

RAMBO YEAR ONE

BAKER TEAM



THE BIRTH
OF A LEGEND

WRITTEN BY WALLACE LEE

BASED ON THE CHARACTERS CREATED BY DAVID MORRELL
A DOUBLE EDGED GHOST WRITINGS FREESHARE RELEASE



The unofficial Baker teams' insignia.

It was an unofficial shoulder patch (designed by soldiers and hand-sewed by Saigon's tailors), and meant to be worn during conventional warfare only.

CCN, CCC e CCS (*Command and Control North, Central, South*) were the three SOG's zones of operation.

The two Baker teams were the only one purposely trained for operating in all the three sectors.

The survival knife represents the reconnaissance nature of 'fighting behind enemy lines', using stealth, survival and self-reliance as their primary skills, which are also the reason the Baker teams were created for.

The AK refers to the most clandestine operations ran by the two teams, which required the use of Russian weapons and uniforms in disguise.

BAKER TEAM

Wallace Lee's
BAKER TEAM

Based on characters created by:
David Morrell

English Translation:
Wallace Lee
Mary Bottazzi

Test reading:
Orazio Fusco
Piero Costanzi
Mat Thomas Marchand
Rime Merln

Website design by:
Marco Faccio

Cover art:
Subject by Wallace Lee
Patch drawing by Marco Faccio
Photo by Marco Bizzotto

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ramboyearone@gmail.com

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This the second volume of the saga.
The first is RAMBO YEAR ONE.

To better enjoy the reading, we strongly suggest you to read this E-book viewing one page at time ('single page' mode).

IMAGES



The olive drab battle dress uniform used during the Vietnam war.

On the left, it is worn together with a 'jungle hat' (which was often used by the Baker teams) and on the right with the so called 'baseball hat'.

During long-range operations the US special forces avoided the use of the helmet, because of its weight.



The *Tiger Stripes* battle dress uniform, never officially issued.

It was available in many slightly different colours, and was mostly used by Special Forces soldiers. In the above photo you can see the so called 'night' version, which was the Baker team's favourite one.

It recently reappeared in Afghanistan, used by very few and rare US Special Forces soldiers.



Model 18 Randall knife (with compass), also known as 'Baker knife'.

Nowadays the knife is still sold with a naked handle, just like during the Vietnam war, and the buyer then wraps its handle with a cord at choice.

Randall designed some of his knives together with SOG personnel, and this is one of those knives that lately went into mass production exactly like Randall and the SOG had designed it.

He one used by SOG soldiers used to sport a black-coated blade.



Model M1911 pistol

One century later, the 1911 is still an outstanding pistol, still in use by law enforcement and military as well - mostly in United States - and despite the fact that some of his most famous features (as the caliber) have been re-evaluated recently.

His pros are the use of two safeties, his extreme reliability even in the dirtiest environments and his accuracy. Many SOG soldiers shelved it for the Browning Hi-power, in order to have a larger magazine at disposal (the rounds were almost doubled). With regard to this decision, SOG soldiers were precursors of the modern, hi-capacity small-caliber pistols that started being worldwide-used during the nineties, and are the nowadays standard.



Ruger pistol model MK I, caliber 22, with integrated suppressor.

It was very accurate pistol, very light and extremely reliable.

Contrary to most weapons that can be 'silenced', the caliber 22 is an already-subsonic caliber, so in order to get the maximum 'discretion' you don't need to use special ammunitions.

It was a very popular weapon between spies, guns for hire and CIA agents.

It was mostly used by the '*shadow men*' (reconnaissance scouts) of the two Baker teams

Some very special units use it nowadays still (they use in fact the Mark II, a slightly updated version).



M18A1 Claymore mine

Anti-personnel mine producing a 'directional', cone shaped explosion, which explains the 'FRONT TOWARD THE ENEMY' writings.

The claymore shot one hundred steel balls in a thirty degree angle of explosion. It was usually placed on the ground and ignited using a wired ignition, but there were other ways of using it.

It is still in use nowadays.



From left to right: smoke grenade, fragmentation grenade and phosphorus grenade.

The phosphorus grenades ('White Phosphorus', also known as '*Willie Peter*'), were 'technically' considered smoke grenades, but in reality they were incendiary grenades and mostly used inside the tunnels, where those grenades were able to burn out all of the oxygen in a very short time, and so killing the enemies by asphyxiation.

Its flame used to burn at a very high temperature, couldn't be extinguished using water and when it touched the skin, it used to attach at just like napalm did, creating very severe burns and very difficult to treat.

After the Vietnam war, using phosphorus grenades 'near inhabited zones' was declared a war crime, but since such a legal definition is quite ambiguous, nowadays is very rarely used by any army, to avoid controversies.



M16

The M16 was a very 'futuristic' rifle shooting a light caliber for its era, but that is considered a medium one by nowadays standards. It was an '*assault rifle*' with respect to its heavier and more powerful counterpart, the M14, which was considered a '*battle rifle*' (a distinction that was never defined very well, and that nowadays doesn't exist any more).

Used since the very first start of the conflict, the M16 was issued with twenty rounds magazines. It used both a caliber and working system completely new, but in the beginning of its story it proved itself a very bad design, jamming too often and with other problems that continued until its barrel was modified and soldiers trained to clean it much often than they used to do.

SOG soldiers – who received better training than the average soldier – had less issues while using it since its beginning, and they liked it against the opinion of the most because of its lightness, which was a very important feature during long-range missions.

Near the end of the conflict the army started using thirty-rounds magazines, and its original too-fast rate of fire (20 rounds per second) was slowed down.

After these modifications, it finally became a very fine weapon.



