# HOP-LITE

Newsletter of the International Hoplology Society — No. 4, Spring 1998


# Time and Distance: Emic Views

## Evolutionary Combative Behavior

*Hunter B. Armstrong*

A common thread of thought in this age of explosively expanding technological development is the assumption that everything we discover/develop/create supercedes what came before. To a certain extent this is true, especially as it pertains to developments in material technology. The error is to apply that assumption to understanding human behavior and training for related performance demands. Unlike technology, the foundation of human behavior is not a rapidly changing commodity. Our neuro-psychological and physiological structure and function has changed very little since the days of our prehistoric, modern-human ancestors. We still have the hard wiring of our hunter-gatherer forebears.

Unfortunately, we present-day humans inevitably have the arrogance to assume that somehow we're superior and know better than our predecessors (particularly our "ancestors") not only in technological matters, but in matters of the mind and body as well. We tend to think that we're bigger, faster, stronger, and perhaps the biggest misconception, more intelligent than our forebears. The problem with that assumption is that we start from the wrong baseline, and then proceed to make comparisons with the wrong data.

In this issue...



In regards to behavior, the standard is to assume that "we" are the norm, and using ourselves as the baseline, we make judgements on what is normal, correct, accurate, just, authentic, etc. for all humans in other times. By extension, anything that doesn't fall in line with the way *we* do things now, or with what we "know" now, is abnormal, incorrect, inaccurate, unjust, etc., or just plain wrong.

Of course, the fallacy here is that "we are the norm," that the standard of human behavior should be based on the behaviors of modern, industrialized, technology laden humans.

The baseline of human behavior, in particular, human combative behavior, developed and became wired-in at least over three hundred thousand years ago. It was a behavior that was survival adaptive, that is, it enabled us to adapt to and survive in environments and contexts that have long since changed. Human combative behavior was an evolutionary adaptation that allowed early man to survive and multiply.

Much of the application side of our combative behavior evolved and developed from our hunting behavior, and is grounded in all the traits associated with that behavior. It was established in the early hunter, utilizing hand-retained weapons (clubs, spears, points, etc.) and hand-thrown ballistic weapons (rocks, spears, etc.), products of the limited technology of the time. Due to the inherently limited range of these weapons–club and spear variants–and more importantly to natural limited distance at which mammals engage in combat, human neuro-physiology also evolved and molded for combat at extremely limited engagement distances. In essence, we find that man is primarily wired for combat that occurs from within arms reach to no further than approximately twenty feet (How far can you chuck a stone-tipped, rough wooden spear?). Psychologically, muscularly, visually, this is the combative engagement distance for which humans are wired.

Certainly, refinements and developments in technology increased the distance of combative

functional capability. However, it is highly unlikely that those refinements and developments have been in effect long enough for mankind to have evolved corresponding changes in neurophysiology or biomechanics.

That is not to say that culture has no effect on human behavior in general, or combative behavior in particular. It has a strong influence on the manifestation of combative behavior. And there lies the crux of the problem. Modern analysts are typically only aware of the behaviors they see manifested in a modern, technological society, while having no real understanding of the evolutionary basis to those behaviors. Much of the study and commentary being done now is based not on an understanding of evolutionary combative behavior, but on studies that have been conducted within the last 50-75 years at best. The data gathered in these studies are certainly valid, however, how they are analyzed and applied is questionable at best.

A typical example is the often quoted work by S.L.A. Marshall, whose remarkable studies indicated that during the battlefield combat of World War II, roughly only one out of three combat infantrymen on the line willingly fired at the enemy. The others either fired without aiming, or didn't fire at all. Based on this type of statistic (not a scientific study by any means), "experts" have now concluded that humans are highly reluctant to kill one another, even going further to assert that we must be "desensitized" before we can engage in mortal combat. The fact that history and archaeology both supply overwhelming evidence to the contrary–that man is indeed capable under many different conditions, to not only kill his fellow, but to do so with great zeal–is rationalized away as either the exaggerations of historians, or examples of "desensitization." These "experts" are, of course, looking at the data from the standpoint of the modern technological man. We are raised in a culture that views the gun as the weapon standard. Even a handgun–in the hands of a skilled shooter–can be functionally effective at distances greater than 25 yards, yet, over 90% of police-involved gunfights occur within 20 feet, and over 50% occur within 10 feet. This is a prime example of man responding according to his wiring–his evolutionary behavior–rather than to his increased technological capability.

Another key aspect of our evolutionary behavior is the two types of aggressive/combative behavior displayed by man towards his fellow man - affective and pseudo-predatory. Here we find that when man is confronted by others with whom he feels some degree of relationship, he will generally take an affective, or emotional approach that allows the operation of inherent, biological and cultural inhibitions against killing members of his own group or species. However, relatively unique to man is the ability to view members of other groups as members of a different species (pseudo-speciation), allowing him to sidestep the affective-based inhibitions against killing members of his own species or group. This behavior–pseudo-predatory–allows him to engage in combat with an "enemy" in a manner that parallels the behavior seen in true predation, hunting - where there is little or no hesitation to kill.

