



AMUA TIMES

ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 52025; Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2025

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Your Editor extends a special thanks to those who have taken the time to respond for the "Keeping in Touch" article. All AMUA members are enjoying the updates. Ken Hamill has been most helpful in this endeavor!

Annual Meeting Attendees Enjoy Business and Pleasure

AMUA

Where were you on January 17, 1998? Nearly 100 members, families, and friends gathered at Pool Indoor Shooting Complex for the 1998 Army Marksmanship Unit Association annual meeting.

AMUA President, Willis Powell, opened the meeting with a warm greeting for all attendees. He summed up 1997 as a successful year for the association. Elected officer reports were then taken.

Treasurer, Jack Horner, reported a small financial net for the association. Dues collected offset administrative costs such as publications and mailings by \$79. Additional funds for multi-year memberships do not count toward the annual net, but they do boost the overall finances.

Secretary, Leonard R. (Bob) Robinson stated his minutes and records from all meetings were available for anyone to review. He also invited all members to attend Executive Board meetings held the second Tuesday of each month.

Ken Hamill, Historian, provided a detailed report of ongoing activities and past events. The library is still short a few issues of "American Rifleman". He is looking for experienced hands from each shooting discipline to assist him in his efforts. Ken was reappointed historian, so call him if you would like to help.

Colonel Arch Arnold, USAMU Commander, reported he had just returned from meeting with the Army Chief of Staff. He briefed the Chief on USAMU successes for 1997 and requirements to keep the unit going strong in 1998. He also praised the AMUA membership for their efforts in stopping the recent disbanding action.

USAMU Deputy, Bob Aylward, briefed upcoming USA Shooting matches at Fort Benning and solicited AMUA membership support in running the matches. Some positions remain unfilled. Call Bob if you would like to volunteer.

Willis Powell presented the traditional .22 pistol to the AMUA Shooter of the Year. Todd Graves was in Washington D.C. accepting another award, so Burl Branham, USAMU Shotgun Coach, accepted the award on his behalf.

Next, the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Col (USMC, Ret) Dave Willis presented Bill Krilling with the rebuilt M1 sniper rifle he used in Korea. His deputy, Ray Carter, assisted in the presentation. Bill expressed an emotional thanks for the "old friend".

The elections nominating committee moved that 1997 officers remain in office another year. Membership voted approval. Your 1998 officers are: President - Willis Powell, Vice President - Carter Berry, Treasurer - Jack Horner, and Recording Secretary - Bob Robinson.

After the formal meeting the real festivities began. Frank Briggs won the hockey ticket raffle. The raffle raised \$84 for the association. AMUA patches were also sold - some are still available. USAMU also sold their unit Christmas ornaments to raise funds.

A superb buffet included tube steaks grilled by Roy Combs, Bill Blankenship's tasty cole slaw, Bob Robinson's delectable venison chili, and savory baked beans by Roman Wojciechowski. Attendees mingled, swapped stories, and munched the afternoon away.

Make your plans now to attend the 1999 AMUA annual meeting next January. Then when asked, you can say "I was there!"

AMUA Patches Available



Send for Yours Today

COMMANDER'S REPORT

COL ARCHIBALD V. ARNOLD, III

1997 was an excellent year for the USAMU. The unit arguably had it's best year in a decade. From dominating all Service Rifle competitions to fielding the majority of the U.S. Team for the Championships of the Americas and winning the bulk of all medals won by the U.S., it was truly a great year in continuing the AMU's winning tradition. We should all be most proud of the superb performance turned in by our great team of gunsmiths and shooters.

Unfortunately the year ended on a tragic note with the death of Coach Ronnie Boles on December 5th. Our condolences and prayers go out to Ronnie's family. He was a great soldier and great coach who will be missed by all.

The good news last fall was that the announcement of the disbandment of the AMU turned out to be premature. While we did take significant cuts in budget and personnel, we still plan to shoot a fullup competitive schedule in '98. We'll tighten our belts and operate more efficiently in order to afford to compete and win in all matches originally scheduled.

I am pleased to report that on Jan 16th I had the opportunity to brief the Chief of Staff of the Army on our '97 accomplishments. At the same time I was briefing the Chief our AMU top sergeant, SGM Mike O'Neil, was escorting the new Sergeant Major of the Army, CSM Hall, through the AMU at Fort Benning looking at our great soldiers and world class facilities. It was really an excellent day for the USAMU.

