



AMUA TIMES

ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 52025; FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31995-2025

August 1994

Issue Number 1

Shooting Straight

by Col. Lory M. Johnson, Jr.

Bill Blankenship asked me to give him "...a few lines..." for the AMUA newsletter. I really appreciate the opportunity to do that but doubt if I can restrain myself to a few lines.

Before talking about the Unit, however, let me say thanks to Bill and his staff for getting the Association started. It is virtually impossible for the USAMU to do a good job of keeping track of former Unit members; or capturing the history and traditions of Army shooting; or taking on special projects that benefit former, current, and future Army shooters. Therefore, forming an Association of people who will volunteer their time, talents, and yes--their money in some cases, is a great step forward. So from me to all of you who formed the AMUA and who have joined THANKS!!

Now about the USAMU itself. Our primary mission has not changed. The Army directs us to, "compete and win in interservice, national, and international shooting competitions." Because of that mission, the primary goal of the Unit is to produce shooters whose training and equipment allows them to win. Over the years, there have been a few shooters in the Unit who were satisfied with just being good. Most of them are no longer with us. Even though the demise of post, division, and Corps marksmanship training units combined with the shrinking number of collegiate shooting programs has dramatically reduced the pool of shooters we can recruit from, we are serious about bringing only talented, hungry shooters into the AMU. The Army invests a lot of money in us. We pay that back by accomplishing the "win" part of our mission. I saw a T-shirt the other day that said, "Second place is the first loser." As the Army's competitive shooters, we cannot be satisfied with being anything other than a

winner.

During the last week of June 1994 we received official word that effective 1 October 1994 responsibility for the USAMU would be transferred from Forces Command to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) in Washington. Along with this comes a promise of a substantial budget increase for FY95. We are very excited about this because it shows a commitment to excellence in competitive shooting by the Army Staff. As a part of this move, the Army has agreed to develop a plan for special management for shooters and gunsmiths so that we can keep them in the Unit yet still get them promoted.

The reason we will come under ACSIM is because they are the part of the Army staff that handles the "World Class Athlete" program and the Department of the Army Sports Office. We have already been working with them and they are anxious for us to officially come aboard. Many details remain to be worked out, but this management move will definitely help us to produce future winners.

Another example of how committed Army leadership is to our competitive success is a program recently approved by the Chief of Staff, General Sullivan, that allows Reserve Component athletes to come back to active duty to train for the 1996 Olympics. In the case of shooting, a number of Army Reserve and Army National Guard shooters who are legitimate medal contenders for the Atlanta Games are being considered. If they are accepted by the Army and they agree to the program, they should be on active duty and in the AMU no later than early January 1995.

Although the future is looking bright, I don't mean to imply that today isn't a great day to be an Army shooter. Every shooting section is doing well.

We are sending eleven shooters (4 shotgun, 4 rifle, 3 pistol) to the UIT World Championships in Milan, Italy. At the Service Pistol Interservice Championships, Service Pistol Section recently won the Service Pistol team match, a .22 individual match, and the Leg match. Service Rifle is achieving remarkable success with a competition M-16 built by the gunshop. Mid-490's are not unusual and a 497 was recently shot at Camp Perry in the Ohio State Championships. Action shooters are nationally recognized already and getting better each match. Running Target is coming fast and has two women shooters who are making great progress.

On the staff, it has been some time since it was staffed by so many quality people. Bob Aylward, D.I. Boyd, Wanda Jewell, Ed Gilmore, and W.O. Harden anchor a talented crew. They also represent a commitment to excellence by the Army staff. In a period when the Army is getting dramatically smaller, we received permission to hire a number of civilians we didn't have but desperately needed. W.O. Harden was already here, but the few others I mentioned were hired in order to reestablish the professional staff support that winning requires. They and the other people who have been hired are already doing a superb job.

Thanks again for your support for Army shooting in general and the Army Marksmanship Unit in particular. We are working hard to restore the AMU to its position as the dominant competitive shooting organization in the world. Training, equipping, and supporting shooters is the major part of that effort, but capturing history and traditions as well as keeping the entire AMU family (past, present, and future) in touch and working together for the Unit is very important to our future. Thank you and the AMUA for taking part!