With a perspective based on just these two aspects of evolutionary combative behavior:

1) we're wired for combat at very close range

2) we have the capability of engaging in violence either with a very aroused, emotional profile (affective combative behavior) with incumbent inhibitions against killing or with a cool, predatory approach (pseudo-predatory combative behavior, which allows a bypassing of inhibitions against killing

We can look at Marshall's statistics above, and arrive at a totally different conclusion from the modern analysts.

Firstly, Marshall's sample soldiers were in combat at ranges typically measured in the hundreds of yards - far beyond what the human neuro-physiological system is wired for. For most individuals at that range, there literally would be little or no stimulus to engage in combative behavior that would involve the bypassing of inhibitions against killing. Unfortunately, we don't see similar studies of soldiers who had to engage in close combat, i.e., hand-to-hand. It is doubtful, though, that we would find the same two out of three unwilling to kill an enemy attacking at hand-to-hand distance (under 20 feet).

Secondly, those one out of three who did willingly and actively fire at the enemy at long ranges were more likely just naturally more genetically geared toward pseudo-predatory behavior, rather than being

"desensitized" products of their society. A higher quotient for pseud-predatory behavior does not make them sociopaths, but individuals acting within the norms of human behavior. A higher quotient for pseudo-predatory behavior only implies that given a combat environment, these individuals would act accordingly at a wider range of distances than those with lower quotients. On the other hand, the high quotient individual would probably be less likely to be emotionally provoked into violence at any distance. Of course, this is speculation, but it is speculation based on human behavioral norms established hundreds of thousands of years ago, in contrast to the speculation based on the distorted views of human behavior seen in modern society or by taking a perspective that is narrowly focused on any culture of man.

Judging man's combative nature by looking at our modern examples is no more valid than judging that behavior by only looking at the Japanese *bushi* of 16th century, or the Zulus of the 18th. Each provides interesting and valid insights into man's potential for combative behavior, but no single example of man's culture in the last 10,000 years–and certainly not our industrialized version–can provide the basis for understanding the root elements of human combative behavior. For that, we have to look to at evolutionary combative behavior, the perspective of hoplology.

# Core Training

*Members of the Colorado Springs Training Group*

Today's military threat is, at best, an uncertain one. For the military, the buzz word of the moment is MOOTW, or **M**ilitary **O**perations **O**ther than **W**ar. This new era of operations has its own set of rules and doctrine, but nevertheless, some old attitudes must remain. As a Colorado Springs group involved in MOOTW, we are attempting to maintain a forward view, yet remain well grounded in the past. It is this mindset that prompted the functions of the Colorado Springs Training Group. Our group has mostly military and law enforcement personnel. Each member has a background in some combative system.

The genesis of our forming this group was based to a large part on conversations and training with Major George Bristol, USMC. He is an active member of the IHS, and he has provided us with several thought provoking articles and philosophies. Additionally, he is one who has "been there, done that," and he can back up what he says with action. He has been a trusted advisor for us, and when he asked if we would share some of our training findings, we were happy to oblige.

Training time is always at a premium, and in the world of MOOTW this is doubly true. New equipment and applications force greater emphasis on increased technical proficiency. This factor can lead away from the baseline military skills that have served us well in the past. The answer in recent years has been focused on the technological side: a bigger gun, a faster modem, a machine to simulate physical activity, only easier. We see new command & control tools giving us worldwide access. Time, space, and distance have closed on our planning cycles - we think in terms of *data rate* and *over the horizon*. We have new *non-lethal weapons* that include kinetic energy projectiles and acoustic stimulus.

But with all the changing data and high technology, one undeviating factor must remain—the most critical factor—the man. He is the one thing that cannot be replaced with a better machine. He—and his training—is the commodity that is irreplaceable.

There are three basic rules that govern the group's training efforts:

1. the man is the key to any fighting system
2. the weapon can be replaced; the man cannot
3. train solid principles, and any weapon will be an effective weapon

Each of these rules can be expanded on at length. However, for this article we will discuss training using two weapons that form what we call "Core Training."

Core Training is designed to distill combat down to its most basic element - one v. one. Physically and mentally demanding, Core Training places maximum effort on simple movements conducted under high stress. Weapon types and scenarios are building blocks oriented in a term we actually took from the IHS - integrated continuum. Training sessions are relatively short (45 minutes), highly structured, and critiqued in great detail. This format is not for everyone, for the intensity in stress, repetition, and effort is quite high.

For our purposes, the two weapons that have provided the most impact are the rifle-bayonet and the

baton. These weapons are both used in the military today, and are straightforward, easy to teach implements. We have placed secondary importance on unarmed combatives despite a good eclectic mix of empty-hand systems in our group. Military personnel are armed personnel - we train that way because we will fight that way. For several of us, that awakening was hard in coming, even in our status as active duty personnel. However, weapons training has provided us with a better understanding of **realistic** unarmed combatives - which is actually a transitionary part of combat rather than an isolated absolute. Any encounter on a battlefield will start with a weapon of some type. This factor is lost on many of the "dojo mindset," in which many believe that the spinning kick will work in places other than a level dojo floor after a 15 minute stretching session.