More good news, SSG Todd Graves was recently named the U.S. Army's 1997 Male Athlete of the Year. Also, Mr. Burl Branham was featured on the DISCOVERY CHANNEL in a segment on U.S. Army Snipers and SSG Kolb, of the Service Pistol Team, set 8 new national records and was featured in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (Faces in the Crowd). What a great way to start the new year! I also had the privilege of attending the AMUA's annual meeting hosted by MAJ(R) Willis Powell, the President of the AMUA. It was very gratifying to see the cross section of current and former members of the USAMU and to realize a little better the history of the USAMU.

Thanks to the great work of our deputy commander, Bob Aylward, and the help of many friends of the AMU, our new Sius Ascor Electronic Target Systems were finally installed on our international ranges in February. As a result of this upgrade, USA Shooting will host the 1998 World Championship Team Trials and an International Shooting Grand Prix this April and May which will lead towards the World Championships scheduled for July 1998 in Barcelona.

We look forward to ever greater successes in 1998 and continue to greatly appreciate your active participation in support of the AMUA.

Shoot for Gold!

USAMU's International Pistol Coach Dies

USAMU PAO

Ronnie D. Boles, the head coach of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit International Pistol Team died Dec. 5.

Born May 31, 1940, he graduated from Breckenridge High School of his hometown of Breckenridge, Texas, before he joined the Army on Nov. 14, 1960. A resident of Scale, Ala., he earned a degree from Chattahoochee Valley Community College of Phenix City, Ala., in 1982, and from Troy State University, of Phenix City, in 1985; he also attended Auburn University in Auburn, Ala.

Boles began shooting in 1967 and said that his wife, Sigi, had the most influence on his career. He shot for the Army Marksmanship Unit from 1971 to 1975 and from 1978 to 1980 on the pistol team before he retired from the Army as a sergeant first class. Besides being a world-class shooter, he was an Army tanker and sniper in Vietnam. He became the pistol coach for the Marksmanship Unit International Pistol Team on Jan. 2, 1986.

Under his leadership, the International Pistol Team garnered five Olympic slots and won one Olympic Silver Medal in Air Pistol in 1988. This year alone, Boles' International Pistol Team won six National Championships, eight interservice medals, set one national and one interservice record and won an impressive 11 medals in the Championship of the Americas in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November.

"Mr. Boles was dedicated to the international shooting program and would go out of his way to help anyone," said Staff Sgt. Daryl L. Szarenski, who won two Gold and two Silver Medals in the Championship of the Americas.

"He was one of the top international pistol coaches in the country," added Capt. Rhonda L. Bright, who brought home a Silver Medal from the Championship of the Americas.

AMUA SECRETARY DIES

It is with deep regret that the editor announces the death of LTC (R) Leonard Robert (Bob) Robinson, Jr., 82, the secretary of the AMUA. He died Tuesday, February 24, 1998. LTC Robinson was born June 9, 1915 in Binghamton, NY, the son of Leonard R. Robinson, Sr., and Beatrice Dubois Robinson. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army Airborne and the 25th Infantry Division in Korea. He retired in 1957. He was a former member of the Columbus Civitan Club and was a member of the Army Marksmanship Unit Association and the Retired Officers Association. His military awards include the Bronze Star.

Survivors include his wife, Karen; children, L. R. Robinson II, Gordon Wayne Robinson, Susan Faye Russell, Milinda Miller, David Edward Robinson, Brian Kieth Robinson; sister, Betty Wilson; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He made some GREAT chili and will be missed by AMUA.

USAMU gets new Electronic Target System

USAMU PAO

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit received more than \$3.5 million in new state of the art computerized targeting equipment Jan. 6, it was announced at Columbus Chamber of Commerce Press Conference Jan. 12.

The Army Marksmanship Unit expressed an interest in the Suis Ascor targeting system, which was used at Atlanta's Wolf Creek range in the 1996 Olympics, because it will modernize the USAMU ranges for training world-class shooters and will allow Fort Benning to host world-class shooting events. The new equipment is worth approximately \$3.5 million and was offered on the international market for about \$1.5 million.

