



MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.
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SOLDIERS WIN AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHAMPIONSHIPS OF THE AMERICAS AND ISSF PRESIDENT'S CUP

Soldiers with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit won a total of 34 medals and seven 2024 Olympic Quotas for Team USA during two recent international competitions. The winning streak kicked off at the International Shooting Sports Federation's Shotgun World Championships in Osijek, Croatia, Sept. 19 - Oct. 12 when Spc. Samantha Simonton claimed the Bronze Medal in Women's Skeet, earning the first Paris Olympic Quota in the event for Team USA. (Each country must earn a ticket, or quota, in every event to compete at the Olympic Games.) After that, the Gainesville, Georgia resident joined up with her civilian teammates, Austen Smith and Dania Vizzi, to help bring home the Gold Medal in the Women's Skeet Team event in a tight Final against Italy. In Men's Skeet, USAMU Staff Sergeants Christian Elliott and Dustan Taylor joined forces with three-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Vincent Hancock (former USAMU), to claim the Silver Medal in the Men's Skeet Team event in another intense Final against Italy.

Jay Waldron (former USAMU) served as the Shotgun Coach, while SFC Will Hinton shot Men's Trap and SGT Rachel Tozier shot Women's Trap.

As soon as the Shotgun World Championships were over, the ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Championships started in Cairo, Egypt Oct. 12 - 28. At this international competition, Team USA turned up the heat. Spc. Alison Weisz seized Gold Medal and Olympic Quota in Women's 10m Air Rifle in a tight Final against China. This win also earned the Belgrade, Montana native the title of the Women's Air Rifle World Champion, something an American woman has not accomplished since 1979 (Karen Monez-USAMU), according to NBC Sports. After her huge win, Spc. Weisz joined up with another USAMU Soldier, Spc. Sagen Maddalena, and Team USA's Mary Tucker. This trio of 2020 Olympians took the Silver Medal in a Final against China. Next up with the 50m Prone Mixed Rifle event where Sgt. Maddalena, a Groveland, California native, and Sgt. Ivan Roe, a Bozeman, Montana native, seized the Gold Medal against Ukraine.

In the Women's individual 50m Three-Position Rifle event, Sgt. Maddalena placed fourth earning Team USA its first 2024 Olympic Quota in that event. The final medal won by a Soldier at the Rifle and Pistol World Championships, was the Bronze Medal in Men's 300m Standard Rifle, which was claimed by Staff Sgt. Tim Sherry of Littleton, Colorado. No quotas were given out for this event as it is no longer an Olympic event. Overall, Team USA claimed 19 World Championship medals and five Olympic Quotas. The U.S.

Army Soldiers who were members of Team USA won seven of those medals and three of the Olympic Quotas.

Other USAMU personnel included Team Leader Robert Aylward, USAMU Executive Officer; former USAMU pistol shooter Sandra Uptagrafft; former USAMU pistol shooter Keith Sanderson; and former USAMU rifle shooter Denise Loring.

SSG Kevin Nguyen competed in the 2022 World Paralympic Shooting Championships in Al Ain, UAE November 4-11, 2022.



Pictured: Team Leader Robert and Jennie Aylward on local transportation.

MMA President's Report



I attended the 14th USAMU Military Ball on November 4, 2022 at the Green Island Country Club in Columbus, GA on behalf of the Military Marksmanship Association (MMA). It was a great time and was sponsored once again by a donation of Mr. Robert Buker, President and CEO of U. S. Sugar. The MMA has decided to honor Mr. Buker with an MMA Life Membership so he can be kept up to date with all of the MMA activities and information as it was his donation that allowed such a fine evening. The Grog Ceremony was impressive, however I am sure there were a few headaches the next day.

Speaking of MMA Life Memberships ... I want to acknowledge the following that have joined or upgraded their memberships since the last MMA Times: Donald R. Tryce, Paul L. Davis, Mary L. Godlove, Denise L. Loring and Robert Buker.

2023 All-Army: We need volunteers to work an MMA table during All-Army in mid-March to recruit members and sell merchandise. Coordinate with Treasurer Lyman Grover at cell 706-536-5093 and/or sgt_g@hotmail.com on the exact dates and location. (There's an underscore between the T and G.)

MMA projects: We have several projects under way. We are going to be accepting shooting-related advertising that may be of interest to the group. MMA members will also be able to list items of personal equipment for sale. Please stand by as we work out the details. We are also closing in on the artwork to get a price for a Military Marksmanship Association Challenge Coin. We hope to have more on that in the next issue.

We are still waiting on word about the timing of the next USAMU Reunion. Again, we hope to have more information in the next issue.

Ray P. Carter
MMA President

The MMA Board consists of:

President	Ray Carter	603-957-0377
Vice President	Eric Uptagrafft	
Treasurer	Lyman Grover	706-536-5093
Secretary	Norman Anderson	706-593-5255
Historian	Bruce Meredith	706-594-1603
Membership Director	Ken Johnson	
IT Officer	Sandra Uptagrafft	
USAMU Liaison	Robert Aylward	706-617-9962
Past Vice President	Nicole Haggman	
MMA Times Editor	Vacant	

If you are interested in volunteering for the MMA, please contact us.

