

M I C H A E L C A S E Y

deploy deploy

the LZ has a middle of the night drill
and the BTOC squad deploys
quick as hell
we sky there less than a minute
and this officer walks around
asks if we got our flak jacket
that's evident, eh?
and then he asks
how much ammo you got?
I didn't even have a clip
a real pisser for a drill even?
April Fool's they hit us real
and piss burner goes round again
right to the same hole
I'm hiding in
ready for him this time
one hundred seventy-one bullets, sir
nineteen per clip
eight clips in bandolier
he says that's not a hundred seventy-one
I says then and one clip in the rifle, sir
locked and loaded, sir
some people you know
they kick at a hanging

MICHAEL CASEY'S first collection, *Obscenities*, was chosen by Stanley Kunitz for the Yale Series of Younger Poets. His latest book is *Check Points* from Adastral Press of Easthampton, Massachusetts.