With the new target system, the USAMU ranges can now conduct national and international competitions leading up to the 1998 Olympics. There are 77 50-meter rifle and pistol target systems, 40 25-meter pistol target systems, three 10-meter running target systems and 72 10-meter rifle and pistol target systems.

"Our shooters will be the beneficiaries of better training, more training and cheaper training as we seek to be all we can be as shooters," USAMU Commander Col. Arch Arnold said at the press conference. "It does significantly upgrade our capability to train faster and better."

Arnold added that the USAMU shooters will also get a "great home court advantage" from the new equipment.

"Can you imagine being able to train everyday and then compete right on that same shooting range that you've been training on as opposed to going to some other place to actually compete? So it provides us with some real advantages."

"The equipment will allow for better training for soldiers by providing immediate feedback for the soldier on his shooting while creating a great facility for the United States to be used for major marksmanship competitions with made-for-TV-spectator viewing," USAMU Deputy Commander Bob Aylward said. "We can now host any national or international competition to include the Continental Games and the World Shooting Championships, and we can and will host competitions in concert with the Atlanta Olympic facility."

The Marksmanship Unit received the equipment primarily through the efforts of U.S. Rep. Mac Collins who initiated action in Congress to get \$1.5 million added to the 1997 Defense Appropriations Act, which was approved in October of 1996, for the acquisition of the equipment.

Bob Jursnick, the executive director of USA Shooting, which is the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports in the United States, congratulated the Marksmanship Unit on this great improvement to its ranges.

"This range complex is now a premier world-class international marksmanship facility, which is the only range in the Western Hemisphere capable of hosting all international marksmanship events," Jursnick said. "USA Shooting is looking forward to working with the tri-community of Fort Benning to present many national and world-class marksmanship events."

The equipment is presently being installed and should be operational by mid-February. The USAMU will host the first major national-level competition using the new targets April 13 to 25 when it conducts the U.S. Team Selection Match for the 1998 World Championships. The first major international competition will be the Columbus/Fort Benning Grand Prix May 3 to 10, in which hundreds of shooters and coaches from about 48 countries are expected to participate.

Scouts learn more than shooting at USAMU

USAMU PAO

Twenty-five Boy Scouts from Troop 750 out of Marietta, Ga., visited the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Jan. 24 at the Pool Indoor Shooting Complex at Fort Benning, Ga.

Members of the Service Rifle and International Pistol teams helped the Scouts earn their rifle and shooting merit badges for the third straight year.

"We are helping the Scouts get their merit badges," said Sgt. Lewis A. Tippie, Service Rifle Team. "The Scouts are shooting air rifles and .22 caliber rifles."

"It was a lot of fun," said Jonathan Powell, Boy Scout and a descendant of Sir Robert Stevenson Smythe Baden-Powell who was the founder of the Boy Scouts. "This is just what we had expected."

The Scouts received individual training on both rifles with an emphasis on safety.

"All of the Scouts qualified with the weapons," Tippie said. "However our priority was to always teach safety."

The Scouts picked up on the training very fast.

"I was impressed on how well the kids listened and picked up on the training techniques," said Spc. Erik A. Burge, Service Rifle Team. "The Scouts I trained shot very well."

The Scout leaders also got the chance to learn about the shooting techniques from the Service Rifle Team.

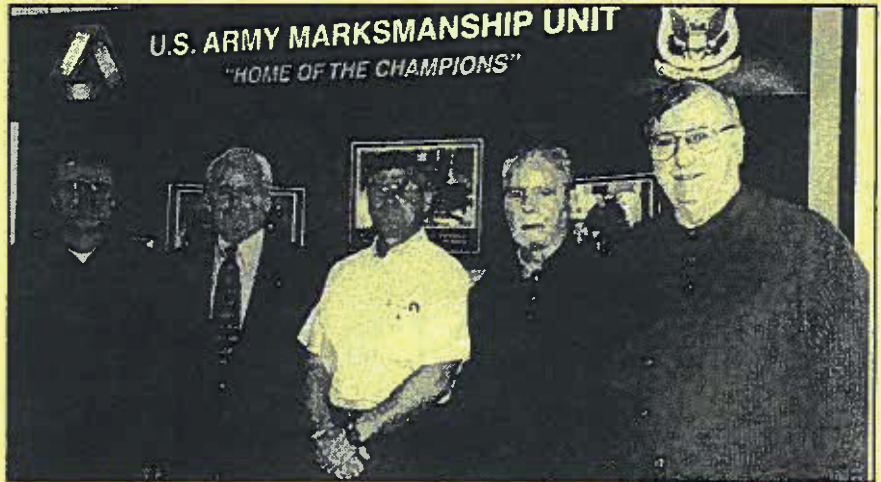
"The adults were much more challenging to teach because they had already developed bad habits," Tippie said. "It is very difficult to unlearn what has been taught and practiced over the years."

