



AMUA TIMES

ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT ASSOCIATION
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Issue Number X

What's Inside

AMUA President's Report
..... Page 2

Deputy Commander's
Report on USAMU
..... Page 2

AMUA Committee
Reports:
Membership
Treasurer
..... Page 3

USAMU Commander
Retires
.....Page 3

USAMU Olympian Named
USA Shooting 1996 Male
Rifle Shooter of the Year
..... Page 4

New Commander
Expected This Summer
.....Page 4

Retirement Ceremony
Pictorial
..... Page 5

USAMU Library
Continues to Grow
..... Page 6

1997 Annual Army Marksmanship Unit Association Meeting

*The Fourth Annual AMUA
Meeting Bids Farewell to
Outgoing President Bill
Blankenship and Elects New
President Willis Powell*

AMUA

The 1997 AMUA annual meeting convened at the Pool International Shooting Complex on 11 January. Over 50 members and guests were greeted by President Bill Blankenship. The outgoing leader praised the efforts of membership and said special thanks to all elected officers, committee chairmen, and the USAMU Deputy. He said he had received many favorable letters and calls about the 40th reunion and gave thanks to all those involved with it. He also had high praises for LTC Richard Lake for his efforts in establishing the USAMU Library.

After officer and committee reports, Bob Aylward, USAMU Deputy, recapped 1996 as a highly successful year for the

unit. He cited numerous unit accomplishments and updated the membership on ongoing projects.

SGT Grant Singley, 1996 AMUA Shooter of the Year, was presented a Colt .22 pistol by the President. Officers were then elected based on nominations from the AMUA nominating committee. Willis Powel was elected AMUA President for 1997 and Carter Berry was elected Vice President. Jack Horner was re-elected as Treasurer and Bob Robinson will again serve as Secretary. Bill Blankenship was presented a gift certificate and USAMU bullet plaque for his excellent service as three-time AMUA President.

Before adjourning to a feast of hotdogs, chili, salads, desserts, and liquid refreshments, President Willis Powell said he looked forward to more activities and family outings for the association.

Look in future *AMUA Times* for date and time of the next AMUA Annual Meeting scheduled in January 1998

DEPUTY COMMANDER REPORTS ON 1996

Bob Aylward

Colonel Alan D. Fenty relinquished command on 8 January 1997 and will retire 31 March 1997. Colonel Fenty will be missed by the entire USAMU for his tireless leadership and concern over the missions of the USAMU. COL Fenty will retire in Columbus and is working at Total Systems, UpTown Columbus. The incoming commander should arrive sometime this summer, however, until then I have been named as the Acting Commander.

The unit is off to a fast start this year. Brigadier General Evan R. Gaddis, Commander, Community Family Support Center, visited the unit and was shown what superb soldiers the unit has. He will carry these impressions back to Washington where he will fight for personnel policies and the budget for the USAMU. His visit was followed closely by one from MG Carl Ernst, Commanding General of Fort Benning. MG Ernst has maintained close ties to the USAMU throughout his career, since several of his previous assignments have been at Fort Benning. The unit tried to think of a way this General could be shown how the work performed by USAMU competition shooters and the shop translated to the needs of all other soldiers he commands at the Home of the Infantry. With that in mind, MG Ernst was given a tour of the shop and shown the improvements Mr. W.O. Harden and the entire Custom Firearms Shop Section have made to the M9 and the M16. MG Ernst was then escorted to the pits of Easley Range and stood under 6 silhouettes while 6 USAMU service rifle shooters proceeded to place all 240 rounds into these silhouettes, within 50 seconds, from five hundred yards. It was a superb demonstration by the Service Rifle Team.

I was also privileged to attend LTC (Ret) Lones W. Wigger's induction to the Chattahoochee Valley Hall of Fame, February 8th. It was good to see the community recognize such a great champion.

On the horizon are many challenges. Even though Major Steven Goff fired an 1196 in the three position any sight sectional; SSG Lance Hopper shot an 800 in the 4 position sectional; SSG Bret Erickson won the first 4 trap matches he has competed in this year; the Service Pistol team established 5 national records in January; etc., the

unit still needs your help identifying young talent, shooters, gunsmiths, and reloaders to help to maintain its proud legacy into the 21st century.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Willis Powell

Thank you for electing me as your AMUA president for 1997. I'm honored and looking forward to the challenge of keeping the association on the upswing. We have come a long way in the three years rounding up and getting in touch with those that we had lost contact with over the years. The attendance at the 40th Reunion shows we are on the right track. I personally feel we need to do it more often. Many other members have expressed the same feeling to me. Surely with all the talent and expertise among the current members we can get an annual or bi-annual Reunion on the schedule. Let's work to make it happen!