USAMU Commander's Report



Military Marksmanship Association Members,
I hope this issue of the MMA Times finds you well in 2023. The USAMU is excited for what 2023 will bring but let's look back at the final quarter of 2022.

To start, please join me in welcoming our new Command Sergeants Major, CSM Mason Riepe. CSM Riepe and his family came to us from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK. After a lengthy cross-country move, CSM Riepe conducted his change of responsibility on September 30th, 2022.

The USAMU closed out 2022 in spectacular fashion with the following Shotgun and International Rifle team members securing seven U.S. Olympic quota slots for the Paris 2024 Olympics:

- SSG William Hinton (Men's Trap)
- SSG Dustan Taylor (Men's Skeet)
- SPC Samantha Simonton (Women's Skeet)
- SGT Brandon Muske (Men's 10-meter Air Rifle)
- SGT Alison Weisz (Women's 10-meter Air Rifle)
- SGT Sagen Maddalena (Women's 50-meter Smallbore)
- SGT Ivan Roe (Men's 50-meter Smallbore)

In addition to her Olympic quota, SGT Weisz was the first U.S. woman to be crowned World Champion in 43 years (1979) when she won Gold in the Women's 10-meter Air Rifle at the 2022 ISSF World Championship in Cairo, Egypt.

Service Rifle closed out the year as Champions at the Talladega 600 Championship in Talladega, AL, besting our interservice rivals from the U.S. Marine Corps. Notably, three of the five members of the championship team were USAMU's three most junior SR teammates.

SPC Jason Gregoire (Service Pistol) expanded his personal repertoire with a 1st place finish at the Dixie Double Air Pistol Competition in Anniston, AL. While USAMU's SP section doesn't compete in Air Pistol as a whole, it is great to see individual soldiers expanding their expertise across multiple disciplines.

Congratulations to the Instructor Training Group's SSG Jacoby Fannon for earning the coveted Expert Infantry Badge. His successful pursuit of this challenging endeavor speaks volumes of his character and capability as a soldier.

Two of USAMU's soldiers from Action Shooting, SSG Nate Staskiewicz and SPC Aaron Eddins were recognized by the Bighorn Recruiting Battalion in Wyoming and awarded Army Achievement Medals for their support to Army recruiting efforts at the Cody Stampede Rodeo.

Finally, the entire USAMU team took time to reflect on the service and sacrifices of our Nation's Veterans during a private tour of the National Infantry Museum and an educational talk about the Last 100 yards display from the Museum's Director of Education, CSM (ret) Chris Lewis. It was a great reminder of the Veterans that came before us and connected USAMU soldiers to the front-line warfighter they support through lethality training.

Home of Champions,
Casey Mills
LTC, SF
Commander
US Army Marksmanship Unit

MEET MMA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

KENNETH JOHNSON



Ken started shooting when he was seven years old. His competitive career started in 1980 when he attended the William Lawrence Summer Camp. He set a Massachusetts State 3-Position Smallbore Rifle record in his first year of competition.

Ken attended Clarkson University and shot on their NCAA Rifle Team. He was selected to the NRA All-American Rifle Team two years and graduated with a B.S. in Engineering and a B.S. in Psychology.

He enlisted in 1992 and was assigned to the International Rifle Section. He quickly established himself by winning the 1993 National 300 Meter Prone Rifle Championship, the 1994 National Air Rifle Championship, the 1994 National Smallbore Rifle Prone and 1995 National Smallbore Rifle Position Championship at Camp Perry (a feat shared with Art Cook, Lones Wigger, Pres Kendall and DI Boyd) and the 1996 and 1999 National 300 Meter 3-Position Rifle Championships.

Ken set two National Records in 1995. His first was in the Smallbore 3-Position Rifle event at the Interservice International Championships with a 1185 and at the USA Shooting Fall Selection Match he shot a 597 in Men's Air Rifle. The 1185 3-position record stood unchallenged until the match and scoring method was retired.

He excelled in international competitions winning the Men's Air Rifle and Men's 300 Meter 3-Position Rifle events in the 1995 Pan American Games and winning the Men's Air Rifle and Men's 50 Meter 3-Position Rifle events in the 1999 Pan American Games. He earned two Olympic Quota Slots for the USA with the wins at the 1999 Pan American Games.

Rifle and Men's 50 Meter 3-Position Rifle events in the 1999 Pan American Games. He earned two Olympic Quota Slots for the USA with the wins at the 1999 Pan American Games.

He was an alternate for the 1996 Olympic Games and competed in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney in Men's Air Rifle.