Being taught the right way from the very beginning is the best way to keep good shooting habits, he said.

"As an instructor the best part about teaching the Scouts was seeing the kids' faces when they made a good shot," Burge said. "I hope to do this again next year."

Author LTC (R) William K. Emerson needs AMUA's help. He is looking for a picture of a U.S. Army soldier wearing one of the metal President's Hundred brassards on his/her service uniform for his next book. If you can help, you can write or call at

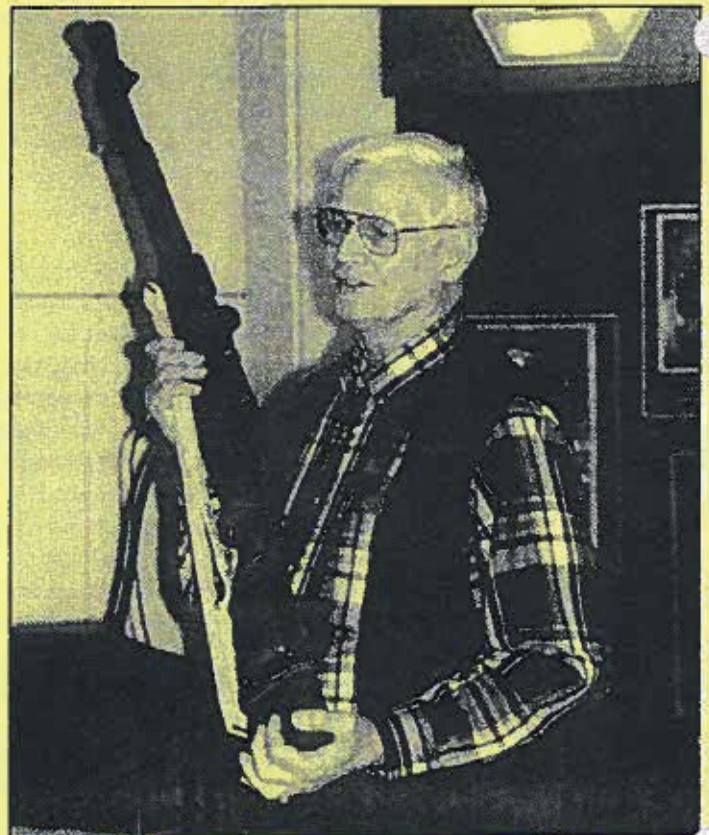
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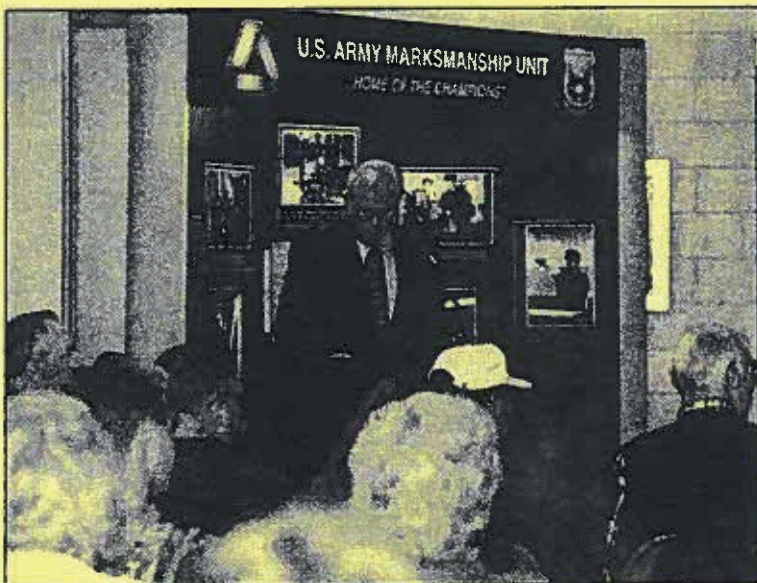
Your AMUA Officers, Treasurer Jack Horner, President Will Powell, Vice President Carter Berry, Secretary Bob Robinson and Roman Wojciechowski



