

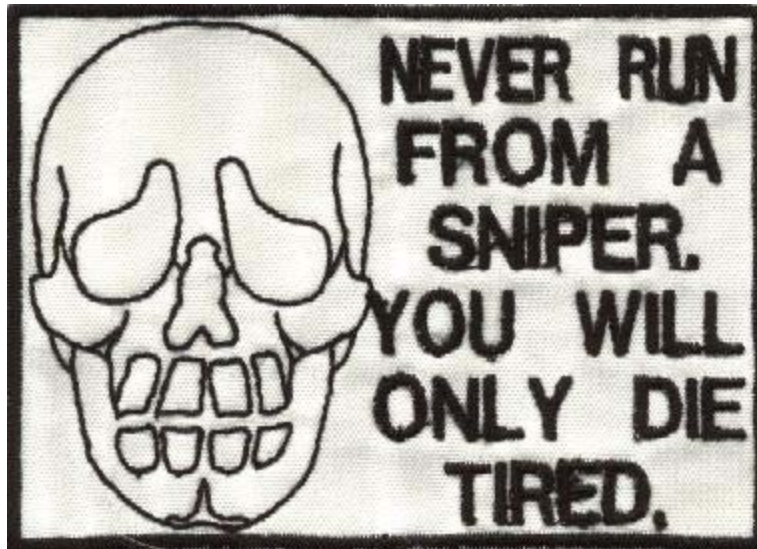
# From fellow Snipers and Shooters...

MOH Recipients, Randall Shughart and Gary Gordon



**Bill Lancaster, 25th Div, US Army, Viet Nam 69-70**





"I was that which others did not want to be. I went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do. I asked nothing from those who gave nothing and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness should I fail. I have seen the face of terror, felt the stinging cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moments love. But most of all I have lived times others would say were best forgotten. At least some day I will be able to say, I was proud of what I was and always will be..... A United States Marine Scout/Sniper"



**"...consider that Marine Scout/Snipers are required to do the same thing at almost twice the distance (hitting a target at over a quarter mile away), with only one shot and no chance to make adjustments. All this on a mission that may last for days, in any weather, against an enemy trying to kill you like a pesky varmint. It is a bizarre way to make a living, and the men who do it are strange birds. But to an enemy, the M40A1 in the hands of a skilled Marine Scout/Sniper is a hellish weapon, more feared than even a bomber loaded with napalm! It is scary to know that you might be hunted by another man; and this makes it tough to do your job. The overwhelming psychological impact of the sniper helps to explain why the Corps invests so much in maintaining this capability."**

**Tom Clancy  
Author"**



"Sniping is a mysterious art most people ignore because, as Jack Nicholson said in the movie, "they can't handle the truth." But the truth lies in the crosshairs. Snipers are a breed apart. They possess a primordial stalking and killing instinct, one couched in a true loner's disposition. They are the solitary killers of Man's oldest and most intense obsession -- war. It is the sniper team that strikes out alone, depending only on itself, employing its imagination and hard-earned skills to the ominous task of taking out key individual targets in a sea of enemy troops. Snipers observe war from afar through their binos, studying it on their maps, sneaking around it on the fringes, penetrating it silently along a straight-razor; only when ready, do they selectively participate, striking without warning, dumping their unaware prey in the dirt with pinpoint precision, disappearing without a trace. They are as close as good guys can get to being half human, half animal. For all these reasons and more, I am one. Happy shooting".

"Major M. 6/23/98"



Scout/Snipers are unique as a specialty among the world's armed forces. They serve as a combination of things - as a scout, and, within that function, as a sniper. In effect, they find where the enemy are, and then, ideally, kill off the most important of the enemy's soldiers, their leaders, before slipping (hopefully) away. The training is difficult, and the psychological makeup of these troops is hard to comprehend - although the infantryman's job is killing, Scout/Snipers seek and destroy individuals, personally. It takes a very unique personality to survive the job, both

tactically and emotionally.



