromium plating, pyrotechnics, leather, cheese, adhesives, bricks, poison antidotes, solders, soaps, and rust preventives. You'll even find a remedy for gunpowder-stained skin. The chapter "Useful Workshop and Laboratory Methods" explains centrifugation, and much more. Most folks consider plastics an inscrutable chemical mystery; after reading a dozen pages of "Useful Information Concerning Plastics," you'll be armed with all the lay knowledge you'll ever need. Complete and unabridged, this collection is both entertaining and educational. 6 x 8½, hardcover, illus., 900 pp. N.D.

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**SURVIVAL POACHING**

by Ragnar Benson

Gives practical information on collecting large or small numbers of wild game under virtually any circumstances. The methods and traps described by Benson are known only to one Indian tribe and a few oldtimers. Benson's uncle and teacher was a member of this tribe; Benson is an old-timer now with 40 years of poaching experience behind him. He tells you how to get a deer any time you go hunting for one; how to live off the land, whether in the city or country; gives plans for dozens of ingenious, effective traps, snares, and deadfalls; also plans for permanent concealed traps for small game and fish; lessons on woodcraft and scouting; covers equipment, firearm selection, ammo choices, and more. 5½ x 8½, hardcover, illus., 250 pp.

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One of the most comprehensive and up-to-date works ever compiled on modern survivalism, *Life After Doomsday* is also an excellent reference on surviving through any major disaster. An invaluable addition to your survival library. Includes dozens of useful charts, drawings, and photos. 8½ x 11, hardcover, illus., 200 pp.

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Names and addresses of over 400 suppliers, with descriptions of their products and services, are provided in six easy-access sections, from homesteading and city survival to building and alternative energy. Critiques dozens of useful books on timber framing, foraging, farming, woodcraft, hunting, energy efficiency, and even first aid. Articles written especially for this all-new book cover remodeling for self-sufficiency, psychology of survival, the right all-terrain vehicles for the mobile family, the true adventures of a modern mountain man, and firearm selection for retreat defense. 8½ x 11, hardcover, photos, charts and etchings, 190 pp.

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# EDITOR'S NOTES

**B**Y the time you read this "Our Man In Beirut" will be *out*. Author Jim Morris, whose series on Project Delta concludes in this issue, should have his firsthand report on the civil war in Lebanon ready for one of the next two issues of SOF.

Morris, author of *War Story*, a book based on his experiences with Special Forces in Vietnam, was selected for the Lebanon assignment for three reasons: First, he can write well. Second, in 1968 during the Tet offensive he saw street fighting, and most of the action in Lebanon is in the streets of Beirut. Finally, when we offered him the chance to go get shot at, mortared and bombarded, he replied: "Talked me into it, you smooth-talking devil."

Since Morris intended to cover the Christian army, it was necessary for him to sneak in by boat from Cyprus. The Christian minority in Lebanon has about 10,000 men in arms and controls East Beirut and an area which extends 40 miles to the north and 25 miles inland. The other forces in Lebanon include a 25,000-man Syrian peace-keeping force, the 20,000-man Lebanese government army, a 2,000-man army in South Lebanon backed by the Israelis, and an unknown number of Palestinians.

In Morris' first phone report he called the Christian army a "dream" one. According to Morris, the troops are highly educated, highly motivated and keep the spit-and-polish bit down to a minimum. "It's not uncommon for them to go to their jobs in a business suit, then come home, change into their fatigues and man the mortars at night," said Morris.

## FREEDOM FUNDS

SOF's Afghan Freedom Fighters' Fund has proved to be quite a success, both with the readers of SOF who have sent in contributions and with the Afghans who are on the receiving end. In a future issue, SOF will report to its readers the amounts sent to the Freedom Fighters and, if we obtain permission from them, the various groups to which they were sent. In addition, we will recognize those contributors who wish to be if they send us a letter authorizing us to print their names.

The process will be the same for SOF's Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters' Relief project. Mike Williams' visit to the camp of the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters is covered in this issue (see p. 56). The Nicaraguans desperately need serviceable fatigues and boots, so if you have some unused old gear, you can send it to: Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters' Relief, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. We'll see that it is delivered and you'll get a certificate of appreciation from SOF.

## VIETNAM ART

We have received a number of requests asking how to locate the artists who were represented in our coverage of The Vietnam Experience art show (see SOF, July '81). Most of the works which appeared in SOF are valuable military museum pieces and not for sale; however, some are. Austin Deuel (7137 Stetson Drive, Studio A, Scottsdale, AZ 85251) has works for sale, as does Michael Arlen Boyett (411 Ester Blvd., Nacodoches, TX 75961). In addition, you might be able to locate a 'Nam artist in your area by contacting Richard Strandberg (3850 Russell Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55412). Strandberg organized The Vietnam Experience show and is in touch with artists around the country.

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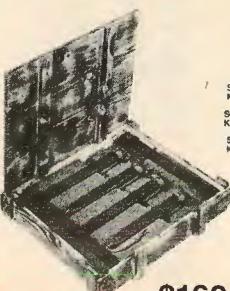
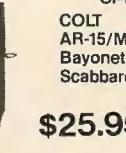
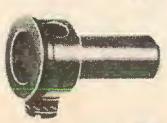
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<b>SWISS SIG Bayonet &amp; Scabbard Model 510-4 7.62 NATO</b> Blade length 7." Features: Wire cutter, razor back saw blade, belt attachment, sure-grip handle, and tie-thongs.	SI-6  <b>\$29.95</b>	<b>M4 CARBINE BAYONET with M8A1 Scabbard</b> U.S. Caliber .30 M1 Carbine. Blade length: 6½." Features: Belt attachment, sure-grip handle, and tie-thongs.	SI-8  <b>\$19.95</b>	<b>M5A1 GARAND BAYONET with M8A1 Scabbard</b> U.S. Caliber .30 M1 Garand Rifle. Blade length: 6½." Features: Belt attachment, sure-grip handle, and tie-thongs.	SI-9  <b>\$20.95</b>	<b>COLT AR-15/M16 M-7 BAYONET with M8A1 Scabbard</b> Blade length: 6½." Features: Belt attachment, sure-grip handle, and tie-thongs.	SI-10  <b>\$19.95</b>	<b>COMBAT KNIFE M3 Bayonet with M8A1 Scabbard</b> Blade length: 6½." Features: Belt attachment, sure-grip handle, and tie thongs.	SI-11  <b>\$16.95</b>
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# BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos



## RUSSIAN MINE POSTER ...

SOF now has a poster available on the new Russian anti-personnel mine being scattered via helicopter and aircraft in Afghanistan (See SOF, April '81, p. 24). In color, it shows the mine in exact size and includes detailed description. The poster is free to all who order on military letterhead. Copies to others interested are available for 50 cents for the first and 25 cents for each additional.

Also available are lab reports on the mine and its explosive. Unfortunately, the small amount of residue remaining in the mine made firm conclusions impossible; however, the best estimate at the time is that the explosive is of the hydrazine family and not an aromatic. Earlier reports that the explosive was a binary — an explosive formed by the mixing of two inert ingredients, perhaps by the shock of landing — proved false on analysis. It is also a very fast explosive with a detonation rate of 24,000-26,000 fps, about the same as detonating cord or C4.

## NICARAGUAN CAPTURE ...

Terry Allen, an American, and three Nicaraguans were captured by the Sandinistas after a raid on the police station in Bluefields, on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua.

Allen, Rudy Sincali, Eduardo Patterson and Block Galloway were captured trying to return to the boat they had used to approach Bluefields.

The raid is assumed to be in retaliation for the arrest of Stedman Fagot, leader of the Misurassata separatist movement in the Bluefields area. There are quite a number of blacks with English names living in the Bluefields area and, in the recent past, they have been active against the government. The Misurassatas claim the FSLN is racist. The FSLN claims the separatists are backed by the CIA. The FSLN army moved in once recently to put down a strike.

Bluefields is 300 kilometers south of Managua.

## KGB PROBLEMS ...

Maj. Gen. Z. Yusif-Zade, KGB chief in the predominantly Muslim Soviet

Republic of Azerbaijan, has acknowledged that the work load on security forces under his command has increased significantly because of Afghanistan and Iran.

He said that "politically harmful phenomena," including "ideological subversion," are being stirred up by "reactionary Muslim clergy."

This is believed to be the most definitive admission yet by a Soviet leader of stature that there is unrest among Soviet Muslims because of Russian intervention in Afghanistan and their manipulation in Iran.

Yusif-Zade blamed the United States and China for instigating the unrest.

## THAI BORDER PROBLEMS ...

Gen. Vasin Issrangkun, commander of Thailand's First Army Region, says there is a serious Vietnamese buildup along the Laotian and Thai borders and that Thai forces are being increased to counter the threat.

The general said Vietnamese troops are positioned from 500 to 1,000 meters from Thailand's southern border and they deploy armor and artillery from seven to eight kilometers inside Cambodia.

Thai intelligence also reports that the 75th Division, People's Army of Vietnam, exhausted and depleted from heavy fighting against Cambodian guerrillas, has been replaced by the 317th VPA Division.

## FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN WASHINGTON ...

Afghan freedom fighter leaders told Congress recently that their struggle against Soviet invaders is possible largely because of widespread firearms ownership and knowledge of their use by Afghan men.

The speakers before an assembly of Congressmen and their staffs were National Islamic Front leader Sayed Ahmed Gailani and military commander Mohammed Hakim.

Asked how many Afghans were armed, Gailani said he wasn't sure

*Continued on page 83*

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### C OVERS AND COSTS ...

Sirs:

Concerning your June 1981 issue, I was happy to see you return to mailing SOF inside a shipping cover. Now my mailman no longer gives me odd stares or tiptoes across my lawn as if it were a minefield. Concerning the price increase, as long as you continue to produce issues like June '81, I see no reason to explain or apologize for it. Special Operations Group: we all have known about MACVSOG ops for many years, but SOF had the guts to print it. Now that MACVSOG is out in the open, maybe more of those unique soldiers will tell their stories.

I'm sure you are aware that SOF is now being copied by several sleazy fly-by-night publishers, but SOF is the only one with both combat and military vets on the staff to evaluate and write about weapons and tactics. SOF writers are goers and doers — this shows in the professional magazine you produce.

Keep up the good work,  
G.R. Teegarden  
Mt. Sterling, Kentucky

### M<sup>I</sup>As AND SOG ...

Sirs:

I have just read my June SOF. It is one of the best issues you have published. One story, which turned me inside out and got me mad and moving, was "What Price Glory?" I have written our President and my congressmen, using excerpts of this fine article, to suggest that they answer the authors' allegations concerning the prior administration's whitewash policies. I suggest sending copies of that article, and forthcoming articles, to every elected official in Washington, to each representative of the UN and all Free World heads of state. In addition, the facts and figures researched and collected by the authors should be passed on to the major news wire services as matters of national interest. Our fellow citizens would be sickened, as I was, by the Carter administration's whitewash and lip-service approach to the problem of Americans still being held captive in Southeast Asia.

I suggest you use your publication as a vehicle for a strongly orchestrated campaign by your readership to our elected officials to get our people home and to put a permanent end to the Carter/Vietnamese lying. Possibly this operation can be named after the motto on my old unit's crest: *De Oppresso Liber*.

Sincerely,  
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Continued on page 87

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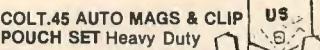
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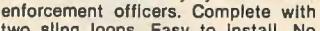
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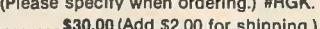
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**Ken Hackathorn**

**Q**UESTIONS about wear-resistant, low-maintenance finishes for sidearms are common, because corrosion resistance and rust prevention are critical to most handgun users. While most plated surfaces protect handguns from the elements, many owners dislike their shiny light color. For an undercover operative, the pistol must be inconspicuous.

Electrofilm is a gun finish offering excellent protection, plus ideal rust resistance. In this process, the sidearm is first Parkerized, then a coat of dry-film lubricant is heat-cured into the surface. Once the dry-film molybdenum disulfide is baked into the pores of the steel, the finish is nearly indestructible.

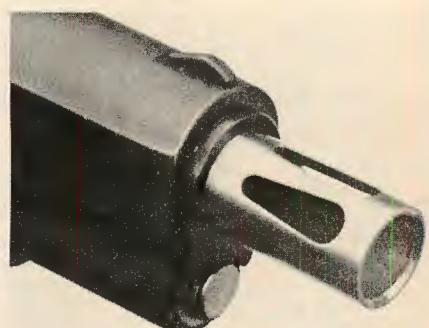
Electrofilm leaves a pistol gray-black with a dull, smooth finish that requires very little care. Furthermore, this finish almost lubricates itself. To clean the pistol after use, just wipe the bore and parts with solvent. Then wipe the surface with a clean cloth, load and holster the pistol. There is no oily surface to stain clothing or attract dirt and grit. For further information on this extremely rugged finish contact: Electrofilm, Inc., Dept. SOF, 7116 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91605.

**O**NE of my favorite 9x19mm pistols is the new Heckler & Koch P-7 (PSP). It is a small, accurate 9mm. If you want a really concealable 9mm, this is it. My P-7 had one minor problem:

With anything but full high-pressure-load 9x19mm ammo, the action sometimes failed to cycle and pick up a fresh round from the magazine. European 9x19 ammo is usually much more powerful than American 9x19mm, which is loaded down for use in many older war-trophy 9mm Luger pistols.

Walt Wolff, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 232, Ardmore, PA 19003, offers a recoil-spring calibration pack for the H&K P-7. This spring pack allows the owner to tailor the spring to loads used in his pistol. The pack contains a duplicate stock-recoil spring (21 pounds) and springs of 20, 19, 18 and 17 pounds. My pistol works with all types of ammo with the Wolff 19-pound recoil spring. I have talked with a number of other P-7 owners who had the same problem. The Wolff recoil spring should be just what they need. Retail cost is \$27 plus \$2 for shipping and handling.

**R**AY Chapman was one of the first combat shooters to experiment



D.B.P. Engineering muzzle brake for Colt .45 auto must be installed by skilled gunsmith. Hackathorn is testing device and notes it gives pistol a different feel and some shooters note slight reduction of muzzle jump. Photo: D.B.P. Engineering

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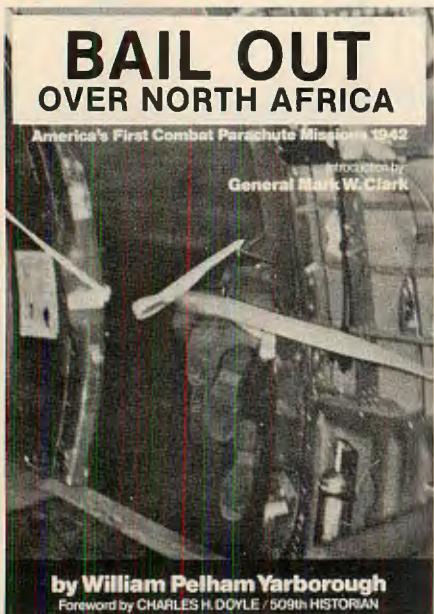
with the ported barrel in a .45 auto. Chapman used a six-inch barrel and had two horizontal cuts EDM-machined into the top of the extra inch of barrel that extended from the front of a standard Government Model Colt pistol. Barsto offers these barrels and they have become very popular with many IPSC shooters.

I have been asked whether they reduce recoil. They do not. Dave Poynter offers a new muzzle brake that his firm developed. First, carefully consider the statement by his firm concerning muzzle brakes: "The idea of reducing muzzle jump by diverting expanding powder gases 90 degrees to the bore has been around for some time. People think this reduces recoil. It is more correct to say that it alters the recoil characteristics.

*Continued on page 90*



# IN REVIEW



**BAIL OUT OVER NORTH AFRICA: America's First Combat Parachute Missions 1942.** By William Pelham Yarborough. Introduction by Gen. Mark W. Clark. Phillips Publications, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 168, Williamstown, NJ 08094. 1979. 180 pp. \$14.95. Review by Alexander McColl.

THIS is a book about the exploits, in November and December 1942, of the unit alternately known as 2d Battalion, 503d Parachute Infantry; 2d Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry, and finally the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion — in what was at the time French North Africa. This was the first combat operation by the newly formed airborne force of the U.S. Army. The author, then a major and now a retired lieutenant general, was the airborne planner on the staff of Gen. Mark Clark, who was at that time Gen. Eisenhower's deputy for Operation "Torch," the North Africa invasion.

Since the author accompanied the operation as an "observer" and active participant, he brings to the book first-hand, personal knowledge, not only of the strategic background, planning and preparation that lay behind this mission, but also what happened on the ground. He tells his story very well, in a brisk, clear, lively style, without ever bogging down. The book is good reading.

The mission of the Airborne Task Force, consisting of the 2d Battalion, 503d Parachute Infantry, and the 60th

Troop Carrier Group (flying C-47 "gooney birds"), was to fly from southwestern England across the Bay of Biscay, neutral Spain and the Mediterranean, to seize the airfields at La Senia and Tafaroui near Oran in the northwest corner of Algeria — to prevent their use by the Vichy French against the impending Allied landings in the Oran area.

Without bogging down in "bean-counting" detail, we get a very clear picture of the events leading up to this bold and risky operation, including the significant fact that the airborne infantry were much more prepared for their role than were the personnel and aircraft of the troop-carrier aircraft. This is a very instructive chapter for any military professional who may be involved in planning and preparing forces for such an operation. Too often the "media coverage" starts with the transport aircraft thundering over the Drop Zone, spewing forth death-defying paratroopers, which is very frustrating to the actual or potential staff-nik trying to find out how to put one of these things together.

Chiefly as a result of the imperfect preparation of the air crews (not their fault), as well as a number of minor screw-ups and the then very primitive state of radio navigation for aircraft, the operation did not go as planned. Gen. Yarborough's chapter title, "Night Flight to SNAFU," is descriptive.

Once on the ground, and not for the last time, scattered paratroopers clustered up, formed improvised task forces and got on with the battle. The high state of troop morale and physical fitness, extremely detailed planning, aggressive, intelligent leadership, and, it must be added, rather lackluster opposition, kept the mission from being a total disaster.

Gen. Yarborough's account makes it an outstanding adventure story. As seen on the map boards of higher headquarters, a war is a clear and tidy business; as seen by the soldier on the ground, especially at night and after a jump into more-or-less enemy-controlled territory, such clarity is lacking. The author's descriptions marvelously convey the sense of formlessness and confusion that accompany this kind of situation.

The second part of the book has to do with the operation of "Raff's Tunisian Task Force" (Lt. Col. Edson Raff was commander of the 2/503) at Youcks-les-Bains, and especially the taking of Faid

Pass at the western edge of Tunisia in December 1942. The Task Force, in addition to the paratroop battalion, included a battalion from the U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment, a tank-destroyer company, a company of Algerian *tirailleurs*, and a British anti-mine engineer platoon. From the author's description, you not only understand what was going on tactically, you understand what it was like to be there. He was.

The book is extensively illustrated with photographs, maps and documents, including (as an appendix) the flight manifests for the original insertion of U.S. paratroopers into the war.

**Bail Out Over North Africa** is very highly recommended. It is an excellent military history, highly instructive reading for professionals (especially airborne), and an extremely well-written adventure story.

*Alexander McColl is a Contributing Editor/Military Affairs for SOF. He is also an investment manager, lawyer, secretary-treasurer of Parachute Medical Rescue Service and a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Special Forces. His first novel, Valley of Peril, based on his experiences in Vietnam, will be published later this year.*

**REFORMING THE MILITARY.** Edited by Jeffrey Barlow. The Heritage Foundation, 513 C St. NE, Washington, DC 20002. 1981. 44 pp. \$3.00. Review by Fred Reed.

**A**N excellent study of the problems besetting the military, with thoughtful approaches to solving them, from the Heritage Foundation, one of Washington's leading conservative think-tanks. The book covers all branches of the service, and deals specifically with such components as naval aviation, the role of the Marines and procurement of weapons.

The thesis is that, while the military could use more money, its principal problems are philosophical, and of its own making. A few examples: the Army relies too much on a doctrine of firepower and attrition, instead of on maneuver; the services rotate individual troops instead of units (as is the practice in Britain), which raises training costs and lowers readiness because the unit must always be training new men; the Navy and Air Force rely too heavily on overly sophisticated weapons, which are delicate, spend most of their time being repaired, can't be supported under combat conditions and are so expensive that the services can't afford to buy them.

As the preface says, some of the ideas will be controversial. In my estimation, they are well worth reading by anyone concerned about the condition of the military.

*Continued on page 92*



# I WAS THERE

by Richard A. Berg  
as told to M.L. Jones

Before 1966, Richard A. Berg served with the 1/325 Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. He is now a licensed private investigator and private patrol operator in the San Fernando Valley. He has a B.S. in criminal justice and an A.A. in Administration of Justice. He has handled investigations in the

United States, Mexico and Europe. As he tells it:

**A**FTER banging around the world as a private investigator and security consultant, I got into the game of locating and picking up bail-bond skips to earn extra money while building up my investigation agency in Los Angeles.

Because Mother's Day was getting close, I planned to check out the homes of the mothers of a couple of my "skips." I got the addresses of two of them and staked one out early in the morning.

Sure enough, my skip turned up around 10:00 a.m. I picked him up with no trouble, no fight — not even a raised voice. Just walked up to him, told him who I was and slid back my jacket to show him I was armed. In 15 minutes he was handcuffed, transported and booked

at Hollywood Station.

Then I drove south into Orange County and staked out my next skip. After about an hour, I saw him drive into his mother's driveway and jump out of his car. I was half a block away, so he was inside by the time I got there.

I knocked. His mother, a nice-looking woman in her 40s, answered. I told her that I was Rick, a friend of her son, and that I thought I saw him pull up to the house.

She went inside, and I heard her call, "One of your friends wants to see you."

He came down from upstairs and met me at the front door.

"Jerry, I'm Rick and I'm from the bonding company. You didn't show in court last month and we have to go and straighten this all out. Come with me and be cool and your mom doesn't have to know."

He said, "Sure," and yelled to his mother that he'd be back in a little while — he had to go out.

I was Mr. Nice Guy: jacket stayed over my .45, no cuffs, big smile for Jerry's mom as we left. Why ruin her Mother's Day, right?

Down the walk and around to my car. Jerry shoved Mr. Nice Guy on the arm. Why? Hell, I didn't know — but I looked and saw a short, stubby knife in his hand. I backed up and drew — he charged and thrust.

Why I didn't shoot the son of a bitch, I don't know. I caught him across the eye and temple with the top of my .45 and put him down with a swift kick where it really counted. Cuffs went on and he was transported.

As I booked him at the local slammer, a cop pointed out the blood on my arm. It took seven stitches to sew up the tricep muscle and six more to close the outer wound — where he had "shoved" me.

The first guy, the one who gave me no trouble, was on \$10,000 bail for two

*Continued on page 81*



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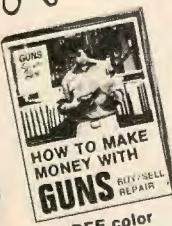
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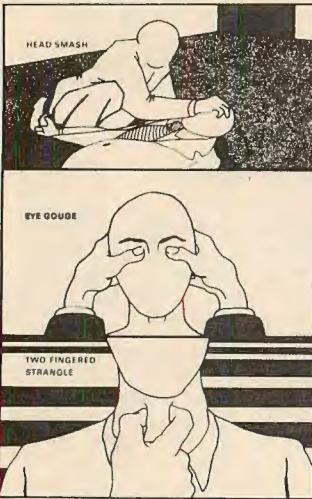
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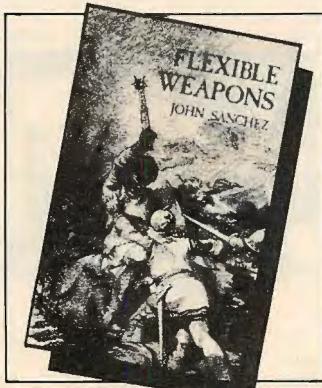
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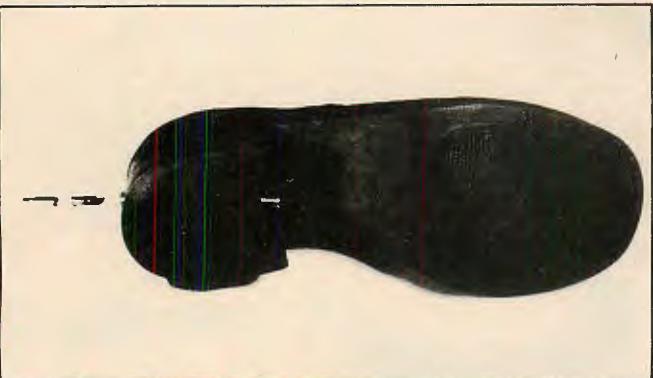
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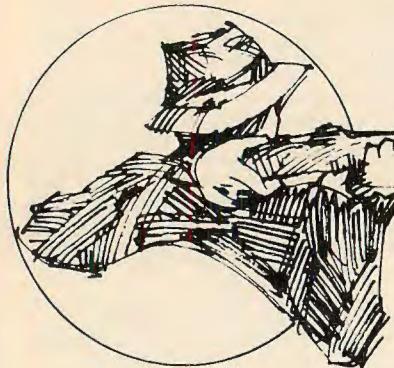
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# Sharpshooting With Chairman Jeff Laser Weapons

by Jeff Cooper



*Jeff Cooper is the Honorary Lifetime Chairman of the International Practical Shooting Confederation, and thus combines official authority with his vast background and experience. In this column Jeff will alternate his own observations with those of other experts of his personal selection.*

THE alignment of the bore of a firearm by means of a co-axial (or, more exactly, closely parallel) beam of light is a fascinating idea. Just shine your light on your target, press the trigger and your missile lands where your light shines. How simple!

We have been messing about with this notion for a long time. I designed a shotgun some 20 years ago that incorporated the principle, and the M10, using a similar concept, was produced for sale. A co-ax varmint light was pushed awhile back, Hensoldt now offers a very powerful "light sight" for the MP5, and the flashlight/pistol system invented by Mike Harries uses the hands to achieve the same results.

Normal light, however, is imprecise and, in any practicable small-arms application, confined to very short ranges. The exact center of illumination is hard to find (though the Hensoldt device does project a reticle of sorts), and a normal light beam fades and diffuses rapidly as distance increases.

A laser, though, behaves differently. A laser projects its small, bright-orange spot "way on out past Fort Mudge," and its diffusion rate coincides rather neatly with the grouping ability of most military small arms. Under field conditions, your shot will hit the orange spot: "What you see is what you hit."

There is, however, no such thing as a free lunch. Small-arms marksmanship consists of holding and squeezing fully as



ABOVE: Laser pinpoints target. Weapon is M16.

much (if not more) as sighting and aiming. A properly constructed "laser-aligner" will show you exactly where your piece is pointed (at the moment), as will any other sighting system, but it will not help you to hold that alignment — nor will it help you to control your trigger so as to produce ignition at the exact moment of alignment. Indeed, for that matter, laser alignment may be conducive to sloppy trigger control, as it makes the untrained user so sure that he can't miss that he tends to forget whatever he knows about a surprise break.

But, if the foregoing may seem to be the bad news, the good news is that when used within its proper parameters, laser alignment is amazingly efficient. (I would say "incredibly" if that adjective had not be-

come reduced by pop journalists to something akin to "very.") I can say that we would not have believed it possible to do what we did with laser-rigged .223s. Let's just say that it was remarkable.

The instruments we used were furnished by The Laser Products Corporation, of Fountain Valley, Calif. We used the 870 shotgun, the Colt Trooper, the Mini-14 and the M16 — weapons you have seen advertised in such elegant periodicals as the *International Defense Review* (than which there is nothing thanwhicher). All of the test pieces were completely integrated units, made up by the company from basic components rather than simply bolted together. It is not possible just to fit a laser onto an existing firearm, as



**ABOVE:** Jeff Cooper demonstrates "Zen" position with Mini-14. Laser-equipped weapon must be held absolutely steady for accurate fire. **INSERT:** Laser-sighted weapons like this M16 come with rechargeable battery.

might be done with an optical sight. Among other things, the laser itself is battery-driven and trigger-activated, and the entire device must be blended into what amounts to a new and different sort of weapon.

Laser alignment operates in reduced light. In strong sunlight it is almost useless, though ambient light need not be diminished very much to make it effective. In any indoor scene, such as a well-lit gymnasium or auditorium, it works fine. And it gets better as the scene grows darker, right on down to total darkness, though its tactical efficiency must then depend upon some sort of target identification. You can hit whatever that orange spot is marking at the bottom of an un-

lighted coal mine, but you'll have to figure out just what it is.

