

# Book Review: *Arrow to the Heart*

By Richard Solberg

March 31, 2005 was a pivotal day in the life of Chris Kortlander. I had known him as a candidate for county sheriff, and the owner of Garryowen. He was a mover and shaker in local tourism and his Type A personality made him seem larger than life. I had just finished interviewing him on the local radio station. Again the subjects had been tourism and his vision for preserving the colorful history of the area made famous by Custer's fatal last stand. He was standing next to me when he received a fateful phone call that Garryowen was under siege by an armed cadre of federal, state and local police. It was not going to be a good day.

*Arrow to the Heart* tells the story of the events leading up to and following that 'raid'. He tells his personal story of devastating attacks by government agents bent on destroying his business, his health, and threatening his very freedom in a power play of retribution ultimately built around a button off of the shirt of an Army uniform. It puts seemingly unrelated events together to be seen as a clear pattern of abusive persecution of our fellow Americans by federal law enforcement agents of the Department of the Interior.

The book is ripe with documentation of the facts that characterize what has become known as the 'deep state' of a law enforcement bureaucracy. The story is compelling. Otherwise ordinary Americans just doing mundane things. Go to any farmer's market on the weekend and you will find an eclectic collection of Americas displaying their unique collections of 'stuff'. *Arrow to the Heart* talks about the people who had a passion for history, who became targets of the self-aggrandizing actions of federal agents. Instead of ferreting out real crime instead they make victims of citizens doing ordinary things. And resisting the federal law enforcement engine is akin to deciding to the wrestle the 800-pound gorilla. Sometime you just want to get out of the cage. Some couldn't stand it and some died. But Kortlander fought back.

During a decade long fight for survival, Kortlander had a front row seat witnessing the pattern of bureaucratic abuse committed by federal agents purporting to enforce the law of the land while engaging in a pattern of despotic self-aggrandizement. He tells the story of the federal officials using threats and intimidation in the persecution of God fearing, patriotic U.S. citizens using methods more commonly associated with stories of 'black booted thugs'.

Kortlander also tells his own story while laying out the connections between the 2005 Custer Battlefield Museum raid, the Gibson Guitar raid, and the Operation Cerberus raid. *Arrow to the Heart* documents how federal law enforcement agencies operated as they repeatedly overreached their authority.

*Arrow to the Heart* reads like a spy novel as Kortlander names names, while exposing the actions of corrupt federal law enforcement agents. Lies and malice are shown to be the stock-in-trade they use in their assault on our civil rights. Starting with his story of recovery from the total destruction from the pyroclastic winds of California wild fires, he continues with his vision to preserve the history of America's western expansion and thus fueled the resulting cultural conflicts. While the target of the federal law enforcement system he came to understand that

there is a frontal assault on our constitutional value system that threatens us all – our property, our freedom and our very lives.

Kortlander details how the election of a Montana US Senator was the result of a policies and fraud that afflict our electoral process and that resulted in the swing of power at the very seat of our nation's government. In narratives that seem to be ripped from the headlines, *Arrow to the Heart* provides the perspective and facts needed to bring an infectious pattern and practice of government abuse into sharp focus. It unveils the policies that render the federal agents invisible and immune to the will of 'we the people'. Seemingly unrelated actions are shown to be part of the 'deep state', all without accountability -- even to Congress.

Even now as facts regarding 'suicide lists' and 'kill lists' seep into the news, agenda driven federal law enforcement is exposed for its abusive tactics that have resulted in multiple deaths from the government largess coopted by a empowered privileged class of federal police. No longer serving the people from whom they derive their power, *Arrow to the Heart* reveals a self-serving clique of officials who have been absolutely corrupted by the power of life and death entrusted to them.

Kortlander's book exposes a growing and justified fear of federal encroachment on the Constitutional rights of life, liberty and America's promise of freedom across our fruited plains. Starting with a forward by Ammon Bundy, son of Cliven Bundy – himself a target of an abusive federal criminal prosecution – *Arrow to the Heart* unveils ongoing episodes of federal law enforcement overreach and the destructive implications it has for the lives of all Americans.