He also won a Silver Medal in Men's Smallbore Rifle 3-Position at the 1999 USA World Cup, a Bronze Medal in the 2001 World Cup in Korea and a Bronze Medal in the 2003 Pan American Games in Men's Smallbore Rifle Prone. One of his fondest memories was an extremely bad "high 8" on his last shot at the 2003 Pan American Games. This shot placed Ken in third, whereby a young shooter from Cuba took second. The Cuban earning a silver medal at the Pan Am Games was immediately placed on the Cuban Olympic Team for 2004, and very likely changed his life. The LORD works in mysterious ways ...

Ken earned the NRA Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award – Position in 1993, the NRA Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award – Prone in 1995, the Distinguished International Shooter Badge in 1995, and the U. S. Distinguished Crossbow Award at the 1st IAU World Cup in Naefels, Switzerland in 1995.

Ken worked for St. Marks Powder, a division of General Dynamics, after leaving the USAMU. While working in Technical Services and Research and Development, he designed and manufactured many new small-arms propellants, including a new line of "High Energy" BALL POWDER® Propellant for use in commercial and military small caliber ammunition, optimized and manufactured propellants for the USAMU Service Rifle and Pistol teams and held a position on the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI) technical committees.

After leaving St. Marks Powder in 2014, Ken joined a small-arms import and distribution company as a partner. Known as Shooters World, they import arms, ammunition components and propellants into the US market. In support of those endeavors, and to further support niche small-business ammunition development, Ken built and runs one of the only independent internal ballistic laboratories in the United States.

A patent was recently issued to Ken in 2021 for a new device and method to determine dynamic stability (accuracy) and relative aerodynamic resistance (ballistic coefficient) of projectiles, in a non-destructive manner.

Ken lives in Crawfordville, Florida. Known affectionately as "Nancy Johnson's husband", he lives in marital bliss with his bride, and two awesome kids. Nancy (2000 Olympic Gold Medalist in Women's Air Rifle), a registered nurse, has worked in Case Management for Workers Comp for the last 5 years, and recently went independent and formed her own company. They enjoy gardening, raising chickens, leadership in Trail Life USA (a Christian scouting program for boys), recreational shooting, machining in the metal shop, sewing, and promoting a Constitutional Republic.



The USAMU Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

The crossbow is a weapon of historical significance consisting of a bow mounted on a stock and contains the base elements of marksmanship today: reusable mechanical weapon, projectile and marksman. The golden yellow color represents the excellence and award winning performance in competition. The direction of the arrows pointing outward symbolizes the combat readiness of the unit and their ability to go anywhere to assist. The convergence of all three weapons at the center of the device signifies precision and accuracy. Teal blue is the designation color of the unit.

- Courtesy of The Institute Of Heraldry

Champions, From Page 1

The next opportunity to earn Olympic Quotas was the 2022 Confederation of the Americas (CAT) Championships in Lima, Peru Nov. 4 - 12, and Team USA turned up even more heat. Sgt. Brandon Muske started off the games by winning Gold Medal and 2024 Olympic Quota in the Men's 10m Air Rifle event. In the individual Women's 10m Air Rifle event, Team USA dominated by sweeping the podium. Sgt. Maddalena seized the Gold, Tucker claimed the Silver and Spc. Weisz took the Bronze. Since USAMU's Maddalena already earned a Quota at the World Championships, the 2024 Olympic Quota for this event went to Team USA's Tucker. In the Women's 10m Air Rifle Team event, these same three 2020 Olympians beat out Argentina for the Gold Medal, bring home another Medal for Team USA. Not to be outdone, the men of Team USA stepped up and claimed the Gold Medal in the Men's 10m Air Rifle Team event against Argentina as well. This U.S. team included USAMU's Sgt. Muske and Spc. Levi Clark, and Team USA's Lucas Koziensky. Next up on the schedule was the 10m Mixed Air Rifle event where Team USA won both the Gold and Silver Medals. The Gold was won by the team of Sgt. Maddalena and Koziensky while the Silver was won by Spc. Weisz and Sgt. Roe.

The busy schedule of events then changed to Smallbore, or 50m Three-Position Rifle. Team USA took the Gold and Silver, as well as another 2024 Olympic Quota. USAMU's Sgt. Roe beat out his fellow USAMU teammate, Sgt. Sherry, for the Gold and Quota. For the Men's 50m Three-Position Team Rifle event, Team USA grabbed another Gold. This team included Koziensky and USAMU Soldiers Sgt. Sherry and Staff Sgt. Patrick Sunderman. In the Women's 50m Three-Position Team Rifle event, Team USA won that Gold as well. This team included Team USA's Katie Zaun and Tucker and USAMU's Sgt. Maddalena. These same athletes then teamed up for the 50m Mixed Prone Rifle event. USAMU Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Sunderman and Sgt. Maddalena, won the Gold while Sgt. Sherry and Koziensky took the Silver. In the individual 50m Prone Rifle event, the men and women competed together and Team USA dominated the range and swept the podium, placing three U.S. Army Soldiers in the spotlight. Sgt. Maddalena won the Gold while Staff Sgt. Sunderman and Sgt. Sherry took the Silver and Bronze. Former USAMU pistol shooter Sandra Uptagrafft helped win Gold Team medals in 10m Women's Air Pistol and 25m Women's Pistol.