Mr. William Krilling received the replica of the M1 sniper rifle he used in Korea from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, COL (USMC, RET) Dave Willis



Mr. Krilling remembers the closeness he felt with the rifle



President Willis Powell presiding over the meeting

USAMU's Army Athlete of Year wins another shooter of year title

USAMU PAO

The Army Athlete of the Year has now won another title. Staff Sgt. James T. Graves of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning, Ga., was named as the 1997 Army Marksmanship Unit Association Shooter of the Year. Graves was also recently named by USA Shooting as its 1997 Male Athlete of the Year and Male Shotgun Shooter of the Year. USA Shooting of 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colo., is the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports in the United States.

As a member of the U.S. Skeet Team, Graves won the Team Gold Medal in November at the World Shotgun Championships in Lima, Peru. He also won an individual and team Gold Medal in skeet at the Championship of the Americas in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November. He won a Silver Medal at the Skeet World Cup Final in Montecatini, Italy.

Coach Burl Branham accepted the honorary Smith and Wesson Match pistol from AMUA president Willis Powell in a brief ceremony at the 17 January annual meeting. Coach Branham thanked the AMUA on behalf of Graves explaining that he couldn't be present in person due to another ceremony in Washington, D.C. Graves was presented the pistol in a ceremony attended by the entire unit and AMUA vice president Carter Berry.



Coach Burl Branham, accepts Smith & Wesson Pistol for SFC Graves



SFC Graves accepts the Smith & Wesson Match Pistol from AMUA Vice President Carter Berry

USAMU Shooters win Shooter of the Year

USAMU PAO

Five soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning, Ga., have won shooter of the year titles from USA Shooting. USA Shooting of 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colo., is the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports in the United States.

Staff Sgt. James T. Graves was named as the 1997 USA Shooting Male Athlete of the Year and Shotgun Shooter of the Year. Graves, who was a 1992 and 1996 Olympian, is also the 1997 Army Male Athlete of the Year.

Three-time Olympian Capt. Glenn A. Dubis won the USA Shooting Male Rifle Shooter of the Year award, and National Running Target Champion Staff Sgt. Lance D. Dement took the Male Running Target Shooter of the Year honor.

Capt. Rhonda L. Bright, the 1997 Female Sport and Air Pistol Interservice Champion, is the 1997 USA Shooting Female Pistol Shooter of the Year, and Staff Sgt. Daryl L. Szarenski, the 1997 Men's Free and Air Pistol Champion, is the winner of the Male Pistol Shooter of the Year title.

USAMU pistol shooter sets 8 national records

USAMU PAO

A service pistol shooter of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning, Ga., recently set eight national records. Staff Sgt. Kimberly J. Kolb broke eight women's short-course national records at the Service Pistol 2700 Match conducted at Fort Benning's Phillips' Range Jan. 19.

In the .22 Caliber Slow-Fire Match, Kolb shot a score of 189 points with 5 Xs out of a possible 200 points with 20 Xs, breaking the old record of 187 points with 3 Xs (an X is a bull's eye center shot used in tie-breaking). Shooting the .22 Caliber in the National Match Course, Kolb scored 291 points with 13 Xs out of a possible 300 points with 30 Xs, which broke the old record of 291 points with 5 Xs. Out of a possible 900 points, she scored a 878 with 41 Xs for the 900 Aggregate with the .22 Caliber pistol; the old record was 856 points with 22 Xs.

With the .45 Caliber pistol, Kolb broke the old slow-fire record of 188 points and 6 Xs out of a possible 200 points with 20 Xs with her score of 190 points with 4 Xs, and in the National Match Course she fired a 290 with 12 Xs, breaking the old record of 288 with 11 Xs. In the .45 Caliber 900 Aggregate, Kolb score a 869 with 28 Xs, which downed the old record of 851 and 24 Xs.