From the selection of test weapons, it may be deduced that the producers were originally thinking of laser alignment as a quick system for coarse shooting in dim light. We worked with all models for two days, and we discovered that, while dim light is indeed the province of the laser, its edge lies not so much in speed as in precision. A well-programmed firing stroke at short range is actually somewhat delayed by the activation of the beam and the optical acquisition of the spot, but as the light decreases and the range increases, the arrangement begins to show its worth — *in the hands of one who understands it.*

Best results with laser alignment are not

achieved from conventional firing positions. Placing the weapon between the eye and the target, as is automatic with any experienced marksman, seems to be "counterproductive." The eye should not be in line with the bore in order to pick up that spot, since the weapon in a normal stance impedes the shooter's view.

### Hold It Rock Steady— Then Squeeze

On the other hand, maximum stability of the weapon is critical — by choice, the piece should be mounted on concrete. Lacking that, it should be held in a fashion that locks it down just as solidly as

possible. It may be laid across a parapet or a railing, solidly cushioned by the forward hand, or it may be snugged sideways against a tree or the corner of a building, but it should not be brought up to eye level.

When the spot is projected upon the target, the piece is held rock steady and the trigger is squeezed *carefully*. If that trigger is misused, the orange spot will fly off the point of aim just at discharge, and the jeering will be loud and unkind. Done right, however, the shooting will astonish you. You can keep your hits on a target out to distances at which you can by no means evaluate it. The laser system is not for featherheads.

### You Can Get Hits Waaay Out There

If no rest may be improvised, the "Zen" position is recommended. To take it the shooter sits solidly on the ground, legs crossed and spine erect. The weapon is placed across the thighs and pressed firmly downward with both hands. The butt is held clear of the torso so that breathing will not affect it. I will not say how well we were able to hit from the Zen, nor at what ranges, because I remember the furor about Uncle Elmer's deer, but I will say this: The laser-mounted Mini-14 distinctly altered my opinions about the effective hitting range of the .223 car-

tridge — day or night. It may not hit very hard way out there, but you *can* get it to hit.

But you must know what you are shooting at. In daylight this is not (usually) a problem. In the dark you may avail yourself of artificial illumination provided by yourself or something incidental like a street light. But the laser does not illuminate, it just marks. In testing, we had to send a man down to the target to throw a spotlight on it. In bright moonlight this would not be necessary, but the thing to remember is that the effective range of the laser is many times that of the most powerful flashlight, and unless you can put that orange spot on something you know you want to hit, it serves no purpose at all.

On the other hand, when the beam is actuated its point of origin can be seen from the target, and if it is left on for more than a couple of seconds it may well attract a lot of lethal attention. It has been observed that the appearance of that orange spot on one's shirt-front is intimidating. Just so. If I noticed it, and I could pick out its source, I imagine that I would be so intimidated that I would wipe the source out. Therefore, as with the flashlight/pistol stroke, the beam should be left on only for the instant necessary to secure a hit, and the instrument package should not be used in pairs or groups unless each unit is widely separated in arc from its neighbor.

We did not find a purpose for the laser pistol, since the unit is necessarily so

cumbersome as to invalidate it as a reactive instrument. On a shotgun, similarly, we felt that at operating ranges we could hit as well without it — so long as available light enabled us to evaluate a target. But on the rifle it looks good. If conditions are just right it looks much better. In minimal light, at medium-to-long range, from a really solid position, against an unsuspecting target — it looks spectacular. Built into a G-3, an FAL or a SIG 510 it would be ferocious as well.

### Nice And Expensive

As you might suppose, these instruments are expensive. Unless you are an Arab, a baseball player or a hillbilly singer you can't afford one, so the injunction against selling them to private parties is inconsequential. For police tactical-response units they could be very useful — not perhaps as primary weapons but in support. Police actions do not usually involve the ranges at which the laser rifle shows off best, but it is nice to be prepared for all eventualities.

For information about prices, delivery time and terms of sale, contact Laser Products, Dept. SOF, 18285 Mt. Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708.



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# COMMANDO QUIZ

## Rate Your Toughness

by Ken R. Pence

QUIZZES in other magazines determine whether you have sex appeal or enough assertiveness. This test rates your knowledge of subjects useful to covert operatives, police officers and soldiers of fortune.

The answers to all questions are obvious to anyone familiar with the particular subject. Should you have problems with any question, you'd better start studying — the answers are easy. Even if you think none of the answers is precisely correct, choose the one that comes closest. Total your correct answers and then check your rating.

---

### MATCHING

(Low Cost Planes for Covert Operations)

---

1. Douglas DC-4 (C-54) \_\_\_\_\_

2. North American B-25 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Beech 18 \_\_\_\_\_

A. Payload: 20,000 lbs.

Range: 1,500 miles

Speed: 200 mph

Cost: \$40,000 to \$80,000

B. Payload: 2,500 lbs.

Range: 450 miles

Speed: 180 mph

Cost: \$8,000 to \$40,000

C. Payload: 6,000 lbs.

Range: 1,000 miles

Speed: 250 mph

Cost: \$5,000 to \$15,000.

---

(Man-Portable Missiles & Rockets)

---

4. SAM 7 (Grail) \_\_\_\_\_

5. LAW 66mm \_\_\_\_\_

6. RPG-7 \_\_\_\_\_

A. Weight: 14.5 lbs.

Length: 35 inches

Effective Range: 300 meters

Description: HEAT Anti-Tank Rocket

B. Weight: 33 lbs.

Length: 1.5 meters

Effective Range: 3,500 meters

Description: Soviet Guided Anti-Aircraft Missile

C. Weight: 5.2 lbs.

Length: 26 inches

Effective Range: 200 meters

Description: HEAT Anti-Tank Rocket



7



8



9



5

(Small Arms)

7. UZI Submachine Gun \_\_\_\_\_

8. AK-47 \_\_\_\_\_

9. M16A1 \_\_\_\_\_

A. Caliber: 9mm  
Weight: 8.9 lbs. loaded  
25-round magazine  
Length: 25.2 inches with stock extended  
Barrel Length: 10.2 inches  
Cyclic Rate: 650 rpm

B. Caliber: 7.62mm  
Weight: 10.58 lbs.  
Length: 34.25 inches  
Barrel Length: 16.34 inches  
Cyclic Rate: 600 rpm

C. Caliber: 5.56mm  
Weight: 6.3 lbs. w/o magazine  
Length: 39 inches  
Barrel Length: 20 inches  
Cyclic Rate: 700-800 rpm

TRUE — FALSE

10. A 1 1/4-pound block of C-4 plastic explosive can be easily detonated using one number-six (#6) commercial blasting cap. True — False

11. Hitting the back of the hand at the wrist or top of the wrist (thumb side) with a stick or other hard object will cause the hand to open involuntarily and release any weapon. True — False

12. Hitting slightly behind and below the ear with a forceful edge-of-the-hand (shuto) strike will break a subject's neck. True — False

13. To create a diversion at night, an MK1 illuminating hand grenade is useful in open areas to draw attention. Inside buildings, the MK1 and the AN-M14 incendiary hand grenades are used to blind assailants temporarily. True — False

14. Your squad must cross a street and you know a lone sniper is in the upper floor of a building somewhere at the end of the street. You think the sniper has the street in view but doesn't know your exact position. You should line your squad up shoulder-to-shoulder in one side-by-side line. This line should start several feet short of the corner so that at the count, you can get a running start and cross the street together. True — False



FILL IN THE BLANK

15. This is a \_\_\_\_\_  
(be specific)

16. This is a \_\_\_\_\_

17. This is a \_\_\_\_\_

18. This is a \_\_\_\_\_

What Do These Components Make?

19. \_\_\_\_\_  
Concentrated Sulphuric Acid  
Gasoline  
Potassium Chlorate  
Sugar  
Bottle with Cap



23. The detonation of an explosive charge generates pressure in all directions. To add to the destruction, the force of the explosion can be prevented from dissipating somewhat by placing the explosive against the object to be destroyed, and then covering the explosive with sand bags.

This is called \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_  
90% Concentrated Nitric Acid  
Urine  
Aluminum Powder (optional)  
Two one-gallon acid-&heat-resistant Containers  
Heat Source  
Water

21. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bleach  
Sani-Flush  
Ethyl Alcohol (P.G.A.)  
Sulphuric Acid  
Calcium Oxide

22. \_\_\_\_\_  
15 parts Potassium Ferrocyanide  
9 parts Distilled Water  
9 parts concentrated Sulphuric Acid  
5 parts Calcium Chloride



24. U.S. fragmentation grenades generally detonate \_\_\_\_\_ seconds after the safety lever (spoon) is released.

25. The technique of shooting at a hard surface (concrete, asphalt or brick) so that your bullet will flatten and ricochet at a lower angle is called \_\_\_\_\_. An example of this is firing at the asphalt, in line with a subject who is on the other side of a car. Your bullet hits the asphalt on your side of the car, flattens, and ricochets at a low angle, passing under the car to hit your assailant in the ankles. A second

A. No time (let go as soon as he goes limp)  
B. For a count of 10  
C. For a full minute  
D. For seven minutes: you like artichokes (vegetable cases, that is)

30. Destruction of rails on a railroad should be done at vulnerable points — curves, switches, frogs and crossovers. It takes \_\_\_\_\_ pound(s) of TNT placed against the side of one five-inch high rail to destroy a section of track.  
A.  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound  
B. 1 pound  
C. 2 pounds  
D. 4 pounds

35. According to the FBI, the best color for uniforms used in urban areas is

A. Light gray  
B. Dark blue  
C. Olive drab  
D. Dark brown

36. Which of the following men were not knife-fighting instructors?  
A. J. Styers      D. Rex Applegate  
B. Carl Schuon    E. A.J.D. Biddle  
C. W.E. Fairbairn F. L.V. Cleaf

37. The MK3 A2 offensive grenade and the M116A1 grenade-simulator are excellent for use against barricaded sub-

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

- 26.** A fast enemy aircraft is crossing your squad's position. To use small arms to shoot down the aircraft, you should generally concentrate your squad's fire \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the airplane's course.

A. 10 yards      B. 50 yards  
C. 200 yards      D. 300 yards



31

- 27.** An enemy helicopter is about to cross your squad's position. You know you've been detected and you concentrate your fire in front of the helicopter. You lead the helicopter by \_\_\_\_\_.

A. 10 yards      B. 50 yards  
 C. 100 yards    D. 300 yards

**28.** On a routine morning patrol, you come across a body. Marks on the corpse and its position — sitting, with arms behind the back — indicate that the person died as a prisoner. It hasn't rained in a week and the temperature has remained about 80°F during the days. The jaws, neck, torso, upper and lower extremities are "stiff as a board." From this evidence, you ascertain the body has been dead for \_\_\_\_\_.

A. 2-4 hours      B. 8-12 hours  
 C. 24-36 hours    D. 37-48 hours

**29.** In an attempt to subdue a mentally-deranged subject (or freak on PCP) you use a locked carotid or locked chancery choke (hadaka jime, for you Judo jocks). It takes 10 seconds for the subject to lose consciousness. You should hold the choke \_\_\_\_\_ after the subject goes limp. The subject's eyes may remain open — pupils dilated — and the surface blood vessels of the eyeball may rupture, making it look as if the subject were on a three-day drunk. From street experience, you know the subject will stay unconscious for one to three minutes and you generally won't even leave marks.

**31.** Current U.S. fragmentation grenades have an effective casualty radius of \_\_\_\_\_.

A. 5 meters      B. 10 meters  
 C. 15 meters    D. 20 meters

**32.** Orthochlorobenzalmanonitrile (CS) is more potent than (CN) but less toxic. CS and CN are \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Types of tear gases generally used in house clearing and riot control.  
 B. Types of military plastic explosives (like RDX and TACC respectively).  
 C. Types of nerve gases (similar to GB and VX).  
 D. Types of decontaminants used in biological warfare.

**33.** A terrorist has a submachine gun trained on a group of hostages. You are a sniper and you have orders to eliminate him without causing him to pull the trigger reflexively. You have a clear shot of the terrorist from the side. You should aim \_\_\_\_\_.

A. At the temple.  
 B. At the center of the ear opening.  
 C. One half inch forward of the ear — straight in.  
 D. One half inch behind and one inch below the ear opening.

**34.** Which of the following arteries, if cut, would cause the subject to lose consciousness in two seconds and die  $3\frac{1}{2}$  seconds later.

A. Brachial — above elbow.  
 B. Carotid — in neck.  
 C. Radial — in wrist.  
 D. Subclavian — behind and below collarbone.

and you have to go up the stairs to get him. The stairway is dimly lit, the door at the top opens inward, and is open a crack. You have a handgun. How should you ascend the stairs?

A. Crawl up the center of the steps — gun forward.  
 B. Tiptoe up — using the outside of the steps so they won't squeak — gun forward.  
 C. Crawl up on the door-hinge side of the stairs — gun forward.  
 D. Crawl up on the doorknob side of the stairs — gun forward.

**39.** You have to clear a number of dark rooms. Before you enter each room, you want to toss something slowly through the door to distract a possible gunner's attention as you enter. Which is the best to use in this instance?

A. Large, shiny metal ashtray  
 B. Flashlight — turned on  
 C. Cyalume® chemical light wand  
 D. Weighted handkerchief

**40.** You have a 12-gauge shotgun with a 20-inch barrel and no choke. Even a perfectly aimed shot will produce flyers (shots missing the target) from a distance of more than \_\_\_\_\_.

A. 30 feet  
 B. 40 feet  
 C. 55 feet  
 D. 85 feet

**NOW SCORE YOUR TEST!**  
Answers on page 79

# STORIES FROM

# THE STREETS OF SAIGON



## MP Duty In The “Pearl Of The Orient”

by Loren W. Christensen

I squirmed deeper into the canvas seat and rested my arms through the rungs of the jeep's steering wheel. Kemply was sitting low with his knees propped against the dashboard, lighting what must have been his 10th cigarette since we began our shift two hours earlier. The morning sun was already beginning to bake through my MP helmet. The day promised to be a real scorcher.

We were parked on Trung Hung Dao Street, a mile west of Tan Son Nhut Air Base. With nearly nine months in Saigon, I still looked at the city the same way I did the first day I arrived.

The sights, sounds and smells assaulted the senses. Movement was frantic, the pandemonium of sound deafening, the myriad of odors overpowering. Multitudes of Vietnamese thronged the streets, sidewalks and storefronts. Every conceivable mode of transportation jammed

Author stands by MP jeep before bomb scare at Tan Son Nhut. Sidearm is Colt .45 automatic.

the streets with manic urgency. There were jeeps, convoys of trucks and tanks, motorized and pedal-powered rickshaws, Hondas, bicycles and American, European and Japanese cars all jockeying for position in a teeming mass of steel, belching exhaust and perspiring and cursing flesh.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Loren W. Christensen, a Portland policeman and free-lance writer, joined the ranks of SOF writers last year with an "It Happened to Me" contribution (SOF, August '80). In it — as in this article — he drew on his experience as a military policeman with the 716th MP Battalion in Saigon, Vietnam.

His article, "Shot in the Heart" (SOF, October '80), told the story of a two-hour siege between a sniper and Portland police, in which Officer Barry Cook's life was saved by a Kevlar® protective vest.

Christensen has written articles for *Iron Man* and *Black Belt* magazines. He is a monthly columnist for *The Rap Sheet* newspaper. —M.L. Jones

Asphalt paths crisscrossed between structures of Asian and European architecture. There were beautiful buildings of stone and brickwork alongside shacks of scrapwood and tin. Ten-story buildings towered over houses of canvas, and cast long shadows over a thousand dark and hidden alleyways.

The sidewalks shouted with activity. Green U.S. Army blankets lay spread on the concrete, covered with stolen American PX cameras and transistor radios. Fat Vietnamese mama-sans hawked cigarettes, condoms, marijuana and boxes of Tide. Pushcarts steamed with rice and noodles, and the smell of rotten fish permeated the air. Beautiful women in rich clothes deftly sidestepped defecation left by humans and dogs. Heavily painted bar girls pulled at the arms of strolling American servicemen.

War loomed everywhere: guns, jeeps, barbed wire, sandbags, soldiers and an atmosphere of instability — an air of biding time.

I was so mesmerized I missed dispatch calling us. "I'll get it," Kemply said as he reached for the hand mike.

"This is Tango Bravo One." Kemply turned the volume up so we could hear over the street noise.

"Tango Bravo One, assist the Air Police at the main gate of Tan Son Nhut. They have a Signal 100."

I was already gunning the jeep into traffic as Kemply gave radio a roger. A Signal 100 was a possible explosive device — often placed in American military vehicles and installations, important Vietnamese offices, public conveyances, theaters or anywhere masses of people congregated. The devices were stealthily placed to harass and destroy, lest anyone forget the presence of the Viet Cong and their sympathizers.

We arrived within minutes and found the Air Police pushing the mixed crowd of American GIs and Vietnamese back from the main gate. I punched the siren a few times to clear a path through the throng. Pulling into the clearing, I recognized Sgt. Daniels, an Air Force policeman we had worked with before.

"What you got?" I shouted over the crowd noise.

He smiled a greeting and jabbed his finger toward the front gate where a black attache case lay in the street: "The case was tossed from a taxi a few minutes ago. We've got EOD [Explosive Ordnance Detachment] on the way."

Kemply and I had been on many similar calls in the past. Most of the time the case contained plastique with a timing device. If found in time, the EOD was called in to disarm the device. The military police's job was to block off streets and keep people out of the area.

We climbed from the jeep, slung our M16s and began pushing the curious crowd back — a frustrating task, because as soon as we succeeded in moving part of them back, another group shoved closer.

It was like squeezing a toothpaste tube in the middle. Later, off-duty, while exchanging war stories over beer, we would promise ourselves to let the crowd do what they wanted next time, and get blown to bits.

The jostling throng parted reluctantly as the yelping siren of the EOD jeep cut a path to the clearing we had made for them. Sgt. Daniels pointed toward the attache case and the two EOD sergeants waved that they understood.

## Raw Courage

I was always impressed by the raw courage of these guys. They parked their vehicles, slipped on flak vests and steel helmets and walked casually to the black case. The crowd grew silent as necks strained to see. I had once seen an EOD man blown completely in half while working on a Signal 100.

We were too far away to hear the men as they stood conferring over the device. After a moment, one of them slipped a knife from a sheath on his web belt, squatted and began cutting into the top of the case. They cut, talked some more, probed, talked some more and then cut again. The street and crowd were silent, and even the sky was quiet, void of the usual coming and going of aircraft.

Finally, after a few minutes, the EOD men stood back up, laughing and waving for us to let the crowd through. Immediately, the crowd began chattering and laughing with relief, and the street roar came back as if someone had turned up a volume knob. Kempley and I and all the Air Policemen walked toward the EOD men as the rushing crowd streamed by us.

"What was it?" I asked as the EOD men walked toward us carrying the shredded case.

They grinned and tossed the case to the street in front of us. A recognizable odor suddenly permeated the air.

"Shit."

"Shit?"

"That's right," the EOD sergeant chuckled. "It's full of shit. Nothing else. Just pure, ripe, aromatic shit. Victor Charlie's idea of a practical joke."

Kempley and I looked at Sgt. Daniels who looked sheepishly back at us.

"We'll never let you forget this, you know," I said, smiling.

"Call us for help anytime," Kempley called over his shoulder as we began walking toward our jeep. "We're always glad to help the Air Force on a shit detail."

## Medevac Chopper

Kempley and I were still laughing about "the bomb" as we approached the area of Third Field Hospital — a major medical installation less than a mile east of Tan Son Nhut Air Base. It consisted of a sprawling complex of buildings on one side of the street and a small paved land-



Vietnamese army MPs check out gathering crowd on Chu Lai St., Saigon.  
Photo: Loren W. Christensen

ing zone for the helicopters on the other side. Choppers would land with the injured and be met by ambulances from the hospital.

An ambulance was idling at the edge of the landing pad when we arrived, and three medics were leaning against the vehicle. Spotting an approaching chopper, Kempley suggested we pull over and watch the crew at work.

From the side of the street we watched as the mini-chopper swooped in low toward the landing zone. One of the medics picked up a lightweight stretcher and hurried onto the pad. As the chopper descended, it became frightfully obvious that the medic was virtually *under* the machine.

"What the hell is he doing?" Kempley asked.

Although the whirling blades drowned out their voices, we could see the other medics shouting and gesturing at him.

"Must be an overzealous new guy," I mumbled, not believing the medic's stupidity.

Dust and debris leaped and swirled as the chopping, slapping blades descended toward the pavement. The medic, realizing he was too close, began to back away, struggling to hold onto the stretcher that bucked and fought against his grip in the sucking whirlwind.

The medic's grip slipped to one end of the stretcher, and the other end pulled with greater force toward the dropping helicopter. A passenger inside was angrily gesturing to the medic to back off as another medic sprinted toward his struggling comrade. But he was too late.

The stretcher was sucked from the medic's hands and shot into the roaring, slicing blades. There was a loud metallic clang and the warped stretcher hurtled across the pavement and out onto the yellow field. The chopper hovered 10 feet



Wrecked chopper lies on runway. Note blood in foreground from medic who caused crash.  
Photo: Loren W. Christensen

from the pavement, shuddering violently, as if confused about which way to go. Both medics were bent and running toward the ambulance to escape the enraged and injured insect.

After a long moment, the chopper suddenly banked hard to the right and slammed to the pavement on its side. The blades whacked their rage into the pavement, creating a storm of sparks, and chunks of black asphalt and metal exploded in all directions.

As if seeking revenge, a four-foot whirling piece of blade hissed across the land-



**R&R at Le Loi Park before grenade goes off. Author reads magazine behind wheel, partner Kempny stretches out in back and ARVN MP stands by.**

to the hospital escaped during the confusion. He was a very important person among the VC and had been willing to provide significant information in exchange for medical treatment.

"Let's get out of this mess and go to the park," I shouted over the street roar.

Kempny was squinting into the sun and drawing deeply on a cigarette from his second pack of the day. "Sounds good, man. Besides, all this exhaust is bad on my lungs."

Le Loi Park, large and shady, offered a little R&R on hot, steamy afternoons. We often went there to stretch out in the jeep, play cards and cool off. On this day there was an ARVN MP (Army Republic Vietnam Military Police) jeep sitting under our favorite tree.

We waved to the two MPs as we pulled up, and exchanged greetings in pidgin English. They had stripped off their shirts and pistol belts and were playing cards on the hood of their vehicle. We were out of the direct sunlight, but the humidity was suffocating.

As we climbed out of the jeep to stretch, I noticed that an ARVN company had set up tents at the far end of the park. They often camped in the shade of the huge trees and conducted training exercises.

I sat back behind the wheel with a magazine and Kempny stretched out on the hard canvas-covered back seat. It was quiet here. I could barely detect the muffled sounds of traffic outside the park. A persistent fly buzzed around an empty, sticky Coke® bottle on the floor; its sound was almost hypnotic. I grew sleepy in the heavy heat and slowly began to drift into a perspiring doze. I was sinking deeper and deeper when a sudden, heart-stopping, deafening explosion ripped through the park.



ing pad and sliced into the back of the fleeing stretcher bearer. With back arched, head thrown back and arms flailing, the man smashed against the pavement and flopped about like a beached fish, the blade grotesquely embedded length-wise across the width of his back. He had stopped moving by the time Kempny and I reached the landing pad.

Two hours later we were struggling through a traffic jam. Neither of us had spoken much since the shocking helicopter accident.

As it turned out, the only person hurt was the medic; it was doubtful he would live. The two American helicopter crewmen were unhurt, but mad as wet hornets. Not only was their chopper damaged, but the injured Viet Cong they were bringing

I bolted up, striking my chest against the steering wheel and knocking my helmet to the ground. Others were shouting and scrambling for gear as I blinked rapidly, trying to force the fog of sleep from my head.

My partner began shouting into the radio mike, "Waco, this is Tango Bravo One..." Kempny was looking toward the ARVN camp as dispatch acknowledged his urgent call.

"Go ahead, Tango Bravo One," crackled the radio.

The Vietnamese MPs were scrambling to their vehicle and pointing toward the ARVNs. I could see smoke and dust swirling in the sunbeams that pierced the trees and spotlit the camp. Kempny was speaking rapidly into the handset.

"We've got a Signal 200 in Le Loi Park. Possible grenade. It came from an ARVN encampment on the west side by the main entrance. Request covering units block off all entrances and stand by outside the park until we advise."

"Roger ..."

Kempny leaped into the front seat and I stomped the throttle. We followed the ARVN MPs over the rough ground as the radio coordinated other units outside the park.

## Naked Desolation

Pulling into the camp we found everything in turmoil. Soldiers were shouting in confusion and running in every direction. What must have been a lean-to was now a torn and smouldering poncho, half covered with loose dirt and small stones. A naked ARVN soldier stood by the destruction, gazing without expression at the spiralling smoke.

My partner and I relaxed and chuckled as we followed another jeep closer to the man. Its occupants were laughing and pointing at the nude ARVN who had probably been the victim of a practical joke. We guessed he had been bathing in one of the barrels of water when someone blew up his bedroom.

We were still laughing as both vehicles pulled up next to him. It was then we realized our mistake.

The naked man stared blankly at the smoking lean-to as rivers of sweat streamed down his brown skin. A soft, lyrical melody hummed from his barely moving lips. Suddenly, he flapped his arms and burst forth with a piercing scream that seemed to erupt from the very depths of his soul. It was only when he screamed and moved his arms that we noticed the two objects.

Tightly gripped in each hand, with the pins already removed, were two live hand-grenades.

Kempny screamed profanity and I ground the gears in reverse. The tires spun rocks and dirt into the air, but the jeep only dug deeper into the soft earth. The

*Continued on page 74*

# SOF INTERVIEWS

# SHOTGUN WIZARD

## Satterwhite To Star At SOF Convention

by R.S. McKay

John Satterwhite aims Remington Model 1100 with magazine extender tube.

If you have never seen John Satterwhite shoot a shotgun, you have missed one of the most skillful displays of human speed on earth. I have seen him toss seven clay birds into the air simultaneously and hit all with a pump shotgun before they hit the ground; use airborne ejected shells as targets; toss a clay bird into the air, pick a shell up from a table, load it into the gun and hit the bird before it touches the ground. He tosses golf balls into the air and pinpoints the direction he will drive them to illustrate the accuracy of a gun that shoots patterns at moving targets.

He can throw a loaded shotshell into the air and blast the shot right out of the shell, leaving wad and powder intact. And he does all these things with a speed that defies the imagination. Watching him rack that slide back on his Remington 870, you'd swear he'd been born with one. He is truly a case of "seeing is believing."

You'd expect a man like this to have great credentials, and he does: The only man ever to win the U.S. Skeet Championships three years in a row ('74-'76), he has been named to the All-American Skeet Team 11 times; won 10 Olympic

Medals in International Competition (six of them Gold); led U.S. shooters in percentage of hits for seven years; is a current member of the U.S. World Record Holding Team; has served four years as U.S. Olympic Committee Adviser for Shooting; taught 20,000 people how to shoot as a marksmanship instructor in the U.S. military (he was also military rifle and handgun instructor) and has spent 10 years teaching combat and police defensive shotgunning. Add to this list of credentials a wit reminiscent of Mark Twain, and you have not only an instructor in shotgunning par excellence, but one hell of a storyteller.