**If I were King, I'd close Army entry training and send all future Infantry grunts to the Marines. The Corps still produces trained and disciplined soldiers who know how to make it on a killing field.**

**--Col. Hackworth, WND 11Nov98**



**US Marines are the most peculiar breed of human beings I have ever witnessed. They treat service as if it was some kind of cult, plastering their emblem on almost everything they own, making themselves look like insane fanatics with haircuts to ungentlemanly lengths, worshipping their Commandant almost as if he was a god, and making wierd animal noises like a gang of savages.**

**They'll fight like rabid dogs at the drop of a hat just for the sake of a little action, and are the cockiest sons of bitches I have ever known. Most have the foulest mouths and drink well beyond man's normal limits, but their high spirits and sense of brotherhood set them apart and, generally speaking, the United States Marines I've come in contact with are the most professional soldiers and the finest men and women I have ever had the pleasure to meet...**



**"man or woman, young or old, my sights are steady, and my trigger cold. walk or run, laugh or cry your in my A.O., now you die!"**



**The Silent Sniper  
By G.A.Codling**

**A Sniper crawls along a forest floor  
A match grade barrel to do his chore  
Blending with the woodland scene  
He leaves no trace of where he's been**

**A single task occupies his mind  
To the outside world he is blind  
One single task, one single goal  
Only his mission occupies his soul**

**He moves into the open grass  
The enemy patrol makes a searching pass  
although they look, they can not see  
the man moving out from a distant tree**

**One hour, two , three then four  
He only moves a few feet more  
Zero hour is getting near  
He knows his target will soon appear**

**A single man he has been sent to kill  
and on his hands this man's blood will spill**

**The moment is now, the target's in site  
Taking up the first pressure the shoot feels right**

**One ounce more on the trigger sear  
The bullet races away like a high speed spear  
It races through the air with a thunderous crack  
There's a fountain of blood as it exits the man's back**

**The silence is deafening theirs not a single sound  
as the shooter removes the case of the single spent round  
His task now done he fades back in to the wood  
His only trace is a body wear a man once stood.**



**While invisible, I see and destroy.**



**The sniper is a "work in progress" as are all true professionals in the art of warfare. He is an artist of the highest order in this most demanding of arts. Constantly honing his edge and perfecting his skills to the point of obsession. His profession demands a dedication to excellence that few others ever even consider...some say he is obsessive..almost cultish. Sniping IS a cult, it's a**

**lifestyle, it's our religion. We are what few other people in the world would want to be, and even fewer are capable of. We live in a world of macho ideals and chauvanistic brotherhood. Outsiders are not welcome and those who betray our way of life become outcast. A hard life of extraordinarily high expectations with no allowance or tolerance for failure. Like the wolfpack, snipers are a tight community with a strict pecking order, the pack mentality prevails. It's what keeps us sharp, the knowledge that if we show weakness or incompetence we will suffer the worst fate possible by unwritten but universally understood "pack law." Shame. To shame or dishonor yourself in front of a brother sniper is to suffer vocal ridicule, or much worse...silent rebuke. To lose the respect of your brothers is damnation. That is why we are the best at what we do. Why we will sit for days at a time in the most punishing cold, the sweltering heat, or the pounding rain, fighting the elements and our own fatigue and biting hunger...to take that one shot...the shot that might save the life of one of our brothers. And despite the impossible conditions and handicaps placed on us by circumstance, we WILL put the target down....because that is what we do. That is who we are. Marine Scout Snipers  
MB 3/5 '99**



**Something wicked this way comes. His approach in neither seen nor heard, his way is the path less travelled, and lonely is his life. Mention of his name runs a chill through the enemy, they fear merely falling under his watchful eye, for when they do their life is in check, pawn to an invisible foe. He may hunt and stalk his prey for days, in stifling heat or the bitterest cold, his goal in life is the end of another, and he doesn't accept failure. He has been called many things by many people, a lone wolf, long rifle, snake, assassin,... and many names less complimentary, but to those who learn to love and respect him, simply Scout Sniper.**

**M.B. Okinawa, Jpn. 07/? '98**







# Scharfschützen

ONE WELL HIDDEN U.S.M.C SNIPER

**From Ian Mixon**

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