Shotgun matches were up next at the CAT Games and USAMU's Staff Sgt. Taylor, a Liberty, North Carolina native, came out of the gate with a Gold Medal and 2024 Olympic Quota in Men's Skeet after a tight Final against Peru. Taylor then teamed up with Staff Sgt. Elliott and civilian athlete Ben Keller for the Men's Skeet Team event. This trio claimed the Gold against Chile. In the Mixed Skeet Team event, Team USA won the Gold as well as the Silver. The Gold was earned by Staff Sgt. Taylor and civilian athlete Vizzi while the Silver was earned by Staff Sgt. Elliott and Spc. Simonton. With the skeet events over, the shotgun matches moved onto the trap events. USAMU's Sgt. Rachel Tozier took the Bronze Medal in Women's Trap while Staff Sergeants Will Hinton and Derek Haldeman took the Gold and Bronze in Men's Trap. Hinton's Gold Medal win also seized yet another Olympic Quota for Team USA. After that, the athletes teamed up for the Mixed Trap Team event, and Staff Sgt. Hinton and Sgt. Tozier took home the Bronze. Team USA was not done there yet though. They ended the CAT Games by winning the Silver Medal in the Women's Trap Team event and the Gold in the Men's Trap Team event. The U.S. Women's Trap Team included Aeriell Skinner, Kayle Browning and Sgt. Tozier. The U.S. Men's

Trap Team included Casey Wallace and USAMUs Staff Sergeant Hinton and Haldeman. Former USAMU shotgun shooter Jay Waldron served as the Shotgun Coach. By the end of the GAT Games, Team USA had earned 44 total medals and ten Olympic Quotas for the 2024 Olympics. The Soldiers from the unique marksmanship unit at Fort Banning earned Team USA 26 of those medals and 4 of the Quotas. Between the two international competitions, Team USA brought home 63 medals and 15 Quotas, with U.S. Army Soldiers being responsible for 34 medals and seven Quotas.

The last major competition of the year was the ISSF President's Cup (formerly known as the ISSF World Cup Final) held November 28-December 4, 2022 in Cairo, Egypt.

Eleven USA Shooting athletes were invited to compete. Athletes with a world ranking of 12 or higher are invited to this prestigious competition to compete for cash prizes and the Golden Target award. The following soldiers competed for the U.S.:

Spc. Alison Weisz in Women's 10m Air Rifle; Sgt. Sagan Maddalena in Women's 10m Air Rifle and Women's 50m Rifle 3 Position; Vincent Hancock (former USAMU) in Men's Skeet; Staff Sgt. Will Hinton in Men's Trap and Spc. Samantha Simonton in Women's Skeet.

Vincent Hancock (former USAMU), ranked first in the world for Men's Skeet, earned a Bronze medal after competing in the semi-finals.



Specialist Alison Weisz

Spc. Samantha Simonton, ranked 12th in the world for Women's Skeet, placed third, earning herself a Bronze medal.

Spc. Alison Weisz, ranked second in the world for Women's 10m Air Rifle, and Sgt. Sagan Maddalena, ranked tenth in the world for Women's 10m Air Rifle, both earned bronze medals in their event.

Olympic Quotas won by USAMU shooters: Women's Skeet - Spc. Samantha Simonton from Gainesville, GA Men's Skeet - Staff Sgt. Dustin Taylor from Liberty, NC Women's 10m Air Rifle - Spc. Alison Weisz from Belgrade, MT Men's 10m Air Rifle - Sgt. Brandon Muske from Brenham, TX Women's 3-Position Rifle - Sgt. Sagan Maddalena from Groveland, CA Men's 3-Position Rifle - Sgt. Ivan Roe from Bozeman, MT Men's Trap - Staff Sgt. Will Hinton from Lawrenceville, GA

2021 Shooters of the Year Honored

By Ray P. Carter



Three USAMU soldiers were honored November 4, 2022 at the 14th Annual USAMU Ball at the Green Island Country Club, Columbus, GA.

ILT Amber English from the Shotgun Section was honored as the **2021 Shooter of the Year**. She won the Olympic Gold Medal in Women's Skeet at the Tokyo Olympic Games, a Gold Medal in the Skeet Mixed Team event at the 2021 Lonato, Italy ISSF World Cup and was the 2021 USA Shooting Women's Skeet National Champion.

Shooter of the Year nominees also included:

SFC Erin O'Neill from the Service Rifle Section who won the 2021 Interservice Rifle Championships (996-52x), the Lt Col C. A. Reynolds Trophy as the top shooter (497-21x) in the Interservice 10-Man Rifle Team Match and the Remington "Band of Brothers" Trophy in the 1,000 yard Any Sight Match at the 2021 NRA National Long-Range National Championships.