I'm willing to bet that once you hear what he has to say, you'll definitely want to see him in action. Here is my exclusive SOF interview with this remarkable man:

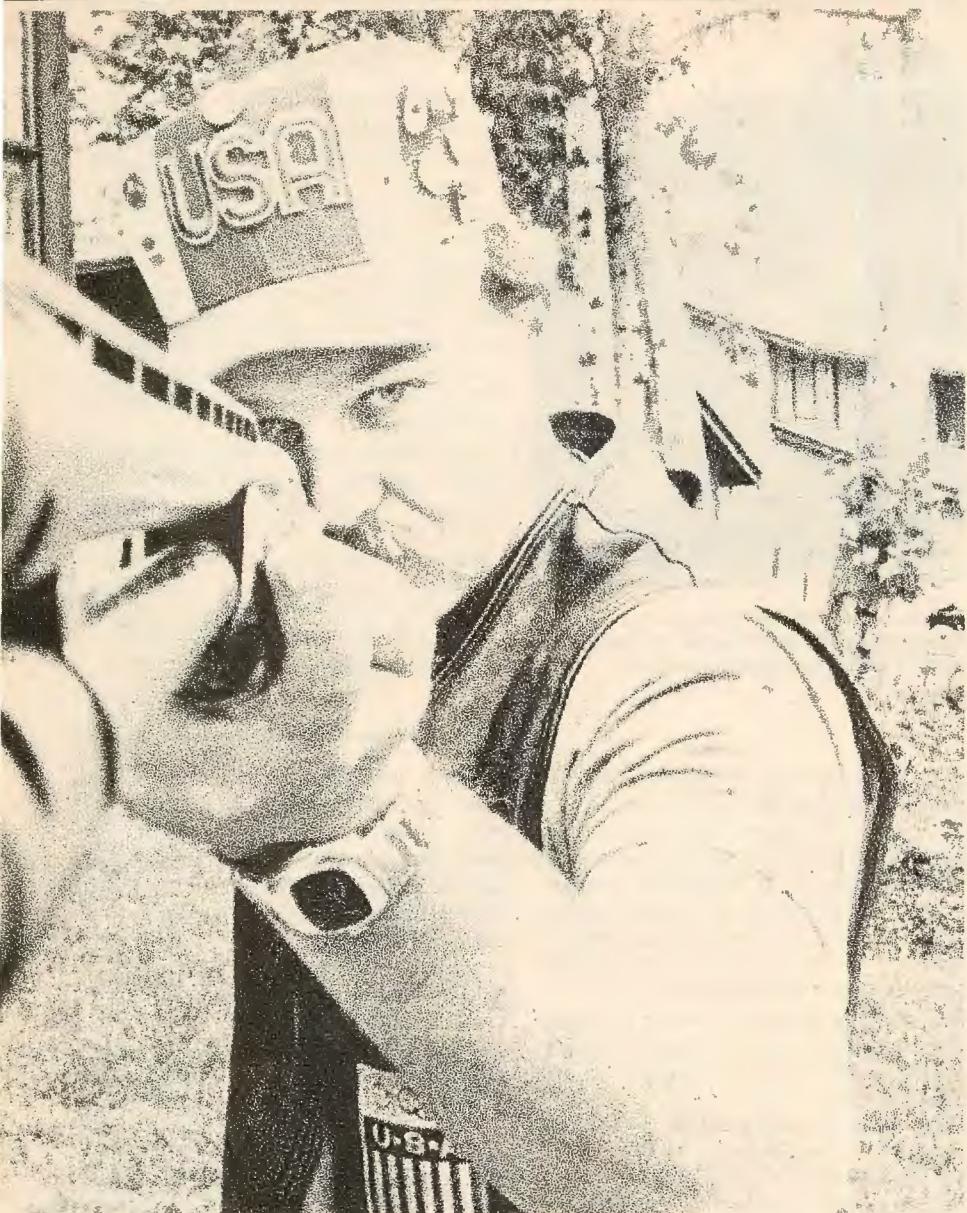
**SOF:** Let's jump into a meaty li'l issue right off the bat. In a recent article in *Special Weapons*, Chuck Taylor claims that the SMG is more suited to police work than the shotgun, citing the shotgun's limited range and the carbine-like features of the SMG, which could allow police to use it in hostage situations with



reasonable accuracy. No doubt you have some opinion of your own on that.

**SATTERWHITE:** As a matter of fact, Taylor is a friend of mine. He is an SMG artist and shoots one very well. An SMG has quite a few uses and there's a lot you can do with one. But you might also want an H&K 91 because, at 400 yards, an SMG won't do. You'll be able to do things with the 91 that you can't do with an SMG and things with a shotgun that are not possible with the other two. You have to talk range and specific use of the weapon.

What makes the shotgun such a valuable weapon is that, with the first shot, you will have a greater chance of hitting your target, because you're dealing with a pattern. We're literally working with a "sub-missile launch" here, whereas the first shot from an SMG creates no more pattern than one .45-caliber — or smaller — hole. The SMG certainly has a high cyclic rate of fire, which makes it particularly suitable for taking out a conference room full of opponents, but for a tactical situation, you'd be hard-pressed



to find a gun that would outperform a shotgun, particularly a semiautomatic that cycles quickly.

I can cycle a pump shotgun holding seven rounds in about 2.5 seconds, and have done it in as little as 1.8 on a good day. Now, you multiply seven rounds times nine pellets per shell, divide it by three seconds for 21 shots per second, and you have an idea of a pump-gun's fire-power.

People have opinions on what gun is best in this or that situation. I tell my students what a shotgun will do and what it won't so they will know whether it's useful for specific tasks. A shotgun is quite a bit more versatile, I believe, than many other guns. In the special-weapons courses I taught with Jeff Cooper, I found that many students couldn't hit beans with their SMGs at 50 yards, while the shotgun, utilizing slugs, was quite accurate to 75 yards and beyond.

**SOF:** You've anticipated my next question. Are the SMGs, in your opinion, accurate and controllable enough for the average guy?

**SATTERWHITE:** If you are trained by a highly qualified instructor and get the sights properly set on an SMG, it can be fired accurately. We found on that course that the same thing was true for both the SMG and shotgun; the guns, in many instances, weren't shooting anywhere near where they were supposed to, which pretty much dispels the myth that you can just point them and get sure hits.

Neither weapon is a cure-all. They are specific guns designed to do specific jobs. There is nothing wrong with learning to use both, because someday your life might depend on them. But to say that I'm going to shoot a shotgun and only a shotgun would leave me looking pretty foolish in a fire fight at 200 to 300 yards.

A shotgun should be used as a short- to medium-range weapon; that is, zero to 75 yards. It really comes into its own as a weapon to deal with *multiple assailants*. One thing people don't generally realize about a shotgun is that you don't have to have sight alignment in order to fire, as you do with a pistol or rifle. The SMG, particularly, requires a good sight picture

in order to be accurate from 25 yards out.

With a shotgun, we set the stock up so it fits your face, it becomes your rear sight, and you are set to fire. As soon as it touches your face, it should be properly aimed and ready.

Our class of beginners took exactly half as much time to get off an accurately aimed first shot with a shotgun as they did with an SMG, because the time required of the SMG shooter to fire is lengthened by the necessity of getting a good sight picture. In the special-weapons course, shotgunners were hitting the targets in about .6 second from port arms, whereas the SMG shooters were taking about 1.5 seconds.

In shotgun shooting, you never take your eyes off the target. There is, or should be, no sight-alignment time. The opposite is true of basic pistol and rifle shooting. It is also why pistol and rifle shooters often have a difficult time learning to shoot the shotgun well.

**SOF:** Are pistol and rifle shooters harder to teach because they have this "unlearning" process to go through?

**SATTERWHITE:** Not when properly instructed. If you try to apply the principles of pistol shooting to learning the shotgun, you will, however, become frustrated.

**SOF:** How "tactical" are your courses?

**SATTERWHITE:** We emphasize the tactical aspects of shotgun shooting along with technique, and I would have to believe that when one of my people gets out of a car with his shotgun, somebody is in serious trouble — and it's not the guy with the shotgun. It is difficult for the average person to imagine how fast a competent shotgunner can be. The average guy thinks he knows what fast is, until he sees real speed. That's part of what we try to impart.

**SOF:** Speaking of fast, have you seen that new Benelli shotgun distributed by H&K? I'm told you can barely see it cycle.

**SATTERWHITE:** Heckler and Koch is sending me three of those, and they will be available for students during shotgun courses. I have never before seen a semi-automatic shotgun that could cycle so fast that you cannot see the port open up when it ejects the shells. I couldn't see the bolt move. It is much faster than the Remington 1100, which I have been using in demonstrations for years.

**SOF:** Old controversy: pump or automatic?

**SATTERWHITE:** The pump shotgun is this country's most prolific. You see it in most major police departments, not because it is their weapon of choice, but because it is cheap, compared to a semiauto — and reliable. There is also the belief among police that the pump gun is more easily cleared of jams and malfunctions. It is much like the revolver vs. auto-pistol controversy, but the fact is that automatic shotguns can be cleared of most jams just as easily as an experienced IPSC shooter can clear a stovepipe. But law-enforcement traditions are hard to change.

In the hands of a *trained person*, pump

shotguns are definitely *not* a liability. In the hands of someone not well versed in their use, they very well *can* be a liability. I can teach a man to pump a shotgun quickly, automatically and at the right time, so that almost no advantage would be gained by his using a semiautomatic. Teaching a novice shooter on the automatic is, of course, easier since he need only concentrate on pulling the trigger.

**SOF:** How well do women and shotguns mix, from the standpoint of home defense? Any recommended gauge or action?

**SATTERWHITE:** Yes. The 20-gauge gas-operated guns are ideal for most women, since they require no pumping and recoil is modest enough for women to handle. People pooh-pooh the 20-gauge, but at close range it still throws as much lead in one shot as you'll probably need to do the job. I rest much easier knowing my wife has a shotgun at home, as opposed to a pistol, because I doubt seriously she would consider sight alignment in the middle of the night or in the heat of the moment.

Since you're dealing with a pattern, being a bit off to one side or another isn't as critical as it is with single-projectile weapons — with which people who have limited experience often miss close targets by several feet. A handgun is a purely defensive weapon made to be portable; in a home, where you can station a shotgun in a safe place with easy access, you'd have to be crazy to investigate that bump in the night with a handgun.

**SOF:** Is there a common misconception among pistol and rifle shooters about their inherent ability to shoot a shotgun well? That is, do you often get the "anyone-can-hit-with-a-shotgun" line?

**SATTERWHITE:** Now get this down good. There is a syndrome hanging over the combat fraternity, and it is this: If he can't shoot a pistol or a rifle, give him a shotgun. There is this amazing idea that the ground is going to shake, the grass is going to wither and everything within 40 yards is going to die after firing one round from a shotgun.

Combat shooters are beginning to learn that there is a lot of air around these targets, that *there is a pattern* but, when at close range, it is a very *small* pattern that must be fired accurately in order to connect. Conversely, at longer ranges, an inaccurate shot might leave a spread so wide that one misses altogether. The old wives' tale about expertise being an unnecessary aspect of shotgunning is finally dying. In international skeet competition, we shoot at a target 1-1/8 inches high and four inches wide, traveling at 100 mph. In combat competition we see guys missing stationary man-size targets at 25 yards.

**SOF:** In your special-weapons course, did you find the shotgun outperformed the SMG on moving targets? And would you say that combat shooters too often forget that real people move?

**SATTERWHITE:** The shotgun is, histori-



Special weapons class taught by Satterwhite and Jeff Cooper at the latter's Gunsite Range in Arizona.

cally, designed with the moving target in mind. Lots of people forget this. Those cardboard silhouettes moving five miles an hour in straight lines at matches are not moving targets in my book. And I seriously question whether you could get a good sight picture consistently with an SMG or pistol on a random target moving at varied speeds while shooting back at you. A good shotgunner will have the assailants laid out on the ground while our single-projectile friends are still trying to acquire a sight picture.

**SOF:** Any recommendations as to what sort of combat shotgun to buy?

**SATTERWHITE:** Shop around. Don't rush to buy. Try them out. Try the auto-loader; try the pump; even look over the doubles — but whatever you do, don't run down to the store and buy one of those combat gimmicks, like the folding stocks on the Remington 870. We had one guy at the course who was blue from the shoulder to the waist from shooting that thing. They might be the greatest thing since sliced bread for going through doors, but you couldn't give me one of those things. They're trying to re-invent the wheel.

There's nothing wrong with a wood stock. It has a good feel to it, and we can set it to the right height to allow you good target alignment. It has everything going for it, and you really don't need all the garbage that they dress shotguns with to sell them. I believe P.T. Barnum once said, "Never overestimate the intelligence of the American public." I must say that I am beginning to believe that if you put camouflage on something these days, you'll sell it. I could pick up a gun and paint it cammie and I'd sell a million of them. People right now are buying anything that looks military, regardless of whether it's useful or not. Even if I told

## SATTERWHITE SG COURSES

John Satterwhite will teach the combat-shotgun course 12-16 September at SOF's preconvention seminars being held in Arizona. During the convention itself he will coordinate the shotgun portion of the SOF three-gun match.

Readers interested in the schedule for Satterwhite's regular 1981 combat-shotgun courses may write for information to American Pistol Institute, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 401-Z, Paulden, AZ 86334.

Satterwhite has recently completed a video cassette on how to fire the shotgun. It should be available later this year.

Information about combat modification of shotgun barrels is available from Stan Baker's Gun Shop, Dept. SOF, 5303 Roosevelt Wy. NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Phone: (206) 522-4575.

—M.L. Jones

someone what I thought he should buy, he wouldn't listen anyway.

**SOF:** At that match where I saw your fantastic demonstration, you were, I believe, shooting a Remington 870 with a modified combat barrel. What's the scoop on it?

**SATTERWHITE:** Those 870 barrels are modified by a man named Stan Baker, who is literally the guru gunsmith of competition trap shooters. Baker has a shop in Seattle, Wash., and although he doesn't normally do choke work intended for buckshot, the barrels he did for me came out beautifully. And he can make them in any barrel length you desire. He can make you a barrel that will generally keep all nine pellets in a 24-inch circle at 40 yards, a distance usually considered out of range for a shotgun not firing slugs. A lot of people are going to these combat-shotgun matches and three-gun courses with full-size trap barrels to try to keep the pattern together at longer ranges; however, Stan Baker can achieve the same results with a riot-gun barrel that he has specially modified.

Many people think the problem with buckshot is opening up the pattern; quite the contrary, it is condensing it that is really the problem. You want to hit what you aim at with as many projectiles as possible, so it goes down on the first shot. It's that multi-projectile hit that makes the shotgun such a stopper; those nine .33-caliber (00) projectiles are traveling almost twice as fast at the muzzle as a hardball round of .45 ACP. When professional hunters use 12-gauge shotguns instead of high-powered rifles to stop charging 600-pound lions at close range, one begins to grasp what shotgun stopping power really means.



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# Air Force's Answer to M\*A\*S\*H

## RED FLAG AT THE READY

Text & Photos by Tom Donnell

"WE'LL make these men comfortable and issue them pain-killing medication, but that's all we'll do. They're Category 1 — Expectant. We can't spare the time or equipment to save their lives. They are expected to die," says Capt. Goldstein as he explains the difference between sorting combat casualties and treating civilian emergencies.

Behind him in the surgical tent, third-degree-burn victims compete for priority with disembowelment combat casualties, and medical teams are classifying patients military style. The term they use is "triage."

I'm in a small group of reporters who are attending a "not-open-to-the-public" dress rehearsal of a simulated combat exercise in battlefield medicine — code name: Medical Red Flag. On display is a fully operational Air Transportable Hospital (ATH). The tactical Air Force has 17 ATHs around the world with three in the Pacific, five in the United States and nine in Europe.

In the event of a hostile military confrontation, an ATH would be set up near the front line to treat casualties. The ability to handle such a mission requires a corporate level of knowledge from all concerned.

Lt. Gen. Paul W. Myers, Air Force Surgeon General, who initiated this exercise, is dedicated to its principles. His easy-going, low-key manner belies his firm convictions:

"Survival depends on our readiness to meet conventional or nuclear war. The purpose of Red Flag is to bring our people, currently on active duty, up to readiness on how to take care of combat casualties. Our immediate ability to medically support our combat forces is crucial.

"As our Air Force prepares for readiness, it's only logical that the



**Lt. Gen. Myers,** the man behind "Red Flag," wants to get back to basics by having all Air Force medical personnel learn C.P.R. (Cardio-Pulmonary Rescue) and revive the "buddy-care" concept.



**Brig. Gen. J. Culver** tries on a pair of the proposed combat eyeglasses. Bullet fragmentation is a major cause of eye wounds.



ABOVE: This is not hand-to-hand combat. Trying to take a pulse with gloves is difficult — especially when victim is wearing protective clothing too.

LEFT: Patients being classified according to the triage system.

medical department do so too. If we're not ready, they can't be ready."

As Gen. Myers speaks, a red flag flutters overhead. On it is a medical insignia intertwined with a rifle and combat helmet. Red Flag is the third exercise in 1980. All three have been so successful that Gen. Myers plans three more in 1981 with more to follow after that.

Scott Air Force Base in Illinois is the center for our current Red Flag, and the 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing is host to the 23rd Air Transport Hospital from England Air Force Base, Louisiana.

Some background information may help to clarify Red Flag's importance. First, Scott Air Force Base is headquarters for the Military Airlift Command (MAC), whose current airlift mission is to maintain — in a constant state of war-readiness — the airlift capability necessary to fulfill all tasks ranging from global airlift of combat forces and equipment to aerial drops in combat areas. This, of course, means that MAC crews must be ready to deliver thousands of combat troops and their battle equipment anywhere in the world — and be able to do it in a matter of days.

Second, as a matter of interest, Cpl. Frank S. Scott is the only enlisted man to have a base named after him. His claim to fame came from being the first enlisted man to die in an aircraft crash back in 1912. When WWI started for the U.S. in 1917, Scott Field was named for him. It was the Army's new airfield to train pilots for service in Europe.

Over the years Scott Field grew from its original 640 acres and 56 buildings to a present 3,000 acres, 900 buildings and 37 miles of road. Base population of military men and women with their dependents — plus the civilians employed on base — accounts for more than 21,000.

Third, the 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing originated in WWII as the 375th Troop Carrier Group. The nine campaigns in which it was engaged during the war included participation in the first airborne operation in the South Pacific, when the wing dropped paratroopers to seize enemy bases and cut overland supply lines in Nadzab, New Guinea, on 5 September 1943.

"Twice this morning oral surgery has been performed here," Sandy Morrison explains as we enter the dental care tent. Morrison, a civilian in fatigue clothing, is assigned to Gen. Myers' staff. She is a watchdog for the new equipment being tested.

Maj. Donald Parman, busy removing two roots from his patient's jaw, comments on the new dental chair being used for the first time that day: "This is emergency treatment only, but we can now do it in complete comfort." The patient appears calm and nonchalant and Morrison assures me that all of the other 16 ATHs will have the new dental chair soon.

Outwardly, the dated OD tents, although new, seem out of place in the 1980s. It looks like M\*A\*S\*H all over again — but inside it's a different story with modern operating tables, X-ray machines and surgical cabinets, although the operating tables are being phased out in favor of newer designs.

Maj. Tom Forister, the medical-readiness training manager, is proud that "within three hours after landing, emergency-room patients can be handled. Within half a day everything is operational." It takes five C-130s, three C-141s or one C-5 to transport an entire field hospital. Aircraft air-conditioning can be used if necessary in the ATHs. New hard-wall shelters

are being tested and will soon phase out the canvas tents.

I notice that a veterinarian is assigned to every ATH. At first this seems strange, but I'm told that food sanitation and inspection and public-health preparation will be carried out by veterinarians in order to free the medical doctors to treat the wounded: "Don't forget, a veterinarian's been trained in operating-room procedures and can assist surgically."

Brig. Gen. James Culver demonstrates to me a new pair of combat eye glasses that he hopes will be issued to every frontline soldier: "The Army is very close to adopting these glasses but they haven't as yet. I guess I have to push a little harder."

"They're almost indestructible," he continues, "and we need them. I've talked to Israeli ophthalmologists, who confirm the fact that eye injuries are escalating, especially among tank crews, where there is a lot of bullet fragmentation." The glasses, slotted on either side to allow for peripheral vision, are made to be worn without discomfort under a gas mask.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Freelance writer Tom Donnell learned dental technology in the Army and, today, between writing assignments, owns and operates a dental laboratory.

Donnell's writing specialty is weapons, especially military. He takes pride in his substantial weapons collection, and some of his knives appeared in Lt. Col. T. Johnson's book, *Collecting Edged Weapons of the Third Reich*.

His articles have also appeared in national gun magazines. — John Metzger

I wondered if a specific ATH has been assigned to our Rapid Deployment Force. Gen. Myers says no, but one would be assigned according to the geographical area and the state of readiness of the ATH.

My question leads to a discussion of a relatively new concept, "stockpiling." The Air Force is allocating millions of dollars to the acquisition of War Reserve material, which will be prepositioned throughout the world, "so we just have to move people in emergencies." This year \$15 million have been spent on medical war reserves, and by 1985, we will be spending \$55 million a year. "This will give us a razor's edge," the general concludes.

## Preparing for a Come-As-You-Are War

On view for inspection is the C-9 Nightingale, the pride of the Air Force's Medical Department. Close scrutiny reveals why. This modified version of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 has a customized interior designed to provide greater comfort and more efficient medical service to patients. It flies faster than 500 mph, can cruise at a 37,000-foot altitude and has a more-than-2,000-mile range. It is capable of airlifting 40 litter patients, 40 ambulatory patients or a combination of both with medical attendants.

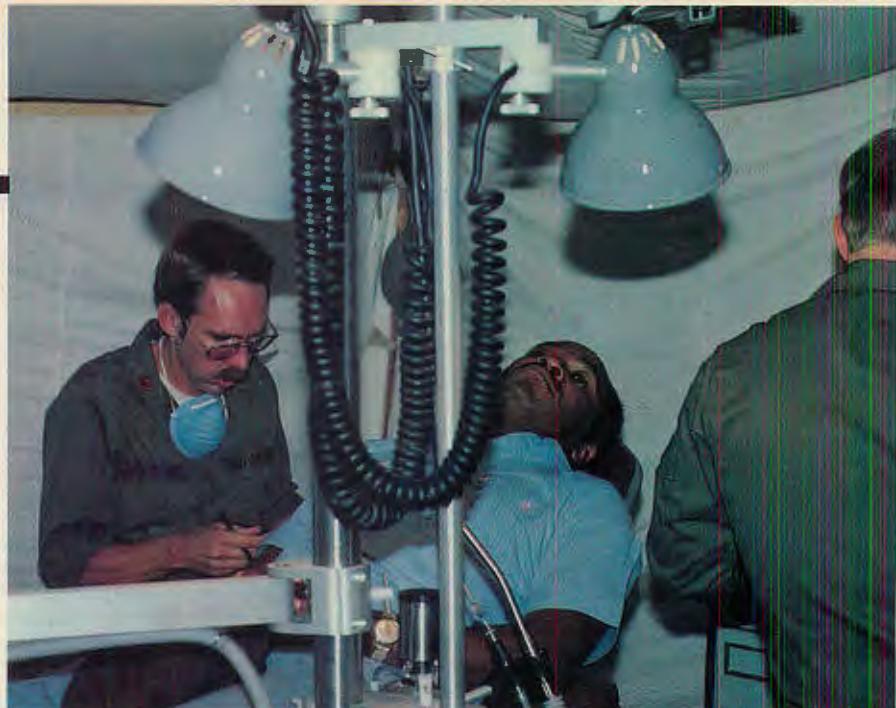
When the hostages were released from Iran, it was a C-9 Nightingale, stationed at the ready at Rhein-Main Air Base in West Germany, that flew them from Algiers to Germany.

The C-5 Galaxy, the world's largest aircraft, is also on display at Red Flag. Capable of delivering 100,000 pounds of ATW anywhere it wants, the C-5 can take off and land in relatively short distances, and it can be loaded and off-loaded simultaneously at the front and rear cargo openings. Its ability to "kneel down" to facilitate loading directly from truck-bed levels makes it truly unique. Teamed with the smaller C-141 Starlifter, the Galaxy is capable of carrying fully equipped, combat-ready troops to any point in the world.

Throughout this operation the point is driven home that most people who served in Vietnam are now out of the service. Today's medical personnel have no idea what it's like to treat combat wounds. Civilian medical training teaches one to care for the most critical cases first, but this training does not apply in the field. Because sophisticated hospital equipment may not be available at the front, field limitations are taught. An Air Force sergeant — who asked not to be identified — told me why:

"In 1968, while in Southeast Asia, with the 23rd ATW, the Viet Cong blew up our entire amount of field equipment. All we had left were two suitcases. Because of battlefield realities, field limitations are the most important lessons we can teach."

Gen. Myers agreed. "In the past, by the time a war was over, we had learned how to cope and care for battlefield casualties — today, we won't have the luxury of experienced personnel. It will be a come-as-you-are-war," he says, gesturing with a sweeping hand. "At least this type of exercise has a high payoff. Instant readiness."



New field dental chair being used for first time.



C-9 Nightingale — the type of plane that brought home the hostages.

## TRIAGE

A young intern in a city hospital has his own set of decision-making guidelines regarding which patient to care for first. If this same intern found himself caring for wounded on a battlefield, he would have to make a quick transition to an entirely new procedure.

On the battlefield, medics must use a system designed to produce the greatest benefit from limited facilities: TRIAGE.

The word stems from the Old French, *trier*, and literally means to sort, sift or pick out. In combat, the medic is faced with three possibilities: wounded who will survive without treatment, wounded who will die unless treated as quickly as possible, and wounded who will certainly die even with the benefits of the limited treatment the medic can offer.

The medic's first concern is to care

for the wounded who will die without immediate treatment. He must administer enough first-aid to keep them alive, then move on. His second area of concern may vary. If a man is about to die in agony, it is best to make him comfortable and give him a pain killer. If the soldier is going to die, but seems oblivious of or in no serious pain, it is best to treat the wounded who will survive (walking wounded), even though treatment is not absolutely necessary. This stage of triage may save an arm or a leg — but not a life.

Triage is simply a decision-making process that must be put to use in battlefield conditions. Our readers may never be faced with such decisions, but in cases of natural disaster, civil strife and war, this knowledge may serve them well and help them to save lives.

— John Metzger

# VIETNAM MYTHS



## The Crippling of U.S. Foreign Policy

George A. Carver, Jr.

Photos by Marv Wolf

*I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken.*

—Oliver Cromwell, in a letter to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, August 3, 1650.

MANY of America's current problems, and the world's, derive from our Indochina traumas. The divisive disputes and passions engendered by that war have weakened some of our basic institutions of government, including the Presidency. The impact of Vietnam debates has influenced the post-1975 conduct of American foreign policy and the prevalent view that America is unwilling to exercise effective influence, let alone power, beyond its borders. Such foreign readings of America's condition, in turn, have engendered some of the international crises that now confront us.

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To understand geopolitics, the nation must first dispel Vietnam's shadows. To do that, it must reconsider rationally even the most basic questions about Indochina — in light of facts and history, not through the repetition of shibboleths. Given the emotions involved, no such endeavor will be fruitful unless all participants heed Cromwell's admonition, penned in another strife-ridden era, and become willing at least to "think it possible" that they may be, or might have been, mistaken.

George Will (paraphrasing T.H. Huxley) once remarked how sad it was to see a beautiful theory mugged

by a gang of facts. Many still-prevalent Indochina theories have been more than mugged by the actual course of events over the past five years — they have been repeatedly rabbit-punched by reality. The post-1954 governments of South Vietnam with which the United States was allied, and to which it made a long succession of commitments, had many faults, frailties and less-than-admirable qualities. In the spring of 1975, however, South Vietnam's government was not overthrown by any popular southern rebellion led by the National Liberation Front. Instead, the North Vietnamese Army conquered South Vietnam in a classic military invasion — subsequently publicly acknowledged as such, and explained in detail, by the North Vietnamese general who commanded it.

Those who ousted the "unpopular, corrupt Thieu regime" were supposed to have been welcomed as liberators by the South Vietnamese, not loathed as draconian alien conquerors. With its allegedly broad base of popular support, the National Liberation Front was supposed to take peaceful control of South Vietnam after Thieu and the Americans were ousted, not be promptly dumped by Hanoi into the ashcan of history. The details of peaceful reunification were supposed to take months, if not years, to be amicably resolved by mutual consent between northerners and southerners. Instead, after militarily defeating the South, North Vietnam promptly annexed it and, five years later, still administers it as conquered territory. There were not boat people fleeing South Vietnam when Thieu or any of his non-communist predecessors were in power — or, indeed, any in significant numbers fleeing from South Vietnam or communist-controlled areas in the south while the war, with all of any war's attendant horrors, was still in progress — but more than 900,000 have found life under the new order so intolerable that, with their families and children, they have fled or been forced to flee in frail vessels, with no destinations and to an uncertain fate. At least half of these refugees have died or will die from illness, starvation or hazards of the sea, including the depredations of pirates. Within Vietnam, at least several hundred thousand more have been sent away to remote "reeducation centers." Their curriculum must be lengthy, for few have yet returned home.

The pattern of actual events has been similarly tragic throughout the rest of Indochina. Life for the Cambodians was supposed to return to a pastoral norm after Lon Nol was ousted and the Vietnam War ended; instead, the Cambodian people are now threatened with extinction. The war's end was also supposed to have brought surcease from tribulation for the people of Laos; instead, those unwilling to accept complete communist domination have become laboratory animals for Soviet and North Vietnamese tests of the military efficacy of poison gas.