Training is broken down into two aspects - drills and practice movements. Our drills are one-on-one engagements of pre-arranged patterns (resembling kata). With the rifle-bayonet, all our training is done with a live blade—we have used both the M4 and M16. Live blade training is the "core of the core." Nothing is quite as realistic as having a live blade engagement in a small space. Bayonet fighting is somewhat of a lost art in today's military, but we have gained incredible insight from it. The baton drills are performed similarly, and nearly as intense. The distance closure is critical, and body mechanics are critiqued in great detail.

Practice movements reinforce the mental intent. With the rifle-bayonet, thrusting practice against dummies gives feedback to the attacker regarding his body dynamics and capabilities as he puts the cold steel through targets from both close quarters and with a running closure. Conversely, it displays to the participant the need to close with lethal intent: he can see the potential for damage done to him if he is not there first himself. Batons are used against the same dummies. The target areas of solar plexus, throat, and nose/eyes are highlighted, but once again the ability to close quickly and surely are heavily reinforced.

We have three findings of note. First is the factor of distancing. Weapon, body type, and aggression are certainly important factors to consider. However, the ability to know and *feel* distance outweighs all others. Some of the more trained bayonet fighters are adept at fighting against a longer weapon simply by dominating or controlling the distance. The stance used and the length of step, once well trained, allow for rapid closure and the ability to strike under optimum conditions.

Second is torso targeting. With both baton and rifle bayonet, any weaving or motion that takes the weapon off of the target torso is a weakness that must be minimized. Several of our martial arts practitioners who had experience with weapons were quite easily handled when they inevitably reverted to windmilling motions that are commonly taught as "combat kata." As with shooting or striking, point at the target and close with it.

Third is conditioning. Based on our findings here, we have changed our unit training to be more effective in combatives. Jogging 3-5 miles will not give the speed to strike quickly at a target that closes on you. We do a good bit of sprinting at distances of 25-50 yards to gain explosiveness. Longer distance running and ruck marches are used for overall conditioning. And unarmed combatives—particularly grappling—are excellent combat conditioners. One of our toughest drills involves sprinting or grappling and then engaging a "rested" opponent in a drill. Form and attitude are tested to a high degree.

This training may seem basic to longtime martial artists. Several of us are martial arts teachers, and it was quite a shock to discover that in more realistic environments, one might not be the real life "sensei" one thought. Orthodox training philosophies have been tested and found lacking when faced with our own basic weapon in our hands. We have no shortage of egos here, and to have to admit that one is not in shape to deal with a series of 6-10 second engagements is somewhat humbling. However, with the high degree of probability that we will be engaged in some aspect of MOOTW or even conventional warfare, it is absolutely necessary that we keep an open mind towards non-orthodox training. Training—both physical and mental—has been positive, despite our hectic deployment schedules and commitments.

Major Bristol wrote in the Foreword to the book *Koryu Bujutsu* that "it is not the magic, it is the mindset. It is not the weapon, it is the warrior who wields it." If Core Training can be summed up in a thought, then that is it. We are the warriors of today and tomorrow, and whether we are using a baton or a high tech sensor, we must engage with that philosophy. Our group has several members who will transfer this summer, so we will in effect be starting several satellite groups throughout the military. We look forward to IHS members and readers

assisting us with continued articles and discussion of topics from the past and present that will shape the future. *Fortis Invictus*

# Courage and Caution

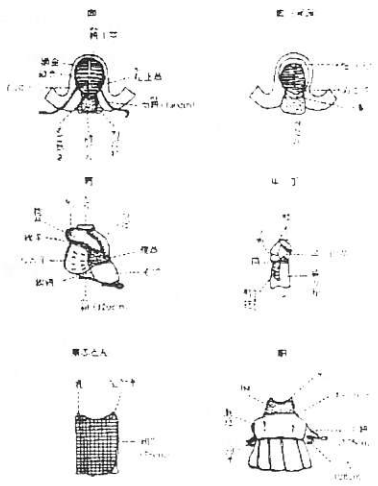
*Steve Kelsey*

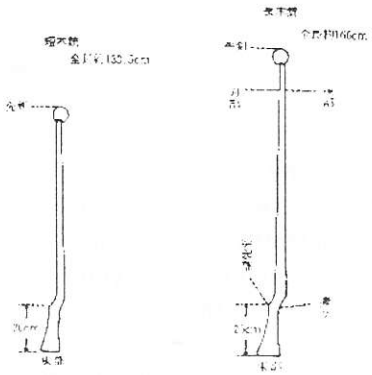
*Jūkendō*, modern bayonet fighting—"the way of the bayonet"—is one of the more modern weapon systems to be developed in Japan. The Japanese system of bayonet fighting originated in the early part of the Meiji period, and was based on Western bayonet practices—primarily from France—that were introduced during Japan's militarization. Interestingly, *jūkendō* wasn't formalized until 1957.

Like so much that has been imported into Japan, the Japanese took Western bayonet practice and made it into something Japanese. The Japanese added on both technical and theoretical aspects, borrowing from a number of native sources. Technically Japanese spearmanship (*sōjutsu*) and kendo practice are probably the two most important influences. In particular, from kendo came the distinctive double step/leap forward that so typifies *jūkendō* movement.

