

"El Espectador trabajará en bien de la patria con criterio liberal y en bien de los principios liberales con criterio patriótico"

# El Espectador

Domingo

Hoy

Bogota - Colombia 3 of November of 2002

- Portada
- Últimas Noticias
- Opinión
- Investigación
- Paz
- Política
- Judicial
- Internacional
- Económico
- Deportes
- Nacional
- Bogotá
- Formula 1
- Especiales

**LA REVISTA**

**ENTRETENIMIENTO**

- Cultura
- Vida
- Osuna
- Medio Ambiente
- Tecnología
- Alto Turmequé
- Bajo Turmequé
- Tarot
- Goce
- Televisión
- Cine

## The Armed Forces will use armored boots

Red Martha Sanchez

At first they seem normal. They have an internal protection with armored laminae that protect the end and the sole. Also they have a stressed covering to the fire.

They are the boots with which the Government thinks to swear in the threat of more than 100,000 quiebrapatas mines, seeding in 24 of the 32 departments of the country, that only in this year caused the death of 228 soldiers and mutilations to 252.

The dowry, that is being analyzed by the Ministry of Defense, looks for to complement the function of the metal detector, only effective control mechanism of the Troopses against this homemade weapon military used by guerrillas of the Eln, the CRAF and the self-defense.

The proposal tries to leave to them to the passage to the plastic mines that now make the armed groups to evade the detector. Also it looks for to resist the blockade with garlic, whereupon the armed groups neutralize the sense of smell of dogs detectors of explosives.

The denunciation of the use of the condimento in the war arose from the military summit made 15 days ago in the General Commando of the Troopses, where the necessity was examined to increase the security of the soldiers.

The preoccupation of the Government was sustained in the statistics of the Military Hospital, where this year they have taken care of the 120 military mutilated by the antipersonnel mines. According to the Ministry of Defense, during the same period, by effect of the same quiebrapatas, 228 of the 400 dead military fell. Other 252 mutilated which they appear between the 900 hurt military, were injured by these mines.

The statistic and the reality military took to that members of the Public Force made the first tests to the new anti-mine boots made by a company of Singapur.

The examination of the armored footwear was made recently in a military trimming of Bogota, where they put under the boots the normal weight of a soldier and activated an antipersonnel artisan mine, loaded with indugel, anfo and pentolite.

The test that became determined that the system of the boot allows the absorption of the energy, dissipates the shock wave and reduces the collateral damages in the victims of these pumps.

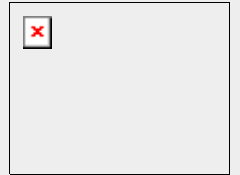
The evaluation found that the design and the material of manufacture of the boot allow to have nonsingle protection in the plant but in the lateral part of the foot.

The critical part

In spite of kindness and the results that gave the made studies, expert in prótesis skeptics were in front of the proposal and the protection that in greater or smaller degree can offer the boots.

**OTROS TITULARES**

- ➔ "Now I am the bad one of the stroll"
- ➔ The price to negotiate La Paz
- ➔ "Sometimes I feel like a enjaulado lion"
- ➔ The Armed Forces will use armored boots



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**Sportsman of the Year The Spectator**

Candidates to the Sportsman of the greater Year of the Watching Category

- 👤 Diego Rosero, skating
- 👤 Jorge Andrés Wineskin maker, skating
- 👤 Briggite Méndez, skating
- 👤 Édgar Rentería, basebal
- 👤 Juan Pablo Montoya, motoring
- 👤 Santiago Wineskin maker, cycling
- 👤 Fabiola Zuluaga, tennis
- 👤 Trimming Duke, clavadista

The traumatólogo doctor Mountain Fernando, head of the section of amputated of the Military Hospital, assured that in a matter of mines which more cause damage is the shock wave and that until now the only thing which it has worked are the prevention systems.

"we do not know any other element that guarantees the security before that coctel (the mines) that contains from metal to fecal matter", said.

According to the traumatólogo, the treatment and hospitable recovery of mutilating by quiebrapatas mines have a cost superior to \$50 million. To it one adds the pension and the indemnification to that they have right the victims.

Consulted military strategists, who omitted their name, also intervned in the proposal: "Both kilos that weigh the boots will decrease the mobility of the customary troops to walk with the 1,000 grams of the traditional boots".

Nevertheless, information in Internet indicate that Andrew Vaz, its creator in Singapur, works in making them lighter to guarantee the levels of survival of the soldiers.

The other analysis that made the experts military was the price: each dull pair of hill in market USS300, with a guarantee of two years.

For that reason, an official who watched the test said that she evaluates herself if they could be destined only to units of shock and groups elites as the Force of Fast Unfolding, Urban Antiterrorist Forces, Antinarcotic Commandos Jungle, Amphibians and.

While the type of the new boots is decided in the next days, the soldiers who patrol know that that enemy weapon, used from World War II, watches them perhaps under the dry leaf of a tree (To see testimony).

The history of Alexánder

"I felt It at one's feet. I knew that it had stepped on it because I felt taponazo and, right away, the foot was blown and the explosion of the mine elevated me by airs. I fell seated and the gun me five meters had left. There, seated, I saw that only it had a leg.

I remembered my companion, to whom I before gathered two days to a kilometer of there, because a mine also flew one to him of its legs. ' it touched alternated, I thought to Me. I felt then the progressive ardor, soon the intense, acute pain, and everything began to me to dim. It saw fire. I felt thirst. Not oía. That the helicopter comes, I requested.

Hands on time touched the face to me that my companions said: One does not fall asleep, does not fall asleep. Everything around became blurred to me. There was a small noise and I clung to that called hope helicopter that removed to me from the countryside of Tame until the hospital of Araucan.

By the infection of the explosives they brought same day to the Military Hospital in Bogota, the 20 of May of this year. Here I found my companions, Elkin Rovira and Jimy Beifía then, of the Movable Brigade Number Three. To the three they amputated legs to us because in only three days caímos in minefields by the guerrilla in that department of Araucan.

In the three cases, the sharpshooting soldiers reviewed the maze, the dogs smelled the strubble, but he sees, I do not have my leg. We were left all unprotected ones.

As soldier of the Force of Fast Unfolding (Fudra), we had faced the Eln and the CRAF in different parts from the country. Noncaímos nor in the operation Black Cat, but the life changed.

Here we rehabilitated more than 30 soldiers of Antioquia, Santander and Caquetá where, increase of minefields has been detected since the zone of

distension finished.

Now we fought against the pain the ghost or amputated extremity. This Friday I released leg (prótesis) and I must learn to use it to cycle and to participate in the paraolímpicos games of the next year.

Fíjese, to the 25 years I, Alexander Go' mez, am wanted to marry because to my fiancée she did not matter to him what she happened to me. Today, dream being welded, but when wide-awake and I see the leg, I recognize that the dream was fulfilled to me. I do not want for my children a mutilated life of ".