That certain fashionable, still-influential Indochina theories have been confounded by brutal reality does not, of itself, mean that any other theories, or their advocates, were necessarily correct. Two things distorted our bitter Indochina debates: an ignorance of, or reluctance to acknowledge, the context of Indochina's history, and an analytic approach that was childishly simplistic. Many instinctively assumed that opponents of Vietnamese

or Americans perceived to be sinners were themselves necessarily saints. Thus many Americans opposed to the war focused their critical attention on Saigon's and Washington's actions, seldom considering those of Hanoi.

Since its inception, the Hanoi government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which now rules all of Vietnam and most of Indochina, has been controlled by the Vietnamese Communist Party, known since 1951 as the Lao Dong. It has always been, and still is, the lengthened shadow of its remarkable founder, Ho Chi Minh, who handpicked and molded in his image those who still dominate its politburo.

In our secular age, it is difficult to comprehend the force of the doctrinal dimension in Ho's thinking and the Lao Dong's. The Lao Dong has always seen "counterrevolution" (in deed or thought) as something to be extirpated, root and branch, by any means that work; for Ho always saw "counterrevolutionaries" — i.e., any potential opponents — much as Torquemada viewed heretics. In this, despite his unquestionable nationalism, Ho was very much akin to Stalin, and to Hitler. Ridding Vietnam, and Indochina, of "undesirable elements" was as important to Ho, and still is to the Lao Dong, as acquiring unrivaled political power.

From 1951 through 1956, as its writ expanded in North Vietnam, the Lao Dong conducted a succession of ruthless programs to restructure North Vietnamese society along more doctrinally congenial lines. The barbarity and violence that marked these programs was staggering. No one will ever know the full human cost, but the number of people killed outright was in excess of 100,000, and the number who suffered personal hardship appreciably exceeded half a million. The doctrines and policies that have produced South Vietnam's reeducation camps, the boat people and genocidal carnage in Cambodia are simply the doctrines and policies that produced the programs of the 1950s, adapted two decades later to somewhat different circumstances and implemented on a larger scale. Though the actual figures will never be possible to determine, the death toll resulting from the Lao Dong's post-1975 victory policies in Vietnam alone (not to mention the rest of Indochina) is more than half a million; the toll in shattered lives, far greater. Such figures render more than curious the often-heard contention that no bloodbath followed the Lao Dong's conquest. The facts of what has actually happened since April, 1975, lend far more support to the argument that in its efforts to purge Vietnamese (and In-

dochinese) society of elements it considers undesirable, the Lao Dong has simply let fatigue, starvation, malarial mountain uplands or inhospitable seas do the work others have done with firing squads, machine guns and Zyklon-B.

During the course of America's direct involvement in Indochina affairs, those in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos whom the United States supported all made many errors that were stupid, reprehensible or even criminal. Such errors and actions are inevitable on the part of all protagonists in any war. In that sense, all wars are immoral: but this does not mean that all protagonists in any given war are equally immoral. The course of the past quarter-century's events in Indochina and their tragic legacies cannot be explained, or explained away, by any simplistic devil theory casting the United States, generically, or any specific Americans — Presidents or National Security Advisers — in the devil's role.

Struggling to preserve their freedom and to resist the forcible imposition of an unwanted alien rule and doctrine were hardly intrinsically immoral actions on the part of those throughout Indochina who fought fiercely, many at the cost of their lives, against what they considered North Vietnamese communist aggression — doubly so, since none of those who resisted the Lao Dong in their respective homelands ever tried to alter or dictate the political system of North Vietnam by force of arms. It was certainly not intrinsically immoral for America to help South Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians and various tribal elements to resist a Lao Dong conquest that many feared, or knew from personal experience, would bring in its train precisely the kind of tragedies and suffering that the Lao Dong's victory has in fact engendered. This support, of itself, was not anything for which Americans need wallow in guilt, or seek absolution and atonement by forswearing future exercise of American power. Far graver moral issues, in fact, are raised by America's abandoning to their fate those in Indochina to whom it had pledged its continuing support and assistance in their self-defense.

Whether the United States should ever have become directly involved in Indochina's struggles is a far more legitimately debatable question than partisans on either side of the argument are wont to acknowledge. This, however, is a question of national interest, of prudence and pragmatism — not an issue of morality.

American involvement came by incremental stages. At each stage, under five Presidents, there was little

appreciation of, or willingness to face, what that involvement might entail. With hindsight's wisdom, the United States can now assess its total direct and indirect costs, and debate whether its Indochina objectives, even had they been achieved, were worth this price. But in the early 1970s, it was too late to debate, except academically, whether the United States should have gotten involved in Indochina under President Eisenhower or heavily engaged therein under President Kennedy. The nation was there, and should have weighed the costs of various retreats more carefully and objectively than was then politically feasible. The record of what has actually happened, both in Indochina and to the United States' international standing and domestic condition, indicates that the costs of withdrawing from Indochina when we did, the way we did, have been high indeed.

Events of recent years and months have painfully demonstrated that the United States must now adapt to a different geopolitical environment, and one not to its liking. Those events have also underlined the necessity of looking at the world and at American interests realistically — in light of facts, not emotion-driven theories or hopes — and with some appreciation of the context set by history, which neither desires nor good intentions can change. Part of this context is a basic truism that recent events have certainly reaffirmed. No matter how unpalatable this may be to nobly intentioned idealists — including those in Congress or the Executive branch — the world is cruel. Its inhabitants who control our actual or potential adversaries — including the Soviet Union — are more likely to have their appetites whetted than assuaged by appeasement, and they are singularly impervious to reform by force of virtuous example.

America's belief in the intrinsic power of virtue derives from a deep strain in its heritage that complicates any effective address to foreign situations. This is the millenarian strain, which derives from the early settlers who came to this country for religious reasons, wanting freedom to practice their particular faiths and create a New Jerusalem. Millenarianism has imparted an impeccably intentioned but often practically distorting quality to political discussions and attitudes throughout the nation's history, and is very much with us today. Reasoned discussion of Indochina-related issues became difficult during the war, and is still difficult, partly because such discussion assumed a theological intensity, zeal and shrill-

ness. True believers (of all persuasions) were impelled to give no quarter to the "sinful error" of those with whom they disagreed, and none were even remotely inclined to "think it possible" that they might be mistaken. Political theologues often forget that opponents of sinners are not themselves necessarily saints; nor are opponents of autocrats necessarily Jeffersonian democrats.

and TV commentators in a manner reminiscent of priests in ancient Rome examining chicken entrails. The itchy impatience and political urge for tangible, immediate results make the United States demonstrably vulnerable to persistent, more patient adversaries — whether they be members of the Soviet or Vietnamese politburo or, at another level, Iranian "student militants."



Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of South Vietnamese general's execution of VC officer with .38 S&W Airweight pistol during Tet '68 illustrates problem of oversimplification of complex events, as George A. Carver explains in accompanying article. Photo: Wide World Photos

If the United States can regain its perspective and face reality, it will see that the painful Indochina experience has lessons relevant to other situations in the world — with which it will also be difficult for the United States, and its kind of government, to cope (e.g., the hostages in Iran). Pham Van Dong, a member of the Lao Dong politburo and premier of the Vietnamese government, once said that North Vietnam was bound to win its struggle with the United States because the North Vietnamese would make that struggle long and inconclusive, and Americans cannot fight long, inconclusive wars. Politically, hence militarily, our sense of time is different from others' throughout the world — certainly different from the Soviets', and radically different from that of the Vietnamese or the Chinese. People who measure their history in millennia think of political time in terms of decades, generations or even centuries. The Soviets also pursue long, unchanging objectives and policies, alert and patiently waiting for years, even decades, for any opportunity to advance them. With respect to both Afghanistan and Iran, the present Soviet government is pursuing ambitions it inherited from the Romanov czars.

Tending to be oblivious to history, and having an instinctive national preference for the immediate "quick fix," the United States seems to think politically in terms of weeks, months, or, at most, a few years. The national impatience is reinforced by Congressional and Presidential elections — imperatives greatly strengthened by the infatuation with polls, which are constantly being assessed by press

America's political system both reflects and reinforces the national fixation on the eternal present — and the discount put on history or concern for the future — in a way that works against foreign-policy continuity, constancy or even consistency. The United States tends to treat foreign policies (even allies) much as children treat toys or projects — things to be discarded or abandoned if they cease to be interesting, prove more troublesome or costly than anticipated, or do not quickly provide desired results. As do children, the United States has a low frustration threshold, a national characteristic easy for adversaries to exploit. If such adversaries can simply prolong any contest and escalate its cost to us (especially its domestic political cost), there is an excellent chance that we will tire of the game, give specific adversaries (e.g., the North Vietnamese) most of whatever they want simply to solve a particular problem, or perform the national equivalent of "picking up our marbles and going home."

The enemy in Vietnam was difficult to combat, not only because it was quintessentially persistent and patient, but also because its strategic concept of struggle was the antithesis of ours. Americans have always wanted to separate military from political objectives (with an instinctive approach epitomized by General Eisenhower's famous remark in 1945 that he would not strike for Berlin, to beat the Russians there, because Berlin was a political objective, not a military one).

To the Lao Dong — as to many others around the world — struggle,

including war, is a form of political theater. The Lao Dong's primary targets were seldom terrain, places or things markable on a map. Its targets were its adversaries' cohesion, will, morale and resolution, for it felt that when these dissolved, its adversaries would abandon the fight and it would therefore win. Those who use against the United States the strategy of waging struggle, even war, as political theater are inevitably aided (as the Lao Dong certainly was) by the press and media, and their internal competitive imperatives.

In a democracy, the political influence of national media — both print and, especially, television — can hardly be overstated. Commercial competition for a mass audience, however, puts an inescapable premium on controversy, punchy brevity and catchy labels, no matter what distorting oversimplifications result. It inevitably requires stress on the current, the interesting — preferably the dramatically graphic and the easily understood. Subtle nuances, complexity and complicated historical background get lost in the competitive shuffle.

With respect to Indochina, such leverage played an enormous role in influencing the American people. American and South Vietnamese difficulties and shortcomings were subjected to daily newspaper and nightly television dissection before the American electorate. Communist behavior and problems were not. The political and propaganda advantages this asymmetry gave the Lao Dong was enormous. They enabled the Lao Dong to turn its greatest military disaster of the war — the 1968 Tet offensive, from which the southern "Viet Cong" never really recovered — into its greatest single political victory in the United States.



An example of this phenomenon was Eddie Adams' February 1, 1968, picture of a South Vietnamese official, Nguyen Ngoc Loan, shooting a bound, civilian-clothed "Viet Cong" prisoner in the head — a picture that was played in the media, won a host of journalistic awards and was regarded by many as incontrovertible proof of the evil nature of our South Vietnamese allies.

That General Loan did the deed he was photographed committing is, of course, incontrovertible. The background to that picture, however, tells much about the Indochina struggle — and the difficulty of portraying it in a

photograph or on television. At the time that picture was taken, General Loan had been on his feet for more than 24 hours personally directing the defense of Saigon. Saigon was never threatened in any conventional sense, but portions of the city were penetrated and temporarily occupied by Vietnamese communist forces during the Tet offensive's initial phase. Among them were "action cadre," whose mission was similar to that of the SS *Einsatzgruppe* during World War II — liquidating those at the top of the Lao Dong list of "undesirable elements." High on this list were South Vietnamese policemen, soldiers and their families. As the Vietnamese communists moved temporarily into Saigon and Cholon, these special-action squads fanned out to do as much damage as they could. Some slaughtered South Vietnamese army dependents in military housing compounds. Others went into policemen's homes and often started by killing the youngest child in front of its parents' eyes, working up through the family until they killed the policeman's wife and then, finally (if he was there), the policeman himself.

Late on the afternoon of February 1, a communist officer — armed, but in civilian clothes — was captured in combat by South Vietnamese marines, brought to General Loan (then directing action from a curbside command post) and identified to him as a commander of such murder squads. In rage and the heat of battle, Loan pulled out his pistol and executed the communist officer on the spot — as Eddie Adams snapped his shutter. This is something General Loan should doubtless not have done; but his action was similar to that of a Russian or Polish officer or resistance leader in the Warsaw ghetto, meting



out summary justice to an SS *Hauptsturmfuehrer* captured while directing an *Einsatzgruppe* in its murderous work. No startling picture of the latter is likely to have been taken, let alone featured within 24 hours in all available American media. Even if it had been, it would hardly have proved the intrinsic "immorality" of resistance to the Nazis and the SS, or of those who resisted them.

The country will never be able to understand the world, or its challenges, unless it stops thinking of foreign policies, or wars, as crusades in which the godly or the revolutionary (even if the latter be atheists) go forth to do battle with the unrighteous or the reactionary; and unless it stops instinctively assuming that those doing battle with the forces of darkness or reaction must (by definition) be legions from the forces of light or progress, or vice versa. Indeed, we may not survive the last two decades of this strife-ridden and now thermonuclear century unless we stop confusing foreign policy with theology, thus inadvertently increasing the risk of thermonuclear Armageddon.

The United States can, and should, work to ameliorate the world's imperfections; but there will be many it can neither erase nor change. In an imperfect world, it is unrealistic to expect perfect allies. The nation should never turn blind eyes to any ally's weaknesses or faults, but it should always try to keep them in proper perspective and proportion — particularly with respect to the faults and shortcomings of our, or an ally's, adversaries. Though the United States needs allies in this intricately interdependent world, however, it should always remember that interests persist longer than alliances; and though allies may have many interests in common, no two nations have truly or perpetually identical interests.



If nothing else, the history of the past four decades and the tragic legacies of World War II should have taught us that enemies of our adversaries at any time are not necessarily our friends. The history of recent years should also have taught us that in international as in private life, a sophomoric quest for "popularity" is usually self-defeating. It is nice to be liked, but it is better to be respected, and those who perpetually attempt to curry others' favor — especially by self-abasement — are unlikely to be respected by others or themselves.

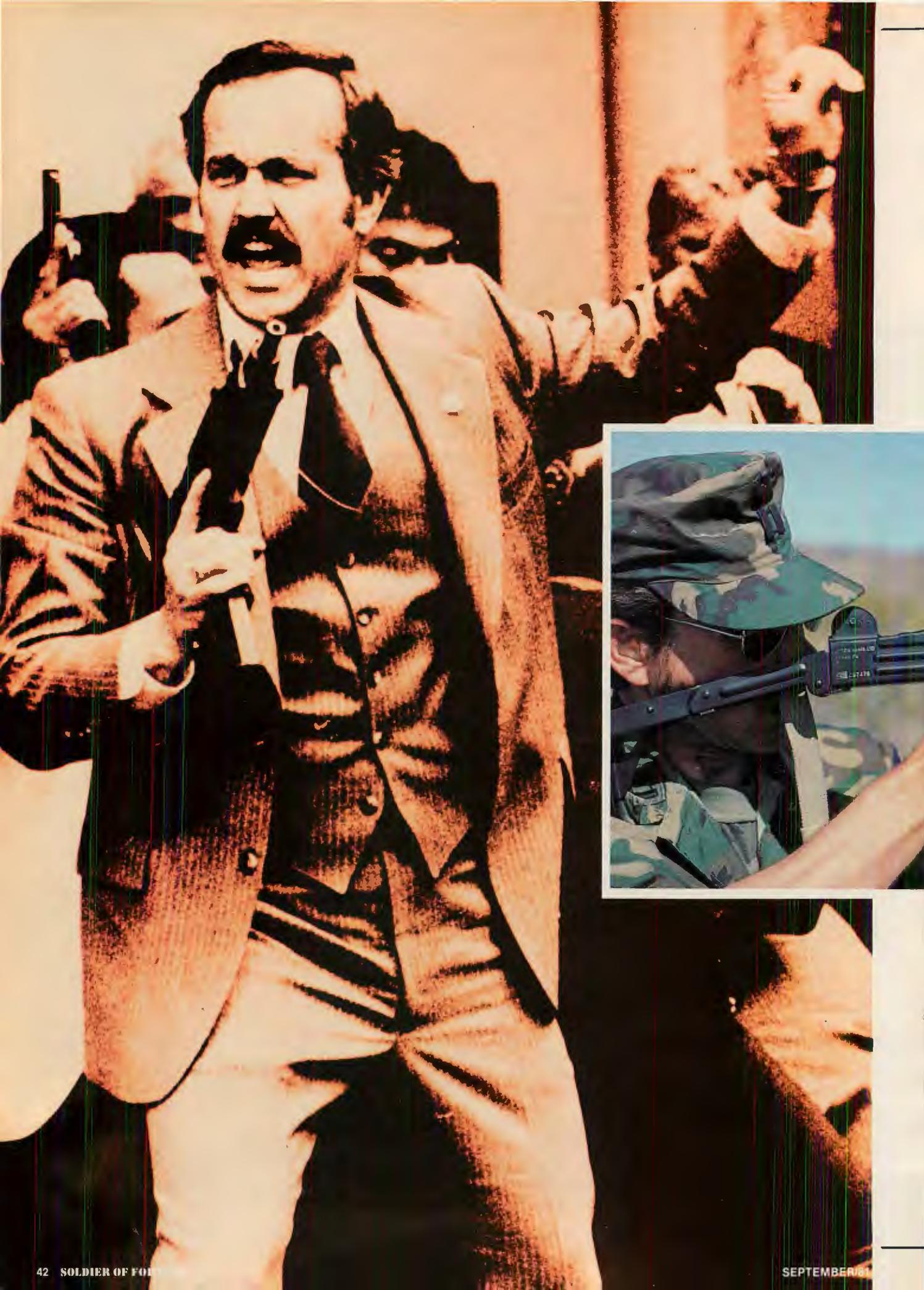
To surmount, perhaps even to survive, the international and domestic challenges now confronting us, the United States must become less prone to focus in sequential isolation on single issues or goals, pursued with noble motive and pure intent to their logical conclusion, and more

willing to accept reality, the extent to which all things, including policies, mingle, and the extent to which disaster and tragedy can be wrought by tunnel-visioned idealism, no matter how lofty its motive.

The United States likes its issues simple and separable, its villains and heroes neatly labeled as such, with no messy ambiguity or need for discrimination between subtle shadings of gray. It also seems to think that every international (or domestic) problem has some solution which, once found, will enable it to shelve that problem and safely turn its attention elsewhere. What children have to learn and governments or nations should never forget, however, is that what one wants or prefers may not be sufficient to attain what one needs or has to have.

Childlike innocence may be endearing in children; childishness in adults is not, and it can be disastrously dangerous. An aversion to facing unpalatable facts, the lack of a sense of proportion, a reluctance to see things in perspective, an unwillingness to acknowledge that some things intrinsically desirable may be incompatible or cannot be simultaneously attained, a fixation on the present and immediate future (coupled with a lack of concern or knowledge about the past), a distaste for present sacrifice to attain future benefits or avoid worse future adversity, a propensity to abandon activities or projects that prove more difficult than expected or do not produce gratifying results as quickly as desired, or to abandon difficult friends in a constant quest for "popularity" — these are all hallmarks of childishness. They are also, alas, hallmarks of current American approaches to many grave international and domestic issues, and were hallmarks of the Carter administration's foreign policy.





# SOF TESTS THE UZI

## Israel's "State Of The Art" SMG

**Text & Photos**  
**by Peter Kokalis**



ABOVE: Al F. Nordeen fires the 9mm Uzi submachine gun. Note position of 'L' clip on magazine. RIGHT: Uzi semiauto carbine (above) with 16.1-inch barrel. (Below) Uzi submachine gun with two 25-round magazines in special 'L' clip configuration. LEFT: Secret Service agent on presidential-security detail brandishes Uzi with stock tucked under right arm and directs his agents' movement with left hand. Photo: White House

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter G. Kokalis received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Northwestern University and a Master of Science degree in geology from Arizona State University. He joined the Army in the late 1950s and served in technical intelligence.

Kokalis is now active in retail advertising/marketing in the firearms industry and in real-estate investment and development. He has been involved in the history and research of automatic weapons for more than 20 years.

— Bob Poos

**T**HE Uzi, without doubt the most widely distributed submachine gun in the Western world, has finally arrived in quantity in the United States. Available in unique semiauto and full auto (for police departments and Class-3 dealers only), it is being imported by Action Arms, Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 4567 Bermuda St., Philadelphia, PA 19124).

An officer in the Israeli army, Uziel Gal, developed the Uzi in the early 1950s. It is produced in Israel by Israeli Military Industries and under license at the FN plant in Herstal, Belgium. As the bolt design clearly demonstrates, the Uzi's origins are the Czech models 23 and ZK476 family of submachine guns.





Red smoke drifts in background as Al Nordeen fires the Uzi submachine gun with two 25-round magazines in 'L' clip configuration. Alex Pappas fires Uzi semiauto carbine from kneeling position.

The Uzi's most distinctive characteristic is its wrap-around bolt design. The primary advantage of this feature is compactness, while still utilizing a relatively long 10.2-inch barrel in the full-auto weapon and a 16.1-inch barrel in the semiauto carbine. At the moment of ignition, the recessed bolt surrounds more than three inches of the barrel. Thus by placing more weight over the chamber — where the explosion occurs — upward climb during recoil is reduced. The bolt is also partially responsible for the Uzi's natural pointing traits.

Finally, it is an added safety factor in the event of a blown case — important in view of the dubious quality of some surplus 9mm ammo now so prevalent.

The Uzi's magazine well is located in the grip assembly — a desirable feature as it leaves the point of balance directly above the grip, provides a firm support for the magazine and aids in rapid magazine changes, using the well-known principle of "hand finds hand."

The Uzi magazine, a direct adaptation from Beretta submachine guns, is of the two-position-feed type. Minimum bolt energy is required to strip rounds from this type of magazine; single-position-feed magazines, such as those encountered in the MP 40, Sten, M3A1 (grease gun) and MAC 10, are harder to load without a tool and malfunction more frequently. All Uzi magazines have viewing holes in the sides so the contents can be seen at a glance.

The Uzi comes equipped with a 25-round magazine. The Israeli army once tried a 40-round magazine — however, as in the case of its 40-round Beretta cousin, constant feeding problems accompanied the large-capacity magazine and it was withdrawn from service and manufacture. Action Arms says a 32-round magazine will eventually be provided. A special clip is available to join two magazines together in an "L" configuration. This is useful because, when both magazines are loaded, the one not in use lies under the barrel and helps reduce muzzle climb. Then, when the first magazine has been expended, the second lies back under the butt.

The Uzi has two safety systems, independent of each other. The first is controlled by the fire selector, located on the left side of the receiver above the grip assembly. When it is placed in the rearward position, marked "S," the piece is locked. The second is a grip safety at the rear of the grip assembly.

In my opinion, grip safeties on submachine guns are less useful, and potentially more disconcerting, in combat than magazine-disconnector safeties on semiauto pistols. Back in the late '50s, when issued Danish

Madsen M50 submachine guns, I remember clearly that my first alteration was taping the grip safety to the rear of the magazine well. Under stress, it is easy for one's sweating hand to slide off the rear of the grip assembly and, momentarily at least, leave the firer with a locked piece. In any event, this problem is simple enough to remedy with a short strip of electrical tape.

The full-auto version has a third safety in the form of a ratchet on the bolt-retracting slide, which locks the bolt if the retracting knob is accidentally released from an incomplete cocking motion.



The Uzi magazine loader with 9mm rounds.

The Uzis currently being imported by Action Arms have a baked-enamel finish. Although painted firearms have never appealed to Americans — presumably because chipped finishes that occur through use are unsightly to collectors — the British and Belgians concluded long ago that such finishes are far more durable and corrosion-resistant, especially in tropical climates, than either bluing or Parkerizing. Earlier specimens, brought in for police departments and the U.S. Secret Service (which chopped several inches off the barrels in an effort to facilitate concealment in attache cases), were Parkerized. The Action Arms weapons appear to be Parkerized under the enamel-like finish.

Although using stampings and high-impact plastics extensively — as do most modern military small arms — the Uzi exhibits quality in design and manufacture. As an example, long, narrow ridges stamped into the sides of the receiver act effectively as dirt

traps, ensuring reliable operation under the most extreme conditions of debris and sand.

Accessories abound, and some are quite useful, such as the previously mentioned "L" clip. Well-designed two- and three-magazine pouches are available, featuring sturdy Velcro flaps. The magazine loader appears to have been designed for use with a stripper clip of Israeli issue, as it is not compatible with the strippers found on commonly available Czech surplus ammo. Not as easy to use as the Sten, MP 40 or MAC magazine loaders, it is, nevertheless, better than nothing.

The bayonet cannot be used on the semiauto carbine, as its 16.1-inch barrel would extend almost the full length of the blade. But then, bayonets on submachine guns are not very useful.

The front-sight adjusting tool, although complex in design, is effective.

The strangest accessory is a so-called spotting light: a spotlight, complete with battery pack, attaches to and hangs under the barrel. What function this would serve in combat, besides inviting enemy fire, is unclear.

A wooden stock can be supplied for either version and, though certainly sacrificing compactness, there can be little argument that it is generally easier to score effective hits with wooden-stocked submachine guns.

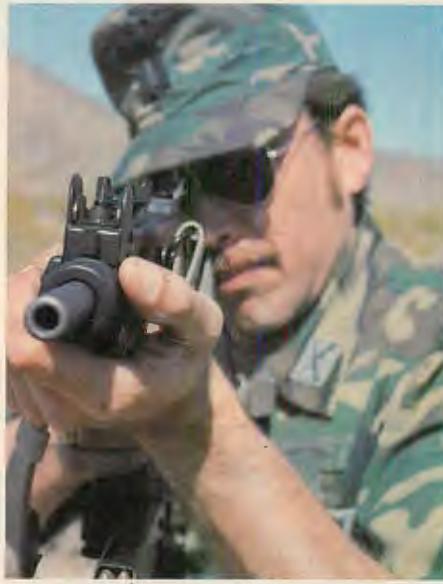
Other than the obvious — such as barrel length and the full-auto mode — in what ways do the two Uzis differ? In an effort to comply with provisions of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Israeli Military Industries has sufficiently altered the design of the semiauto carbine to discourage attempts to convert it to full auto or interchange parts with the submachine gun. While both are of blowback operation, the semiauto carbine fires from the closed bolt using a floating firing pin, in contrast to the submachine gun which utilizes a fixed firing pin firing from the closed bolt.

The barrels (of differing outside diameters and configuration), bolts and trigger-housing assemblies of the two Uzis cannot be interchanged. Of course, any semiauto firearm, including pistols, can be altered to fire full auto. However, attempts to do so with this weapon are not only illegal, but potentially dangerous.

Blowback submachine guns with fixed firing pins operate on the principle of advanced primer ignition. This simply means that the primer is actually detonated before the cartridge is fully seated in the chamber and while it is still moving forward. The cartridge's force of equal and opposite reaction (one of Newton's laws) is thus

dissipated in not only overcoming the inertia of the stopped bolt and driving it rearward, but in stopping its forward movement as well. This concept permits designers to use a much lighter bolt.

Weapons using advanced primer ignition commonly contain slightly tapered chambers. Attempts to use a barrel of this type with the floating firing pin of the semiauto Uzi could be disastrous.



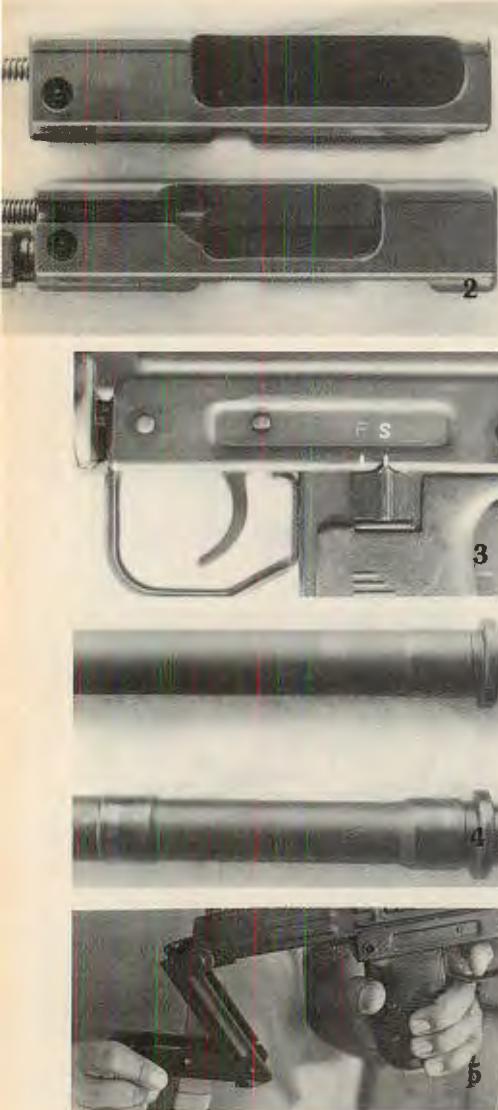
Al F. Nordeen shoulders Uzi submachine gun. Note 25-round magazine on 'L' clip.

