



# KOMMANDOSTORE

We talk at length about all the cool gear we have on our store for good reason — everything we sell has an interesting story woven into it's very construction.

*Thing is, that goes far beyond surplus, too.*

There's a couple items today that we really want to *expand upon our answers and show our work*. Neither of them really got a proper introduction in the first place...



# KS SPORT?

We talk a lot about *military history*, but every now and then we dabble in the strange stories that might be a little oddball or military *adjacent*.

A good example would be our *Polizei Bomber Jackets* (we highly recommend reading our ['behind the bomber'](#) article).

*They're squarely in our cold-war-era* of expertise and rooted in issues that were much larger.

Two stories that inspired us on black friday were about the **Soviet CSKA Hockey Team** and the short-lived **USMC urban warfare skateboards** with one of the most famously confusing historical images of all time attached to it...



*Some of you who recognize the field shirt he's wearing already know where we're going with this. More on this story later in the email...*

We wanted to change things up from doing cool T-Shirts and patches & stickers bundled with them — as they say in college, *expand into new mediums, maaaaan.*

And we think the resulting products are something a whole lot more interesting than usual.

*But we'll still do hoodies & shirts from time to time too. We just wanted to get weird with it here.*



But before we get too deep into the lore, *we also have an absolute truckload of stickers that just got restocked, along with most of our flag catalog and **one of our oldest patches, which just got a huge design update.***

In addition, the excellent Commanding-Officer-panty-twisting medals from **Blue Falcon Awards** have made their return on [Collab Corner](#).



*If you want you can jump off the email here and you won't hurt our feelings. There are nearly 20 designs back in stock and It's been a while since we've seen those S.T.A.L.K.E.R. flags around...*

**ATTENTION STALKERS ⚡**



# **URBAN WARRIOR**

Despite what some drop brand that ends in "group", "solutions" or "tactical" would have you believe, *there isn't that much overlap between the military and skateboarding. Or is there?*

During the 1990s, The US military grew increasingly concerned over the enigma that was Urban Warfare.

Whether it was a domestic war on terror, another terrorist group rearing their heads in the Middle East, or something kicking off in newly-former-soviet cities depended on who you asked...



But a lot of weird camos started to come around.

Greens, browns, and reds were replaced with greyscale colors.

"Leaf" patterns became blocky, and some even went *digital*.

But by far one of the most infamous and intriguing camos was **T-Block**, (shown above) which saw limited trials on a small number of USMC units, along with other equipment like...

***Wait, is that a skateboard?***



**Operation Urban Warrior** in 1999 was an expedited program following the disaster at the battle of Mogadishu (which is worth an email on its own).

*It completely changed how we fought in urban environments.* Mogadishu painted a frightening image of future operations in dense cities, so the marine corps immediately got to work on a complete overhaul.

Tactics, weapon platforms, and *at one point, even uniforms were all in a state of entropy.*



**T-Block**, although never fielded (and replaced by MARPAT desert & woodland) was one of the attempts to make an "urban" camo by using patterns that matched man-made infrastructure to help make marines harder to spot.

It became legendary on the surplus market for it's sheer oddity and *incredible rarity...*

***"That's cool and all, but what's with the skateboard from earlier?"***

This image got famous for a reason, let's talk about that board now.





Doing training scenarios without the help of armor, evac, or much support to speak of (as was the case in Mogadishu) marines had to come up with creative ways to use items and vehicles found in urban environments to stay in the fight.

***Enter the combat skateboard.***

Used as a way to draw sniper fire and set off booby traps, the bart-simpson-esque combat tool would go on to be one of the wackiest but most ingenious solutions to come out of 'Urban Warrior'

...But the "bulldozer from hell" sounds pretty crazy too. We'll let you google that one.



So, for our first 'skate deck' release ever we decided that the combat skateboard should've matched the uniforms the marines used during 'urban warrior'.

So after some pain-staking re-creation of the t-block pattern and a little bit of color matching, we've come up with a limited release skate deck with an insane backstory.



*We're no Tony Hawks, but we'd be lying if we said we've wanted to dip our toes into the skateboarding side of things for years now...*

SK8 OR DIE 🏠

# ***THE STATE OF HOCKEY***

In case you weren't aware, Kommandostore *started* in Minnesota.

If there's one thing that's true: you can move the Minnesotans somewhere else, but you can't take the hockey fan out of Minnesotans.

*After all, one of our biggest claims to fame was actually being able to beat the Russians at their own game - Hockey.*



Soviet Hockey is *positively legendary*, and you can mostly owe it to these guys, the HC CSKA or *Central Sports Club of the Army*, Moscow.

Over the course of the Soviet League's existence they won an astonishing number of regular season championships — **32 out of its 46 year run.**

In the European Cup, they dominated winning every championship title from 1969-1990 except 2, with a 13 year streak from 1978 to 1990.



They even played a bit with the NHL here in the states, *and absolutely obliterated us as well, winning 26 out of 36 games they played.*

When they weren't out on the ice winning games or training, *they went back to the barracks.*

*These guys made the Red Army look like the boy scouts. That is, until the Soviet Union unceremoniously collapsed.*



After the fall, the hockey club became known as "The Russian Penguins" after the Pittsburgh Penguins bought an interest in the team. They played 13 games as part of the IHL season and continued to dominate with soviet-style play.

*So if all of that isn't a justification to make an homage to one of their most iconic jerseys, we don't know what is.*



The jersey you'll get is a high-quality polyester mesh with a durable sublimated print, and if you get the right size, *does indeed work with hockey pads if you want to partake in LARP.*

We've dumped a few other easter eggs on the Jersey, including our unofficial sub-brand "KS Sport" and a few other nods to soviet sports...

Nothing Short Of A Miracle 🏒



"Allow me to play you the song of my people!"

*\*Sustained gunfire ensues\**



Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

Just hit 'reply' on this email.



Want to dump us and make Ivan sob quietly in his parking spot before work?

[Unsubscribe.\\*](#)

\*Alternatively, you can bug the bossman directly and tell us what you don't like:

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