

# Our Little Secrets

## WACO UPDATE: THE DELTA FORCE WAS THERE

Amid Nato military supremo Wesley Clark's onslaught on the civilians of Serbia the question arose: did Clark hone his civilian-killing skills at Waco, where the FBI oversaw the largest single spasm of slaughter of civilians by law enforcement in US history, when nearly a hundred Branch Davidians died amid an assault by tanks, flame-throwers and snipers.

The tanks were from Fort Hood, where Wesley Clark was, in early 1993, commander of the Cavalry Division of the US Army's III Corps. In our last issue we cited a congressional report commissioned in the aftermath of Waco which described how Texas governor Anne Richards had consulted with Clark's number two at Fort Hood. Then, on April 14, there was a summit at the Justice Department in Washington, where Attorney General Janet Reno, top Justice Department and FBI officials and two unnamed senior Army officers reviewed the final assault plan scheduled for April 19.

The two Army officers at the Justice Department that day were Colonel Gerald Boykin, and his superior, Peter J. Schoomacher, the commanding general at Fort Bragg. Though Clark (who had served under Schoomacher) was not directly involved in the onslaught on the Branch Davidians, the role of the US Army in that affair throws into harsh relief the way prohibitions against the use of the US military for civilian law enforcement can be swiftly by-passed.

Boykin and Schoomacher were present because the Army's Fort Bragg-based Combat Applications Group-popularly known as the Delta Force-had been enlisted as part of the assault team on the Branch Davidian Compound. It appears that President Clinton had signed a waiver of the Posse Comitatus Act, with the precedent being Ronald Reagan's revocation of the Act in 1987, allowing the Delta Force to be involved in suppressing the Atlanta prison riot.

The role of the Delta Force, the identity of the two Army officers, the revocation of Posse Comitatus all form part of the disclosures of a forthcoming documen-

tary film, Waco: A New Revelation, put together by the same team that produced an earlier, excellent film, Waco: Rules of Engagement. Following our questions about Wesley Clark's possible involvement at Waco, producer/researcher Mike McNulty called us with some details of his new documentary-directed by Jason van Bleet and due to be released in July.

After energetic use of Freedom of Information Act enquiries, plus research in three repositories in Texas holding evidence from the Waco inferno, plus other extensive investigations, McNulty and his team have put together an explosive file:

- 28 video tapes from the repositories show that in the final onslaught on the Waco compound were members of the US military in special assault gear and with name tags obscured. As noted above, Clinton's revocation of the Posse Comitatus Act made this presence legal. McNulty isolates Vince Foster as the White House point man for the Waco operation.

- McNulty cites Foster's widow as saying that the depression that prompted the White House lawyer's death was fueled by horror at the carnage at Waco for which the White House had given the ultimate green light. Foster was writing a Waco report when he died. McNulty says that some documents about Foster and Waco were among those removed from his office after his death, later to surface in a White house store room sheltering archives of the First Lady.

- The film, McNulty says, discloses how the federal assault team placed explosives on top of a compound bunker whither the feds believed the Branch Davidian leaders might flee. Material evidence collected by McNulty shows that the FBI/Delta assault force bombarded the compound with pyrophoric - i.e. fire-causing - projectiles.

Erosion of Posse Comitatus Act prohibitions on the involvement of the US military in law enforcement here is particularly sinister. The congressional report on Waco showed that some Army officers

were extremely disturbed at requests for military assistance by the FBI, and there were some acrimonious exchanges at the time. The drug war, needless to say, has been a prime solvent in this process of erosion. One factor is the malign cross-fertilization occurring when these so-called "elite units" - the Army's Combat Application Group, the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, the Navy's SEALs - all train together, along with SWAT teams from police forces across the country. Thousands of law enforcement officers have now cut their teeth on the homicidal commando techniques most flagrantly displayed by the killers assembled in the British SAS, members of which were also present at the Waco siege. The Rambo mindset now saturates law enforcement, and even the rangers in Fish and Game Departments now pack heat. Both CounterPunch editors have had the experience of being asked to down their fly rods and produce ID, by young Fish and Game rangers with semi-automatics on their hips.