How do the two Uzis stack up against each other in an actual firing test? Armed with both models and a large supply of the no-longer-quite-so-cheap surplus Yugoslav, Finnish and Czech ammo, a group of auto-weapons enthusiasts subjected them both to several days of intensive testing. The results are interesting and informative.

First, a reduction (measuring only 19 inches in height and 9 inches in width) of the NRA B-27 silhouette target, designed to be fired from 50 feet, was placed at a distance of 25 yards from the firing line. Using the 25-round magazine, two experienced individuals — one with the semiauto carbine and one with the submachine gun — were directed to place aimed fire from the standing position into the targets as quickly as possible.

As expected, the semiauto carbine consistently scored more hits, but in slightly longer time frames. The operator of the semiauto averaged 19 hits out of the 25-round magazine in 20 seconds. Using two- and three-round bursts, the submachine gun yielded an average of 15 hits out of 25 rounds in only 16 seconds. Both excellent results.

Curious as to the actual cyclic rates attainable, the two weapons were fired



1. Depressing Uzi grip safety. Use of grip safety is adequate for police needs, but is not a viable concept in a military submachine gun. Under stress of combat, it is all too easy to slip off grip and lose a critical second of firepower. Grip safety, however, is reliable, and most Uzi owners tape it to open position.

2. Uzi bolts. (Top) submachine gun. (Bottom) semiauto carbine. Bolts are different because submachine gun fires from the open-bolt position and has fixed firing pin, while semiauto carbine fires from closed-bolt position and has floating firing pin. Full-auto weapon fires from open-bolt position to prevent cook-offs of live rounds. Note recoil springs on each bolt.

3. Uzi semiauto-carbine selector switch often binds when switching from safe to fire positions.

4. Uzi barrels. (Top) submachine gun. (Bottom) semiauto carbine. Aside from fact that semiauto barrel is longer, the barrels differ in machining and are not interchangeable. Reason is political: Differences in two Uzis is an attempt on IMI's part to have dissimilarities between them to convince BATF that your average Joe won't be able to convert the semiauto carbine to full auto. Reason for longer barrel on semiauto weapon is to meet minimum barrel-length requirements to be considered a rifle.

5. Uzi folding-stock operation. Original Uzi wood stock was replaced by folding metal stock soon after weapon was first circulated in 1952.

as rapidly as possible and carefully timed. It takes just 6.7 seconds (about 225 rounds per minute) to empty the 25-round magazine of the semiauto Uzi and only 3.1 seconds (500 rpm) of the full-auto submachine gun. Theoretical cyclic rate of the full-auto Uzi is 600 rpm.

Given the limitations imposed by overall weight considerations, the pistol calibers most commonly used and the necessity for reasonable controllability in the full-auto mode, cyclic rates between 450 rpm to 650 rpm are considered ideal by modern submachine-gun designers.

More than eight persons — again using both weapons — fired repeatedly, and consistently scored hits on man-size targets out to 90 yards, firing from both the shoulder and hip assault positions. Without exception, all commented on the natural sense of balance and pointing characteristics of both Uzis, which border on the phenomenal. Several thousand rounds were fired with no malfunctions.

That the Uzi is a garbage eater was attested to by the external condition of the Czech ammo, which bordered on disgusting.

Certainly the Uzi is among the very best — a "state of the art" submachine gun without peer. But, is it not doomed to almost disappear within the coming decade? With the ever-growing dominance of the assault-rifle concept, submachine guns appear destined to limited standard status with every major military power in the world. Short-barreled assault rifles, such as the XM177E2, AR18S, HK33KA1, SIG SG543, AUG and the Galil SAR, offer compactness almost equal to, and cartridges far more potent and accurate out to far greater ranges than any submachine gun.

The Soviet Union, in WWII the greatest proponent of massed submachine-gun firepower in the history of warfare, long ago dropped them from front-line service in favor of the Kalashnikov series of assault rifles. The U.S. military has shown no interest in the development of a new submachine gun. Israel itself plans to replace the Uzi with the Galil SAR as soon as possible.

In the hands of terrorists, overseas as a police weapon where no stigma against its use as such exists, and in highly specialized military ops, we shall continue to see the submachine gun for quite some time. But, despite these exceptions, the use of the submachine gun as a major infantry weapon, which began in the waning days of WWI and crested in WWII, is proving to be one of the shortest-lived in military history.

## UZI SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE	SEMIAUTOMATIC CARBINE	SUBMACHINE GUN
DESIGNATION		
MANUFACTURER	Israel Military Industries	
CALIBER	9mm Parabellum	
OPERATION PRINCIPLE	Blowback; closed breech, floating firing pin	Blowback; open breech, fixed firing pin
TYPE OF FIRE	Semiautomatic only	Selective—Full Automatic or Semiautomatic
MAGAZINE	Staggered box type, holds 25 rounds	
SAFETY SYSTEMS	1. Fire selector in position "S" 2. Pistol grip safety	1. Fire selector in position "S" 2. Pistol grip safety 3. Ratchet on Bolt-Retracting Slide
SIGHTS	Front: "Post" type. Rear: L flip type adjustable for 100m (330 ft.) and 200m (660 ft.)	
STOCK	Folding metal stock	
BARREL LENGTH*	410mm (16.1")	260mm (10.2")
LENGTH-STOCK FOLDED**	615mm (24.2")	440mm (17.3")
LENGTH-STOCK EXTENDED**	800mm (31.5")	640mm (25.2")
WEIGHT—UNLOADED**	3.8kg (8.4 lbs.)	3.5kg. (7.70 lbs.)
WEIGHT EMPTY MAGAZINE	200g (0.44 lb.)	
NUMBER LANDS & GROOVES	4 (Right Hand Twist)—1 turn in 10"	
APPROX. MUZZLE VELOCITY**	380-460m/sec (1250-1500 ft./sec.)	420m/sec. (1377 ft./sec.)
MAXIMUM RANGE**	Up to 2000m (2200 yds.) at 30° elevation	
RATE OF FIRE		600 rounds/min.

\*Depending on whether long barrel (410mm or 16.1") or short barrel (260mm or 10.2") is used.

\*\*Depending on type of ammunition used.

PRICE: \$595.00

Continued on page 72

# DEATH - DEALING PROJECT DELTA

## Part 3: Interview With The Big 'Un

by Jim Morris

*Project Delta, Special Forces Detachment B-52, one of the most highly decorated units of its size in the Vietnam war, was organized in early 1965 under the code name, "Leapin' Lena." At first it used only indigenous troops, but within six months American advisers started accompanying the patrols.*

*The project achieved its highest degree of perfection in 1967-68 under Maj. (later Lt. Col.) Chuck Allen, the man Gen. William C. Westmoreland called "Big 'Un." Under Allen and subsequently, the core of the project consisted of the recon section, with 12 teams of 10 members each — usually four Americans and six Vietnamese Special Forces men — only six of whom were usually deployed at a time. The headquarters was SF Det B-52. Nominally the project was commanded by a Viet lieutenant colonel with Allen as his adviser.*

*Project Delta was the organization of which Gen. Robert Cushman, later Commandant of the Marine Corps, said: "These men come from the ether zone of military excellence."*

*At about the time of the Tet offensive, author Morris, a PIO officer, met some of the officers from Project Delta and was able to go along on an extraction operation with Allen and Capt. Bill Larabee, Allen's operations officer.*

*On their return from this mission, Allen asked Morris if he wanted to return the next day with the reaction force, the 91st Airborne Ranger Battalion. Morris agreed, not knowing what the next 48 hours would bring.*

*After helicopter insertion, the reaction force came under B-40 rocket fire. Capt. Ken Nauman called in air support and two flights of F-105s dropped bombs and napalm on enemy positions. Charlie was silent until another wave of choppers brought in fresh Army and Marine troops.*

*Four choppers were downed and the contact lasted until dark. Allied*

*casualties mounted, and Morris was badly wounded in the right arm.*

*In the morning, the reaction force learned from an enemy prisoner that they had been engaged by two companies of NVA troops and that an NVA battalion was on its way. Nauman called in another air strike, after which the men, carrying the dead and wounded, moved out to another LZ. They were extracted in late afternoon. When Morris saw Chuck Allen's C&C (Command & Control) helicopter, he said, "I knew we were going to be all right."*

*In 1980, the author travelled to Fayetteville, N.C., to interview Allen, now retired from the Army and in the printing business. His interview concludes this three-part series.*

So off Allen went. He never looked back. His military career encountered a hitch when he coldcocked the chief of staff of the 82nd Airborne Division in the commanding general's office. They were putting the pressure on him to play football, but he insisted that he was in the Army to soldier; there was no MOS for a football player. After making this point several times, he decided to leave; the colonel showed poor judgment and placed his hand on Allen's chest to restrain him. Not a good move.

That kept him a captain for 12 years. If he hadn't done that, he probably would have retired a full colonel. If he had gone to college, he probably would have retired a general. As it is, all he did was command a unit good enough to take its place in history alongside the Knights of the Round Table and Robin Hood's merry men.

We met late in the evening at his print shop, amid layouts of city magazines and weekly newspapers. But those displayed on the walls were covers for *Drop*, the magazine of the Special Forces Decade Association. Allen has always worked late hours, and he has attacked civilian life with the same drive and dedication he brought to war. As always, there was a big pot of coffee, and we started talking about the Project.

"I used to love hanging around with you guys," I said, "because everybody down there seemed to know exactly what he was doing. It was the greatest collection of brains, class and talent I ever saw in one place at one time."

Allen took a sip of coffee and smiled. "Well, nobody got assigned to Delta; they were assigned for interview. And it was maybe an unfair screening process we went through. Migod, by the time a man reported to me for interview, he'd been screened five or six times — within Delta.

"And then if I accepted the guy into the unit, recon would screen him. And I don't mean they'd talk to him for 20

### Drive And Dedication As A Soldier Or Civilian

L T. Col. Charles A. Allen, former commander of SF Det B-52 (Project Delta), is a huge man, weighing more than 250 pounds, though not at all fat. He also differs from the stereotyped career officer. To begin with, he was a draftee.

He wasn't exactly dodging the draft; he was just a young man drifting around after leaving school, having a good time, playing a little semi-pro football here, bouncing in bars there.

One day, when he was bouncing in a bar in Florida, a gentleman from the government showed up and asked if he'd gotten much mail lately. The guy wasn't from the quality-control division of the Post Office. He was from the FBI, and the letter he was referring to began, "Greetings..."

minutes. He'd go over and stay with them for three, four or five days, and at the end of that time, if they thought he might be a good joe, they'd say, 'Okay, sir, we'd like to have him.' That's after I, the CO, had said, 'Hey, I wanna take this guy and put him in recon.'

"And if they didn't want him I'd back them up."

"You remember Doc Simpson, my recon leader. I had a lot of faith in Doc, and if he said, 'Everybody else thinks this guy is good, but I really don't think he's gonna make it,' he wouldn't take him. If I thought he was good, I'd assign him somewhere else in Delta. I'd send him over to the Rangers or put him in Roadrunners or something like that."

I lifted an eyebrow. "Was recon pretty much the elite within the elite within the elite?"

Allen nodded. "Yeah. It was almost the reason for Delta's existence."

"I didn't hang out with those guys too much," I admitted. "They knew I was going to write them up, and a lot of them didn't want that."

"Well," Allen replied, "you know, to go out and be dropped into an area that someone has selected as the hottest he can put you into is bad enough by itself, but then to have to live through whatever the outcome is of your time on the ground and get out successfully and say, 'Hey, I've got a recon mission under my belt, and it was a hot one,' that's something to be proud of. It was not like the Korean War, going on a patrol overnight with 35 other guys and maybe you make contact and maybe not. It was a whole lot different, because you were completely cut off and isolated from everything, from any type of support, particularly during the hours of darkness. Because then your support just wasn't there."

## A Clannish, Weird Breed

"So the fact that you had a successful one under your belt made you one of the boys. And the more you got, the prouder you got — and the more clannish you became. The most successful and best people were a real weird breed. They were loners, usually, though among themselves they'd be very clannish and close. But around someone else who had never been on a recon patrol, they were complete loners, almost to the point of having a complex about it, whether it was a good one or a bad one."

"Yeah," I said. "Nobody (because I asked around), nobody let a strap-

hanger go on a recon, because if there'd have been one I'd have been him."

"Yeah," he nodded earnestly, "you can't do it. You just can't. There're too many immediate action drills and procedures that they know from working closely together. Just the wink of an eye, or maybe two winks, means to do something; a straphanger out there would be completely lost. The first thing you know, you're givin' him OJT in the field."

We talked for a while about Delta recon training. I asked if Delta had used the Recondo School. No, their training was different.

"How was it different?" I asked.

"Well, for one thing, in Delta, if you got assigned and were okayed to go to recon, then those were the people you trained with."

"Did the teams have control over their own training?" I asked.

"No, it was closely monitored by my staff. When we had training, we had training. There was no leeway in it. It was very disciplined, and it followed lesson plans, and all the lesson plans were revised to include subjects that were learned in the field from previous recon experience."

"And when they finished, the guys on the team all knew the same thing. If a new man joined the team and he had to be trained, then they all went through it with him, whether they had been through it 10 times or one time, which means that the recipient of the training was getting the advantage of that training plus the experience of the other guys in the team who had had that training and put it to use in the field."

"So instead of one instructor for 10 guys, it worked the other way."

"Right! Everybody was working to train that one man, but they also were going through it themselves. That's the concept we used and it seemed to work okay."

Then we got into operational aspects.

"This is what I considered a perfect recon team mission," Allen said. He started to grin. His grin is kind of lopsided; he has a chipped tooth and his eyes glitter. "We had information that NVA were moving down. We had a pretty hot area where we had just pulled that Blackjack Operation [30-day mobile guerrilla-force operation in NVA territory, conducted by the II Corps Mike Force]. You remember Clyde Sincere [II Corps Mike Force commander]? He had that operation that caught a short bomb and his Montagnard troops got spooked — bad Buddha. They turned on the Americans and we had to pull 'em out. There was no question that there were a lot of people out there in the bushes. So we put in a recon team



with three Americans and four Vietnamese."

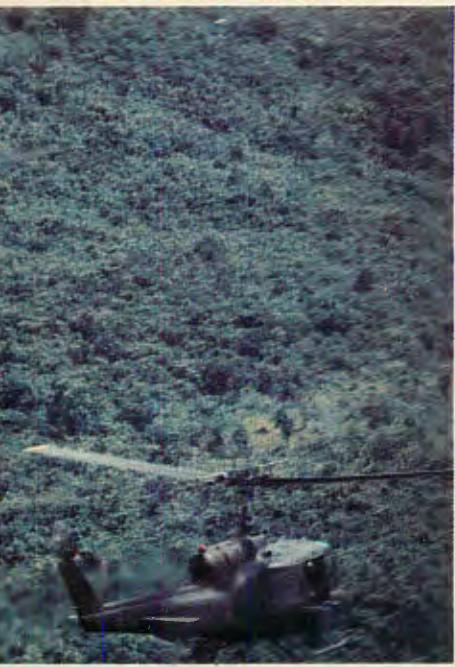
"Why three Americans — didn't you usually use two?"

"Well," he replied, "we liked to use three. Using two Americans is tough because if one got hit we only had one to carry him out. We couldn't, in all cases, expect to get that kind of cooperation out of our brothers over there. They'd take care of themselves, but if an American got hit, they wouldn't worry too much about it. With the three-man team, if one guy got hit, you'd have two Americans to care for him and carry him out."

"So we picked an area that we knew was a natural route — by route I mean sloping ground: not open territory, but along a stream bed or an old road or something. It was part of what everybody called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which was probably 50 miles wide. People think it was a little concrete walkway through the woods."

"We picked this area because intelligence indicated that there were good-sized units coming in there. I had some that specifically pinpointed that area. We used the normal team procedure: went in at last light, and put the team in. They moved a hundred yards or so that night, into a deep bamboo thicket, and dug in to bed down for the night."

"At first light, the team leader called in and gave us his location so we knew exactly where he was. And about that time he heard a lot of voices. He sent one of the guys to peek out of this bamboo grove and, there, not a hundred yards away, across this little stream and under the trees, was what looked to be a battalion, weapons all neatly stacked, and they're getting up and starting their little fires to cook their rice."



**ABOVE:** Flight of "Huey" helicopters fires 2.75-Inch rockets at communist positions near South Vietnam's border with Laos.

**BELOW:** Secondary explosions from communist ammo dump triggered by a B-52 "Arc-Light" mission. Photos: Edward Rasen



"And the next thing you knew there was normal military activity taking place. The first sergeant got out in front and started yelling, kicking ass and taking names."

"By this time, my team leader was about to wet his pants; this is a storybook situation, and with this particular operation everything right that could happen happened. He got back to the TOC [Tactical Operations Cen-

ter] radio relay. We put in an air request right away. It just so happened there was a flight of 105s coming back from up north on a Rolling Thunder mission. They'd hit bad weather up there at first light, so they couldn't expend. They were coming back hot. They had full loads on."

"We put a request in. They were turned over to us immediately. It was really too quick even to get a FAC [Forward Air Controller] out there. In the meantime, this battalion started taking their jackets off and lining up in a PT formation; dress right, cover down, you know."

"And then, by god, they started doing exercises, regular military exercises. Well, what happened is that the team leader was given instructions to let his smoke go, and make it. And as I say, everything happened — timing on it couldn't have been better planned if a genius had done it. They threw the smoke, did a 180 and started making it back. And about the time the smoke popped, here came the jets in on short final, the smoke coming up through the trees."

"The team's last report said there was some scurrying around over there; jets came in at treetop level and salvo-dropped everything they had. The entire PT formation was engulfed in napalm and 500 pounders. They would not go back over to do a bomb-damage assessment. We sent the Nung platoon."

"That was your bomb-assessment platoon?"

"Yeah, that was the BDA team, because I always felt that if I had a Nung platoon out there, they would do what they were told by their American leaders — if they were separated on the ground and gave any intelligence at all back to the adviser, we could believe what they said."

"And, of course, we commanded the Nungs. We did not command the ARVN. We were advisers to them. But the Nungs — we paid 'em, we fed 'em, we commanded 'em. They were just like another troop. So we sent the BDA platoon back in later that afternoon, after we got the team out. That team was on the ground probably 14 or 15 hours at the most. In the morning, they were probably on the ground and working for an hour."

"We have no way of knowing how many we cooked, but the indications were that hundreds were killed. It's a fluke, I guess — that things fell together and that there happened to be a flight of Tac Air available right at the moment we asked for it, and that the request was approved immediately. The flight came in right as the smoke popped, and they were right on target."

"When we sent the Nungs back in, we found burnt weapons and uniforms. We didn't find many bodies —

a lot of them had been taken. We didn't think it was wise to go searching the whole valley for them. But we did find indications of a lot of deaths: arms hanging in trees and that kind of stuff."

"That was one of our main missions: to find something and bring smoke in on 'em, because we always operated out of artillery range, except when the Cav had their eight-inchers out there."

## Changes And Corrections

I poured myself another cup and said, "That was the perfect recon, but it wasn't always like that. I remember that when the Project started, the Americans didn't even go out. Let's see. The Project existed for about six years, from '65 to what — '70, '71?"

"Yeah," Allen replied, "for a long time it was just a base for training Vietnamese in certain operations. It wasn't an operational unit. It was the old stigma of having the Vietnamese in command, not being able to fly the American flag in the compound, being the adviser and all that stuff."

"The sophistication I talked about before, that we built into it, came from the fact that I required the 281st to be in direct support and actually attached to us. We almost made them part of the Project, you know. They wore tiger suits and they wore the Delta triangles. We required that the Air Force guys move down there and be part of the unit: get to know the guys and live with us, right in the compound. We had Marines in there too, the strategic communications group that ran the scramblers and stuff between us and III MAF were attached to us and lived with us. Some of those Marines were with Project Delta for nine months. We required that they be part of the unit. They trained with the unit; everybody did. It was one unit, not just a conglomeration of attached units."

"And, as such, we actually commanded the unit — before, all operations had to be commanded and okayed by the Vietnamese counterpart, which would plan an operation to get the least contact. When we were holding the hammer there, we controlled everything that ran the operation: money for the compound, gas for the trucks ('Use my jeep, Thieu Ta, if you want to go out tonight'), ammunition, air strikes, air support. We had a hammer so we could say if we want to fly the American flag we will fly it. We plan an operation, and if you want to come along you can."

"In fact, during my tenure there we did run one or two operations where we left the Vietnamese in the compound. We caught all kinds of hell about it though."

"But the one time we did that, it was just a matter of survival. It was the Tet offensive. I sent my teams over to Nha Trang to get some people out of trouble: they got caught in some houses over there, so we sent some men over to get them to bring our own people home, y'know?"

"You guys had the plushest setup: your garrison facilities there, your compound, that NCO club, all that stuff you had going in there when I left. You know you had that big, padded Delta-shaped bar in the NCO club, and you had your rock garden in the officers' club, and the fountains and the paintings..."

Allen smiled at the memory. If Delta had lived a spartan existence in the field, its garrison facilities had been *La Dolce Vita*. "I would hate to say how much money went into that compound. A lot of it, of course, was material that was procured down at Cam Ranh Bay. We had a couple of NCOs who'd go down there and take paint and a stencil with them and walk into the truck park where all the new trucks were. They'd stencil the bumper numbers on the truck and get in it and drive home, but only after they'd taken it to some other depot and filled it with air conditioners, cement, tin roofing, or whatever we needed. The stuff was readily available. It was there for the asking, so to speak, so we took advantage of it."

## Going A Little Too Far

"The hot rumor when I left was that you were going to build yourselves an Olympic-size swimming pool so you wouldn't have to go the two miles to the beach for scuba and small-boat training. Did you ever get it built?"

Allen leaned forward. "Well, we had all the equipment — cement, steel rebars and we'd purchased the diving board in Hong Kong. We had everything we needed to put the pool in, including the tile. We had the hole dug right out behind the mess hall. Then somebody thought that was going a little too far in a war zone, so we had to trade off what we had."

"The sad thing about it all was that the day after the Project closed and they turned it over to the Vietnamese, they came through and ripped it apart, pulled the plumbing out of the walls — ruined it in one day. They tore the buildings down, sold the lumber, the tin and everything. About the only thing that I salvaged out of it was — do you remember the brass plaque on the pole in the officers' club: it said, 'The Ether Zone, built by the Officers of Project Delta,' and listed them all? That was mysteriously sent to me in a package about five years ago. I really

don't know who got it or how, but it showed up in my mailbox one day with a note that said, 'Bruiser, if anybody should have this, you should.' Signed 'A Friend.' I have it at home in my bar.

"Our concept required that everybody give in the field. It was easy to say, 'Give me your all,' because when we got back to camp it was, 'Don't give me anything. Take it easy; enjoy yourself. Have fun today, because tomorrow you're going back at it again.' I think a lot of them lived like it was their last day on earth. They had parties — we provided the best in food, the best in entertainment. We had the best morale of anybody around anywhere..."

"That's right," I agreed. "Your guys were superstars, the best individual soldiers in Vietnam."

"They knew it too."

"When you think about it, it was really a super military organization. There you were, a major, and you had an American Air Force lieutenant colonel and Vietnamese lieutenant colonel working for you."

Allen chuckled, "Hangin' around anyway."

"At one time you even had a Marine Corps major general working for you."

"Yeah," Allen replied. "Jesus, that was surprising. General Anderson. He reported in and said, 'Major, I'm op-con to you and you do what you want with me. I'm here to help you. General Cushman said to give you every bit of support we've got. So you have the 1st Marine Air Wing at your disposal.' He said it kind of jokingly, but he played the game. General Anderson moved right into the TOC with us and stayed there about two days. He slept and ate with us; he was one of the boys, and one hell of a help. Because, migod, we must have used a hundred-and-some odd sorties during that operation."

We broke it up about 10:30 that night. Allen's wife had called to say that the war was over and his supper was waiting.

The next morning, he picked me up in his new car. He is the only man I know who makes a Mark IV look like a Toyota. We started talking about awards and decorations and, in illustrating a point about impact awards, Allen told me one of the few combat stories that has raised the hair on the back of my neck.

"Coffey? You remember Ed Coffey, coffee-colored Coffey?"

"Yeah, I think so. He was a kind of skinny, good-looking guy, and he really was coffee-with-cream colored?"

"Weapons man. He was with me at Khe Sanh." (Allen commanded the first USASF A Team at Khe Sanh in 1963.) "He was with me several

places, including here at Bragg.

"Coffey was on the ground with a Ranger Company; he was a Ranger adviser. They got into all kinds of hell; they probably got inside of two or three battalions. They had gone up a long L-shaped ridge and made contact and then were gonna come down the remainder of this ridge into low ground where we could pick 'em up, to get them out of there. And they ran into more.

"So we started putting air strikes in, which were very effective, because the lower portions of both sides were manioc fields, and you could see them running around there, all over the place.

"We put in god knows how many flights — cleaned off the bottom portion of this ridge and the spine and



the entire top portion. And in the meantime, Coffey and his crew cleared an LZ on a little saddle, and then we started taking them out. We probably had everybody out except 15 or 20 people.

"And do you remember Herb Siugzda? On Okinawa he was a real wild cook; he was Lithuanian or something like that. He came to Delta as a cook, but ended up later in recon. He got wounded two or three times, pretty badly — jumped out of a chopper one time, right into a pungi, one of the big ones, that came up through his nuts and into his stomach. They put him on a hospital ship for three months, and he came back to Delta and begged me to let him go back out on patrol.

So we got him retrained, and god-damn, he wasn't on the ground five minutes before he caught one right in the middle of the chest. He was on the ground 20 minutes. After he got back from that one, he was medevackeded home.

"Anyway, we'd got 'em down to probably 15 or 20 people on the ground: Coffey and Siugzda and the little guy who helped you with Link. You remember?"

"Merriman?"

"Yeah, Merriman. Siugzda was on the radio and Merriman was there with them. A chopper came in to pick up the next-to-the-last load. Just before it came in, Coffey got hit in the back of the neck with an AK round. It tore his jaw completely off — everything was gone, just a big gaping hole here." Chuck made a motion with his hand that swept his jaw away.

"The ship came in and settled down. Then, about the time the troops were loading into the ship, Charlie stood up about 20 yards away with an AK leveled down on the pilot, but before he could fire, Coffey saw him. Coffey was all — you know — field packs and dressings around his head and everything. But he grabbed his weapon and sat up and shot the guy dead.



Maj. Chuck Allen (pointing to map) and SFC Gary Stedman of Delta Project brief Lt. Gen. William B. Rosson, Commander First Field Force, and Maj. Gen. Bassanti, 101st Airborne Division Commander, on plans for Delta operation.

"Okay, that ship got out. Every ship that went in and came out of that LZ that day came out with holes in it — many holes. We lost two or three of them that day. We got the crews all out, but we lost the ships.

"I think that was the last slick we had available, so we had to wait for a couple more to come back before we could get the last crew out. All this time we had gunships working the perimeters of the LZ, and of course we had air strikes going in as they became available, and FACs to direct them in. All this time Coffey is directing air strikes, by pad.

"And Siugzda was talking to me. I was concerned about Coffey, because we'd been close. Needless to say, we didn't get any ships back. The LZ started getting a lot hotter and there were only about four or five of them left on the ground. So we went in and picked them up on the C-and-C ship. Took a couple holes in it as I recall."

Allen looked pained, telling me this

part; he didn't want to be building himself up as a hero. He wanted to tell me how great his guys were, so I mentally multiplied his "couple holes" by a factor of about 30. "It was a normal thing that happens. If it doesn't hit anybody, fine. It's no big thing." He shrugged.

Sure, Chuck.

"Well, we got Coffey in and back over to Da Nang to the hospital. This was when I learned about him shooting that NVA. So I told him I was awarding him an interim Silver Star on the spot. And I told him that I would personally guarantee that he got that or higher. We landed on the chopper pad at the hospital in Da Nang.

"The doctor on the C team there was a very dedicated Green Beret. They got Coffey onto a stretcher, but by the time they got him into the room he was dead.

"I think he may have died in the chopper, lying across my lap.

"That was one time I made an award that I really wasn't authorized to.