Based on conversations I have had with senior *jūkendō* teachers, the bayonet practice that was first introduced into Japan was characterized by keeping the rear foot fixed to the ground and driving the front foot forward, resulting in a fairly wide stance with the rear leg straight and angled forward. Much like the lunge of a modern fencer, and probably as a result of a fencing influence on European bayonet practice in the 19th Century. However, in *jūkendō*, this rear leg follows the front leg immediately as one jumps forward, driving one's hip forward and keeping a very upright posture, developing an altogether different dynamic.

The safety equipment used in *jūkendō* consists of armor that is similar to that used in kendo. This consists of a *men* (face mask) a *dō* (torso piece), *tare* (a pleated leather/canvas skirt around waist/groin area, which is usually attached to the *dō*,[1]). On the left hand is worn *kote* (a padded glove), while on the right hand is a *yubibukoro* (a leather glove). Under the *do*, over the heart, is a *urabuton* (a padded cushion), and protecting the left shoulder is a *kata*, a large padded sleeve extending over the shoulder, upper arm and across the heart. The *kata* is the most significant difference between *jūkendō* armor and that of kendo. Its importance and the need for sturdiness cannot be over stated as it is the primary target area.





The standard training weapon, *mokujū*, is a 166 cm (65 in.), 1,100 gram (39 oz.) (or heavier) white solid oak mock gun with an integral bayonet. The point of the *mokuju* is capped by a large rubber stop laced to the wood, which acts as a protector.

In practice, *jūkendō* is divided into three distinct areas, *kihon-geiko* (basics/fundamentals), *shiai-geiko* (free sparring and free sparring exercises) and *kata-geiko* (practice of prearranged movement patterns).

In the *kihon* (basics) of *jūkendō*, there are several different thrusts, but the art is really based upon mastering the basic thrust - *chokutotsu*. This very basic, straight lined attack is at the core of all practice in *jūkendō*, and despite being fairly easy to learn, it is the technique that most clearly differentiates between the skillful exponent and the novice.

A new student will usually begin his training familiarizing himself with the basic foot work, the coming to arms with the weapon and with the basic thrust—*chokutotsu*—of the bayonet. Once the beginner has got the basic movements of thrusting down, he will start to work with a partner or teacher and direct his thrust into their *kata* (heart protector). The delivery of the thrust is one of the keys to *jūkendō*, with the arms, legs and hips moving together, the potential for

[1] In kendo armor, the *tare* is separate from the *do*.

delivering an extremely strong thrust is high, however, all to often this can result in a bludgeoning strike, whereas what is actually wanted is a smooth penetration of the heart. One of the senior teachers of the art describes the ideal thrust as a kiss with the bayonet to the chest, a deadly kiss at that. I would say that there is an exquisite feel to the whole thrust, with no jarring or excessive power. This emphasis on a controlled and tightly focused thrust clearly demonstrates the combative rational that still exists in the art, as over extension and needles penetration beyond the heart with the bayonet is both inefficient and can lead to one's weapon becoming stuck in the body.

There are three basic target areas in *jūkendō*, the heart, the left side of the torso (which is still the heart from a different angle) and the throat. These areas can only be attacked with the bayonet end of the *mokujū*, as in *jūkendō* no butt strikes are permitted.

Combatively, *jūkendō*, with it's limited target areas and insistence on only using thrusts with the bayonet, would seem to render it in part ineffectual. To this end the Japanese military supplements its training with *jūken kakutō*, which is similar to the kind of bayonet training that most military forces do, with many variations of techniques, live blade training and a host of other exercises and drills. However, even in this training, the use of many of the standard *jūkendō* techniques is prevalent. In fact, in talking with many of the high ranking teachers, it is evident that they view *jūkendō*—as opposed to using the bayonet in a real combative function—as having very little to do with any technical differences; instead they indicate that the main difference is one of motivation or psychological intent. In *jūkendō*, one is trying to score a point, in real bayonet fighting one is trying to down one's opponent.

As *jūkendō* becomes progressively more sportified, it is questionable that it can develop the characteristics, the psychological intent, necessary for using the weapon for real. The *shiai* bouts probably come as close as one can to real combat with mock weapons, but the potential for injury is slight and the stress that real combat produces is lacking. Despite this, *jūkendō* does have major possibilities for combat training, even if this is only as an adjunct to other more combative forms of weapon training. For example, the dynamic thrusting techniques are both realistic and practical, and are applicable to the use of other weapons and possibly even unarmed arts. The *taisabaki* (footwork) is strong and quick, and the level of aerobic demand is high.

It is not just in the technical area that *jūkendō* has something to offer. The mental training that exists within *jūkendō*—in spite of the lack of stress and danger—can certainly aid combat readiness. Within *jūkendō*, particularly within *shiai*, there exists the necessity to always be trying to move forward, to face down one's opponent, to step into his range, to attack again and again, to develop a stern will, to develop, above all else, courage. This coupled with chess-like maneuvering, where nothing is given, no weakness shown, no opening exposed, where a moment's distraction leads to receiving a blow, where patience not haste is the deciding factor, all this gives rise to the quality of caution.