## NATO IN GREEK

We have been watching the swelling international protests against Nato. Petros Evdokas, an editor of Oikologica magazine and a peace activist in Cyprus tells us that the most popular sign these days is the pun "ThaNatos Kills". "In Greece, especially Salonica, our friends and comrades go out and stop the tanks with their bodies, spray-painting them and leaving them stranded on blocked railroad tracks" Evdokas says. He adds that another popular tactic is "to change the street name signs, thereby misdirecting the ThaNatos tanks around to the farmers' market instead of the border".

Evdokas says that the war against Yugoslavia has brought a sense of solidarity in the national liberation struggles in the region, Kurdish, Balkan, Hellenic right to the forefront of popular daily discussion at the workplace, in the home and on the streets. "For us here, liberation means getting rid of the military occupation in the north of Cyprus and a peaceful re-union with our Turkish Cypriot neighbors, and this includes tossing out the British ThaNatos bases in the south, remnants of the

**Clinton followed Reagan's precedent in revoking the Posse Comitatus Act for the feds' attack on the Branch Davidians.**

British Empire, still armed to the teeth", Evdokas tells us. "The biggest challenge for us to confront will be the sickening call for ThaNatos to carry out the same obscene bombings to 'bring justice to Cyprus.'"

## THE WHITE CASTLE

It now seems certain that the European Parliament will be paler than South Africa's under apartheid. So far only one black is in the running for a seat, Claude Morreas, of Britain. Morreas, who seems likely to win his seat, said he was shocked to find that he was the only person of any color other than white who had been nominated. "I will be outnumbered by neo-fascists who think I am subhuman," Morreas told the Independent. "The neo-Nazis will get seats because of proportional representation, but there are no black candidates in the rest of Europe. It is almost incredible." People are beginning to call this version of Fortress Europe, the White Castle.

## AWOL FROM ALBANIA?

Chris Sorochin, a CounterPuncher in Brooklyn, tells us of the momentous climax to a visit he recently paid to Hitler's mountain retreat, Berchtesgaden. As Chris and his companions stood surveying the vertiginous spectacle so savored by the Fuehrer, their attention was seized by a helicopter which rose to eye level, as the pilot surveyed them. Knowledgeable chopper buffs in Chris's party identified the helicopter as an Apache.

## RECYCLE, THEN KILL

As Nato airstrikes flatten oil refineries and shower depleted uranium across Yugoslavia, the US Army has mounted a gung-ho pr campaign touting its new sensitivity to the environment. The Army's green credo, "Sustaining the Land We Defend", is displayed in a glossy ad in Soldier magazine depicting an M-16 totting soldier, equipped with night-vision goggles, striding across the earth. The text of the ad proclaims: "The Army's ability to train effectively and meet the highest standards in service to America depends on your actions as soldiers today. By considering the environment in everything you do, you help sustain the Army's training lands, protect the nation's natural resources, and ensure a safe and healthy environment for fellow soldiers, their families and our civilian communities". The ad urges soldiers "to follow environmental guidelines" during drills because "readi-

## *"I will be outnumbered by fascists who think I am subhuman", says European Union candidate Claude Morreas.*

ness depends on healthy landscapes and training ranges".

In an era when many enlisted men are on food stamps, the Army tells soldiers to recycle at every opportunity, noting that it "lightens the load on America's landfills, decreases the Army's disposal costs and helps installations pay for quality of life programs". The Army, ever vigilant when it comes to fighting wasteful spending, notes that "preventing pollution reduces waste and save millions of dollars for readiness". Alas, the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory cites the Pentagon as being one of the top ten polluters in the nation. This is probably an gross understatement, since the Army is exempt from many reporting requirements and there is little legal recourse to compel the military to clean up its mess. When it comes to dump sites, no company comes close. A report by the Military Toxics Projects shows that there are more than 11,000 hazardous waste dumps at the Pentagon's 900-plus sites in the United States. Cleanup has taken place at less than 400 of the dumps. Somehow we don't think this is what Ed Abbey had in mind when he called for a new generation of eco-warriors.