HALL OF FAME

by Staff Sergeant Joseph J. Johnson

When the United States Army Marksmanship Unit, which produces some of the finest shooters in the world, was formed in 1956, there was little effort to record historically the major accomplishments of the shooters.

According to Bob Aylward, Deputy Commander of the Marksmanship Unit, "There was a need to recognize those who had made significant shooting and support contributions to the unit. Also the history of the unit was by word of mouth and not in many instances published." It was that lack that prompted the formation of Halls of Fame for the International Rifle, Service Rifle, International Pistol, Service Pistol, Running Target, Shotgun, and Support sections in order to honor those who were an honor to the unit.

In 1987, Aylward, then a Major, became the OIC of International Rifle at the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Lones Wigger. Wigger's one unfinished project was the creation of a section Hall of Fame to honor the accomplishments of the International Rifle shooters. Aylward accepted the project as a way to honor those past champions and preserve their accomplishments.

A panel composed of Wigger, Master Sergeant Erik Buljung, Captain Glenn Dubis, Staff Sergeant Matt Dryke, and Mr. Tommy Pool, all world or Olympic Champions, created a set of criteria for shooters. Any shooter inducted into the Hall of Fame must have won either an individual medal at a world level event, or set a world record.

Sixteen shooters were inducted into the International Rifle Hall of Fame during the initial ceremony in June of 1988. Colonel Vowell presided over the ceremony, which was attended by each of the inductees or a family representative. Since then three more shooters have been inducted to the section's Hall of Fame.

In 1994, Service Rifle, Service Pistol, International Pistol, Shotgun, and Running Target held induction ceremonies at each range for their sections' Halls of Fame. Halls of Fame were also created for support staff and the Unit as a whole.

Criteria for induction was modified so it would be suitable for all sections. The Support Hall of Fame inductees were chosen by a "representative panel of current and past AMU members," said Aylward.

The shooting sections Hall of Fame plaques are displayed at their respective ranges. The Support and Unit Halls of Fame are on display in the Marksmanship Headquarters, Building 243, Fort Benning.



Unit Hall of Fame

1LT Gary L. Anderson	CW4 Coats Brown
SGM William B. Blankenship, Jr.	SFC Barbara J. Hile
SGM Huelet L. Benner	MSG James L. McQuien
MAJ Margaret T. Murdock	

International Rifle Hall of Fame

CPT Donald W. Adams	MSG William E. Krilling
1LT Gary L. Anderson	SFC Karen E. Monez
LTC Robert W. Aylward	CPT Margaret L. Murdock
MAJ Lanny R. Bassham	LTC Tommy G. Pool
CPT Glenn A. Dubis	CPT Daniel B. Puckel
LTC John (Jack) R. Foster	SGT Thomas Tamas
CPT Mary Godlove	MAJ Ernest J. Vande Zande
MAJ Boyd Goldsky	LTC Lones W. Wigger, Jr.
SFC Martin I. Gunnarsson	MAJ Verle F. Wright, Jr.
CPT Wanda R. Jewell	1LT John (Jack) R. Writer

Support Hall of Fame

MSG Raymond Behnay	SFC Jack W. Maple
CW4 Coats Brown	COL Jeremiah M. McKenzie
LTC Francis B. Conway	LTC William C. Pullum
LTC Frederick J. Keifer	COL Thomas J. Sharpe
CW4 Oscar K. Weinmeister	

Service Rifle Hall of Fame

MSG Loyd G. Crow, Jr.	SFC Earl L. Waterman
MSG William R. Lee	SFC John R. Mann
LTC Thomas W. W. Atwood	SSG Greg A. Strom
SP5 Joanne R. Stawski	SSG Arpail G. Gapol

Running Target Hall of Fame

MSG Loyd G. Crow	MSG Martin D. Edmondson
MSG Charlie D. Davis	CPT Randy W. Stewart
CPT Mike L. Theimer	SGT Troy A. Lawton
SGT Martin D. Edmonson, Jr.	