"I subsequently found out, within 20 minutes or so, that when they checked Coffey, they found he'd been shot in the back: it went directly through the heart and came out the front. There was a hole in his chest you could put your fist in. But only the guys on the ground had noticed that, because it looked like the blood and stuff from his chin had dripped down. The doctor told me he just couldn't understand or explain how in the world Coffey could have lived as long as he did.

"And apparently this shot through the heart was from the same burst as the one that hit him in the neck and took his jaw off, because there were no other times he could have been hit."

That was when the hair raised on the back of my neck. Because that doctor was right — there was no physical way the man could have survived. He did that on spirit. General Cushman called it the Ether Zone, but he just as well could have said the Twilight Zone.

"We subsequently put Coffey in for the Medal of Honor, because the fact was that he'd taken two rounds, either one of which was a fatal wound. I think the final award that he got was the DSC, posthumous DSC. We resubmitted for consideration, but it never came.

"Because of the repercussions over that one, I decided that, by god, when someone did something I thought was of value, I'd award them on the spot."

"How about unit awards?"

"The Marines were fairly instrumental in giving Delta some credit that was due."

"What all did you get?"

"We got two Presidential units, an Army meritorious, the Army valorous unit award and the Navy valorous unit award, a Marine-initiated thing. We got the Vietnamese unit award, Cross of Gallantry with palm. We got two of those, and whatever else. I don't know. There were a bunch of them. They were all earned, I guess."

"I would say so."

"I think Delta was probably one of the most decorated units in Vietnam, as opposed to all the unit decorations the 1st Cav Division got."

"Yeah, but Delta wasn't comparable to anything else; it was just itself," I said. "You can't say it was a battalion-size unit. It doesn't really relate to the Special Forces team concept."

"The problem with being completely different is that sometimes decisions about deployment are made by staff people who can't think past the end of their SOP. And Delta ran into problems like that on more than one occasion.

"Just before I came home, they were having trouble in Saigon. The NVA took over the racetrack and were getting into downtown Saigon at night.

"This was much later than Tet. It's that other campaign they conducted down there. Someone at 5th Group got the idea that recon teams would be great in house-to-house fighting."

"Say ----- what?"

"You heard me right. And Ken Nau-man went down as task force commander because he was going to be the XO of Delta. Bob Mays was to be commander. He took over from me.

"They went down and camped at the racetrack outside of Saigon, and proceeded to have five or six Vietnamese teams wasted immediately, in downtown house-to-house fighting. It was really sad. Fact is, they lost three or four Americans in that operation down there. It was really bad. I sat there in our compound for four or five days waiting for our flight, reading the Op reports at night. And goddamn, I just cried. I couldn't believe it. They lost these Americans in the first three or four days down there. It was a damn shame."

"I don't know who made the decision . . . It was just a misuse. I don't know how long they stayed there. I went home broken hearted, you know."

He grinned sardonically when he said it, the old Chuck Allen grin. He didn't look broken hearted; he looked like a man who has accomplished his mission. He looked triumphant, as always.

# MEET ME IN SCOTTSDALE



**Cammie  
Dimitro**

**SOF's Convention  
Greeter**

## **CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

- All three matches are IPSC sanctioned.
- The Assault Rifle Match will also be recognized as the First IPSC National Practical Rifle Championship.
- All individuals interested in competing, send resumes to SOF Convention Director. Competitors will be selected by committee.

**photo by  
Ron Harris**



# Fellow Adventurers!

You are cordially invited to the



## SECOND ANNUAL

# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE CONVENTION

17-20 September 1981

Scottsdale, Arizona

The SOF CONVENTION is being held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual SOF Invitational Combined Shooting Championship — a shotgun, pistol and assault-rifle combat shoot to pick the top all-around combat marksman in the United States. One hundred and fifty top shooters will compete, by invitation only, for over \$20,000 in prize money, guns and gear.

The theme of the convention will be "A Salute to Vietnam Veterans." The Colonel "Bull" Simons Memorial Award will be dedicated to all Vietnam veterans and will be accepted for them by a Medal of Honor winner. The keynote speaker for the banquet will be selected at a later date. Once again, cammies or police or military uniforms will be preferred dress.

Preregistration, which closes Aug. 17, is \$75. For those who register after 0900 Aug. 17, the fee will be \$100. Fee includes: (1) Banquet (2) Transportation to all events (3) Convention T-shirt (4) Admission to exhibition hall, Invitational Match, all demonstrations, outstanding action movies, Vietnam Art Exhibit, cocktail hour and all seminars.

Seminars will include: Special Operations Group in Vietnam, presented by vets who conducted cross-border operations in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam; POW/MIA; Police Survival; Desert Survival/Escape & Evasion; Survival Medicine & Gunshot Wounds; Russian Small-Unit Tactics & Weapons; plus others on Southern Africa, Central America and Afghanistan.

### CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Current or previous military  
or police affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I'm coming to the 2nd Annual SOF Convention, check enclosed for:

Convention Registration (\$75): \_\_\_\_\_

1st Airborne Jump Fee, qualified jumpers only (\$25): \_\_\_\_\_

1st Airborne Jump School, includes one jump (\$95): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Or, please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Master Charge \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed information on courses preceding the conference, which are scheduled for 12-16 September, will be mailed directly to persons who indicate an interest in attending by checking the corresponding box(es):  Combat Pistolcraft;  Assault Rifle;  Combat Shotgun;  Desert Survival/Escape & Evasion;  Survival Medicine/Combat Wounds;  5,000-Meter Combat Run & Shoot (date not set).

MAIL TO: SOF Convention, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306

A limited number of display tables for exhibitors and manufacturers will be available (first-come, first-served). Interested parties contact SOF Exhibit Coordinator (303) 449-3750 immediately for space reservations and further information.

Room assignments at the Headquarters Hotels will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Rooms will cost \$30 per night, single or double occupancy, in the Radisson and \$35 per night, single or double occupancy, in the Sheraton.

Hotel reservations will be handled by Jeana Nugent of The Meeting Planners and Miles Travel (see hotel-reservation form below). Miss Nugent will also handle pre- and post-convention travel for those who desire it.

Preceding the convention, SOF is also offering a limited number of spaces — on a first-come, first-served basis — in the following courses running from 0800 12 September to 1700 16 September: (1) Combat Pistolcraft (2) Assault Rifle (3) Combat Shotgun (4) Desert Survival/Escape & Evasion (5) Survival Medicine and Combat Wounds (6) 5,000-Meter Combat Run & Shoot.

Costs for courses, and cost and prizes for the 5,000-Meter Combat Run & Shoot, will be determined later. All convention activities are tentative.

Do not delay! Fill out the convention-registration and hotel-reservation forms below and mail them to their respective addresses today!

### HOTEL REGISTRATION

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### HOTEL CHOICE

1. Radisson Scottsdale (conventioneers),  
\$30 per night,  
single or double occupancy: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sheraton Scottsdale (shooters & conventioneers),  
\$35 per night,  
single or double occupancy: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_

If hotel requested is not available, nearest available hotel will be assigned. Rates are subject to applicable taxes. Rooms confirmed only with a check for the first night or American Express card number. Make checks payable to preferred hotel. Registrants will be charged for the first night if reservations are not cancelled at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

AMEX No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

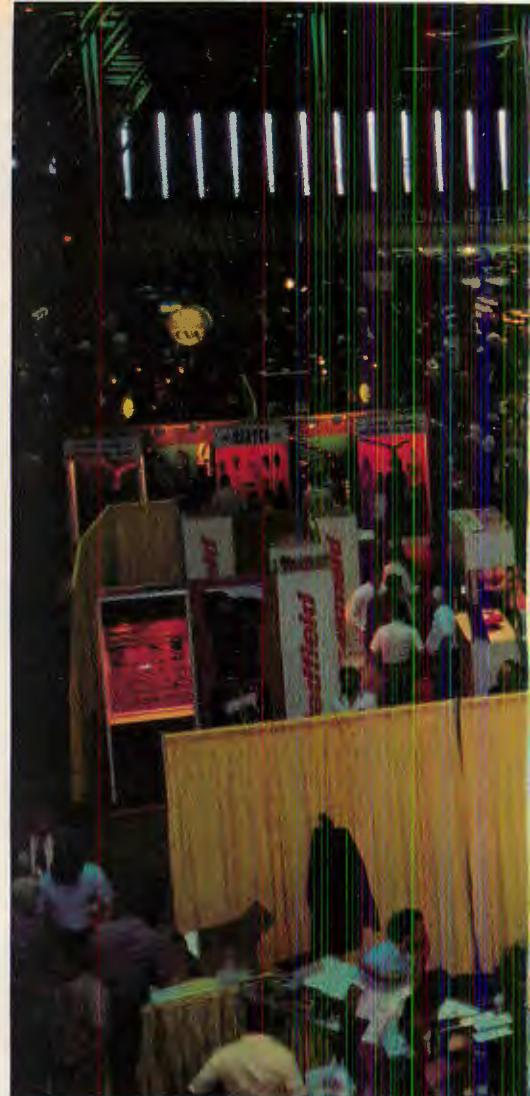
MAIL TO: Jeana Nugent, The Meeting Planners and Miles Travel, 5656 East Orange Blossom, Phoenix, AZ 85018. (Special group airfares may also be available through Miss Nugent. Call 602-231-0200.)



# 1981 NRA CONVENTION

## Old Guard vs. The New Wave

by Bob Poos



UPPER LEFT: SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown (right) examines one of the two rifles Winchester has issued honoring John Wayne. This one is the gold-etched frame "Duke," which will sell for \$2,225. BELOW: Small group of protestors at NRA Annual Meeting in Denver. Throng included both pro- and anti-gun people. Most carried placards calling for strict gun control but others bore pro-gun slogans. One young man had a sign saying: "Hitler Had Gun Control."

ABOVE: Herds of NRA conventioners wander the display area at Denver's Currigan Hall, examining firearms and related equipment. Photos: John Metzger.

LOWER LEFT: Detonics' new .451 magnum pistol with 3½" barrel. Photo: Jay Lawless.





THE National Rifle Association's Old Guard tangled with its New Wave at this year's annual NRA meeting and, when smoke drifted away from the shootout at Denver's Currigan Hall, the score stood Old Guard: 0, New Wave: 8.

For those not conversant with the Machiavellian maneuvering that goes on behind the scenes among NRA bigshots, the Old Guard was (and is) a group calling itself the NRA Patriots, and its opposition goes under the name Federation for NRA.

In 1977, the people who now compose the Federation managed to institute a number of "reforms" at the convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Basically, these moves — which the Patriots do not consider "reforms" — took power from a small group of NRA bigwigs, who had wielded it for years, and put NRA policies more under direction of NRA Life Members who are permitted to vote in the annual elections.

Basic NRA policy is the issue. The Patriot's approach is that the Association should not become officially involved with national, state and local political issues and personalities and revert to being a loose confederation of shooting clubs and outdoor-sports interest organizations. The Federation was (and is) eager to enter the political arena, campaigning for or against elected officials — or those who

would be — and opposing what it considers anti-gun legislation.

For many years, the NRA would not admit that it played any formal political role at all, other than appealing to its membership through NRA's official journal, *The American Rifleman*, to write their elected representatives stating their opinions on gun legislation.

The NRA used this device often and effectively as a political tool. It was a more subtle approach than employing lobbyists but not as effective as the well-organized efforts of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (ILA).

The Federation saw nothing at all wrong with lobbying (after all, every other special-interest group in the country does it) and, indeed, taking the hard-sell approach: actively supporting pro-gun candidates and opposing the others, and fighting anti-gun legislation from the moment of its introduction in state or federal legislatures.

So ILA became sort of an arm of the NRA, although one regarded with much distaste by the Old Guard. Most of ILA's budget came from donations. The NRA even charged ILA rent prior to 1977 for offices used in its black-marble edifice on Rhode Island Avenue in Washington, D.C.

But the ILA, headed by a likeable man

named Neal Knox, was so effective in defeating or revising anti-gun legislation and electing or defeating candidates based on their gun-control platforms, that it won much approval and popularity among the vast majority of NRA members.

So this year's convention promised to resemble something like the gunfight at the OK Corral. But when it was all over, the Federation held roughly the same position as the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday in Tombstone, with the Patriots occupying the Clantons' role.

At issue were a number of proposed changes in NRA bylaws and the length of the NRA's Executive Vice-President's term in office. One key bylaw amendment was proposed by the California Rifle & Pistol Assn. (read that Old Guard) to return election of the EVP to the NRA Board of Directors, thus removing it from direct membership election. The Federation's opposition forces included two Congressmen, both powerful members of the board: John Dingell (D-Mich.) and John Ashbrook (R-Ohio). Needless to say, the Federation prevailed.

Federation forces triumphed on six other issues of lesser import, and a number of others did not even reach the floor, when someone made a motion to

*Continued on page 91*



Inspection of the troops in border camp. Company Commander "Pecos Bill" stands front and center in cammies.

# A DAY WITH THE SOF Staffer V Cam

**S**CATTERED along the borders of El Salvador and Honduras are 6,000 former Nicaraguan National Guard troops. To the south, they face a worried Sandinista army that is so fearful of the exiles that the Marxist government in Managua has recently called up 100,000 militia to reinforce troops presently guarding the country's shaky borders.

Commanding the ex-Guardsmen is a Spanish-born Nicaraguan bearing the *nom de guerre*, "Juan Carlos." Because of SOF's policy of getting firsthand looks at hot-zone areas, I flew to Honduras for a personal meeting with Juan Carlos, *Jefe de los Chacales* (Commander of the Jackals) — the name given the exiles by the communist government of Nicaragua.

After landing at Tegucigalpa's airport, I was met by the commander and a bodyguard detail of eight men. Their weapons were a mixed bag of 9mm Stars, Colt .45s and .45-caliber SMGs. As I was soon to discover, the gun-toters weren't there for show.

Tegucigalpa is heavily infiltrated by Sandinista agents; their chief recruiter for local Marxist sympathizers is a high official at the national university. Given that type of political climate, it follows that Juan Carlos is a walking target every time he steps outside his headquarters.

After a thorough and efficient customs and immigration check, we left the terminal and walked to several vehicles,

waiting to take us to the command post.

Security for Juan Carlos is a deadly serious business.

His personnel are methodical, professional and experts at their trade. Any Sandinista "hit team" will earn its money the hard way — and spend it in hell — if it tries to take out the Jackals' commander. The ride to the exiles' command post was one of repeated double-backs, turns and evasive procedures to ensure there was no tail.

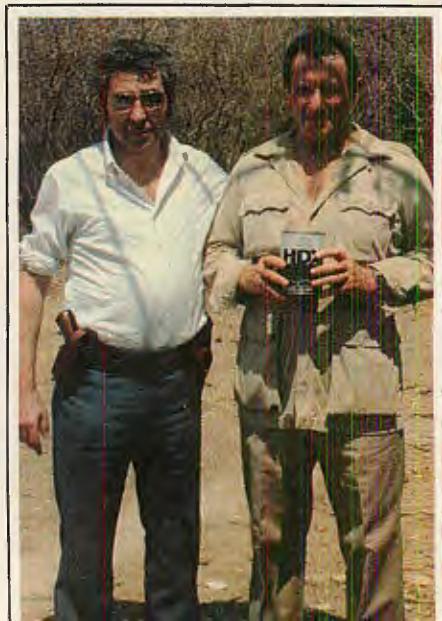
The CP itself was as heavily guarded as the presidential palace, and it was obvious that guards had been selected with extreme care. Once inside the building, no time was wasted in presenting the "G" staff to me and getting briefings under way. I wasn't surprised to find that all of the staff were graduates of either Ft. Benning, Ft. Bragg or the Jungle Warfare School in the Canal Zone.

Symbols on a wall-size sit map indicated operations carried out by the exiles against Sandinista units inside Nicaragua. The amount of combat intelligence concerning the presence of Cuban and Soviet personnel within Nicaragua was impressive indeed; in one area alone there were 4,500

Juan Carlos (left) and author with old oil can he used as canteen.

## SOF Staffer V Camp Nicaragua

Text & Photos by Maj.





# 'HE JACKALS

## Visits Guerrilla Camp on an Border

L.H. "Mike" Williams



Cuban troops — not to mention many Soviet technicians overseeing the operation of three gold mines which exported the bullion to Cuba on daily flights.

Juan Carlos arranged for me to stay the night with the family of a local businessman — also a Nicaraguan exile. The *comandante* left two armed guards with me. They were assigned to patrol the grounds until daylight.

Tegucigalpa has a rather peculiar custom when armed guards patrol private homes. Sentries arrive after dark and immediately establish their presence by cranking off several rounds into the air. This lets the police — and any itinerant stroller in the area — know that the property has firepower available. Until one gets used to this system, a visitor's first night is liable to feature spasmodic rollings-out-of-bed, clutching a borrowed .38, and repeated glimpses through window curtains of dark figures banging away at the moon.

The second day got off to an early start with a series of meetings with local businessmen, mostly Nicaraguan exiles. Juan Carlos took great pride in introducing me as concrete evidence that not all *gringos*

**Army of National Liberation** staff member trains soldiers in martial arts at training camp inside Nicaragua.

agreed with the Carter administration's sell-out of Central America to Fidel Castro and his Soviet masters. Although the meetings lasted until late in the afternoon, it was decided to push on that night, rather than schedule an early-morning departure for the bush. The reason given was simple — and very much in keeping with the type of commander Juan Carlos represents: he had sent word to the troops that we would arrive on that same night — and arrive we would, regardless of the hour.

As we rattled along Tegucigalpa's crazy-quilt streets, our headlights picked up red-painted slogans daubed on walls, including FSLN (Sandinista Front for National Liberation), Communist Party of Honduras and six-foot-high hammer-and-sickle emblems.

As I had in El Salvador, in November 1979 (see "El Salvador: The Next Domino," SOF, April '80), I noticed police units guarding public buildings. The carbines carried by the sentries tracked any suspect vehicle. Definitely not the place for any wild driving.

After clearing the outskirts of town, we began the trip to base camp in earnest. Hour after hour passed, our vehicles lurching from one pothole to another in a nonstop series of bone-bruising, teeth-rattling jolts. It reminded me of "Mine Alley" in Rhodesia — the 90-mile stretch between Rutenga and Nyala.

Covered by a thick coat of white dust that boiled up from miles of dirt road, we accorded along in convoy, avoiding goats, trucks and wildly careening buses — some bearing "Mi Esperanza" (My Hope) in garish letters — and skidded around hairpin curves hacked from the sides of a mountain range.

Along the roadside, sellers of trinkets and bottles of rum appeared, holding aloft wildly flapping chickens. Kamikaze-like, these salesmen darted in and out of onrushing traffic, shouting curses at the stream of unwilling buyers.

As we neared the Nicaraguan border, police-manned roadblocks loomed ahead. At the first checkpoint, we slowed to a stop, waiting for a signal from the guard to move up. Security personnel were checking vehicles for contraband weapons. Despite an overall impression of disorganized chaos, there was, nevertheless, highly effective control of vehicle movement. It was apparent that any sudden attempt on the part of a driver to evade the searchers would be met with immediate automatic-weapons fire from police and infantry standing nearby.

When I asked Juan Carlos about the origin of the weapons being sought, he laughed and replied, "From Fidel in Havana to Managua, then through Honduras — by this road — to the Sandinistas in El Salvador." The vehicle ahead of us was finally cleared and it was our turn.

## Politics And Observations

"*Buenas noches!*" The guard poked his head in the window, checking the occupants in the cab and their hands. Satisfied, he waved us on our way. Several meters ahead, we slowed again to pass through a cordon of troops.

After more hours dragged by, the lead vehicle turned off the main highway onto a narrow, rutted dirt road that led to a cluster of small, darkened houses set well back in the trees.

"*Aquí estamos,*" said Juan Carlos as he crawled out of the jeep, motioning me to follow him. As we walked toward one of the houses, I noticed a group of about 15 locals standing in the shadows, talking and smoking. The occasional flare of a match reflected off submachine-gun barrels.

The Jackal commander spent several minutes exchanging greetings with a welcoming committee before the assembly broke up into groups of twos and threes, allowing us to file into a crowded living room. Inside the house, I felt a noticeable lack of warmth on the part of some of the locals. Adjacent to the living room, a long, narrow veranda was rapidly filling with people. Chairs were produced, cigars were lit and everyone except Juan Carlos took seats.



Makeshift hospital in courtyard for wounded NLA troops.

As he surveyed the crowd, the babble of conversation ceased and faces turned toward him. "The American is here as an observer interested in helping the anti-Sandinista forces fight the Marxist government now ruling in Nicaragua." Silence followed his words and all heads turned to me.

"I'm here — as the *comandante* said — strictly as a military observer to evaluate your needs. In no way am I interested in politics of any kind," I said, looking from one hard brown face to another. The hard brown face on my left rose — and kept rising. It was attached to a six-foot, four-inch, 260-pound body.

The face spoke. "We're going to talk politics whether you like it or not!" He put a Czech SMG on the table in front of him.

I looked up at him, then down at the Czech piece resting on the greasy tablecloth. I nodded in agreement: "Yes, I think we should talk politics."

While I was being agreeable, I was also easing the borrowed .38 out of my waistband, hiding it under the table and steadyng it on my right knee — the muzzle pointed at the speaker's family jewels. If there was going to be any vigorous disagreement, I was damned well going to make sure that the six-foot four-inch "disagree" would be speaking as a boy soprano the second he moved the muzzle of his little Czech toy in my direction.

"We are all Nicaraguans!" he thundered, face flushed as he settled into his monologue. For 30 minutes I got the full treatment — Central American politics with a vengeance.

Near the end of the diatribe, Juan Carlos' G-3 — a bearded, barrel-chested major — cut in and stated flatly, "We have troops waiting."

Chairs scraped. I replaced my revolver and joined the mob as it spilled out of the house into the street where jeeps were be-

ing fired up, preparatory to another ball-busting trip on back roads.

If the road from Tegucigalpa had been rough, the overgrown goat trail to the base camp was a disaster. Dry streambeds, rock slides, potholes the size of truck tires and chunks of gouged earth made the jaunt memorable.

After 45 minutes of eating dust, we turned into a fenced entrance. On the other side of the gate, twin ruts led off into heavy bush swallowed up by blackness. Passing through the gate, the convoy finally bounced to a halt.

"This way!" called Juan Carlos, walking toward deeper blackness that turned into the upper slopes of a steep embankment. The bobbing flashlight he carried cast a minimum of light, and I kept close on his heels to avoid missing the trail and landing on my head at the bottom of the ravine.

A short distance down the embankment, our progress was halted by perimeter-security personnel, each carrying a pump gun with 00 loads — a wise choice considering the type of terrain surrounding us.

## Base Camp In The Bush

More bush-bashing: We slid, stumbled and ducked our way through heavy branches that swallowed the narrow trail. The thickets opened suddenly and the shielded glow from several flashlights revealed portions of a sizable clearing. Drawn up in four ranks were troops of the Army of National Liberation — Juan Carlos' people.

At a shouted command, the company was brought to attention and presented arms to the *comandante* as he stepped forward into the dim light, facing the troops.

In the background, I noticed the man who had delivered the harangue back at the house. He didn't have to wait long before his political arguments received an official answer.



The company commander faced the ranks and shouted, "Who feeds and clothes you?"

"Juan Carlos!" they roared in unison.  
"Whose troops are you?"

"Juan Carlos!" came the response, louder than the first.

"Are you politicians or soldiers?"

"Soldiers of the Army of National Liberation! Viva Juan Carlos!" The roar shook the thickets. There was no doubt as to where the troops' loyalty lay.

A brief speech by Carlos was followed by instructions for another formation to be held the following afternoon. At that time, I would be able to speak with the troops and answer their questions concerning possible aid from anti-communist sources in the States.

After dismissal, some of the troops filed past, shaking hands with Juan Carlos and me; there was nothing forced about their enthusiasm. One captain summed it up, saying, "We belong to you *gringos*; you trained us, taught us U.S. tactics and made us into the best damned army in Central America." He laughed and shook his head, "We don't blame you for that *maricon* Jimmy Carter and his pack of Marxists!"

After the last Nicaraguan had crawled into one of the battered trucks and disappeared down the dusty road, the staff drove into a nearby village where one of the many supporters of the Army of National Liberation put us up for the night. Along with the rooms came a bottle of Johnny Walker ... it was 0200 hours before dusty heads hit the pillows.

Breakfast was a half-gallon of orange juice and *huevos rancheros*. Movement during the first hour was *very slow and deliberate*. Fortunately, we heard no sudden, loud noise, and by the time we climbed shakily into the vehicles, things appeared less grim.

Juan Carlos had declared that many of his people were ill and in need of medicine, food and clothing. To verify this claim, we drove to a row of small houses in a nearby village.

A grinning covey of small children surrounded the jeeps, yelling for Juan Carlos and stretching out grimy hands for candy. One of the staff remained with them while the rest of us met the house's occupants who welcomed Juan Carlos warmly. Although only a handful of battered furniture and a series of religious objects on the walls furnished the dimly lit room, the interior of the house was spotless.

The owner shook hands with us solemnly and motioned toward the back of the house. We followed him through a door that led to a surprisingly large courtyard half-filled with men. At our appearance, they snapped to attention, broad smiles on their faces.

"*Hola, Jefe!*" One saluted Juan Carlos, who gave him an *abrazo* (hug).

Of the troops gathered around us, half needed shoes, several wore trousers that had been patched and repatched and many had only tattered, faded T-shirts on their backs. Hammocks stretched between trees held those soldiers too sick to stand.

Despite the severity of their circumstances, I heard neither complaints nor protests about the lack of food, medicine or clothing. These were disciplined troops whose pride and dignity were evident — even under conditions of poverty and near-starvation that would have triggered mass desertions in most Western armies.

"Would you try some food?" The question was accompanied by an outstretched hand that held a flour tortilla, cradling a pitiful dab of rice and beans.

I munched on the gift while Juan Carlos made the introductions. It was evident that without his help these people would starve in short order. He gave them money from his own pocket to purchase marginal supplies of flour, rice and beans (he has given more than \$900,000); there was not enough, however, for much-needed medicine and clothing.

Time was running out. We still had an hour's ride back to base camp for the inspection of additional troops. As we were leaving, a soldier lying in a hammock struggled to his feet. One foot was badly infected from a deep laceration in the instep. Balancing on his good foot, he saluted and said, "Thank you, *comandante!* Help us retake our country."

### Loyal And Professional People

On the trip back to the base camp, I had time to do some thinking — and sorting out. When it comes to guerrillas in general and exiles in particular, I am a certified cynic.

My cynicism results from one year's experience in the Chiri-San Mountains of North Korea, as a battalion commander of North Korean and Chinese regulars who had defected to the Americans after the initial attack against South Korean forces by the communists. Although I had been well-trained with 10th Special Forces

Group at Ft. Bragg, I had discovered the limitations of a partisan battalion. I felt that it would be reasonable to assume there would be similar problems with Juan Carlos' people — and I looked at them with a critical eye.

Nonetheless, several factors emerged concerning the National Liberation Army. First, troops of the NLA were totally loyal to their commander. I did not sense the forced enthusiasm or strained cheerfulness that results from direct orders to "make it look good for the visiting brass."

Secondly, I had seen their unflagging professionalism — apparent in discipline, smooth weapons handling and a lethal alertness when moving through the bush or the crowded streets of Tegucigalpa.

It was late afternoon when we began the climb down the embankment approaching the base camp. Daylight made the descent considerably easier than it had been the previous night, but the bush was still as thick and progress was slow. With the presence of light, I could evaluate individual soldiers more carefully than by the dim glow of shielded flashlights.

### Inspecting The Troops

Their median age appeared to be 25 to 30 years. Physical condition was hard as nails. One old-timer in the group appeared to be 60 or thereabouts, but my doubt of his strength or agility soon vanished when he was detailed to run up to one of the vehicles for a map: Shirt-tails flying, machete grasped in one bony fist, he darted into the bush and up the embankment like a jackrabbit.

Juan Carlos tapped me on the shoulder and asked, "How many troops did you want to see?" He glanced at the assembled company.

"No certain amount, *Jefe* ... I'm interested in physical conditioning and the supply system in general," I said.

Carlos issued an order for the G-3 to bring more troops, and runners were dispatched to the nearby town. Meanwhile, we took a look at the camp itself.

Due to security restrictions, I won't go into detail as to layout. However, despite the limited supplies at hand, the cadre had done an outstanding job: the entire area had been swept clean. The kitchen area was free from refuse, latrines were well-sited and there was an open-air classroom complete with blackboard and tree-trunk bleachers. The class in progress was devoted to Cuban infantry and small-unit tactics. The instructor was a former Guard captain trained at Bragg.