Our first Executive Board meeting was the 14th of February 1997 and another meeting followed on the 25th of February 1997. Everyone present at the meeting was enthusiastic and ready to get things rolling. We will keep you posted through the *AMUA Times*.

In closing I want to personally thank Bill Blankenship for the great job he did as our Association President. Also, thank you to Helen Blankenship for her support of our activities and cookouts. I have asked them to please don't stray too far from their phone.

Multi-Year Membership

AMUA

Multi-year memberships for AMUA are now available. By sending dues in for more than one year, members can save themselves time while assisting the association. For each ten dollars you send in, your membership is extended a year. You don't even have to wait until your membership is due renewal. Your membership will be extended forward from the renewal date shown in the corner of your *AMUA Times* address label. Just think, \$30 dollars will carry you to the next millennium. So take time to write a check immediately after you finish reading this issue of the *AMUA Times*.

Membership Report

Membership Chairman
Roman Wojciechowski

For the year end of 1996, AMUA has a total of 978 individuals on our database. AMUA has 350 active members on our rolls; we also show 75 deceased individuals. AMUA had 49 individuals join us in 1996 and 275 renewed their membership. For you math majors we know that it does not add up, but we have several members with multi-year memberships. We also like to remind anyone who is moving, please put AMUA on your change of address notices. We had some inquires on who is eligible to join our organization: (a) anyone who was/is assigned to the USAMU, (b) anyone who was on any TDY Team, (c) anyone who has a interest in Marksmanship. So if you know anyone who would like to join, please give them one of our membership application forms.

Treasurer's Report

Gordon (Jack) Horner

The financial position of the Association continues to be solid. Our income last year was \$6,166.50 and our expenses were \$5,975.11. Our biggest expense, of course, was the Reunion. Because of our set aside of \$5 from first year's dues the impact of that event was well covered. The program of advance payment of dues for up to five years has met with fair success. We need more people to think about paying up their dues for two or three years—it cuts down on our administrative burden of mailing out dues reminders and receipts/cards on an annual basis. Please consider this the next time you receive a "dues" notice. Also, we still have plenty of Association patches available at \$3 apiece. They are of outstanding quality and look real sharp sewed on a hat or jacket.

AMUA Patches Available

\$3



\$3

Send for Your's Today

USAMU Commander Retires After 26 Years

USAMU PAO

The commander of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit retired after 26 years of service January 8 during an indoor ceremony at the Pool International Shooting Complex.

Surrounded by dozens of family, friends, and well wishers from the Fort Benning and Columbus communities, Col Alan D. Fenty, commander of the USAMU since August 1995, was honored at the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Evan R. Gaddis, commander of the Community and Family Support Center, USAMU's higher headquarters, presented Fenty with the Legion of Merit.

The award certificate, signed by Secretary of the Army Togo D. West Jr., cited Col Fenty's outstanding duty performance, exceptional leadership and dedication to excellence, which were directly responsible for significantly enhancing total Army readiness and elevating Army competitive shooting to previously unachievable levels.

Gaddis also presented to Fenty's wife, Linda, a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation signed by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Dennis J. Reimer.

The members of the Army Marksmanship Unit recognized their commander's service to the unit by awarding him with the Blackhat - the USAMU symbol of a champion. Marksmanship Unit shooters and 1996 Olympians Sgts. Terri E. DeWitt and Kenneth A. Johnson read the Blackhat Certificate signed by Gaddis, and Laurence K. Mosely, the senior Olympian currently assigned to the unit, presented the certificate and hat to Col Fenty.

See Commander, Page 4



Photo by USAMU PAO

Brig. Gen. Evan R. Gaddis presents Col Alan D. Fenty with the Legion of Merit.

USAMU Olympian Claims USA Shooting 1996 Male Rifle Shooter of Year

Capt. Robert E. Harbison, an international rifle shooter, claimed the honor for the second year in a row.