Shotgun Hall of Fame

SSG Dean O. Clark	SSG Bret E. Erickson
SGT Donald S. Haldemar	SSG Matthew A. Dryke
1LT William Morris III	SSG Daniel T. Carlisle
SFT Joseph W. Clemmons	

Service Pistol Hall of Fame

SGM William B. Blankenship Jr.	SFC James R. I. Laguana
MSG Bonnie D. Harmon	MSG Robert D. Whitacre
MSG Roger H. Willis	MSG Thomas R. Woods

International Pistol Hall of Fame

SGM William B. Blankenship, Jr.	SFC Barbara J. Hile
MSG Erich Buljung	SFC Jimmie W. McCoy
SP5 Kimberly S. Dyer	SFC James H. McNally
SGM Emil W. Heugatter, Jr.	CPT John T. McNally
SFC Gary W. Marsh	



ANNOUNCEMENTS

by Bill Blankenship

New Address:

Army Marksmanship Unit Association
P.O. Box 52025
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2025

Reunion:

The 40th reunion of the Army Marksmanship Unit will be held at Ft. Benning sometime before the 1996 Olympic Shooting Events begin in Atlanta, Georgia. The opening ceremonies for the Olympic Games will be on the 19th of July and closing ceremonies are planned for the 3rd of August. A notice will be sent to all former members of AMU as soon as the date is selected. Suggestions for the date of the reunion are welcome and should be sent to the above new address.

Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting of the Army Marksmanship Unit Association will be held at Ft. Benning during the month of January, 1995. All dues paying members of the association will be notified as soon as the date is selected.

AMU Association:

The AMU Association was organized on the 25th of March, 1994. We are just beginning to get organized and our membership is now over 200. If you know or are in contact with former members of the Army Marksmanship Unit, please let them know that we would appreciate them becoming members. Our dues for now is \$15, \$5 of which will be used to organize the 1996 Reunion. The Association needs to know name, address, telephone number, years assigned to AMU, and the section assignment while at AMU. Note: This information is for association use only and will not be provided to any commercial organization.

Clyde Malphus:

The AMU has been blessed with many gunsmiths over many years who were dedicated to making excellent equipment for the shooters of this unit. That effort has made it possible for many of us shooters to become winners. One of those gunsmiths, Clyde Malphus, is retiring. When Clyde was speaking of being a gunsmith recently, he made the following statement: "The greatest ambition is when you build weapons that help turn shooters into winners. It gives you the thrill of knowing you built something that has accomplished a mission out there as a winner. That's the greatest thing." Clyde, as well other gunsmiths before him who have retired, will be missed. We wish you a great retirement with good health and much happiness.



(Fort Benning, GA) -- Sergeant First Class Kenneth Gill of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia, won the National Service Rifle Championships in Camp Perry, Ohio, Aug. 11 using the modified M16 rifle. This is the first time the M16 has been used to win the national championship.

Gill shot a score of 2356-82x out of a possible 2400 in the 240 shot aggregate match, which compiles the final score from a series of 20-shot events from 200, 300, and 600 yards. Marksmanship Unit shooter Major Richard Hawkins placed third with 2355-68x, behind the second place winner, Specialist Thomas P. Rider, an Army Reservist from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania who shot a score of 2355-68x with the M14 rifle, which is customarily used in service rifle competition.

The M16 used in competition differs from the regular issue M16 taken into combat. The modified rifle has a much heavier barrel, a sling swivel attached to a steel tube sleeve instead of the barrel, quarter-minute clicks on the rear sights, and a smaller rear sight aperture.

Master Sergeant Warren Wiley, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Marksmanship Unit's gunshop, said, "The modified M16 has a better trigger, better sights, better everything. It's more accurate, and allows the shooters to shoot the scores they're capable of shooting."

Many shooters doubted that the M16 could be used in competition successfully because the bullet is a smaller caliber than those fired in an M14.