During the break I asked him if he had

Continued on page 77

# SOF Introduces . . .

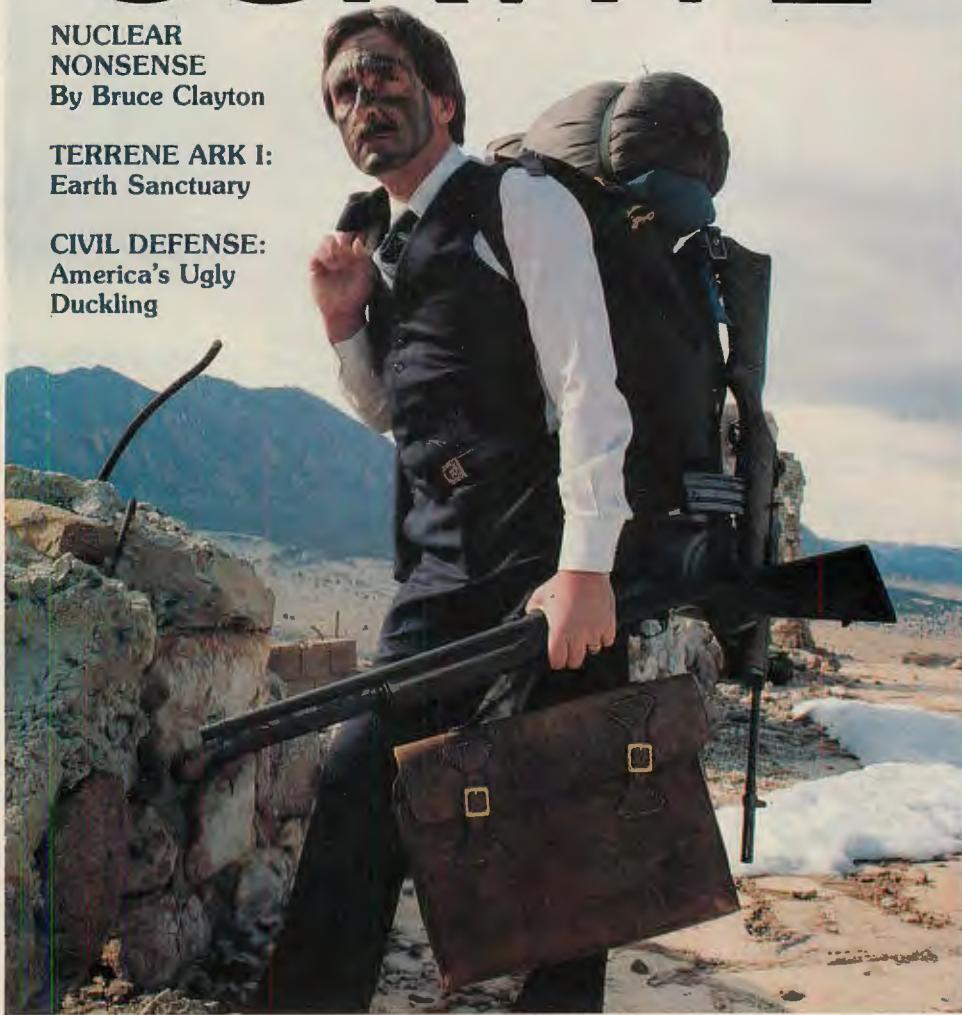
PREMIER ISSUE

# SURVIVE

NUCLEAR  
NONSENSE  
By Bruce Clayton

TERRENE ARK I:  
Earth Sanctuary

CIVIL DEFENSE:  
America's Ugly  
Duckling



***Future issues will offer you vital information on:***

- |                   |                         |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
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| • WEAPONS         | • CIVIL DEFENSE         | • NUCLEAR WARFARE | • ENERGY              |
| • URBAN SURVIVAL  | • HARD MONEY            | • MOUNTAINEERING  | • WILDERNESS SURVIVAL |
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**S**URVIVE magazine, the bold new magazine for the modern realist, was conceived to inform and inspire those determined to make the best of these troubled times.

And they are troubled, at best. News reports describe the types and numbers of troubles most of us face on a regular basis — either as individuals or as a nation. Compounding the existing problems, including a failing economy, aged national defense, racial unrest, ridiculously high crime statistics and unharmonious environment, several frightening potential hazards confront us. A realistic assessment of our current situation forces us to acknowledge that natural calamities, scarce resources (natural and processed), severe economic depression or failure, civil insurrection and foreign attack (most likely with nuclear weapons) loom as possibilities — if not probabilities.

A growing number of Americans recognize these threats and are dissatisfied with efforts to prevent or prepare for them. These survivalists, as they are called, have received a lot of attention recently. The accounts are mixed — as are the survivalists. Depictions range from armed guerrillas training in southern swamps, to Midwest working-class families storing food and water in basements or shelters, to affluent East Coast entrepreneurs exchanging money-market certificates for Krugerrands. All imply impending catastrophes.

What these accounts, and in fact the people, have in common, is the underlying belief that an individual must provide for himself and his family. Uncertain times demand self-sufficiency for survival.

SURVIVE magazine is based upon that premise. No longer can we expect — or permit — others to know and do what is best for us. When we demand less of ourselves, and become more dependent on others, we

lose the knowledge and skills required for self-sufficiency. And we lose sight of the nature and severity of the problems.

That's why SURVIVE magazine has been created — to provide regular information explaining the problems and offering solutions or alternatives. Because we believe that awareness, information and preparation are the answers to living through these times — and making the best of them.

SURVIVE will fill this information gap. It will present stories of American survivors — those who have survived disasters or those making sure that they will. The accounts are factual, instructive and entertaining. To dig out, analyze and report to you, clearly and concisely, what you need to know, we have assembled the best and brightest contributing editors in the field. They will cover the full spectrum of survivalism, especially the major problems and challenges as seen by us, other survivalists and, most importantly, you.

Sure, some of this information is available elsewhere — in dozens of books, newsletters and specialized journals. And you could ferret it out if you knew what to look for and where to find it. But you would spend innumerable hours and dollars locating the resources. And not all of them are available to you.

With our professional staff and editors, we can save you time and money and give you information you can count on and enjoy.

SURVIVE does not intend to tell you what to buy, where to go and what to think. Instead, it will give you the facts and figures so you can decide for yourself. After all, that's what survival is, isn't it? Learning to prepare yourself for the worst, while working for the best.

Photo by Jim Segerstrom

## EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Although Robert K. Brown, Editor/Publisher of SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Magazine since 1975, has primarily been interested in military matters and professional adventure, he is also deeply interested in the field of survival.

Brown, who received an M.A. in political science from the University of Colorado in 1965, spent 14 months as a volunteer with the Special Forces in Vietnam, much of it commanding a SF "A" team. From 1968 to 1975 he was involved in book publishing in Colorado. During that time he developed a strong interest in the survival movement.

He recruited, organized and led a team of paramedics to assist in the recovery efforts of the Peruvian government after the earthquake of 1970 and received a decoration for his work. The Parachute Medical Rescue Service (PMRS) evolved from this operation. This organization, of which Brown is president, has the capability of inserting qualified personnel into areas devastated by natural disasters. Brown assisted in disaster-relief efforts in Haiti following Hurricane David and in Guatemala after the 1976 earthquake.

The knowledge Brown acquired in these endeavors, plus observations about the present course of society, led him to launch SURVIVE magazine.

"I believe that everyone should be sufficiently concerned to know how to survive a crisis, whether it be a nuclear holocaust, a catastrophic social breakdown, a flat tire in the desert, or being trapped in a blizzard on a camping trip," he explained.

"Some people ridicule preparedness. Yet there exists no stone tablet on which it is indelibly written that disaster can't come to this civilization as it has come to all those which preceded us."

"Neither is there any assurance that, as individuals, we will not find ourselves needing desperately to give or receive medical attention in an emergency. When the need arises, preparedness will not seem silly."

"A wise man once said no ship puts to sea without lifeboats. SURVIVE is, in a sense, a lifeboat for the wise."



***"...the things you think you know  
nuclear war may***



## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

**DR. BRUCE CLAYTON** is a Ph.D. ecologist turned nuclear-war survival expert. He is the author of *LIFE AFTER DOOMSDAY* (Paladin Press) and *SURVIVAL BOOKS 1981* (Survival Inc.), as well as various survivalist articles in Nancy Tappan's *PERSONAL SURVIVAL LETTER*. Dr. Clayton lives in the Sierras near Yosemite National Park, and is an outspoken proponent of nuclear-war preparedness at all levels — public and private.

**WILL BROWNELL**, trained in international political affairs, is one of the leading U.S. authorities on civil defense around the world.

**MATTHEW ST. CLAIR**, a professional sailor and certified survivor by virtue of his recent hurricane adventure, lives and sails in Key West, Fla., where he plans to open a sea-survival school.

**RICK FINES** has been involved in the automotive industry in an engineering capacity since 1967 and was a former editor of *GUNS & AMMO* and contributing editor of *PERSONAL SURVIVAL LETTER*.

**DAVE GANCI**, author of *HIKING THE DESERT* and *HIKING THE SOUTHWEST* (which he is writing for the Sierra Club), is a long-time outdoor adventurer and survival-skills instructor at Arizona State University.

**JERRY POURNELLE** is no stranger to science-fiction lovers. He has written several novels, including *THE MERCENARY*, *JANISSARIES* and *KING DAVID'S SPACESHIP*, and co-authored with Larry Niven such outstanding works as *INFERNO*, *THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE* and *LUCIFER'S HAMMER*. Additionally, he has contributed to *GALAXY MAGAZINE*, *METROPOLITAN HOME*, *ANALOG* and *ONCOMPUTING*.

**ALEXANDER JASON** is a professional security consultant whose prominent clients have included FORTUNE 500 corporations and foreign governments. He also authored an intelligence manual that has been distributed to every police and sheriff's department in California.

**LARRY ZAKRESKI**, author of *THE BUDGET BACKPACKER*, is an experienced backpacker and camper from British Columbia, Canada, who has been making camping equipment for himself and others for years.

**BOB POOS**, a favorite of SOF readers, is a prize-winning journalist who spent four years in Asia as a war and foreign correspondent for the Associated Press.

Photo: Department Of Defense

**about**

**one day kill you."**

**Bruce Clayton, NUCLEAR NONSENSE**

# LOOK WHAT INFORMATIVE, LIVELY, ENTERTAINING STORIES THE PREMIER ISSUE OF SURVIVE HAS FOR YOU . . .

**LOST IN THE DESERT.** What would you do if you were stranded in a desert with little or no equipment? Could you survive? Desert survival experts, Annerino and Ganci, who have taught desert survival courses for nine years, tell you that you can — and how.

**LAST VOYAGE OF THE ISLAND PRINCESS.** Taken from the journal kept by the author, *LAST VOYAGE* recounts the last two days of the voyage of the "Island Princess", a 48-foot ketch that foundered in Hurricane Allen on 6 August 1980 between the islands of Cuba and Jamaica. A thrilling first-person survival adventure tells of their survival.



Matthew St. Clair, author of *Last Voyage of the Island Princess*. Photo by Christine Harvey.

**HOW TO DRY YOUR OWN FOOD.** In an attempt to help the readers beat the high cost of surviving, this article shows how to prepare dried foods at home.

**TERRENE ARK I: UTAH'S EARTH SANCTUARY.** "Terrene Ark I." Does that sound like some spaceship en route to a survival colony in another

galaxy? Well, it is a survival colony, but it is not in outer space. As a matter of fact, it is an earth colony — literally. Terrene Ark I is an underground condominium development launched by Survive Tomorrow, Inc. in La Verkin, Utah.

**NUCLEAR NONSENSE.** Do you believe that a nuclear war between the U.S. and USSR would destroy all life on earth? Do you believe that we now have bombs that can incinerate half a continent at a time, and that any survivors of a nuclear war would be unrecognizable mutants, doomed to roam forever in a totally devastated world? Do you believe that it is obvious that there is no point in preparing to survive WWIII? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you had better sit down and read this article. Otherwise the things you think you know about nuclear war may one day kill you.

**CIVIL DEFENSE: AMERICA'S UGLY DUCKLING.** In this insightful and provocative indictment of the American civil-defense program, the authors compare U.S. and U.S.S.R. civil-defense preparations. Describing the program as the "ugly duckling" of every presidential administration since its inception in 1933, they irrefutably document the distressing state of unpreparedness in the U.S. that could jeopardize 100 million Americans if a nuclear attack occurred. On the other side of the globe, the Soviets have assembled such a superb system that only 20 million Soviet citizens are likely to be killed under similar conditions.

**MAINTAINING MOBILITY.** Automotive expert Rick Fines guides you in your quest for a dependable, self-serviceable, all-terrain vehicle for use in emergency situations. Admonishing you to cast aside your fantasies of armoured tanks or exotic

James Bond land yachts, he shows practical factors to be considered in your selection, including fuel needs, climatic conditions and maintenance.



Survival Vehicle author Rick Fines' M35A2 multi-fuel military truck. Photo by Eric Krouse.

## POPPA BEAR ON WILDERNESS SURVIVAL.

This article gives a colorful and informative look at Colorado wilderness-survival instructor Bob Whitmore, who serves as a survival consultant to Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts of America, National Rifle Association and IBM.

**Rx FOR SURVIVAL.** An in-depth look at what medical self-sufficiency is and isn't by three practicing physicians, this article focuses on three different aspects involved in attaining medical competency for the average survivor: medical library, training and emergency kit.

**TO STOP A THIEF.** Taken from a book on how to prevent crimes, this article tells how to avoid home burglaries — straight from the burglar's mouth. It discloses how a burglar determines whether to hit your house or the one next door, as well as other practical and inexpensive tips to burglar-proof your home.

## PLUS THESE REGULAR DEPARTMENTS AND COLUMNS:

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AND OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST.**



Cuban-backed Angolan forces have tried twice to invade Shaba Province of Zaire — they were driven back by Western-supported forces each time. Shown here is American-made M40 A4 106mm recoilless rifle with M8C .50-cal. spotting rifle.

# RED TRAIL IN AFRICA

## Russian Bear Looks South

by Al J. Venter

**A**LL they could find on the body was a name tag, stamped by machine on an oblong piece of aluminum.

It could have been a GI dogtag from Vietnam, except that the script was Cyrillic. It gave a name — Mikhail P. Sosluk — a blood group and a series of numbers which could have been the dead man's Red Army serial number or a code which might have supplied vital details had it been fed into the correct computer.

No one in South Angola would ever know Susluvik's real designation except, of course, the Russians — and they weren't telling. They didn't even admit he'd been killed.

What is documented is that Susluvik was part of a "military adviser" contingent attached to an MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) missile base near Menongue — until a few years ago known in the Portuguese-speaking world as *Serpa Pinta*.

On the day Susluvik was shot, he was traveling in a two-vehicle convoy with a colleague from Menongue. They were escorted by eight FAPLA (Angolan army) soldiers to the town of Capelongo, a couple of hundred kilometers to the west. The lead truck, a Soviet-built Gaz-66, hit a landmine and the convoy came under heavy automatic-weapons fire from a large UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) ambush.

Only two of the passengers, another Russian and a black soldier, escaped alive; one was wounded.

### Hovering Hips

Though the UNITA force deployed a follow-up group, they were forced to abandon the chase when the area came under intense aerial surveillance from low-flying Soviet helicopter gunships which, according to their description, were probably of the Mi-8 type, code-named *Hip* by NATO and known to be active in many sensitive regions of Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Chad.

The Russians wasted little time in adapting their gunships to African conditions. *Hips* on active duty in Angola are usually fitted with five portholes on each side of the fuselage. On landing and take-off, these are manned by combat troops with automatic weapons. In addition to the chopper's standard 12.7mm machine gun up front and rocket pods on its diminutive wings, the crew can call on firepower from 10 other individuals if needed on landing or take-off.

By late 1980, it was estimated that, apart from almost 28,000 Cubans (of whom 21,000 were soldiers), there were also based in Angola 3,000 East Germans (a third were military men) and almost 1,000 Russians. Of the 250 Soviet military men among them, almost all were pilots or held key posts in the Angolan defense structure. Most were in the country for year-long tours of duty and lived with their families in settlements totally apart from other Angolan ethnic groups.

The comparative figures for Mozambique are equally significant tactically, considering that Samora Machel's regime is facing an extensive guerrilla war in regions north of Maputo, his capital. This conflict is nurtured by a revolutionary movement calling itself the RNM (National Resistance of Mozambique).

In the East African territory there are 1,500 Russians altogether — about half civilians and half military personnel — a similar number of Cubans and about 1,000 East Germans. Soviet activity in Mozambique is so widespread that many routine radio communications are in Rus-

sian, using standard military bands which can be picked up by any amateur radio ham in Johannesburg or Salisbury.

The Cuban military communities in both countries are reported to be undergoing fairly intensive "on-the-job" field training. Once a certain level of competence is reached, a Cuban combatant may be referred to as an "African warrior."

### Men And Arms

It is not only the presence of many thousands of Soviet or satellite troops in Southern Africa that concerns Western and South African strategists. The hardware they have brought with them is equally relevant considering the developing situation, in which the Kremlin is entrenching its position in sensitive, far-flung regions — typical of Soviet foreign policy abroad.

In Angola, the revolutionary MPLA air force has been equipped with 40 new MiG-21 *Fishbed* fighters — matching the operational capacity of South Africa's *Mirage* jets. At the present time, the pilots for these aircraft are mostly Cuban, though Angolans are being trained, in batches, behind the Iron Curtain.

On the ground, larger numbers of sophisticated Soviet surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) have been deployed on the periphery of several major staging posts in South Angola. Missile bases have been pinpointed at the Atlantic port of Mocamedes, around Lubango (formerly Sa da Bandeira) and Matala, strategical-



LEFT: UNITA forces in Eastern Angola assembling captured Type 52 Chinese-built 75mm recoilless rifle, direct copy of U.S. M20. Container carried by soldier in foreground contains weapon's sights. BELOW: Large numbers of Soviet war supplies are being captured on regular basis from SWAPO bands. RIGHT: Russian-supplied MPLA forces with AK-47s during flag-raising ceremony north of Luanda.



ly situated between Lubango and Menongue.

There are four missile sites around each of these towns, with three launchers per site. Soviet *Spoonrest* "early-warning" radar has been installed nearby, together with East European *Barlock* fire-direction systems. Independent "early-warning" radar systems have also been dug in at several points close to the South West African border, including the facility at Cahama which has come under fire in the past.

What is important about these developments is that all this equipment is not cheap. Neither does it consist of inferior versions of similar systems used by Warsaw Pact countries. For instance, all the missiles are the more advanced versions of the SAM-3 or *Goa* type, a model which has not yet been seen in the Middle East. Earlier versions of these 6.7m long anti-aircraft, two-stage systems (usually transported in pairs on specially prepared trucks) compare favorably with the American *Hawk* surface-to-air missiles. They are intended for use in short-range defense against low-flying aircraft and are radar-homing. Speed is classified, but they are known to have ranges in excess of 30 kilometers.

## Air Base Buildup

Concurrent with these developments, the airports at all centers mentioned above have been expanded for use by the largest Soviet transport aircraft. In effect, Russia could, if it wished, launch a pre-emptive strike against South West African positions with little warning, bringing in everything it would need to fight such a war by air. Moreover, in Africa, this has already occurred. (Afghanistan is not the only foreign invasion in which Moscow has had a hand.)

During three weeks in November and December 1977, Soviet transport aircraft mounted the biggest demonstration of Russian military might seen outside Soviet national borders since the end of WWII.

Using several hundred flights of TU-22 and *Ilyushin 76* transports — flying from bases in Tiflis in the Russian Caucasus and Tashkent in Uzbekistan — they landed thousands of tons of military equipment in Ethiopia.

Apart from bringing in 20,000 Cubans in full battle array, they had, at the end of a campaign which left the Somalian army in tatters, shifted what amounted to about seven fully equipped combat divisions to Africa — all of it by air.

Still, this has not prevented them from losing eight Mi-8s to UNITA ground action in the past few years. UNITA has also shot down three Soviet *Antonov-24* transport aircraft.

That there were choppers in the air on that particular day there is no doubt — even the location has been pinpointed. Monitoring sources in South West Africa picked up intense radio traffic on the afternoon in question.

But what made this sortie different from most other routine flights was that all communications were in Russian: obviously Russian pilots were flying the aircraft.

The UNITA commander of the strike force that killed Suslukiv wasted no time in the area. He removed all items of identification from the dead, stripped them of their weapons, ammunition and such things as radios, compasses, maps, documents and some electronic gear. Then he pulled back into thick bush country. The Portuguese of another generation called this remote region *Terras do Fim Mundo: Land at the End of the Earth*.

They didn't bury the dead; the search party looking for the convoy would see to that. But in the oppressive heat of South Angola, it would take only a few hours before the bodies were bloated and barely recognizable. For this reason, it was

doubtful that Mikhail P. Suslukiv would ever find his rest in Mother Russia.

To spare his family the agony of having to identify the corpse (and the embarrassment of explaining why he was killed 12,000 kilometers from home), he was probably buried with scores more of his compatriots in the huge new military cemetery on the outskirts of Luanda.

## Foreign Resting Place

Suslukiv would, however, have the distinction of being laid apart from the thousands of Portuguese war dead — killed in almost 13 years of fighting in the vast West African territory during the '60s and early '70s. He would lie between the old Colonials and the graves of several hundred Cubans — already disparagingly referred to by some sectors of the Angolan *Povo* as "the new Colonialists."

Angola is not unique in enjoying the attention of Soviet military planners.

Because the focus of international attention remains on Afghanistan and the Polish border regions, many European and American strategists tend to ignore the presence of substantial numbers of Russian combatants in a variety of African states. Most of these revolutionaries and their surrogates are based in Angola and Mozambique.

In Mozambique, at the opposite end of the continent, four SAM-3 missile sites have been deployed around Maputo. MiG-21s are stationed in at least three of the territory's former Portuguese air force airports.

In all centers, missile fire has been supplemented by standard 100mm anti-aircraft guns, two-barreled 57mm guns and the ZSU-23 quad—which, with all four of its barrels firing, has a rate of fire in ex-





LEFT: Large numbers of Russian SAM-3 missiles — NATO designation "Gao" — have been deployed around most major centers in South Angola. Missiles are mounted in pairs on Soviet vehicles.

ABOVE: Soviet freighter "Olga Varentsova" in Luanda harbor — one of thousands of Soviet ships which called at Angolan ports during 1980. RIGHT: Angolans armed with standard Soviet-made AKM 7.62mm assault rifles. Third soldier from left has Soviet wire-cutting bayonet and scabbard.

cess of 1,000 rounds per minute and is regarded as the most effective anti-aircraft weapon ever produced.

But the most astonishing recent development in the region can be seen in another territory which has traditionally turned to Great Britain for its arms purchases. Bankrupt Zambia, which relies heavily on food handouts from South Africa for its day-to-day survival, took delivery of 150 *Gao* missiles last year, each one of which cost about a quarter of a million dollars. What President Kenneth Kaunda intends to do with all this firepower remains to be seen.

What is certain is that with the SAM-3s and a wide variety of other purchases — including armor, tracked vehicles, artillery and sophisticated weapons — Zambia appears to be preparing for war.

### Geographic Preliminaries

Viewed in the light of the fact that Angola is costing the Kremlin one-and-a-half million a day and Mozambique not much less, one reason for this Soviet magnanimity becomes apparent when one looks at the communications grid of much of Southern Africa.

With Zambia (and now Zimbabwe) within the Soviet orbit, the Russians have cut a swath of territory that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Indian Ocean in the east. In the physical sense, South Africa and South West Africa are effectively isolated from the rest of the continent.

It is possible to board a train in Maputo and travel through Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire and Angola to the Atlantic port of Lobito. The only part of the region not yet under the Soviet thumb is Zaire. But in the past two years there have been two Cuban-backed invasions of Shaba Province in Southern Zaire — the same territory through which this African Trans-Continental railway passes.

The result, then, is that if a push were made against "the hated racists" (termed such on Radio Dar es Salaam and Freedom Radio in Lusaka), it could come from a dozen points simultaneously — across a front that extends almost 3,000 kilometers along an east-west axis.

There is no doubt that Soviet long-term military planners have considered this option.

### Talk Before Action

At the present stage, however, it is known that, logically, neither Angola nor Mozambique is ready for the kind of concerted push it would take to dislodge the South African Defense Force from its pivot. But that does not prevent the enemy from speculating.

Conjecture about this possibility already features regularly in closed sessions of the Organization of African Unity, with Nigeria playing a prominent role in motivating cohesion and, if necessary, cooperation with the Soviet Union to achieve these goals. On more than one occasion, President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria has intimated that he "would be delighted" to see Nigerian soldiers in action against "the Pretoria apartheid regime."

Coordinating the "ultimate tactical process," as it was phrased in a Soviet document captured during "Operation Smokeshell" in Angola in 1980 (see "Operation Smokeshell Smokes Out SWAPO," SOF, November '80), is a Russian intellectual in his 60s whose working life has been dedicated to developing the infrastructure for South Africa's downfall. His name is Professor Andrei Solodovnikov and, when he is not traveling between Lusaka, Luanda, Maputo or Moscow, he is usually resident at the Soviet Embassy in the Zambian capital.

Solodovnikov is a powerful figure in the Soviet hierarchy because, as any Western student of strategy will tell you,

Southern Africa (with the Middle East) rates high on the Soviet list of priorities.

The string of visiting communist dignitaries — among them Cuban, Eastern European, North Korean and Vietnamese — who call on the professor is impressive. So is the number of Soviet generals who consult with him during their forays into the region. (In December 1980 alone, four Red Army visitors were generals.)

In the global context, this is probably one of the reasons why Russia has, over the past few years, been prepared to commit billions of dollars in monetary aid to a region that, on the face of it, is as remote from the central Russian upland as Saigon is from San Diego. Moreover, Russia traditionally has had little in common with the native African. In fact, this remains a problem today: The fact that few Russians are willing to associate with their dark-skinned proteges has given rise, increasingly, to charges of racism from many Angolan and Mozambiquan cadres.

### Color Barriers

One example, quoted recently in the Maputo newspaper *Avanti*, declared that Russian and East German technicians at the Caborra Bassa hydroelectric site refused to attend twice-weekly film shows if there were "native" Mozambiquans present. Their swimming pool, built at their base, bars all "non-Warsaw Pact personnel." Since all Warsaw Pact personnel are white, the slight toward the native is obvious.

Somehow, Professor Solodovnikov — in a masterful, but rather uncharacteristic display of Russian diplomacy — managed to patch up these and many other differences in his peregrinations about the region. He has at his disposal large numbers of diplomatic staff who are able to put his ideas into effect. The staff at the USSR Embassy in Luanda, for instance,



totals more than 100; a similar number is stationed in Maputo.

Solodovnikov's blueprint for Southern Africa — which he hopes to implement within the next five to eight years — is simple. In essence, it involves establishing what he himself has termed "a defensive umbrella" and fomenting revolt or revolution in the remaining white-ruled regions of the continent. In order to do this, the insurgent army will require firm, secure bases from which to operate.

At the present time, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe is not amenable to Soviet overtures, largely because of extremely obvious Russian support (during the course of Rhodesia's "colonial" war) for the man he fears most: Joshua Nkomo, his arch-rival in the Zimbabwe presidential stakes. But, as any Soviet diplomat will inform those willing to listen on the London or Washington cocktail circuit, the Russians are a patient people — and Mugabe won't live forever....

## Starting Small

The Russians concede that because of South Africa's geographical remoteness, conventional warfare is out. This much has emerged from interrogation of several SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) and ANC (African National Congress) terrorists taken captive in the past 18 months.

It would certainly not be impossible for the Russian military machine to invade South Africa successfully, but the cost in men and materiel would be prohibitive. For a start, it is estimated that the Russians would need a landed force of more

than a million men, together with all the mobile and support hardware needed for back-up.

Had South Africa been militarily unprepared, there might have been a chance to pull it off; however, such an eventuality has already been planned on a contingency basis in Pretoria.

The alternative, then, is to start the action rolling by sending in small terrorist teams to proselytize locals and commit acts of sabotage that demonstrate the existence of a force willing and ready to take anti-government action. The raid on the Sasol oil-from-coal installation was such an instance. Small forces don't need bases — but they don't win wars either.

## Big Scale Presence

That's where large-scale operations come in. But here, too, there is a disadvantage since big raids need big base-camps and logistics which, in turn, provide the defenders with air targets, as has been shown conclusively dozens of times in South Angola.