USAMU PAO



Photos by USAMU PAO

Captain Robert Harbison shows the form that earned him the USA Shooting Male Rifle Shooter of the Year.

A USAMU Olympian has been named the 1996 USA Shooting Male Rifle Shooter of the Year. Robert E. Harbison, an international rifle shooter, claimed the honor for the second year in a row.

Harbison was a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic Shooting Team and competed in both the men's free rifle event, in which he finished sixth, and air rifle event, where he placed seventh.

Harbison joined the Army in 1988 as an armor officer and was assigned to the 2nd Armored and the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, where he served as platoon leader and executive officer. He was assigned to the Army Marksmanship Unit in 1992 as a service rifle shooter and then became an international rifle shooter in 1993.

In addition to his Olympic accomplishments, in 1996 he won a Gold Medal in free rifle 3x40 at the Munich World Cup and was inducted into the USAMU International Rifle Hall of Fame.

In 1995, Harbison won Gold Medals in 300-Meter 3x20 and 50-Meter Free Rifle Prone at the Pan American Games and in 50-Meter Free Rifle 3x40 at the Seoul World Cup. He also won Silver Medals in men's 3x20 and men's 3x40 at the 300-Meter National Championships as well as being named the Men's Air Rifle Champion at the Air Rifle Sectionals.

He was the 1997 Interservice International Champion in 300-Meter Standard Rifle, the Georgia Regional Service Rifle Champion, and the Reynolds Trophy Winner.

Replacement Won't Be Here Until The Summer

USAMU PAO

The retirement of Col Alan Fenty has left a temporary gap in the command of the USAMU.

Col Fenty's departure precluded the arrival of his prospective successor Col Archibald Arnold by about six months.

But that doesn't mean the Fort Benning based unit will be without a leader.

The unit's deputy commander, Robert Aylward, is grabbing hold of the reins.

"It's a great job to command," said Aylward, who retired from active duty in 1993. "You've got people who are so straight. They volunteer to come here. Every one truly believes in hard work. With what Col Fenty has established, I'll just fill the spot for a while."

Aylward, whose history with the unit dates back to 1974, said it's not unique for the deputy commander to fill in during lapses between commanders. In fact, Aylward performed similar stopgap duties before Col Fenty assumed command in August 1995. Aylward said he expects the new commander, who currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the United States Army Pacific Command in Hawaii, to arrive at Fort Benning early this summer.

"He's anxious to get here," Fenty said. "But the Deputy will do a fine job holding the fort down until he does get here."

According to Fenty, Arnold is known only as a tentative or prospective commander because he has not yet been given orders to assume command of the unit that was established in March of 1956 by President Dwight S. Eisenhower to train expert marksmen.

"But the general expects him to come, I expect him to come and he expects to come," Fenty said.

Commander

from Page 3

"To the members of the Army Marksmanship Unit, as always, you look great," Fenty said. "You have always been completely professional and I've always been proud to be your commander. You're all winners, and I know I'll be seeing many of you on the winner's platform in the future."

Col Fenty and his wife have four children and plan to settle in the Columbus area.

USAMU Library Continues To Grow

USAMU S-3

The USAMU and AMUA would like to thank the many donors for their contributions to the USAMU Competitive Library. Putting together a top quality library for the competitive shooter, the reminiscent former competitor, and anyone else who needs to research anything about shooting is our goal. Without the help of these people the library will remain incomplete. Anyone else who has any material we are still missing, we would greatly appreciate it if you would send it in. Once again, thank you to all of you who contributed to the USAMU Competitive Library:

Chuck Dryke of Sequim, WA
 Jasper Kleinjan of Bismarck, ND
 David Ross of Houston, TX
 Charlie Davis of Columbus, GA
 John H. Sanguinette of Tacoma, WA
 Joseph M. Klues of Hannibal, MO
 Albert J. Coots of Lander, WY
 Guy R. Patterson of Richland, GA
 Lori A. Preston of Opelika, AL
 Phillip F. Cannella of Midland, GA
 Joseph E. Watson of Phenix City, AL
 Robert K. Mitchell of Colorado Springs, CO

Things To Do Today

- Write a check to AMUA for Multi-Year Membership
- Tell a friend about AMUA
- Recruit a new member for AMUA
- Check reference materials (magazines, books, etc) for USAMU Competitive Library needs

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Stamp