"Wind affects the M16 bullet more because it is much smaller and lighter, and the shooter must work harder to compensate for the wind," said D.I. Boyd, Marksmanship Unit chief of competition and two-time national service rifle champion.

"The difference in the bullets is so great that nobody thought it would shoot well, but it did. The rifle was an outstanding success, and Sergeant Gill shot an incredible match," Boyd said.

While summer pick-up shooters who trained with the Marksmanship Unit temporarily shot the modified M16 in competition in 1993, this is the first time that an assigned Marksmanship Unit shooter has used the rifle in the national championships.

The last time the Marksmanship Unit won the National Service Rifle Championships was in 1990, when Sergeant Eric Ulptagrafft shot with the M14.

AMU Shooters Win World Titles

By Terry K. Ray



AMU shooters Sgt. Tom Tamas (left), 1st Lt. Webster Wright and Capt. Glen Dubis.

Two U.S. Army marksmen have won world titles. Glenn Dubis and Webster Wright propelled the U.S. Shooting Team to a Gold medal in 300-meter standard rifle competition, while teammate and Army Marksmanship Unit shooter Tom Tamas captured the Silver Medal in men's three-position rifle and a country quota slot for the 1996 Olympic Games at the World Shooting Championships in Milan, Italy July 26.

Wright, of Annapolis, Md., helped stabilize the men's 300-meter standard team of Wright, Dubis and Bob Foth.

Bob and I fired in the first relay, then we sat back and watched as patiently as possible as Dubis took us home with the gold Wright said.

Dubis, of Bethel Park, Md., also captured the world title in the 300-meter free rifle three-position event with a score of 1,175 points out of a possible 1,200, for a new world record over Norbert Sturny of Switzerland, who tallied 1,169 points for the silver.

"I was more worried about the Czech Republic shooter Petr Kurka going into the kneeling portion of the

event," Dubis said. "He was four points ahead of me after the standing phase. After 20 shots in the kneeling position, the U.S. coach Bob Mitchell told me that Kurka at one point fired an eight and things went downhill for him from there."

In men's three-position rifle, the 29-year-old Tamas of Columbus, Ga., trailed Kurka by a whopping four points going into the final round. Tamas closed the gap to finish just 2.2 points out of first place.

"I almost caught the guy in the shootoff," Tamas said. "I was trying real hard to win the gold, he just shot better than I did at the end. Every time I shoot, I shoot to win for myself and the Army."

Tamas earned a country quota slot for the U.S. Shooting Team, its second in men's three-position rifle and ninth overall for the 1996 Olympic Games. To compete in the shooting events, countries must earn quota slots at designated international matches during the three years preceding the Games.



Sidney Rae Hinds Jr.

TALBOTTON, Ga. -- Retired Col. Sidney Rae Hinds Jr., 65, of Talbotton, died Friday at his home.

The military graveside funeral was at 2 p.m. Thursday at Main Post Cemetery, Fort Benning, Ga., according to Striffler Hamby Mortuary, Columbus.

Col. Hinds was born Feb. 9, 1929, in Washington, D.C., son of Regina Christofferson Hinds of San Antonio, Texas, and Sidney Rae Hinds Sr. He had lived in Talbotton six years and retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years. He graduated from the Sewanee Military Academy and the U.S. Military Academy, commanded the U.S. Marksmanship Unit which won three medals in the 1976 Olympics, and earned two Legions of Merit, Four Bronze Stars, Commendation Medal and Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation, among others. He was a member of the National Rifle Association.

Survivors other than his mother include two sons, Daniel Bruce Hinds of Greenville, N.C., and Sidney Rae Hinds III of Fayetteville, N.C.; four daughters, Janis Herbert of Brandenburg, Ky., Holly Olson Grob of Berlin, Germany, Cindy Ann Combs of San Antonio and Hillary Schmidt of Tempe, Ariz.; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Muscogee County Humane Society.

**This newsletter
is provided by the**

**Army
Marksmanship Unit
Association**

**to members only
and will not be
available to
non-members
in the future.
So, please join
today.**