These are two sides of the same coin—courage and caution—the ability to dare and the ability to wait. It is with these two qualities, courage and caution, that I named this piece because for me they lie at the heart of *jūkendō* practice. It is the presence of these two qualities that I feel distinguish the way of the bayonet.

# Opponent Training for Law Enforcement

*Nick Nibler*

Once again statistics gathered by the FBI show that the annual number of law enforcement officers feloniously slain on duty is rising. In an effort to better prepare their officers for the realities of the street, law enforcement trainers have moved towards making firearms qualifications and training more realistic. Officers are now required to practice shooting at night, at multiple targets, targets that move and to discriminate between shoot and no shoot targets. Combat shoots are held where the targets are numerous, close, small and have to be shot at speed. Officers are now taught how to operate their weapons should one hand become disabled. There are also some truly amazing things being done with video disks and weapons modified to fire a laser pulse. However, as good as these innovations are, they fall short of replicating a live opponent who can move, think, shoot back and is motivated to kill you.

It is generally recognized today that the most effective training is as specific as possible to the actual task itself. For any type of fighting, this means training

against a live opponent in an environment similar to the one in which the actual fight will occur. What is of critical importance when you are training for lethal encounters is that the high level of stress present when you are fighting for your life must be there in the training too. If it's not, you probably aren't accomplishing what you think you are. During World War II, British Commandos conducted training exercises in which their better marksmen would shoot live rounds as close as possible to the trainees participating in the exercise. In some cases, they would shoot the trainee's rifle stock to pieces while he was running around with it in his hands. Today, we don't need to go quite that far.

In recent years, new technologies, like Simunitions™ and the Armed Forces Trainer (AFT) paintball gun, have made it possible to safely conduct training that comes very close to replicating a gun fight. For those who are not familiar with Simunitions™, a real weapon is modified to shoot special ammo that fires a small paintball. The appeal is that it allows you to train with the same type of weapon that you carry. However, law enforcement agencies have been slow to take advantage of these new tools. Of the agencies that include this type of opponent training in their programs, most use scenario based training.

The scenarios are modeled after situations agents commonly encounter; domestic disputes, felony traffic stops, arresting wanted persons, suicidal people and in progress felony calls are some examples. Students are put through the scenes and then critiqued on their performance. This is a great first step, but it tends to be more a test of what the student already knows than a method to teach tactical skills or improve a students performance of those skills already learned.

Combative Concepts Incorporated, a tactics consulting group, has been a pioneer in the field of force on force training. Drawing from years of experience teaching force on force scenarios to Naval Security Forces, they have identified the critical tasks needed to survive a gun fight and they train them in drills. The drills not only introduce the skills to the students, they also allow the students to build proficiency through repetition. The skills are simple, effective and can be readily used in a high stress environment. However, the most important element in a fight is still the person.

One look at the CCI instructors in action confirms this adage. They are hunters and anyone in their path is prey. After the tactical tools have been absorbed, the question then becomes "What are the behaviors that allow you to dominate a life or death situation and how do you train them?" It was while I was pondering this issue that I happened to come across an article by Hunter B. Armstrong, Director of the International Hoplology Society and the International Hoplology Research Center.

In the article, Mr. Armstrong directly addressed the issue of training combative behaviors. I took this to the other officers and instructors that I knew and we ended up inviting Mr. Armstrong out to Seattle for a seminar. Our group is made up of firearms instructors, defensive tactics instructors and tactical team members from different departments who train together on a regular basis. Mr. Armstrong agreed to come out and do the seminar for us. He was joined by Maj. George Bristol. The seminar focused on two areas; a presentation of the article, "Two Faces of Combatives," followed by a hands on training session that demonstrated methods to directly train combative behaviors. The training session ended much too soon, one day was not enough.

However, I came away convinced that the training methods were efficacious and applicable to gun fighting. In fact, what interested me most was that the weapon itself was immaterial. Training is focused on developing combative behaviors that apply across the board. It doesn't matter if you develop those behaviors with a knife or a stick, you will still use the same combative behaviors when you pick up a pistol or find yourself empty handed. We've had the hardware to train for lethal force encounters for years, now we have access to the software to go with the paint guns and Simunitions™.

Currently, we are working with the IHRC to develop a program of instruction for law enforcement officers that integrates firearms, defensive tactics and combative behavior into a comprehensive training package.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Armstrong and Maj. Bristol for taking time out of their busy schedules to come up and give us a glimpse of the road ahead. I know that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg. There is still much to be learned and a lot of hard work ahead.

# Interviewing the Combative Man

*Interview conducted by Major George Bristol, USMC*

One of the core tenets of hoplology is the emic perspective. The emic man - the man inside - is the man

with whom hoplology has the most intimate association. IHS founder Donn Draeger often referred to the emic perspective as "the privileged or honored perspective in hoplology."

It is with this framework in mind that the IHS has begun a series of interviews with the subject exponents of the hoplology - the emic man. In many cases, the subject of the interview wished to remain anonymous, and simply allow his ethos to speak for him. The questions posed were conceived by the Board of Directors with some degree of latitude to allow the subject to expand on particular aspects as he deemed fit. However, the core of the interview remained the combat mindset, its function, and the dedication and quest to cultivate it.