SPC Sagen Maddalena from the International Rifle Section who was the ISSF Female Rifle Athlete of the year, won Gold Medals in Women's Smallbore Rifle 3-Position and Mixed Smallbore Rifle 3-Position Team events at the 2021 ISSF President's Cup/World Cup Final, placed fifth in the Olympic Games in Smallbore Rifle 3-Position and was the USA Shooting Women's National Air Rifle Champion and set a new National Record in Women's Air Rifle.

SFC Greg Markowski from the Service Pistol Section who won the 2021 NRA National Precision Pistol Championships, placed second in the 2021 Interservice Pistol Championships, won the 2021 Canton McKinley NRA Pistol Regional and was a firing member on the winning team in the National Trophy Pistol Team Match.

SFC Kenneth Rose from the Instructor Training Group who oversaw the USAMU's Lethality Program that trained over 2,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Department of Homeland Security individuals, led two separate Train-The-Trainer missions in the train-up of two FORSCOM units tasked to mentor over 12,000 USMA and ROTC Cadets during the 2021 Cadet Summer Training event at West Point, NY and Fort Knox, KY, served a board member on the Fire Control Selection Committee on the optic system for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW), and mentored and led a team of SME's over 11 missions, collaborating with leaders from the Army Future Command in the further research and development of the NGSW Rifle and Automatic Rifle Program.

SPC Mikell Aaron Eddins from the Action Shooting Section who was the FY22 Marketing and Engagement Brigade Soldier of the 1st Quarter Winner (Oct-Dec 2021), provided invaluable knowledge as an instructor to the 3/75 Ranger Regiment and an Army Special Missions Unit, had two top 5 finishes at major area championships in USPSA Open Division in his first 60 days of joining the USAMU and his knowledge and eagerness to succeed while pushing others to succeed have been integral to the success of his team in competitions and as soldiers.



SPC Luke Rettmer from the Service Rifle Section was honored as the **2021 New Shooter of the Year**. He led the team with the highest competition average for the 2021 season. His overall average of 99.01% set the standard for all members of the team. He won the 2021 Interservice Division B Long Range Championships with a 400-33x. He won the 2021 CMP North Championships at Camp Perry, OH with a 2385-103x. He fired a 200-9x as part of the winning Interservice 1000 yd Division B Long Range Team Championship. He fired a 490-16x on the winning 2021 Interservice 10-Man Team Match.

New Shooter of the Year nominees also included:

SPC Alison Weisz from the International Rifle Section who earned a spot on the Olympic Shooting Team for the Tokyo Olympic Games in Women's Air Rifle placing 14th. She was ranked 8th in the world in 2021 Women's Air Rifle. She won a Silver Medal in Women's Air Rifle at the New Delhi World Cup and won a Silver Medal in the USA Shooting National Championships in Women's Air Rifle.

SGT Mate Standard from the Service Pistol Section who placed third in the 2021 CMP Metallic Sights National Championship with a 2520-86x, was the 2021 Military Metallic Sight .45 Caliber National Champion 847-24x, was the 2021 Interservice Pistol EIC Match winner and earned the President's Hundred Tab for pistol and earned the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge.

SoY From Page 5

SFC Michael Widick from the Instructor Training Group who successfully planned, resourced and executed five home station courses and three mobile training teams. He scored a 576 on the ACFT, the highest in the USAMU. He demonstrated leadership and management skills that led him to be assigned Assistant Team Chief. He developed the ITG medevac SOP and planned, coordinated and resourced medical training from outside the USAMU to ensure the ITG was better prepared for any emergency that may arise on the range. He successfully mentored and trained five competitive shooters making them assets for ITG's lethality mission.

SPC Mikell Aaron Eddins from the Action Shooting Section who was the FY22 Marketing and Engagement Brigade Soldier of the 1st Quarter Winner (Oct-Dec 2021), provided invaluable knowledge as an instructor to the 3/75 Ranger Regiment and an Army Special Missions Unit, had two top 5 finishes at major area championships in USPSA Open Division in his first 60 days of joining the USAMU and his knowledge and eagerness to succeed while pushing others to succeed have been integral to the success of his team in competitions and as soldiers.



SFC Kenneth Rose from the Instructor Training Group was honored as the **2021 Support Person of the Year**. He oversaw the USAMU's Lethality Program that trained over 2,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Department of Homeland Security individuals, led two separate Train-The-Trainer missions in the train-up of two FORSCOM units tasked to mentor over 12,000 USMA and ROTC Cadets during the 2021 Cadet Summer Training event at West Point, NY and Fort Knox, KY, served a board member on the Fire Control Selection Committee on the optic system for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW), and mentored and led a team of SME's over 11 missions, collaborating with leaders from the Army Future Command in the further research and development of the NGSW Rifle and Automatic Rifle Program.

Support Person of the Year nominees also included:

Mr. James Blackwell from the Range and Target Maintenance Section helped with the design and function of the Kongsberg electronic targets and assisted with the expedited setup for the upcoming season. He has been able to successfully decipher technical issues and perform on the spot repairs. He has been in contact with the CMP and Kongsberg technicians with updating hardware and software. He is continuing improvements with the electronic targets through stand development and increased connectivity across our range.

