



MMA TIMES

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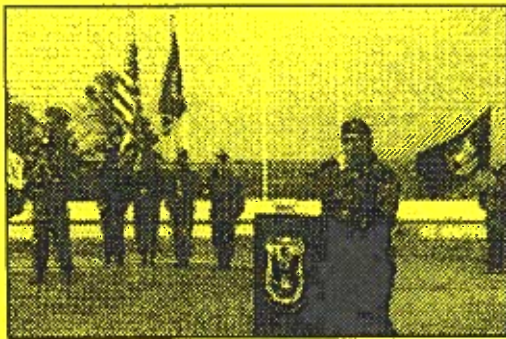
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USAMU changes command

USAMU



USAMU PAO Photo

USAMU Commander: LTC David Liwanag, AMU's new commander, addresses the crowd after assuming command at Ceremony Hill

There were wishes of fond farewells, good luck and tearful goodbyes as the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit bade farewell to its commander Col. Robert I. Hoidahl Jr. June 4 and welcomed Lt. Col. David J. Liwanag as its new chief.

Liwanag, formerly the commander of the U.S. Army Parachute Team - the Golden Knights - of Fort Bragg, N.C., received command of the Army Marksmanship Unit from Hoidahl in a change of command ceremony at Pool International Shooting Complex's Ceremony Hill. Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, commanding general, U.S. Army Accessions Command, Fort Monroe, Va., officiated.

About 100 guests attended the ceremony, including Columbus, Ga., City Manager Carmen Cavezza, a retired Army lieutenant general and former Fort Benning commander. Also attending were: Charles Maddox, Florida civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army; retired Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell; retired Maj. Gen. James Allen; Fort Benning Chief of Staff Col. Charles Cornwell; and Olympic Gold Medalist Gary Anderson, the director of the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Hoidahl, who assumed command of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit April 11, 2001, will retire from the Army Aug. 1 after 30 years of service, and reside in Columbus, with his wife, Leann.

"Under the rock-steady leadership of Bob Hoidahl, the Army Marksmanship Unit has continued to excel," Cavin told the crowd. "Because of Bob Hoidahl's determination to train the best marksmen in the world, the Army Marksmanship Unit currently holds the title of best shooting nation - a huge accomplishment," Cavin said. "As we bid goodbye to our friends Bob and Leann Hoidahl, we welcome Dave and Mary Liwanag. Dave's taking over a unit with an exemplary history of accomplishments, and I look forward to many more accomplishments under his leadership," Cavin concluded.

"Changes of command are happy times and sad times," Hoidahl said. "It seems like only yesterday that Leann and I began our journey. We dedicated ourselves to improving the unit, and hopefully, in a small way, we accomplished that task. I'm excited about the future. The Liwanags are a great team and they'll take great care of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

The new USAMU commander thanked the Hoidahls and wished them the best in the future. "For a soldier and shooter, I've been given the ultimate opportunity to command the finest shooting teams in the world," Liwanag said. "The debt I owe all of you and the country is this. In the next five years, several of the soldiers you see out on the field will win national and world championship titles, some of them several times over; at least one soldier will bring you an Olympic Gold Medal."

Liwanag concluded, "Most important, everyone here will contribute to make sure that if an American soldier in combat must stand on a piece of earth with a rifle, we would have helped to recruit, train or equip him and we will represent that man on the field of marksmanship competition."

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC David J. Liwanag

Thank you for the warm "Welcome Aboard" at the USAMU Change of Command ceremony. It is humbling to stand among the noted AMU shooters whose names I've read about for years.

I wish to thank Colonel Bob Hoidahl as he transitions into a well-deserved Army retirement. He and his lovely wife Leann were gracious sponsors and hosts for my family as we arrived at Fort Benning.

I am a gun nut – I live, think, and dream of guns and shooting. I learned to shoot as an NRA Junior at 12 years old and shot for a few years until our program ended. I never picked up a rifle in competition again until I was 39, with the goal of becoming an Army Distinguished Rifleman before I retired from the service. I promised myself – I came in as a rifleman, I'm leaving as a rifleman.

My expose to the AMU before coming back to competition was limited – my Ranger buddy, John McNally, was an International Rapid Fire Pistol shooter. The NCOs who taught my sniper class, including Tommy Covington, were President's Hundred and Distinguished Riflemen. One of my Ops NCOs, Charlie McCowen, was a long-time AMU shooter. I always read of Lones Wigger's dominance with the .22. These guys were the example I had in my mind of AMU shooters – all winners.