But now that Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique are part of the Soviet Defense Grid, this will change. Even as Russian missiles have been deployed around many South Angolan towns, they could be placed around bases housing a variety of anti-South African armies. At least that's the way Solodovnikov reads the picture — and what he is trying to implement at the present time.

Whether he will be successful is another question. Several movements now active in Angola and Mozambique are trying to counter the Soviet presence. Dr. Jonas Savimbi's (UNITA) movement, which

holds a huge chunk of real estate in southern and eastern Angola, has been singularly successful to date.

During 1980 (operating in an area where their forces are outnumbered by almost four to one), UNITA initiated 215 contacts, laid 155 landmines, launched 88 ambushes of the type that killed Comrade Mikhail Sosluk and committed 37 acts of sabotage, including the destruction of a fuel-processing depot in Lobito's harbor. Known Cuban losses in the area during this time (actual body counts) were 15. UNITA had 382 KIA (killed in action) — and killed 1,968 Angolan government troops.

By way of contrast, anti-South African SWAPO losses in the operational area during the same time totalled 1,393, every one of whom was physically counted. At least as many have been seriously wounded, many of whom undoubtedly died after contact with South African security forces but could not be statistically included.

## Mozambique Opposition

Anti-Samora Machel RNM operatives in the Mozambique hinterland have been even more active. During the last quarter of 1980, this revolutionary movement (which enjoys an astonishing level of support from several moderate nations, some of them to the remote north of the Zambezi) managed to blow up the Caborra Bassa power lines to South Africa on several occasions. They also sabotaged the Beira-Umtali oil pipeline and kept it inoperative for two weeks in December 1980. Raids against the railway linking the two cities have been effective enough to limit traffic on the line to one train a day.

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Jecamo receives indirect assistance because much of Mozambique's commercial and domestic infrastructure has been destroyed by Machel's hardline Marxist methods. Almost 1.2 million Mozambiquans (from a total of 12 million people) are starving. In Tete Province alone, between 40 and 50 children die each day. The people are tired of the rigors of the country's "imported Socialist creed."



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# DESGANTIS



Grasp Uzi for draw. (Jacket has been removed to illustrate technique.)  
Photos: DeSantis

The Uzi submachine gun is a favored weapon worldwide for specialized security work. Although most elite police and military counter-terrorist units prefer the superior Heckler & Koch MP-5 as a general-purpose weapon, the Uzi is still useful on missions where the need for concealment is paramount.

Bodyguards on dignitary- or executive-protection details must have a large volume of firepower available to repel a terrorist or criminal attack, and the compact Uzi is ideal for this purpose.

It can be carried under a coat in cool weather and, in hot weather when shirtsleeves are the norm, can be carried in a specially modified briefcase. Millions of Americans saw the TV film clip of a Secret Service agent swinging into action when an attempt was made to assassinate President Reagan in March. The agent's Uzi was in a briefcase.

The under-the-coat carry has been simplified by a shoulder rig designed by Gene DeSantis especially for the Uzi.

The DeSantis rig is useful for perimeter-security personnel or gate guards who wish to avoid an "armed-camp" appearance, police stake-out units, military covert operations and normal "principal" protection in an urban environment.

State-of-the-art leathergoods, as applied to weaponry, are featured in the DeSantis design. Most shoulder-holster rigs place the weapon under the weak-side armpit, but the DeSantis rig carries the Uzi, barrel down, under the strong-side (firing hand) armpit. When worn under a rain- or overcoat, the hand is placed through a side pocket and grasps the pistol grip as usual. For a quick response and fast access, one simply pivots the Uzi up and into an underarm firing position. A swivel retainer allows the weapon to pivot right to a normal firing position. If anything other than ultra-close combat firing is needed, the Uzi butt stock is released from its retainer, and the gun is handled normally.

A double-magazine carrier is suspended from the opposite side of the harness. Two 25-round magazines are available for reloads, and the added weight of loaded magazines helps balance the rig.

A belt snap retainer is worn on the strong side to support the Uzi's muzzle end for added weight balance as well as to prevent the

# SHOULDER RIG

by Ken Hackathorn



Pull barrel from belt-loop retainer with slight lifting motion and pivot to meet support hand.



When support hand contacts weapon, Uzi is ready for close-range firing of short bursts.



Weak hand releases retainer tab on butt stock. Weapon can now be pulled out of harness for normal two-handed use.



Secret Service agent on presidential-security detail quickly produced Uzi from modified briefcase during recent assassination attempt on President Reagan. Photo: White House

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## SAIGON

Continued from page 29

ARVN MPs in the other jeep were spraying a rooster tail of dirt and grass as they churned forward into a wide turn.

I was praying now at the top of my lungs: "God, I'll be good the rest of my life if you just get me the hell out of here!"

My foxhole religion must have paid off because the tires finally caught hold and the vehicle bucked into an accelerating backward launch. Staring straight ahead at the soldier and depressing the throttle with all my strength, my only concern was to increase the distance between the madman and us.

The driver of the ARVN MP jeep must have been thinking the same as he watched the lunatic over his shoulder and blindly roared his vehicle into a wide arc. About 75 yards from the naked man, he crashed his jeep into the side of ours. Glass shattered, metal twisted and MPs from two countries smashed against dash boards, steering wheels and each other.

As steam hissed from a broken radiator, we slowly began to untangle ourselves from the green machines. Amazingly, no one was seriously hurt.

Kemply saw the naked man first. "He's running toward us!"

Looking up, I saw the man slow from a sprint to a walk and then stop about 100 feet from us. He stood eerily in a crucifix pose: arms straight out from his sides and his bare feet together. He looked skyward as if he were listening to something. His fingers continued to hold down the handles of the grenades.

"He's very crazy."

We had all taken cover behind the wrecked jeep. I had drawn my .45 and Kemply and the two ARVN MPs were watching the guy over the sights of their M16s. The MP closest to Kemply looked down at us and smiled apologetically. "He buku dinh kai dau [he's very crazy]," he said as if it weren't entirely obvious to us by now.

Kemply's nose was oozing blood from being struck in the crash. He wiped it with the back of his hand and spoke slowly to the ARVN MP. "He comes too close, you shoot, huh?"

The man shook his head vigorously, "No shoot. He ARVN."

Kemply and I were aware we would ride heat if we were forced to shoot the naked man. By the time the Vietnamese government twisted everything around, it would be a case of over-reaction by the Americans. Then, to humor them, the Army would have us arrested and sitting in Long Binh Jail on homicide charges. We had seen it happen to other MPs.

"Look, you son of a bitch," Kemply screamed. "You shoot the dinky dow asshole!"





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#### MODEL #3 "PISTOL POCKET"

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#### MODEL #5BH & 5BHL "THUMBSNAP"

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Named after legendary pistolero Col. Charles Askins. This holster rides high and hugs the body. The fit has been hand-molded for your gun. Stabilizing slot through holster pulls gun butt against body. Molded sight channel protects front sights. Hand-rubbed leather and fine stitching create a long-lasting holster for large autos.



#### MODEL #45 "PISTOLERIO" ASSEMBLY

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#### MODEL #12 "ANKLE HOLSTER"

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Both Vietnamese MPs angrily shook their heads and the closest one spoke. "No shoot. He ARVN. Same same me." The MP farthest away turned toward us and pointed his rifle at the ground at our feet.

Although I had seen this happen before, I couldn't believe it was happening now. The South Vietnamese — the people we were here to help fight off the evil of spreading communism — were always quick to point weapons at us when they disagreed with our tactics.

I was lying partially under the jeep, watching the crazy man; he hadn't moved for two or three minutes. When I looked back at Kemply he had turned and was pointing his M16 at the two MPs who, in turn, were pointing their rifles at him.

I detected movement out of the corner of my eye and I looked back to see the naked man walking toward us again. His arms hung limply at his sides and he stared straight at us. Everyone had turned back toward him again. If the ARVs were not going to shoot, Kemply and I were going to have to before he came too close.

The naked man stopped and looked skyward. He spoke softly to the clouds and then closed his eyes. (Later we learned his wife and three children had been killed that week by the Viet Cong. His parents had been killed by a rocket attack earlier that year.) Once a good soldier, the stress had been too much. He had become a discipline problem, a drinker and a troublemaker. He was bringing shame on his family.

He thrust his two loaded hands overhead for a moment and then slowly lowered them. He stood motionless for a long time, eyes closed and lips moving.

Suddenly, his eyes opened wide as if alarmed. We tensed, ready. Although he stared straight at us, his eyes seemed to be seeing something else. He stared for a long moment and then cocked his head slightly as if listening. He nodded in agreement and then a slow smile spread across his face. His small, brown body visibly relaxed for an instant before the grenades dropped from his hands and the earth around him erupted.



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## JACKALS

Continued from page 59

recent experience with the type of tactics he was teaching. "Yes, sir! In Masaya, Leon and Esteli," he replied. "The Cubans taught the Sandinistas all they knew."

Masaya, Leon and Esteli had been the scenes of bitter fighting between the Sandinistas and the National Guard prior to the fall of the Somoza government.

Juan Carlos was thanking the officers and NCOs when the sounds of vehicles, motorcycles and donkeys braying drowned out his words.

The additional troops had arrived.

Several hundred more soldiers came streaming into the camp, joining the formation.

"The next time, if you give me a week's notice, I can get you 4,000 more!" Juan Carlos pointed to more stragglers running down the embankment.

One of the newcomers approached the commander and spoke urgently for several minutes. Carlos turned to me and said, "We'll have to get started right away — local intelligence sources say the Sandinista agents in the area plan to ambush us on the way out."

I shook as many of the eager, outstretched hands as was possible and

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started back to the transport.

Beefed-up security was laid on for the trip back to Tegucigalpa. Using different vehicles, our return trip went much more smoothly than the one down through the bush.

Back at the CP, a final staff meeting was called and lists of much-needed supplies were compiled for me to take back to Miami. Plans for future cross-border operations were discussed; it was stressed that only those groups presently operating within Nicaragua's borders would be used so there would be no activities that would embarrass the host governments of Honduras and El Salvador.

One of the staff officers handed me a list of sorely needed medicines and said, "Comandante, I realize you can't make any promises, but please try to help us! All we want is a chance to take our country from the scum in Managua taking orders from Fidel."

I told him I would do whatever I could; perhaps there would be SOF readers willing to help with food, medicine and clothing.

We shook hands and walked out to the transport.

A lieutenant with his arm in a sling from a shoulder wound said, "Sir, tell everyone at *Soldier of Fortune* we are very grateful for their interest in us."

Riding to the airport, Juan Carlos showed me a copy of *La Barricada*, the Sandinista newspaper published in Managua. Pointing to his picture on the front page, he laughed, "I'm famous! Those communist scum have put me on the front page." Under the photograph were the words, "Juan Carlos — Jefe de los Chacales." The remainder of the article warned of the danger posed to the Marxist revolution in Central America by 6,000 ex-National Guard troops under Carlos' command. "They take you seriously, Jefe," I said, pointing at the picture.

"They should — we won't stop until we've got our country back."

It had been a long time since I had been with people as dedicated as the National Army of Liberation. In Rhodesia, in early 1976, one sensed the same atmosphere of determination. As my flight taxied out, I looked at Juan Carlos and his staff standing at the fence and hoped their fate would not be the same as that of those of us in the Rhodesian military who had watched the war being deliberately lost to a rabble-in-arms whose only power came from the British government and the Marxists in Carter's State Department.

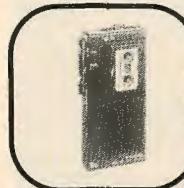
## COMMANDO QUIZ

Continued from page 26

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. False — But a #6 and a #8 commercial cap can be wired in parallel to detonate the block.
11. True.
12. False — It would only render a subject unconscious.
13. True — The flash is blinding and distracting.
14. True — The sniper will not have time to react effectively. If you crossed one by one, the sniper would be able to pick off the next man in line.
15. A diamond pick — used for picking disc tumbler locks and padlocks.
16. A rake pick — used to pick pin tumbler locks.
17. A tension tool — used to apply turning pressure during picking.
18. A gun pick — used to pick locks open with an upward flicking motion.
19. Self-igniting Molotov cocktail. You can never find a match to light the oily rags. You only have to throw this one.
20. Urea-Nitrate explosive. If you ever get pissed off at someone, put your kidneys and drinking habits to good use.
21. Chloral hydrate knockout drops. Remember whose drink they're in.
22. Prussic acid. A deadly poison that takes three minutes to kill. Spray a few drops in someone's face and everyone will think it's a heart attack.
23. Tamping.
24. 4 to 5 seconds.
25. Skip Firing.
26. C — 200 yards.
27. B — 50 yards (for jet helicopters or slow fixed-wing aircraft).
28. B — 8 to 12 hours. Rigor mortis would begin leaving the jaws after this time and decomposition would be rapid in hot weather.
29. C — for a full minute. It takes four to six minutes to cause brain damage and the subject returns to consciousness too fast if held less than a minute.
30. B — 1 pound.
31. C — 15 meters; the Soviet RGD-5 grenade has a radius of 20 meters.
32. A — CS is a strong irritant.
33. D —  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch behind and one inch below the ear opening.
34. D — Subclavian artery.
35. A — Light gray blends best.
36. F — Whoever heard of him — Schuon was John Styer's co-instructor.
37. D — All of the above. They'll really ring your chimes.
38. D — The door-knob side. A person inside could view the hinge side and the center of stairs.

# TECH SEC\*



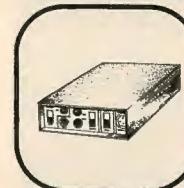
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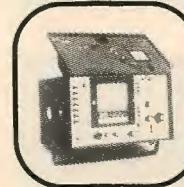
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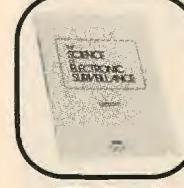
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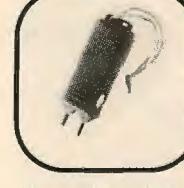
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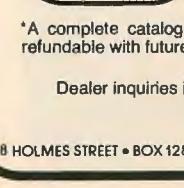
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Continued from page 14

armed robberies and had committed an assault with a deadly weapon while out on bail. Jerry, the guy who proved — almost — that nice guys finish last, was out on a \$315 bond for driving under the influence.

# IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Barry J. Fiorina  
as told to M.L. Jones

In 1969, Barry J. Fiorina was the Sp/4 dogrunner on Ship No. 120 of the 281st Assault Helicopter Company (Intruders) in the Republic of South Vietnam. The Intruders' primary mission was direct support of the 5th Special Forces Group. When not on resupply sorties for 5th Group or on 90-day operations with Special Forces' Delta Project, the group was farmed out to

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other units — including resupply and combat assault missions for White Horse Division R.O.K. As he tells it:

MY story begins during a farm-out. The 1st Flight platoon (Rat Pack) and two fire teams from 3rd Flight (Wolf Pack) were farmed out to Lane Army Airfield just northwest of Qui Nhon, II Corps. After three weeks of resupply and combat assault sorties, we were beginning to become familiar with the area. At 0300, we were awakened and told the mess hall was open for breakfast — it was going to be a long day. Joe Cunningham, our Sp5 crew chief, and I grabbed a quick bite and scrambled to our ship. As Cunningham readied her, I assembled the cleaned M60 machine guns and made sure we both had plenty of ammo.

I also carried an M79 on my wall and my extra 60 barrels, Willie Peter and flechette rounds. Cunningham liked grenades — so I made sure he had plenty. Word came down that Duc Sieng "A" Camp was under attack and we were to resupply with troops, ammo, water and food — in that order. We lifted off just before first light and, within a half hour, were in a C&C (command and control) rotation out of range over our LZ (landing zone) — but the action was so heavy they would not let anyone with reinforcements in to dump their loads.

We must have circled for six to eight hours or more, listening to transmissions that said the people in "A" Camp were almost out of ammo, before we turned and went back to Lane. After we changed cargo from troops to ammo, we returned to Duc Sieng. We were back in our circle for about an hour.

"A" Camp took incoming for more than 16 hours. To keep the NVA out of our people's wire, continuous Phantom air strikes, Spookies or Puffs, and Cobra and B-model gunships worked over the area — but they still said it was too hot to unload.

Then it happened. My AC (Aircraft Commander), W3 Edgely, heard on his radio: "We are out of ammo."

He didn't waste time — or words: "They need ammo. We got ammo. Any of you guys don't want to go down, step off."

With that, he started his descent. We took all kinds of fire — the NVA were all around — and we were firing a hell of a lot too. It was wild. We almost could taste the heavy odor of gun powder and blood in the air — but not for long.

We touched down, threw the ammo cases off the ship and lifted off. As we lifted, I ran out of ammo for my 60 and began shooting the shit out of the 79. It's amazing how fast one becomes with a single shot! We took 27 hits on 120 that day, but we got the people at that "A" Camp the rest of their lives.

My time with the 281st AHC in support of 5th Group and Delta was the most rewarding in my life. The American fighting man did not lose in Vietnam. We were withdrawn because of public opinion. Then and only then did the North succeed. I know, because I was there — and I'm damned proud of it!

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# BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos

Continued from page 6

because, traditionally, all Afghan men owned firearms.

Commander Hakim stressed, "We are born and raised with guns and know how to use them."

The Afghan leaders were in Washington to seek aid and support for their struggle against Russian invaders. Primary goals were to obtain medical supplies and some arms, mainly surface-to-air and anti-tank missiles, which would permit them to cope with heavily armored Hind-D helicopters gunships and Soviet tanks.

Later, President Reagan said over TV that such requests would "very definitely" be considered by the U.S.

## ANNUAL REUNION NOTES ...

Some former members of Marine Combat Action Platoon 2-5-3 who served in Lo Giang, Vietnam, from 1968-70 plan to hold a reunion. Anyone interested should contact Robert "Irish" McClancy, RR 1, P.O. Box 257A, Bentonville, VA 22610, or call (703) 636-1502.

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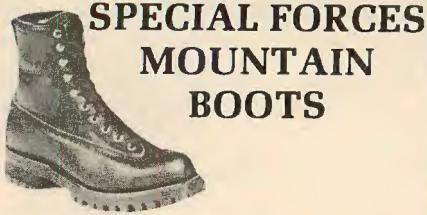


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## MEDIA MUM

IN ZIMBABWE ...

The press policy in Zimbabwe (which you'll recall used to be Rhodesia) is not exactly that of "All the News That's Fit to Print" now that it is Zimbabwe and has a Marxist government.

An SOF reader recently talked to a friend in Salisbury and asked him what he thought about the Pope being shot (this was a couple of days after the shooting). Well, that news had yet to see print or appear on the tube.

The big story in the media on the day of the assassination attempt on the Pope was that goods with the word "Rhodesia" printed on them could no longer be bought or sold in Zimbabwe.

So much for freedom of the press in Zimbabwe — and it was the left-leaning U.S. press, which describes most of it, that so stridently demanded "majority" rule in Zimbabwe. Ironic.

## SHOOTISTS, INCORPORATED ...

John Shaw, who is being sponsored this year by SOF in the IPSC national championship, and Mike Fichman have joined the staff of International Shootists, Inc. (ISI), a California firearms-training school that specializes in IPSC-style shooting. (See SOF, August, '81, p. 90.)



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Shaw presently holds the IPSC title and the World's Speed Championship. Fichman is a top Southwestern Pistol League shooter and placed in the top 10 in the 1979 and 1980 IPSC National Championships.

ISI was launched this year by Mickey Fowler, a former IPSC champion, and Mike Dalton.

## FOREIGN TRAVEL DATA ...

A tremendous amount of research material prepared by the State Department is available to the foreign traveler.

The Government Printing Office sells what are called Area Handbooks as well as maps and other material containing information about virtually every country and region in the world.

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GPO also has a list of available subject matter and addresses of the government book stores.

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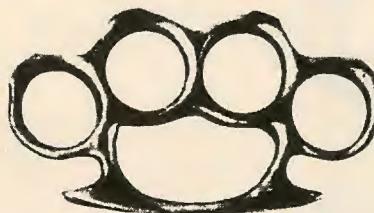
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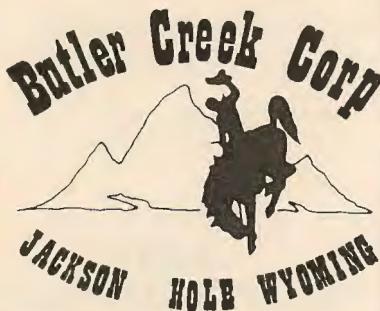
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Winner in one hour, 27 minutes and 49 seconds was Marine Pfc. Fritz Joseph. Two other Marines, Cpl. Don Cain and Lance Cpl. Leonard Barnes, came in second and third.



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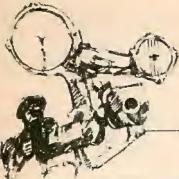
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## FLAK

Continued from page 8

### SOG SECURITY ...

Sirs:

Because I am a past member of MACVSOG, I was amazed when I read your June '81 issue. I never thought that SOG operations would be declassified. After my tour in Vietnam, I wanted to write a book titled *You Have Not Lived Until You Have Almost Died*, but I knew that I would never get it approved by Chief of Naval Information.

I was in the exchange, looking at fishing books, when I noticed the MACVSOG cover. I could not believe my eyes. The accuracy of the information contained in your story is really astounding. Some of your operation code names are incorrect and some important missions are not covered, but I assume that is because of security. But 95 percent of the information is correct.

Thanks for the interesting story and excellent investigative reporting. I have wanted to tell my wife about MACVSOG for years but was unable to



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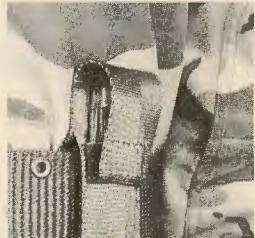
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## L AV DATA SOUGHT ...

Sirs:

The U.S. Marine Corps is now in the process of obtaining a class of light-armored vehicles which will profoundly affect the Corps in the next five years — from the RDF mission to possible Division/Wing restructuring. A short article based on my extensive experience as a TOW ATGM platoon commander will soon be published in the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

I am now researching a full-length feature on light-armored tactics which the Corps can adopt for most effective use of the new weapon, but I have yet to see anything written professionally on light-mech ops as employed in Rhodesia and South Africa apart from SOF. I would like to contact former officers of the Rhodesian Armored Corps and SA officers with experience in Angola and South West Africa who would be willing to lend their expertise and suggestions — within security limits — since their combat experience seems most closely to parallel that which the Marine Corps will have to prepare for.

Highly mobile, hard-hitting mechanized warfare is tragically foreign to many Marine infantry officers, as I see on every field operation. What we are facing is the fact that Congress and RDF mission requirements are finally forcing the Corps in the direction it should have gone years ago: toward developing its own infantry-intensive mechanized structure for rapid deployment. This requires development of a professional attitude and new tactics. My article will take some initial steps toward those goals.

Yours truly,  
Capt. C.A. Griffith, USMC  
375 Acacia Ave., Apt. 21  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

We're printing Capt. Griffith's address so readers with technical knowledge can get directly in touch with him. Also, SOF will shortly publish an interview with Maj. Gen. A.M. Gray, USMC, on current LAV research and development. — The Eds.

## IN-DEPTH COVERAGE ...

Sirs:

I would like to compliment you for producing a fine magazine that fills a large gap in our political and military awareness. It was your coverage of the scene in Cambodia (SOF, January, February '81) that prompted me to

subscribe. I would urge that you carry as much in-depth foreign-events journalism as you can. I am personally fed up with the shallow treatment given to such data by the mainstream press.

Friends have told me that I am probably now on another list — if this is the price one pays, then I am proud to be listed. The mercenary is much maligned and misunderstood, and I think that the existence of a journal devoted to merc concerns provides valuable cultural support. As far as I am concerned, the sale of protection services is as valid or legitimate as the sale of any other service. We often forget that the policemen who patrol the streets are, technically, mercenaries.

I haven't seen any fiction in your magazine. Hopefully, this is due to a dearth of suitable material rather than an editorial policy.

Yours,  
G. Reith

Sheridan, Wyoming

*Thanks for your letter. SOF will continue to go and do, reporting from the world's trouble spots. Your worries about being on a list are unfounded. This is a rumor we've been trying to squelch, but it keeps resurfacing. SOF does not accept fiction. We believe that real adventures are more powerful than fiction. — The Eds.*



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## COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 10



Ken Hackathorn

Even the Supreme Court has not yet reversed Newton's laws of motion."

This new muzzle brake offered by Poynter's firm, D.B.P. Engineering, Dept. SOF, 7821 Willow St., New Orleans, LA 70118, has two unique characteristics. The first is the design of longitudinal, tear-drop-shaped vents. This distributes the suppressing force evenly over a longer time and results not only in less muzzle jump, but also in a softer jump.

The second advantage is that the D.B.P. muzzle brake is less expensive than a custom six-inch barrel. Cost is \$31.50, plus \$1 postage and handling. The brake must be installed by a professional gunsmith. Directions are furnished by D.B.P.

Recoil will not decrease in the sense that the pistol will kick less. Muzzle jump is slightly altered, and follow-up shots in a speed event may be easier. I am testing one now, and am not sure what the difference is. It does give the pistol a different feel when fired, but a good, solid Weaver Stance and a firm grip do more to reduce gun-control problems than does anything else. I will report later on muzzle-venting devices.

**TERMINOLOGY** in the shooting business has changed little over the years. However, the term for a cartridge that fails to fire has recently changed. For ages, "dud" was standard. Some members of the U.S. military have replaced that term with a much better title: "Jane Fonda." Jane Fonda is much more fitting. We should try to give this lady the reward she deserves, and if "Jane Fonda" replaces "dud," then we must all work to do her justice. Henceforth, a dud will be a Jane Fonda. Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition.



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## N.R.A.

Continued from page 55

adjourn and NRA President John Layton gavelled the NRA's 110th Annual Membership Meeting to a close at 2015 hours on 2 May 1981.

For another year, control of the NRA will remain in the hands of the membership.

The display hall was typical of NRA Annual Meetings: lots of people (police estimated 4,000 at any given time) licking their chops over expensive firearms goodies, but without much really new stuff being shown.

Some of the newer products and displays that interested SOF included:

- Detonics' new .451 Magnum auto pistol, 3½" in length, muzzle velocity of 1,250 and being marketed soon with a price tag of around \$600. For further information write: Detonics .45, Dept. SOF, 2500 Seattle Tower, Third & University, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone (206) 624-9090.

- Valmet's .223 AKM look-alike. It's made to compete on U.S. markets with the H&K 91 when marketed this fall. For further information write: Valmet Industrial Machinery and Products Inc., Sporting Goods Division, Dept. SOF, 7 Westchester Plaza, Elmsford, NY 10523. Phone (914) 347-4440.

- The Marines had on display some of their M-40 ART sniper rifles mounting the Unertl scope with which they are replacing Leatherwood's Redfield. ART snipers can dial the range, eliminating hold-over or under. It is also adjustable for bullet weight and powder charge and weighs around 2½ lbs.

The Unertl scope is not available on the commercial market at this time, distribution being limited to the military. Its creator, John Unertl, told SOF that a variation of it would be marketed, but at the moment he wasn't sure when.

- Winchester's two rifles honoring John Wayne. Both will come in .32-.40 caliber, barrel length of 18½" and have an enlarged lever which would enable twirling around in the hand while aboard a horse, a la *True Grit*. Not for those of modest income is "The Duke, One of One Thousand." It has a triple-relief-etched gold frame and only 1,000 will be produced — at a cost of some \$2,225 a copy. A companion gun, the "John Wayne Commemorative," is pewter-plated with rolled engraving and will reduce purchasers' bank accounts by \$600.

For further information write: Winchester Repeating Arms Co., Dept. SOF, New Haven, CT 96504. Phone (202) 789-5000.



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## IN REVIEW

Continued from page 12

**TANK FACTS AND FEATS.** By Kenneth Macksey. Third Edition. Distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., Two Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016. 260 pp. Well-illustrated with drawings and photographs, a few in color. \$17.95. Review by Fred Reed.

A good coverage of armor from the beginning of World War II to the present. The writing is clear, the photographs good. The book covers not only the armored vehicles themselves but their employment in various conflicts, their technology, sighting and gun-laying mechanisms, ammunition, night-fighting equipment, engines, armor, construction, smoke generators, and so on. **Tank Facts And Feats** is superior to the average book on armor in its clarity and interest.



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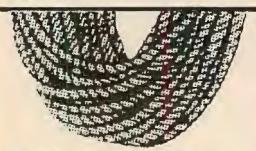
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