## GEPHARDT GOES GLOBAL

At CounterPunch we've known for a long time that Richard Gephardt is one of Washington's nimblest opportunists. When it was fashionable and served his interests, Gephardt played the role of Workers' Friend, taking to the floor of the House to launch stern attacks on NAFTA and the WTO. But now Gephardt has changed his tack. Like Jesse Jackson before him, Gephardt is trotting off to Wall Street, hat in hand. His message: you can't trust Republicans, because so many of them are isolationists. Gephardt urges corporate leaders to cross over to the Democrats, their most loyal representatives on matters of global trade. And then Gephardt hits them up for large campaign contributions. As proof of Republican protectionism, Gephardt points to two examples: Republican opposition to the war and to the IMF.

## WHO LOST LOS ALAMOS?

The Chinese have come up with a

smashing rejoinder to the media hysteria surrounding the Cox Report's allegation that Chinese spies stole nuclear test secrets from Los Alamos and other DOE labs: the information was all on the Internet. "Performance data on the seven types of nuclear warheads...have long been openly published in the United States", said Zhao Qizheng a spokesman for the Chinese government. "They are no longer secrets, so there is nothing to steal." Zhao then fired up his computer and logged on to websites to prove his point, the Federation of American Scientists (<http://www.fas.org>) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (<http://www.nrdc.org/nrdcpro/nudb/datab12.html>). Both sites contain nuclear test data cited in the Cox Report as "stolen" by the Chinese.

At CounterPunch we yearn for the moment when MSNBC's portly bombing consultant William Arkin (who managed the NRDC site) is hauled before the House Government Affairs Committee and made submitted to the ordeal of questions by Rep. Dan Burton.

## WHOOOPS

In a recent item on the brass-lunged fraud from Vermont, Bernard Sanders, we slipped up in citing the name of the senator in whose office the Winooski 44 took up residence. It was Sen. Robert Stafford, not Jim Jeffords. Other CounterPunchers take us to task for misprints, most of which are not lethal. Rusty Norvell of Mendocino County detected a subversive "not", which negated the meaning of a sentence in our May 16-31 issue. The sentence intended to state that Peter Hakim of Inter-American Dialogue was arm in arm with one of the Rev Moon's top corporate generals. But it's no mistake when we tuck some quote marks inside the punctuation. This styling is a tribute to the old London Times style book (early Sixties vintage) which a CounterPunch co-editor was required to learn by heart in his capacity as sub-editor on the Times Literary Supplement. We still recall an entry which began, "The Arabs have an unfortunate vagueness about their names..." ■

# Who NATO Killed

Since the Nato airstrikes began on March 24 Serb officials say more than 2,000 civilians have been killed and more than 7,500 wounded. Nato has owned up to bombing raids and missile attacks that have killed 460 civilians, according to a tally by Agence France-Presse. By all accounts, the bombing was indiscriminate, killing farmers, suburbanites, city dwellers, factory workers, reporters, diplomats, people in cars, busses and trains, hospital patients, the elderly and children. Indeed, by our count, Nato bombing raids have killed more than 200 children. Hundreds more will almost certainly perish in the coming months, through environmental factors, such as poisoned water supplies and lack of electrical power to run vital hospital equipment. The following list of civilian casualties is far from comprehensive. We compiled it from daily reports by the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry and wire services, including Agence France Presse, Reuters and AP.

## ALEKSINAC

Five Nato missiles hit Aleksinac, a small mining community, on April 6. Seventeen civilians, taking shelter in a basement of a house, were all killed. Although there is no military presence in the residential area that was bombed, more than 400 homes were destroyed.