Since 1999 when I took up Service Rifle competition, I have come to appreciate and admire the skills and talents our young soldiers demonstrate even more, consistently setting new records and providing the example for all to follow.

Today's routine match report reads "Service Pistol, AMU Shooters 1st, 2d and 3d place individuals, 1st place Team" and "EIC Rifle Match, 1st Gold (shooter's first EIC rifle match)." The exceptional looking routine.

We promise to do our best to provide you interservice, national, and international champions and Olympic Gold Medallists. We are about a year away from the Athens Olympic Summer Games and I have high hopes and expectations.

We will also do our best to help, however and wherever we can, to improve the individual soldier's ability to shoot and win on both the field of competition and the battlefield.

Our bottom line is to produce winners for you here at "the Home of Champions," and we'll do our best to meet that mission task.

Thanks for your support.

MMA President's Report

Arch Arnold

I enjoyed being present at another Change of Command ceremony at the Army Marksmanship Unit yesterday. As I am sure the details of this great event will be well detailed elsewhere in this issue, I will not dwell on them. Suffice it to say that it was a beautiful morning on Ceremony Hill overlooking the Pool Range complex.....cloudy at first and then breaking into a warm, breezy and sunshiny day. The soldiers looked great and, as always, they exuded a most encouraging enthusiasm for the unit and its missions during these very challenging times. It made one want to turn back the clock to be able to serve with them again.

We were greatly honored to have Mr. Charlie Maddox, Chairman of the Civilian Marksmanship Program and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, grace us with his presence. Given that he is a most busy man who bears many weighty responsibilities in the service of our nation, it is remarkable that he always seems to find the time to make the long trek to Ft Benning to attend USAMU functions. He is a true friend of the Marksmanship Unit who has time and again "been there" for the unit during times of need.

I think that LTC Dave Liwanag, the new commander, is just the right man to lead the unit into the future. It was my pleasure to serve along side him when he commanded "The Golden Knights" at Fort Bragg. I can confirm from my own experience that he brought high morale and great competitive excellence to that unit and am confident that he will do the same at the USAMU. Also, in stark contrast to myself, he comes to us with a wealth of personal experience and expertise as a rifle marksman at the National Matches. He understands shooting, winning and how to build a team to accomplish all of the above. We are very fortunate to have the Liwanags join the unit at a time of great challenge that might daunt a lesser command team. The MMA wishes to extend a most warm welcome to Dave and Mary Liwanag!

Now back to the business of our association, I was reminded recently by our immediate past president, Phil Cannella, that "it's not too early to start planning for our 48th year reunion next fall." Never one to stare a gift horse of good advice in the mouth, I have asked Bruce Meredith, our association's fine vice president, to form and chair a reunion planning committee to get this show on the road. Over the coming months our members can expect periodic reunion reports in MMA Times and on our website as the plan takes shape. We would encourage all members to provide us with advice and suggestions as we go along. We want to do everything possible to make it a fun, memorable, and well attended event.

Finally, I'd like to thank Bob and Leann Hoidahl, the outgoing command team, for their excellent and devoted service to the USAMU. It seems like just yesterday that they arrived! We wish them all the best as they fade away into Columbus.

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend. At 94 years old, Coats Brown still has a remarkable memory. If you shot or worked with or for Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.

Myrtlewood, Alabama. Coats was 12 years old when he got his first malaria attack. He started feeling very cold with constant shivering. Covered in blankets, he could not warm up. Doctor Miller provided quinine capsules. The shivering lasted for 3 hours or so. Then a very high fever took over. Quinine treatment continued during the fever. After 3 feverish days, the fever broke. If the fever did not subside, another fit of cold shivers would commence and the patient would turn yellow. This indicated that you might not survive and was called yellow chills. Some kind of tonic water was consumed during the healing and strength rebuilding process. Everyone in the house had the disease, his mother, brother, sister and himself had malaria. The family knew that mosquitoes caused malaria. The Brown family did not have screens on their windows or doors, they couldn't afford screens. Only the very well off families could afford screens. Summers were hot in Myrtlewood and windows needed to stay open most of the time.. Coats said malaria attacks would occur every year. Fortunately, malaria did not strike all members of the family at the same time, so they could care for each other when sick. Coats final serious attack happened when he was 18 years old. He had minor malaria attacks until he reached middle age, but they were not disabling attacks. Medical texts explain that some forms of malaria will terminate spontaneously without relapse, while others can last for thirty years. The flood of July 1916 left swarms of pesky mosquitoes everywhere. In school that fall, most students and every teacher had a smokepot of smoldering old rags under their desk to keep the mosquitoes away. Coats remembers hearing about a Doctor Pemberton of Columbus, Georgia who concocted coke syrup to settle ones stomach after a malaria attack.

