



**DELTA SNIPERS AT WACO?**

# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

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EO'S AIR CAV**

**UNMASKING  
THE "SECRET  
MAN"**

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### FULL MENTAL JACKET

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Frank Dux's "autobiography," *The Secret Man*, is full of fantazoid spy exploits lamely presented as non-fiction. The self-styled American

*ninja* and hero-wannabe — now Jean-Claude Van Damme's movie associate — deserves a black belt in BS. 37

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a Flying Circus of propeller-driven attack planes. The “prop vs. jet” controversy raged from Saigon to Washington. 52

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## COVER

“One shot, one kill” is the motto of U.S. military snipers, whose skills have been refined on countless foreign battlefields. But such *combat* skills might be used here at home as the militarization of federal law enforcement continues. Story begins on page 56.



Leif Skoogfors/Zuma

## Self-styled American *ninja*

Frank Dux is billed as the "first covert operative to write a book." Of course, that is nonsense; so is the classification of Dux's alleged autobiography as "non-fiction."

Now in its second printing, *The Secret Man: An American Warrior's Uncensored Story* (Regan Books, 1996, New York City) purports to cover Dux's 1981-7 adventures as a globe-trotting "off the books" agent working directly for the late Central Intelligence Agency Director William Casey.

Regan Books gushed that "the real-life subject of the Jean-Claude Van Damme [1987 martial-arts] film *Bloodsport*... had a hidden career known to few" yet commanded "legendary status on both sides of the Iron Curtain. ..."

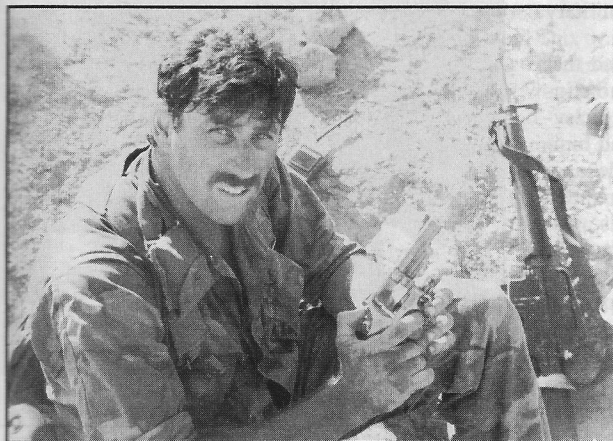
A legend in Dux's own mind, perhaps.

*Soldier Of Fortune* has thoroughly examined the book written by this former low-ranking commo technician in a Marine Reserve artillery unit. Conclusion: *The Secret Man* is a hoax. Others agree.

"He has never been employed by, or affiliated with, the CIA," spokesman Mark Mansfield told *SOF* in a 24 May phone conversation. Dux's book, the CIA spokesman added, "is sheer fantasy, a work of fiction."

It is unusual for the CIA to publicly comment on such things, Mansfield said, "but this individual's claims are so preposterous that we thought it was necessary and appropriate." He noted it is "rather convenient" for Dux that Casey is dead and unable to refute the book.

Dux again exploited the dead in claiming he socialized in El Salvador with



**Macho photo in book: "Down in the trenches in 1983. The .357 Magnum was the sidearm that distinguished special unit personnel." For that matter, the .357 often is the choice of any outdoorsman wanting a reliable, hard-hitting pistol. The military-style rifle (partially obscured by Dux's knee) is not an M16 or AR15: Close examination reveals it is an Italian-made, .22LR look-alike. (So why would "the CIA's finest covert operative" carry a Rambo-look-ing squirrel rifle?)**

# FULL MENTAL JACKET

"If one  
requires  
a literary  
laxative..."

by Alexander McColl

Publicity photos courtesy  
Warren Cowan  
& Associates

SEAL officer Al Schaufelberger, who was killed there in May 1983. (Think of all of the aging, suburban, women whose claim to "fame" is a jealously held fantasy about having slept with JFK — you get the idea.)