**Combative Man: U. S. Marine**

**IHS**: What is your combative background?

**Marine**: I have always been involved in some sort of combative training. I am a third generation Marine. I began to hunt with a rifle as an 8 year old, and I began to wrestle in junior high. I always knew that I would be a Marine, and I knew that my childhood spent in the woods would help me. I am proud of my West Virginia heritage. I like to think that the West Virginia mountaineer is the kind of man we are talking about.

**IHS**: What do you feel is an accurate definition of the combat mindset?

**Marine**: Well, if you had asked me that twenty years ago, I would have said "steely eyed killer" or some other B.S. saying like that. I think young Marines have a Hollywood feeling about it - you know, John Wayne as Sergeant Stryker. I was no different. I used to have a lot of "Kill 'em all, let god sort 'em out" T-shirts. But over the years, my feelings have changed. I think that the combat mindset is the mindset of the professional. And this is my profession. Everything I do relates to it, and I think that I also realize that to keep it, you have got to work at it.

**IHS**: What is your formal schooling, and do you feel that there is a benefit to any one particular school?

**Marine**: Glad you asked me that, sir. I have been to a lot of the same ones you have - airborne, SCUBA, amphib, reconnaissance - and I learned something in all of them. You may think this strange, but if I were to pick one, I would say Drill Instructor School. When I went there, I had a good FMF (Fleet Marine Force) record, I had been in Beirut, and I had the ribbons and badges. While going through the course, a lot of students - and some of the instructors - asked me about combat, and I really had to think about it. I guess I had been oblivious to a lot of the things that had happened over there, but I began to realize that my soon-to-be recruits would be asking as well. I came up with a short class on it. And when Desert Storm came around, I was one of the guys my whole unit looked to for "combat leadership." Putting it into words gave me the right perspective.

**IHS**: If I said "preparation for combat," what would pop into your mind?

**Marine**: Know your weapon, know your job, be in shape. Sir, you and I have talked about this before lots of times, but a lot of so called "warriors" have little time to really get the feel of their weapon. We don't shoot enough, we don't have it in our hands enough. That is the best thing about all these conflicts today - Marines spend a lot more time with their weapon. Know your job is more than just the fact that you can spout stuff from a manual. It is knowing the bigger picture. I am not sure that we do a good job of giving the junior enlisted a sense of the bigger picture. It is a tough job I know, but I honestly didn't think I knew what the hell a Marine Rifle Squad was capable of until I was a Staff Sergeant. That's bad. Finally, being in shape. You have got to be hard, but in a way that relates to your job. Weights are great, running is great - but only to get you into shape to fight. Sir, I guess since you and I played rugby together I don't need to say this, but sports like that - rugby, wrestling, water polo, the eco-challenge things - are great ways to get into shape for combat. The Brits are into that - long team ruck marches and problem solving. Well, we need to do more of that. And that is just basic preparation.

**IHS**: What is your feeling on martial arts?

**Marine**: I have tried a lot of them. Maybe I shouldn't say this, but I find a lot of the teachers to be hypocrites. I see

a lot of guys who are good at standing there with students at their beck and call, demonstrating techniques and making themselves look good. Most of them are in pitiful shape - if they had to hike four or five miles to their dojo, they would pass out during their class! Military guys who get into martial arts need to get it straight in their heads that if it does not apply to their profession, then they need to seriously consider what the hell they are doing there. For example sir, when you had us doing judo on the boat, you made it clear that it was a "combat conditioner." So, if you do it like that, then it directly relates. But I had one of my guys who had an aikido background giving this "zen for combat" speech that was bullshit.... no application whatsoever. But he had some teacher telling him that he was doing "combat aikido." Yeah, right. I'll tell you what I think of most martial arts teachers - they get hung up on their own diplomas. They use the words "combat," "warrior," and "real" like they are something you can learn in a polished floor dojo. Sir, if martial arts training has all three of those words, then it needs to be high intensity, short duration, done outside, and professional. I don't see a hell of a lot that does that. My son is playing judo, and I think that is okay, because he'll be fit for wrestling. But I would think twice before I would let him do anything like I see around here. I think he will learn more hunting with me. I know that there are good teachers around, but I am definitely looking at it case-by-case.

**IHS**: How do you feel about professional reading and study?

**Marine**: All professionals should be reading. I will admit as a young Marine I read all the Casca and Mack Bolan books! But when General Gray (a former Marine Corps Commandant) got the Professional Reading List going, I jumped on it. Of the books I have read, the most applicable for what we are talking about is John McCormick's *The Right Kind of War*. Great book, great attitude. Others I would mention are *Starship Troopers*, *The Bridge at Dong ha*, and a book you leant me, *The Devil's Brigade*. Also, there are some good movies I would recommend. *Last of the Mohicans* was great because those guys were fit - watch the way they move in the woods and when they are running uphill near the end. I love the realistic attitude. I show those parts to young Marines even now. I like *Shane* because he is the total professional - always in control, always ready. And of course, I like *Battle Cry*. It shows the two types of Marine's - the guy who comes in for a short period, and the professional who has to train him and carry on the tradition. Whenever I see that movie, I am always proud to be a career Marine.