Mr. Troy Lawton from the Custom Firearms Shop (ballistics section) was involved in ongoing research and development projects that not only expanded the USAMU's strategic influence among senior Army leaders, but also the Maneuver Battle Lab (MBL), Army Research Lab (ARL), U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate (IWTSD), and Maneuver Center of Excellence Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate (MCDID). He worked with Fabrique Nationale (FN) to produce a lightweight carbine rifle, ammunition and magazine for SOCOM and worked with ARL and ARDEC to test accuracy of prototype projectiles to be used in the Next Generation Squad Weapons. His team provided support, rifles, ammunition, and testing facilities for MCDID to continue to evaluate a prototype rifle suppressor. He assisted MBL with a live fire demonstration to compare and contrast small arms projectiles as part of the Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment (AEWE).

Ms. Arlene Kelly from the Headquarters S4 successfully processed over 300 GPC's in excess of \$500,000 acquiring much needed supplies and equipment in support of the USAMU's mission.

Your Ad Here

Looking to buy or sell shooting sports related equipment?

Have an announcement you'd like fellow MMA Members to know?

MMA is considering the selling of advertising space in the MMA Times publications.

Space sizes to be considered are quarter page down to a few lines. Prices will be based on size of space requested with proceeds helping to offset printing & mailing costs.

Please give us your feed back on whether you'd like to see this.

Please keep ads shooting/MMA related, no political nor religious content accepted.

Several USAMU Soldiers were featured in this month's issue of **Shooting Sport's USA**. USAMU Soldiers provided tips on what it takes to become a champion and discussed their involvement in the shooting sports and how the U.S. Army enabled such a unique job opportunity.



Where Are They Now?

COL (Ret) Denise Loring



COL (Ret) Denise Loring still enjoys rifle competitions and is a coach/competitor working with a Veteran non-profit organization "Camp Valor Outdoors".

Denise was an All-American rifle shooter at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She graduated with a degree in Communications and was commissioned a 2LT in the Ordnance Corps in 1985. She served two tours with the USAMU International Rifle Section, 1985-1988 and 1993-1994. While on her first tour at USAMU she made the National Team 1987-1989. She won the Smallbore Women's titles at both the 1987 and 1988 CISM Championships and earned a bronze medal at the Munich World Cup in 1987. Picking up match crossbow in 1987, Denise placed 2nd in the Women's 10M Grand Prix and 4th for the Women's 10M Match Crossbow at the IAU Match Crossbow World Championships in Rohrbach, Austria earning the United States Distinguished Crossbow Award. She earned the NRA Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award – Position in 1988. On her second tour at USAMU, 1993-1994, she was the high woman for the 1993 NRA National Smallbore 3-position Metallic Sight Championship at Camp Perry, OH.

In 1994 Denise left Active Duty and joined the U. S. Army Reserve. She was assigned as an Individual Augmentee in Vicenza, Italy. As a member of the USAR International Rifle Team she was on the Championship Team for the 1996 National Indoor 4-position Smallbore Rifle Team. In 1998 she switched from the USAR International Rifle Team to the USAR Combat Team, competing in Canada and Australia. Assignments between 2000 and 2012 kept her away from the range as she applied her logistics skillset in a variety of assignments moving up through the ranks.



She picked up Service Rifle at the end of her Army Reserve career earning the Distinguished Rifleman Badge just before she retired 31 October 2014. She continued shooting with the Virginia State High Power Team before starting with Camp Valor Outdoors in 2015 after seeing the group at the National Matches at Camp Perry, OH. In 2016 she achieved High Woman in the CMP National Trophy Individual Rifle Match. In 2017 she earned the President's Hundred Tab.



In 2017 she picked up a Bleiker 6mm BR Rifle and started shooting 300 Meter rifle. She has enjoyed the discipline and the camaraderie at the Minneapolis Rifle Club in St. Francis, MN. She has won the Women's 300 Meter 3-Position Rifle National Championships in 2018, 2019, and 2022. She made the USA Shooting Team in Women's 300 Meter Rifle for the 2018 World Championships in Changwon, Korea and again for the 2022 World Championships in Cairo, Egypt.

Denise volunteers as an assistant to the NCAA Rifle Coach at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) for smallbore rifle and air rifle. She lives in Manassas, VA. Her local range is the Fairfax Rod & Gun Club where she is the Vice President and Membership Chairman. She has been a member of the Military Marksmanship Association since 1995 and just upgraded to MMA Life Member status. During the COVID lockdown in 2020, Denise was just

starting school for a culinary degree and made it through all the courses by May of 2021. After graduation she picked up part time work at a French restaurant as an Assistant Pastry Chef until they could get a full-time assistant on board in December.

Taps -Present Arms

Matthew Suggs



Matt Suggs passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 8, 2022 from complications related to treatment for Esophageal Cancer.

Matt was the Chief Executive Officer of USA Shooting, the USA National Governing Body of Olympic and International Shooting until he became ill in the spring.