### Alive And Kicking

One of the real-life characters mentioned in the book is *not* dead, and he resents Dux's references to him. Retired Army Major General John Singlaub, whose

SpecOps career began in WWII with the OSS, even had his attorney complain to the publisher, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

Dux claimed he last saw Singlaub in 1993 at a SpecOps expo in San Diego. Not only does Singlaub not know Dux, he did not even attend that event. The bullshit gets deeper: *The Secret Man* says that Singlaub headed the Phoenix program, which conducted "black" missions in Vietnam.

True, Phoenix operatives ruthlessly attacked the Viet Cong infrastructure;

He was the CIA's finest covert operative...the subject of the martial arts film *Bloodsport*...a bridge to international organized crime...a legend on both sides of the Iron Curtain. His true identity always concealed from the people he served, he was...

**THE  
SECRET  
MAN**  
An American  
Warrior's  
Uncensored Story  
Frank Dux

"If one requires a literary laxative, this book rates an 11 on a one-to-10 scale. Dux fails to name even one individual who can corroborate his fraud/fantasies. A 'brain tumor' is no justification for labeling *The Secret Man* as non-fiction."

**SOF Editor/Publisher  
Robert K. Brown**

problem is that then-Colonel Singlaub headed the Studies and Observations Group (SOG). He was *never* involved with Phoenix, an entirely separate project.

"You know, it's an insult to your intelligence, on the subject of special operations, to think that this guy [Dux] could say that he was involved in these things in the way that he said he was involved," Singlaub told *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown. "It's an outrage. And with respect

to what he said about Bill Casey ... that's an abomination."

Dux further claimed to have known an "Admiral Smith, a Gulf War commander" whom he last had seen in Saudi Arabia "when I delivered intelligence assets needed for General Norman Schwarzkopf's implementation of a plan to disguise U.S. helicopters as Iraqi copters to penetrate Iraqi airspace." More nonsense.

Retired Gen. Schwarzkopf told *SOF*: "During the operations in the Persian Gulf, we never had a 'plan to disguise U.S. helicopters as Iraqi [heli]copters to penetrate Iraqi airspace.' Further, I don't know the Admiral Smith who is referred to as a 'Gulf War commander.'"

Then there's retired Navy Commander



"Talking shop with SEAL Team 5 Lt. Cmdr. Larry Simmons (Ret.)," the book claims. Not so, says the ex-SEAL. Simmons (left) strongly condemns Dux as "a con man."

Larry W. Simmons, who commanded SEAL Team 5.

Now a military-adventure novelist, Simmons was talked into writing a "generic" forward to *The Secret Man*, sight unseen, by his literary agent — who also represented Dux.

"As soon as I read the first few pages of [Dux's] book," Simmons told *SOF*, "I knew I had been deceived into lending credibility to a fraudulent endeavor. ... He is not an American warrior; he is a con man."

A photo in the book purports to show Simmons "talking shop" with Dux. "I assure the reader [that] Frank Dux never talked shop with SEAL Team 5," Simmons told *SOF*. The book also has several action photos of SpecOps troops. Fact is, they mostly were provided by a SEAL and have nothing whatsoever to do with Dux.

Speaking of photos, the rear jacket of the \$24 hardback book shows Dux posing, in requisite black-leather jacket and gloves, amid a collection of binoculars and cheap, Russian-made, night-vision scopes. Indeed, he looks very much like *Holly-*

*wood's* idea of an ex-CIA tough guy.

### In His Own Defense

On 15 May *SOF* interviewed Dux by phone in hopes of resolving some of the differences between "image" and "reality." Most of his responses can be characterized as hazy and back-pedaling.

When pinned down on obvious errors, Dux leaned heavily on *it's a secret*. He even noted at one point that some of the details may have eluded him due to a brain tumor.

Surprisingly, after writing a 316-page book that purports to expose a lot of the CIA's dark and dirty secrets, on several points Dux was unwilling to elaborate on *grounds of security*, or claiming that to answer the question would expose him-

self or his family to retribution. This lame evasion avoided such things as the actual time and place of his purported, initial interview with Casey.