**IHS**: Any closing thoughts?

**Marine**: Sir, I honestly feel that I know my basic job - but I have a long way to go. I have enjoyed doing this with you, and a lot of the articles you have showed me that the hoplologists are doing are great. It makes me feel like I have a lot more to do to be even worthy of being studied, if you know what I mean. I will say that this combat mindset is something hard to define - I will be interested in seeing the rest of these articles. It's something to think about, something to strive for. That's what it's all about.

# The Hoplite's Bookshelf

*Liam Keeley*

This time I'd like to introduce readers to four authors on military affairs whose work I consider of importance to us as hoplologists. They are Elmar Dinter, Paddy Griffith, Robert O'Connell, and Martin Van Creveld. Three are well known figures in military circles, one somewhat less so, but all, I believe, have something of value to say to us.

Elmar Dinter is probably the least known, at least to the English speaking world. I'd like to recommend to all hoplologists his book, *Hero or Coward : Pressures facing the Soldier in Battle*, a product of his time as a lecturer at the British Army Staff College at Camberly. At the time of publication, Dinter was a serving officer in the then West German Army, commanding the artillery of the Mountain Division in Bavaria.

The somewhat jerky style is more than compensated for by his fresh i.e. non-Anglo-American viewpoint and interesting information from the German side, also, as a serving soldier he tends to be more prescriptive than scholars of war such as Keegan and O'Connell. Dinter rightly points out that we have to concentrate on looking at the lowest level of combat, small groups struggling against each other and the chaos that is battle. No argument from me here. He quotes Majdalany, a veteran of Cassino, as saying "There is no difference between the

great offensive and the small groups of men fighting other small groups until one or the other can fight no more,"and concludes this is the level that we should be looking at. Dinter bolsters his argument with material from accounts of the Second World War battles for Calais, Stalingrad, and Cassino. At times I found the structure of the book a bit disconcerting. The quotations are all together in three appendices at the back of the book, so at times I found myself paging madly back and forth, but it does have the advantage of allowing the reader to pursue the argument without becoming side tracked.

Paddy Griffith was for 16 years a senior lecture in War Studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. His book, *Forward into Battle*, is concerned more with the development of modern tactics than with behavior per se, nevertheless highly recommended for its insights, and interesting because it examines present day conflicts and weapons, e.g. the role of the helicopter, as well as taking a brief look into the future. Be sure to get the revised second edition. Major George Bristol tells me that Griffith is very much in vogue with the US Marine Corps, and that his ideas stimulated the "Dynamics of Combat" workshop held for future infantry officers at Quantico.

Daedalus Books sometimes has very good deals, and I was able to pick up a copy of O'Connell's *The Ride of the Second Horseman* very cheaply not too long ago.

O'Connell was Senior Analyst at the U.S. Army Intelligence Agency's Foreign Science and Technology Center. This is his second book on Military History, the first being *Of Arms and Men*. It's got some nice stuff, thoughts on similarities between ant and human armies and societies, also some stuff on pseudo-predation (he quotes Eric Erikson on p. 31), male bonding (see Tiger's book, *Men in Groups*, recommended in a previous issue of Hop-Lite ), warrior elites, etc. The two books seem to cover pretty much the same ground, I need more time to go through both more thoroughly to see if and how his view point has changed. Somewhat wishful in postulating that the era of warfare is over, but he is certainly very much alive to a host of issues of interest to us as hoplologists. I'd like to get some reader input on this. Any comments?

Van Creveld teaches history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and is considered one of the most brilliant military historians alive today. I hear from Major Bristol that he was a scholar in residence at the Marine Corps University a few years ago. The two books in particular to which I'd like to draw attention is *Fighting Power : German and US Army Performance, 1939 - 1945* and *Technology and War: From 2000 B.C. to the Present. Technology and War* is a general overview in the same vein as O'Connell's books, and contains an interesting and opinionated Bibliographical Essay. The book on comparative fighting performance covers ground of interest to hoplologists, concerned as we are with comparative studies. It is not an easy book to read, but it does deserve our serious consideration. Other books include *Supplying War* (1977) and *Command in War*(1985).

Other books include *Supplying War* (1977) and *Command in War* (1985).

I've been thinking about the literature of the First World War recently, probably as a result of reading Ernst Jünger's *The Storm of Steel*. Let me quote from the blurb, to give you some idea of what the book is all about.

> At the outbreak of the First World War the nineteen-year-old Jünger enlisted in the 73rd Hanoverian Fusiliers and fought in this regiment for four years - during much of the time commanding platoons of shock troops in the bloody trench warfare of Northern France and Flanders. Wounded seven times, he was decorated with the highest German military award, the Pour le merite.

While Jünger has come in for a lot of criticism over the years, it seems to me that it is largely unjustified. Jünger was one of the few brave enough to openly oppose Hitler, and was contemptuous of the Nazi agenda in general. Quite simply, he was a brave and honorable gentleman who fought for his country, not for the politicians who happened to be in power at the time. I see him as forming part of the grand European intellectual tradition, rather than the isolated maverick he is sometimes made out to be.