She also broke the old Center Fire Aggregate record of 852 points with 31 Xs with her score of 861 and 36 Xs and the Grand Aggregate record of 2,564 points out of a possible 2,700 points with her score of 2,608 points.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Joe Parciasepe, AMU supply, 1965-66. Retired since 1966 and residing in Columbus. Worked for Sears, 1966, the Post Office, 1967-72, owned a furniture upholstery business, 1972-79, and managed a Rug Doctor franchise, 1979-97. Hobbies include baseball and gardening.

Al O'Neill, service rifle shooter and coach 1958-63. Rifle coach at USMA, West Point, 1963-74. Retired in 1974 and attended Chatahoochie Valley Community College. After selling real estate for a period of time, he attended Columbus Tech. He co-owned Auburn Road Appliance Repair Service. He enjoys nearly annual fishing trips to Alaska, local hunting and fishing, and golf.

Herb Duncan, service rifle, 1958-69. Shot moving target, 1968. Retired in Columbus in 1969 and sold Chrysler autos until 1970. Worked as a wholesale nursery foreman in Louisiana. Sold fine paper products in Columbus, 1974-79. Owned a nursery in Columbus, 1979-84. Worked in civil service at Fort Benning from 1984 until his final retirement in 1993. He resides in Crawford, Alabama and hunts, golfs, camps and travels.

Raymond Calvez, service rifle, 1957-72. Worked in the AMU ammo bunker and the shop's part supply, 1972-75. Retired in Columbus in 1975 and attended Columbus College. Worked at the Fort Benning print shop 1984-94. Hobbies include bowling and calligraphy.

Hook Boutin, AMU Customs Firearms Shop, 1962-72. Shotgun shooter, 1972-74. After retiring in 1974, he attended Columbus Tech. Worked at the Fort Benning weapons repair shop, 1978-91. Owns a private gunsmithing business. Hobbies include tactical rifle shooting and building match grade rifles.

Charlie Davis is still going strong in silhouette competitions. In August he won the Senior and Super Senior Championships in both Hunter's Pistol and Smallbore Hunter's Pistol. Open Sights at the 1997 NRA National Hunter's Pistol Silhouette Championships in Raton, NM. In November, he won the First Master award in Smallbore Rifle and the state championship in Smallbore Hunting Rifle at the Georgia State Smallbore and Smallbore Hunting Rifle Silhouette Championships.

John Smith, service pistol, 1965-76; international pistol, 1969-76; pistol coach, USMA, West Point, 1976-79; USAMU international pistol coach 1979-83. Retired in 1983 and attended Sparks Tech. Worked for a computer company 1988-95. Residing in Seale, AL, he enjoys shooting tactical rifle, electronic repair, hunting and fishing.

J.D. Mercer, service rifle 1955-61; coached service rifle 1961-75. Retired in 1968 and worked at Tulane University, 1968-70. Worked as the area manager for eight Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in Columbus, 1970-84. Presently works at the Fort Benning finance office. Hobbies include bass fishing and travel.

Barbara Hile, service rifle, 1961-67; service pistol, 1967-75; international pistol, 1969-75. The first and presently the only female triple distinguished shooter in the United States. After retiring in 1975 she worked civil service at Fort Benning and with the U.S. Postal Service until 1997. She pursues her hobbies of biking and volunteer work at church and Calloway Gardens from Ellerslie, GA.

Will Powell, service rifle, 1954-63 and 66-71; moving target 1959-63 and 66-71. OIC of initial Army sniper group in Vietnam. He retired in Columbus in 1971 and owns a roofing business. Remains active in youth football and baseball, veterans affairs, American Legion, Shriners Childrens Hospital, and the Military Retiree and Veterans Council.

Bill Reitz, service rifle 1956-60; Custom Firearms Shop, 1960-65. He owns and operates Accuracy Gunshop in Columbus, spending winters in Columbus and summers in Waterville, PA. Hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Buckley Norris, service rifle, 1964-70. After retiring to Eufaula, AL, he has been "living the life of a vagabond" working for the Army Corps of Engineers. His job requires him to travel a lot but he still manages some golf and fishing.

Army Marksmanship Unit Association

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Stamp