## ARILJACA

Nato missiles hit Ariljaca, a small town outside Pristina, on April 28, killing two and injuring a dozen civilians.

## BELGRADE

Near midnight on June 1, 14 missiles destroyed a block of houses in a suburb of Belgrade killing 5 and injuring 20.

Around 1 a.m. on May 20, Nato cluster bombs hit "Dragisa Misovic" hospital in downtown Belgrade. The neurological ward, the maternity ward, the gynecological ward and the children's ward for lung diseases were destroyed. Nato later admitted that one of the laser guided bombs overshot its target by about 1,500 feet (460 meters).

During the attack 4 women were in active labor. A woman who, at the time of the attack, was having a Caesarean sec-

tion, was also injured. She was transferred to the basement where her baby was finally delivered! In the attack 4 patients were killed, and several women in labor were wounded.

On May 8, Nato airstrikes hit the Chinese Embassy, destroying half of the building. According to the Chinese Government there were about 30 people in the building at the moment of the attack. Four Chinese citizens were killed and at least 20 injured.

On Friday, April 23, around 2 a.m., the building of the Serbian National Broadcasting Network was destroyed by Nato air strikes. The building is in the very center of Belgrade, a few hundred feet from a children's theater, St. Marko's Church, the City Childrens Center and the local market. More than 20 civilian employees of the TV station were killed.

On April 16, Milica Rakic, a three-year-old girl, was killed in the Nato attack on Batajnica, a residential suburb of Belgrade.

The administrative center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was hit several times. The building is in the very center of Belgrade, near the city hospital, which has the largest delivery ward in Belgrade. Several civilians, who were passing by the building at the time of the attack, were killed.

On April 13, a cluster bomb hit the Veterans Army Hospital in downtown Belgrade, injuring sixteen patients.

## BOR

Six persons were wounded when Nato hit the electricity relay station at a mine site in Basin Bor on May 15.

## CACAK

On May 5, Nato forces destroyed the Sloboda plant, the largest factory in Cacak. This factory produced domestic appliances and employed 5,000 workers. A residential area near the factory was also destroyed. Two persons were killed, one of them was a 74-year-old woman. Seven were injured.

***"To compare Hitler with Milosevic is to overturn the relationship between the weak and the strong", said Régis Debray.***

## CUPRIJA

On June 1, 2 civilians were killed and 9 wounded when Nato bombs destroyed more than 100 houses in the center of this small town.

## DJAKOVICA

On April 21 70 civilians died and 20 were injured in a refugee camp near Djakovica, home for more than 500 people evicted from Krajina (Croatia). The houses were completely destroyed. Just four years ago, more than 400,000 civilian Serbs were ethnically cleansed from the Krajina region by the Croatian government of Franjo Tudjman. There were 53 bomb craters at the site.

On April 19, seven missiles hit the same site, killing five and wounding 16.

## GNJILANE

Nato attacked Gnjilane a number of times in May. There were dozens of civilian casualties. The City Hospital was hit and badly damaged.

## GRDELICA

Nato hit an international train, on regular service from Belgrade to Thessaloniki (Greece), in the vicinity of Leskovac on Monday, April 12. Sixty passengers were killed, including a 10 year-old child. More than 30 passengers were wounded. All casualties were civilians.

## GUCEVO

On April 23, Nato planes attacked this mountain ski resort, seriously injuring the manager of the complex.

## ISTOK

On May 21, a prison in Istok was hit with two missiles, killing one man and seriously injuring one woman. The attack was repeated at 9:20 a.m. with ten missiles. The second attack left nine people dead, including the deputy governor. At least 10 people were injured. Since then, Nato has bombed this prison several times. By June 1, the death toll had risen to 100..

## JAGODINA

On May 25, Nato attacked this agricultural village with five missiles. One struck a greenhouse killing a farmer and