Not surprisingly, *SOF* isn't the first publication to challenge Dux's self-aggrandizement.

On 1 May 1988 the *Los Angeles Times* carried a lengthy piece, "Ninja: Hero or Master Fake?" It said Dux had a long history of

telling those who would listen "romantic tales of warfare and adventure," including the story of his heroic participation in a covert military mission in Southeast Asia.

The *Times*' article suggested that Dux was a "bright but undistinguished young man who, using cleverness and chutzpah, re-created himself as a super-hero a decade ago, painstakingly authenticating his new persona with military medals, trophies and newspaper clippings of questionable origins."

In the early '80s, Dux operated Los Angeles-area schools that taught a style of *ninja* combatives he had developed: *Dux Ryu*. Dux unquestionably is an accomplished martial artist, but even in that esoteric realm he apparently could not leave reality well enough alone.

The movie *Bloodsport*, starring Belgian actor Jean-Claude Van Damme, purportedly recreated Dux's brutal competition — during an unauthorized leave from his *secret* duties — in a *secret*, by-invitation-only duke-out called the *Kumite* (a Japanese martial word meaning "fight").

In his book, Dux bitterly denounced the *Los Angeles Times* and another California publication, *Black Belt* magazine, as par-

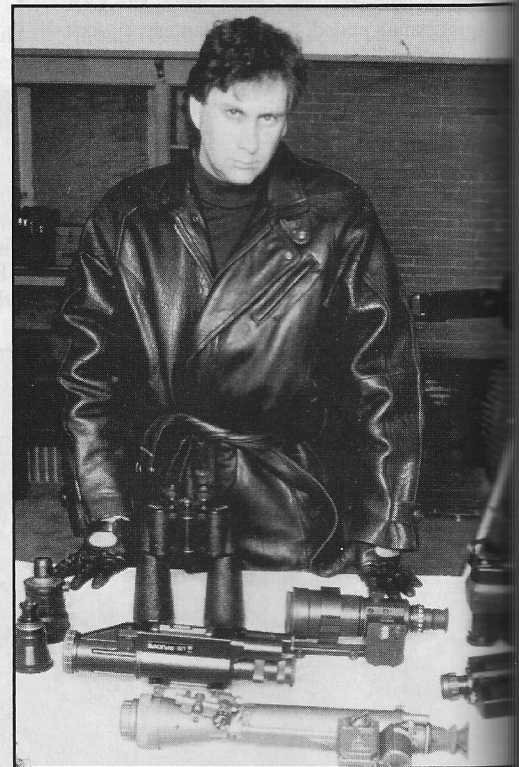
ticipants in a smear campaign begun in 1988 by none other than White House aide Oliver North.

*Black Belt's* current executive editor, Jim Coleman, told *SOF*: "We do not believe Dux competed in it [Kumite]; we don't believe the event ever happened. ... He basically was a small-time martial-arts instructor here in California until that film. ..."

Give Dux credit, though; he's made big money bamboozling some of the *cultural elite* in New York and Hollywood. Nowadays he is billed as story co-creator in Van Damme's big-budget movie, *The Quest*.

### Real World Vs. Reel World

The convoluted premise of Dux's book is this: As a young man, Dux was personally recruited by Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) Casey, who somehow knew Dux's father, to deal with CIA employees who had gone sour, and Casey himself acted as Dux's handler — all carried out in such a way to ensure that no one else in the Agency knew anything about it. If that doesn't cause one's non-



What would any "true life" spy book be without a picture featuring trenchcoat and nifty-looking surveillance gear? (The same binoculars and night-vision devices probably can be purchased from some of *SOF's* advertisers...)

sense detector to register in the red, here are some of the other flaws in the book:

- Besides the fact that Dux displays little personal knowledge of Casey in his otherwise detailed descriptions of their meetings, in the real world (versus the *reel*



**A 1993 martial-arts demonstration in which Dux uses one kick to smash two bottles of champagne held by his students.**

world of the movies) the Agency has other, more bureaucratic and less dramatic ways of dealing with unsatisfactory employees.

