

***MILITARY INFORMATION  
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED  
TO KNOW***

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# **DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS**

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**James F. Dunnigan and Albert A. Nofi**

# DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS

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**JAMES F. DUNNIGAN  
ALBERT A. NOFI**

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**In fervent hope that Titivillius  
has not led us astray too often**



# PREFACE



There are nearly 900 items in this book. Most of them are indeed “dirty little secrets” of the military variety. The murk that surrounds military affairs makes many of these items “secret” from the general population; this is not necessarily deliberate. A lot of these “dirty little secrets” are also a mystery to some defense experts, military professionals, and political leaders. The murk is largely created by the difficulty uniformed and civilian observers alike have in sorting out what is really going on in military affairs. We all tend toward a love/hate relationship with military affairs. Most people are quite unenthusiastic about military solutions to problems, and thus averse to a close examination of war and what goes into it. But ignorance in this area is not bliss. It simply allows all manner of foolish, inept, misguided, and outright criminal activities to be carried out in the name of National Defense. Each year, thousands of books are published on military affairs. Most are ignored, and fewer still are read closely. It’s a dense subject that tends to produce equally dense prose. Our approach is different. We have broken the military mysteries into manageable bits. Some of the items herein are indeed dense, but none are so long as to be daunting. We have condensed decades of experience in military affairs into a collection of items that will provide something useful for just about any concerned citizen.



We do not pretend to know everything there is to know about the military. There is too much that can be known, and it is a field that is in constant flux. Military policy and technology can change almost daily, and sometimes even the simplest things can be complicated. As elementary a matter as how many men and women wear Uncle Sam's uniform is by no means easy to determine. The actual number under arms can vary by many thousands from day to day, what with retirements, discharges, and enlistments all happening at different rates. To get around this problem, the Defense Department usually refers to "average annual strength" or "year-end strength," which are about as precise as one could wish to get, roughly 2.1 million. However, these figures omit National Guard and reserve personnel on temporary active duty, about 70,000 people. Now try to fit in the 30,000 or so in the Coast Guard. Then consider how difficult it gets when trying to figure out how many the Russians have.

Although the authors have been collecting military "dirty little secrets" for years, there are many that even we have not heard about. And we are certainly capable of making a mistake. As a result, readers are encouraged to let us know where we've been off the mark, and to send in any "dirty little secrets" that they may wish to share with us for use in future editions of this book.

And, finally, there are the enormous changes that have taken place in the Warsaw Pact nations, and Russia in particular, since 1989. Many items herein refer to the nearly half century of U.S.-Russian military confrontation, and this confrontation may be gone. The Cold War arms race mentality is fading, but in practice the troops and weapons remain. Until Russia settles down into whatever its future form will be, the possibility of some sort of military encounter between the armed forces of the "East" and "West" remains. Even if Russia and America become the peaceful neighbors they have traditionally been, many of the 80 million troops maintained by other nations will still go on doing all that this book describes. Even after a reduction in forces, little will change in Russia nor in the United States, save for the scale of the "dirty little secrets."

## A NOTE ON SOURCES



All of the information came from open sources. That is, none of it is classified (state secret) data. Well, as far as we know, none of it is secret. While much of it came from published sources, a lot came from people in the business. In an effort to protect our informants, and save a lot of space, we have not listed the sources for each item. This gives any of our many human sources a running head start from their local security officer in the event a bit of classified information was unwittingly passed on to us. Note also that most of these items drew from multiple sources, so citations could be a bit lengthy. If you must have sources for some items, contact the authors and we'll provide them. Each of us has listed phone numbers.



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# **PART ONE**



## **Ground Forces**