As a book to stand against Jünger's, I think I would choose Robert Graves classic autobiographical account *Goodbye to All That*. Graves is better known as a poet, indeed he has something of a reputation as being a poet's poet and as the writer of historical novels set in the

Classical World. *I, Claudius* is probably one of his better known works. The scope of Graves' book is somewhat broader than that of Jünger's, dealing with his life before and after the War, but forms a nice contrast, as they were both young, low ranking infantry officers.

Incidentally, Paddy Griffith, in his bibliography in *Forward into Battle*, states that his personal favorites for the First World War include Hemingway, while for the Second World War, he recommends *Patrol* by Fred Majdalany, from whom I quoted earlier. I have not as yet been able to find a copy, but I hope to do so before writing my next piece, which will be on the literature of the Second World War.

What then, of the view from the ranks? For the German side, I think I would choose Erich Maria Remarque's great *All Quiet on the Western Front*, and for the British, Frederic Manning's *The Middle Parts of Fortune*, also published under the title *Her Privates We*. Remarque's work is well known, and was the subject of at least two major films, so it hardly needs any introduction, but Manning's work is a virtually unknown classic that deserves a far wider audience. It is of this book that Hemingway said "It is the finest and noblest book of men in war that I have ever read. I read it over once each year to remember how things really were so that I will never lie to myself nor to anyone else about them."

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—— 1991. *Technology and War*, NY: Free Press.

# Miscellaneous Martial Melange

After spending ten years in Japan, Associate Hoplologist **Steve Kelsey** has relocated to England with his family. While in Japan, he was able to study a number of different fighting arts, including *xing-i* and *bagua* under So Sensei; Shintō Musō Ryū *jōdō* under Phil Relnick; *jūkendō* under Wakimoto Sensei; and others, as well as judo and kendo. Kelsey was one of the people instrumental in helping get together a small group of serious researchers based in the Tokyo area. His presence will be sorely missed. Professionally, Mr. Kelsey was involved with outdoor education, and he hopes to continue in that field. He also plans on continuing his study of the history and use of the bayonet in battle, in particular by looking at European military history. He may be contacted through the IHS.

**Nick Nibler** of the King County Sheriffs Department in Washington, has taken on the position of Law Enforcement Liaison.

**Major George Bristol**, USMC, is in the process of moving to Newport, Rhode Island, where he will be starting at the Naval War Command College in the fall.

**B. Bardo**, a Ph.D. candidate at Chiba University, has just left on a brief field trip to the Mongolian Republic. Mr. Bardo, an ethnic Mongol from China's Inner Mongolia province, is writing his thesis on Mongolian Wrestling. He hopes to have some of his research translated and published in *Hop-Lite/Hoplos* in the future. He informs us that there are several different styles of Mongolian wrestling, namely Inner Mongolian, Mongolian, and Buriat. For example, the Buriat Mongols (you may recall that Genghis' mother was a Buriat), start from a clinch position. Another difference is that in their victory dance, Buriats imitate a bull rather than the eagle. Wrestlers in the three regions wear different wrestling outfits. There also seems to be a connection with Shamanism, and there are cases of wrestlers going into trance-like states , i.e. imitating/becoming animals, especially in the Buriat style/area. Mr. Bardo also confirmed that the Mongols do have techniques which can be used both in wrestling and to control or take down animals, and that they are still quite aware of this.

**Takenobu Aoki** and **Seiji Murao**, also Ph.D. candidates at Chiba University's Department of Cultural Anthropology, are shortly leaving for Indonesia to film Javanese Pentjak-Silat. Mr. Aoki specializes in Performing Arts, and Mr. Murao is engaged in Visual Anthropology.

The IHS/IHRC has recently ordered and received several reprinted copies of European and American fighting manuals dating from the 15th century through the late 19th. They were acquired from **Patri J. Pugliese**, a swordsman of the European tradition and scholar of historical fencing manuals. He can be contacted by mail at:

Patri Pugliese
39 Capen Street
Medford, MA 02155, USA

The **IHS Board** held its annual meeting May 4-7, in Sedona, Arizona. In attendance were board members, Liam Keeley, George Bristol, Pat Lineberger, and Hunter Armstrong. Attending as observers were Associate Hoplologist Dean Koropatnicki and Law Enforcement Liaison, Nick Nibler. Various business matters were handled during the meetings.

Coinciding with the meetings were discussions and training exercises aimed at the continuing development and refinement of the ICS (Integrated Combat Systems).

The board members also had a chance to visit the recently acquired 188 acres of property in northern Arizona. This is the planned site of the International Hoplological Research and Training Center.

The IHS Web page–by Web Master David Hall–is officially up, though still under construction. The address of the site is www.hoplology.com or www.hoplos.com. Watch for its continued development.

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INTERNATIONAL HOPLOLOGY SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Members of the IHS receive *HOPLOS* and *HOP-LITE* as part of their membership. Membership, which includes subscriptions to *HOPLOS The Journal Of The International Hoplology Society* and *HOP-LITE*, the IHS newsletter, are available for US $25.00 per year in the U.S. and Canada (one issue per year of *HOPLOS* and 3 issues of *HOP-LITE*). For membership send your check or money order to:

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