- The DCI has vast, complex duties; he simply *would not* have time to act as the personal handling agent for *any* operative.

- A *real* CIA agent risks capture and harsh interrogation. The Agency necessarily would keep something as sensitive and potentially damaging as Dux's supposed functions *far* away from the DCI. What's described in *The Secret Man* violates an elementary rule of spy tradecraft.

- The book describes numerous occasions where Dux received instructions, phony passports and other support "through channels." This is inconsistent with the (preposterous) idea that Casey alone handled Dux.

- Of the eight operations, more or less, described in the book, only one has anything to do with the problem of a CIA employee who had gone bad. This further erodes the supposed rationale for Dux being hired.

- The book is full of the politically correct, anti-CIA sentiment (a sure winner in New York and Hollywood), and bad-mouths the Nicaraguan anti-Sandinistas and U.S.-friendly regimes just about everywhere. Dux seemed to know nothing but a world of whores, gangsters, cops on the take and evil, corrupt CIA operatives. It is unlikely that someone with this mindset would have been welcome in the Agency.

- The book describes "Delphi 9": a joint CIA-KGB operation (Dux representing the CIA) supposedly to investigate aspects of the 1979 Sverdlovsk anthrax disaster. In the early '80s the United States and Soviet Union were still very serious adversaries; such a collaboration simply would not have happened.

- A common theme, right out of James Bond: The hero strolls into a notorious, underworld hangout in Milan,

Duesseldorf, Hong Kong, or some other exotic place, almost immediately encounters a sinister but somehow noble and lovable Serbian, Chinese, etc., gangland kingpin who greets Dux as a long-lost brother then tells him whatever he needs to know and provides whatever assistance he needs. Strangely, no mention is ever made of which foreign language was used for these conversations.

- A whole chapter is devoted to a secret op to destroy fuel-storage tanks at Corinto, Nicaragua. The reasons for Dux and mys-

terious colleague "Bucky" to be there are flimsy: Bucky was there somehow to supervise the CIA's Argentine employees who did the demolition, and Dux was there to facilitate his exfiltration overland. Attempting to make an overland escape, as Dux supposedly did, instead of going out by boat with the rest of the team would have been suicidal: After a huge explosion, every enemy soldier and cop within 100 miles would be on alert. Equally ludicrous is Dux and Bucky philosophizing for 20 minutes or so while the oil tanks are blowing.

- A HALO team comprising one man each from the United States (Dux, of course), France, Great Britain, Israel, Italy and the Netherlands jumps into Iran — right in the middle of its war with Iraq — to destroy a heavily guarded chemical plant. Some inconvenient realities: At the strategic level, there is the problem of getting around the diverging agendas and institutional jealousies of six different

governments and six different intelligence agencies. At the tactical level, there's the matter of different languages and operational procedures. (The passage at least is somewhat realistic in having the mission failing and all but one operative — guess who? — killed.)

### "Secret" Man's Records

Frank William Dux was born on 6 April 1956, in Toronto, Canada. At an early age he moved with his family to California. On 14 April 1975 he enlisted into the Marine Corps.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, *SOF's* sources obtained copies of Dux's military records. They show that he served in the Marine Corps Reserve through 13 April 1981; of this enlistment, the period of 16 June to 23 October 1975 was for active-duty training as a recruit at the San Diego Recruit Depot. His subsequent USMC (reserve) assignments were as a "wireman" and (in 1978) "intelligence specialist" with the Headquarters Battery, 1/14th Marines, 4th Marine Division. He ultimately reached the rank of lance corporal.

A notation in his health record says, "This individual interviewed because of some bizarre type of behavior which centered [at] flights of ideas and exaggerations. ..."

Enough said.



**Frank Dux (center, in cap) choreographs fight scene in martial-arts movie *Lionheart* starring Jean-Claude Van Damme (second from left).**

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*Assistant Editor Marty Kufus and John Hogan, an SOF contributor, assisted with this report. ✕*