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Deadly Reckoning (2001) + Firing Line (1991/Cheezy Flicks DVDs)

Picture: C- Sound: C-/C
Extras: D/C- Films: D

Two odd duds that might be curios are so bad that you should be warned of them. Robert Vaughn keeps having career revivals. **The Man From U.N.C.L.E.** star has seen his classic series issued as a deluxe DVD box (reviewed elsewhere on this site) while becoming a star again in **Hu\$tle** (also on the site) and **The Protectors** (also on the site) still has its cult following. However, he is not in the lame **Deadly Reckoning** enough to even be on the DVD cover and for good reason.

He heads some mysterious battle unit, but they seem to be corrupt. The action sequences (besides the annoying, tired child-in-jeopardy angle) are phony, the script inept and Vaughn is wasted badly in this for-the-money disaster. He is on the back cover, but you should skip it. The same can be said about **Firing Line**, made ten years before, but looking like bad 1980s product much like the latter film.

The cover decries female lead Shannon Tweed in the twilight of her beauty, but the more interesting casting is male lead Reb Brown, a longtime character actor who always played the bodybuilder, lug or occasional henchman. At his peak, he became TV's first live-action **Captain America** in a series of late 1970s telefilms that never led to a series. Here he is belatedly trying to be an action star, but it oddly never works and he is never in his element. Besides zero chemistry with Tweed and a combination of bad dialogue and acting, wow is this bad. Brown is now a producer.

Note that the **Firing** print has a Mill Creek logo that keeps surfacing.

The 1.33 X 1 image in both cases is soft and color poor, while the PCM 16/48 2.0 Mono is low, rough and compressed on **Deadly**, so be very careful of playback levels and volume switching, while **Firing** fares a little better than expected in clarity. Trailers and Intermission shorts are the only extras on **Firing**, while **Deadly** has none at all.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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