Matt was an All-American Rifle shooter at the University of South Florida (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990) earning an Engineering Degree and a Regular Army commission in the Corps of Engineers. He shot in the 1985 Championships of the Americas at Fort Benning in Men's Air Rifle placing 3rd and helping the team place second earning the Distinguished International Shooter Badge. He then won the Junior Men's Standard Rifle 3-position event. He placed fifth in the 1985 World Air Gun Championships in Junior Men's Air Rifle. In the 1987 World Air Gun Championships in Budapest, Hungary he placed second in Men's Air Rifle and help the team win the World Championship.

He was assigned to the USAMU International Rifle Section in 1991. He also served with the 317th Engineer Battalion on Kelley Hill as a platoon leader and company executive officer until coming back to

the USAMU for the 1996 Olympic Tryouts. He earned the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Achievement Medal (4) and the Army Parachutists Badge.

After the Army he worked at General Electric, Ariba and Oracle. He was the Executive Vice President of Mediafly, Inc. before joining the Board of Directors of USA Shooting and then becoming the Chief Executive Officer in July 2020.

There was a Celebration of Life for Matt Suggs on January 28, 2023 at the Edenton Street United Methodist Church, 228 W Edenton St, Raleigh, NC 27603. If you would like to donate to support the Junior Shooter program, we have partnered with Hillsdale College to fund the Matt Suggs Scholarship Fund: <https://secured.hillsdale.edu/hillsdale/donate> or call 517-607-2727.

Taps -Present Arms

Joe Deckert



We received word that Joe Deckert has passed.

Joe won the 1957 President's Match and the 1957 Leech Cup at the National Matches at Camp Perry, OH. He fired the first 250x250 in the National Match Course at the Arizona State Championships.

At the 1958 World Shooting Championships in Moscow, USSR he won the 100 meter Running Deer Doubles Event and broke the World Record by ten points. He placed fifth in the 100 meter Running Deer Singles Event and helped the USA win a Silver Team medal. In the 1961 World Moving Target Championships in Oslo, Norway he shot as an alternate and was not eligible for awards although he placed second. He earned the Distinguished International Shooter Badge and the President's Hundred Tab.

Taps -Present Arms

Lewis B. Sharp



Lewis B. Sharp passed on January 24, 2023 in Little Rock, AR after a fight with declining health.

He was born in Searcy, AR on January 3, 1939 and graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1959. He was commissioned through ROTC in 1960. He attended the U.S. Army Ordnance School and was stationed at Rock Island Arsenal until 1962.

In 1962 he was assigned to the USAMTU as Executive Officer, Pistol Team at the request of W.S. Brophy. He was promoted to Captain in 1963 and appointed Chief Instructor, advanced pistol marksmanship in 1964. He received the Army Commendation Medal for his work with the pistol team, earned his Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge and is a member of the 2600 Club.

After voluntary release from Active Duty in 1965 he worked for TRW Jet and Ordnance Division, Cleveland, OH. In 1967 he joined Colt Firearms as Manager Small Arms Sales, Military Division. In 1971 he was appointed District Manager Colt Commercial Division. In 1976 he assisted the formation of the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) as a founding member. He was a Life Member of the Military Marksmanship Association.

Lew is survived by his grandson Nathan and his wife Amanda who reside in Little Rock. The family requests any donations be sent to the National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400.

Taps -Present Arms**SGM (Ret) Richard G. Liberty**

CSM (Ret) Richard G. Liberty passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at RMC hospital. He was surrounded by his wife & family members. He was honorably retired from the US Army after 30 years of service. He served two tours in Vietnam. During his service he earned many accolades including the National Defense Service Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Distinguished Rifleman Badge (1963), Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Good Conduct Medal & Legion of Merit. He was also a graduate of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy. One of his final statements was that he served & loved his country & flag. He was a resident of Munford for over 40 years & he attended many football & baseball games to support the school. He also was a fan of the University of Alabama & supported his home state of Pennsylvania by rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He enjoyed deer hunting & fishing. CSM (Ret) Richard G. Liberty leaves behind his wife of over 67 years, Wanda as well as children Anita Wells, Carmen (Tim) Hafley, Richard (Pamela) Liberty Jr. & step-daughter Marion Nieves.

Taps -Present Arms**T/Sgt (Ret) Arnold Vitarbo**

Arnold Vitarbo (86) passed away on September 14, 2022 with his wife of 66 years, Fujie, by his side. Born on January 31, 1936 in the Bronx, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he was 17 years old. After 10 years in the Marines he was recruited by the Air Force for another 10 years as a Weapons Specialist and Shooting Instructor. He was involved in the Marine Corps sniper program earlier. He was on several USA shooting teams including the 1966 World Championships placing 5th in Free Pistol, the 1967 Pan American Games (gold individual and gold team in Free Pistol) and placed 4th in Free Pistol in the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. He also was a member of the 1985 World Air Gun Team helping win a Bronze Team Medal in Men's Air Pistol. He was Triple Distinguished (Pistol 1962, International 1967, Rifle 1972), a member of the 2650 Club and earned the President's Hundred Tab.