XM and XM177-E2

Designed a little time after the M16, it was nothing more but a shortened version of the former. With regard to it's era, it was an unbelievably light and easy to handle rifle (just like a sub-machine gun) featuring a range and power almost on par with others full-size assault rifles. Its very, very fast rate of fire was never changed (it could empty a twenty rounds magazine in one second). It was the weapon of choice of SOG men and most Special Forces as well, together with the AK.



AK47

The AK – introduced in 1947 – is the most successful design in firearms history. It was a Russian design whose intrinsic reliability was far, far better than the M16's one. Despite being heavier, it practically never jammed and used thirty rounds magazines instead of the M16's twenty rounds one. The AK47 shoots a heavy and slow bullet that gives it a shorter range and a trajectory more difficult to master for it's user, but whose power can be considered on par to the M16 thanks to it's larger diameter. If the American rifle went under several changes over the years (up to change it's whole name to 'M4') the AK is a good rifle even for nowadays standards, and it's exactly the same that was used during the Vietnam War. The only real update it ever received – during the fifties already – was starting to build it using a lighter alloy. Very few weapons has ever been so long-lived in firearms history.



M14 rifle.

The M14 was a 7.62 millimetres very accurate and very powerful rifle, but with a very strong recoil too. It was considered a standard rifle with regard to its era, but under nowadays standards it's considered a high-caliber weapon for long-range engagements.

Some SOG soldiers liked to use it as a sniper-rifle, because with its twenty rounds magazine and selective-fire capability, it offered a higher volume of fire with respect to its 'rival', the much more accurate M40.

It was Coletta's weapon's of choice.



M40 rifle.

Bolt-action 7.62 sniper rifle.

It was an extremely accurate rifle with regard to its era, simple to use and reliable under any situation. It's still used nowadays by both law enforcement and military.

It was only issued to qualified snipers.



Night vision sight PVS-2 a.k.a. *'starlight scope'*

The US used 'passive' night vision devices for the first time ever during the Vietnam War.

The vision offered by the instrument was black and green.

Those very first night vision devices – huge, heavy and with a very bad definition – raised very different opinions between the soldiers. Most found them useless, while a minority of marksmen and snipers said they were essential. Since then, the US invested a lot of money to develop this technology and became the worldwide leaders in night vision warfare usage.



M60

The M60 was the standard US machine gun during the Vietnam War.

It shoots a 7.62 bullet, an ammo than can reach very long ranges and creates much more damages with regard to the ball used by the M16.

It was designed to be used laying on the ground and operated by two men: one for shooting and the second holding the ammo-belt and reloading it. To solve the problem of holding the belt, soldiers used to tape a can on the gun, but the weapon was lately updated fixing this and other problems. Anyway, even with those modifications, shooting standing or from the hip was not a task for everyone.



Russian Rocket-Propelled Grenade launcher, 'RPG'

Born as a light, cheap and mainly anti-tank weapon, it practically was the terror of any motorized vehicle and even some very light buildings too.

It had no electronic guidance, but it automatically exploded on the target proximity thanks to an infrared thermal sensor. So, in order to destroy a moving target, the user needed no perfect accuracy. It had little effectiveness against the infantry, because its warheads produced no fragments, but it could destroy any helicopter and most of armoured vehicles.

So much was a widespread weapon that any US vehicle was considered at risk at the simple sight of a single Vietcong within RPG range.

Just like the AK, the RPG is still a current weapon, and is still used nowadays as then, using the very same tactics and giving the same results.



Huey helicopter, for infantry transportation.

Helicopters usage gave to the infantry movement skills they had never had before, and the Vietnam war was fought using brand-new tactics.

The first Vietcong attacks against US forces were some plainly suicidal missions, with the only goal of giving the Vietnamese generals some intel about the real US capabilities, with the purpose of planning a strategy for the future.

The Huey helicopter used to mount two machine guns each side, operated by hands (but they couldn't fire straight in front of the vehicle).



Gunship version of the Huey helicopter

It was nothing but a standard Huey equipped with some extra weapons (heavy machine guns, rockets, etc.). The heavier weight reduced the infantry-carry capabilities of the helicopter, and made him less agile overall.

After the end of the war the Huey was upgraded with two engines instead of one, becoming more reliable in any situation, but during the war it was easily influenced by the weight-load, altitude and bad weather. Only the most skilled pilots could use it to its full capabilities



F4 Phantom fighter jet.

Two seats, multi-role fighter jet that could be used as both an interceptor or bomber, by just loading a different set of weapons. When very lightly loaded and with a set of anti-air weapons only, it could fight on par with other military interceptors-only aircrafts, like the fearsome Russians MIGs. It's the most numerous produced super sonic military aircraft in US history. It finally left service near the end of the nineties, but it's still in use in other countries.



A1 Skyraider.

With a design dated back to WWII, the Skyraider looked very old during the Vietnam War already. And yet, thanks to its high manoeuvrability at low speeds, it demonstrated itself an awesome aircraft during close range engagements, like most air-land fights were over the mountains or in the jungle of Vietnam.

It was known for his capability of receiving multiple hits and yet continuing the fight.



The Vietcong were 'armed civilians', in other words guerrilla fighters, with no uniform. Their ranks were made by men, women and sometimes very young kids too. They used any clothes while fighting and when at risk of capture, they used to toss away their weapons, hoping to be mistaken for civilians by the enemy.

The Vietnam War caused so much civilian deaths also because of this fighting attitude.

On the right, one of the very few garments the Vietcong used very often: the so called 'black pajamas'.

Lacking the use of uniforms, the black pajama was the only easily available 'low visibility' dress for the Vietcong.

The scarf (called 'khan ran') represented the soldiers rank.



The North Vietnamese battle dress uniform, with its notorious tortoise-shaped helmet.

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