From 1991 to 1994 he was the National Pistol Coach and coached the 1992 Olympic Team in Barcelona, Spain. He was certified as an Advanced Instructor by USAS/NRA (also certified referee and member of the Coach Development Staff) and was a Master Instructor for the CMP in both rifle and pistol. He conducted shooting camps, clinics and matches for these organizations in many parts of the United States, Puerto Rico and Mexico. He coached the University of Utah Pistol Team and oversaw the Utah

Summer Games shooting events.

Retiring after 20 years in the military, he decided to go to college and graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in Japanese. Arnold worked as a Volkswagen mechanic, taught Japanese courses at the Oregon Institute of Technology, and began his own successful company making custom gun grips.

Taps -Present Arms**SFC (Ret) Harold L. Thomason**

SFC (Ret) Harold Lloyd Thomason was born in Wagner, Texas on March 7, 1931, and passed away in Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 6, 2022 unexpectedly but from natural causes. Harold served in the US Army for 27 years where he distinguished himself repeatedly for valor, service and achievement. Harold's love of shooting and weapons maintenance led him to serve in Marksmanship Training Units in Europe and at Fort Benning, Georgia, both as an expert rifle marksman and as the all-Europe and All-Army gunsmith. These positions took him and his family to marksmanship competitions all over the USA and Europe. Harold served multiple tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam and in Germany. His many awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, two Army Commendation Medals, the Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star as well as bronze, silver and gold legs in service rifle.

In retirement Harold continued with his passion for weapons and marksmanship. He taught gunsmithing and metallurgy at Trinidad State University in southern Colorado for many years and volunteered with the US Olympic Biathlon team. His expertise was routinely sought by weapons manufacturers around the

world to evaluate and test new weapons systems.

It was in Karlsruhe, Germany that Harold met and courted his future wife of almost 70 years, Hannelore, who survives him, along with his loving daughter Sylvana (Gerald) Stratton of Monterey, California and loyal son Harold Lloyd Thomason of Trinidad, Colorado.

His gentle nature and love of animals also led him to adopt an orphaned groundhog which he transported to Germany when he was assigned to the Marksmanship Training Unit in Grafenwöhr!

Funeral Services were held Friday September 30, 2022, 1 pm at the Comi Funeral Home Chapel.

Inurnment was held on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 1 pm at Pikes Peak Veterans National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO, with full military honors conducted by Ft. Carson Honor Guard Trinidad. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Noah's Ark Animal Shelter, 1921 E. Main Street, Trinidad, CO 81082.

Taps -Present Arms

LTC (Ret) Harry A. Lucker



Harry A. Lucker of Las Cruces, NM passed away on July 29, 2022.

Harry was born in Tientsin, China and raised in El Paso, TX. He graduated from UT-El Paso with a degree in Geology. He proudly served in the US Army for 20 years and was stationed in Germany, Vietnam, the Belgian Congo, and Thailand, as well as many bases in the US.

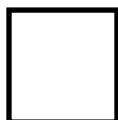
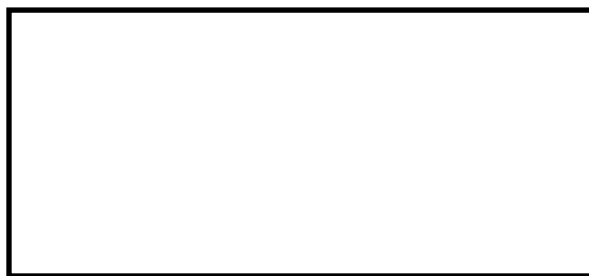
He was an accomplished rifle and pistol shooter and was inducted into the US Army Marksmanship Unit Running Target Hall of Fame in Fort Benning. He was honored with the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, the U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge and the President's Hundred Tab. He won an individual bronze award, as well as the team silver award in the Running Deer event in Moscow World Shooting Championships in 1958.

He won state championships in Georgia, Alabama and Texas, and was the national champion in smallbore rifle metallic silhouette in 1980. He was the Officer in Charge of the US Army Pistol team in Europe from 1964-1965, the Officer in Charge of the US All Army Pistol Team from 1974-1978 in Ft. Benning, GA, and the Officer in Charge of the US Army Running Target Team from 1977-1978.

Harry spent his retired years learning about US history, hiking with the Geology department of NMSU, and target shooting with the El Paso Gun Club and Picacho Gun of Las Cruces. He is survived by his wife, Marjory Lucker. Marjory and Harry recently relocated to Lone Tree, Colorado. Internment was Friday, September 23, 2022, Fort Logan National Cemetery, 3698 S. Sheridan Blvd, Denver, Colorado.

Visit our expanded website at www.militarymarksmanship.org and view the various pages. There is a lot of information! If you have a photo you think should be on the website, email it to me at raypcarter@comcast.net. I can't say that every photo will make the website, but I will certainly consider them.

Please reach out to your former teammates and encourage them to join (or rejoin) the MMA. We want and need your support.



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