The closest hospital was 60 miles distant in Selma, Alabama. There was a local Doctor for serious illness, but everyone was familiar with home remedies. Dampness behind the ears indicated that a fever was not present. Dry and warm behind the ears might indicate a fever was present. Diarrhea was controlled with white oak tannic acid. The soft inner bark of the white oak tree was collected and soaked in water overnight forming a brown tannic acid. Usually one half cup would stop the diarrhea. People who needed to eliminate excess body fluids could use the long leaf pine tree. A pea sized ball of pine resin ingested would cause urination. Infection from a bone felon could be drawn and eliminated by wrapping and soaking the festered area with the skin from the inside of a fresh chicken egg. Doctor Miller took care of the entire community which included a good part of the county. He lived in Myrtlewood and had an examining room and office in his home. If a family member became real sick, someone went to fetch the doctor. He stayed busy making house calls. He rode a horse and carried a medical bag. The bag contained instruments and medical components to be mixed at the patient's home. Outside of town, people lived pretty spread apart. The sharecropper lived nearly a mile from the Brown family. The closest neighbor lived 1/2 mile down the road.

Coats first attempt at smoking happened in 1922 when he was 14. Coats was visiting his aunt, uncle and five cousins in Selma. The oldest cousin Albert McCrary was 20 years old and smoked on a regular basis. Albert and Coats were in downtown Selma and Albert bought 6 small cigars from a Smoke Shop. So Coats bought himself a big stogie. He lit up and started puffing away. Coats sat on a bench downtown and smoked while waiting for his cousin who was conducting some business. When Albert completed his business, he found Coats laying on the bench, green and sick as a dog. Coats upchucked everything and stayed dizzy or awhile. He never seriously smoked after that. Coats did try to smoke several times to be sociable, but he couldn't inhale and did not enjoy smoking. Coats later learned that a spoonful of alcohol made his head spin and made him very uncomfortable, so he never learned to drink.

Bill Blankenship Nominated - Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame

Jack Horner

William B. (Bill) Blankenship, Jr. is a nominee for induction into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame (CVSHF). Your support could help get him inducted in 2004.

The CVSHF began in 1996 to recognize the outstanding performance of athletes who are from the valley area or accomplished their athletic feats while in the valley area. As the name implies, it is not "sport specific", but recognizes athletes from all sports-golf, tennis, football, baseball, etc. and shooting!

Yes, one of our own is an inductee and you might not have even known it! Lones Wigger was inducted in the Hall of Fame with the 1997 group. A banquet and induction ceremony was held at the Columbus Trade Center for all the inductees of the Class of 1997. About sixty of Wiggs' friends and supporters were in attendance.

While the fact that one of our own is included in the Hall of Fame is great, it is a shame more of our marksmen are not included. In my opinion, only one out of approximately forty CVSHF inductees does not adequately represent the contributions of the Army Marksmanship Unit to the Valley area. A couple of years ago Bill Blankenship was nominated. Although Bill's nomination is still before selection committee, he still has not been selected for induction.

Part of the problem could be that many of us did not know of his nomination and did not actively support the nomination. Having another AMU marksman in the CVSHF is long overdue. The new evaluation of nominees begins in July of this year. Encouragement by any and all of us to the selection of Bill could enhance his chances. I hope you will join me by writing a note of support for Bill's selection to the Hall of Fame. Send your correspondence to:

**Jim White, Chairman
CVSHF
P.O. Box 2744
Columbus, GA 31902**

It probably wouldn't hurt to include the fact that if Bill were selected you would be interested in attending the induction ceremony (held in February 2004). The MMA has about 100 to 150 members in the area and given the Marksmanship Units past reputation of supporting its own we could bring a pretty sizable group to the induction ceremony!

The Hall is located in the lobby of the Columbus Civic Center which is located at the corner of Veterans Parkway and Victory Drive. It includes a video presentation and a biography of all the athletes in the Hall of Fame as well as display cabinets with memorabilia and pictures.

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

Following WWII, I was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, right in the middle of some fine woodchuck and crow country. I had a 30-06 and a 300 H&H mag and shortly after my assignment, I put together an improved 218 Bee. I soon made friends with some other varmint hunters who used the 257 Remington/Roberts, 270 Winchester etc.. The big talk was about the 22 Varminter, now known as the 22/250 Remington. I had a lovely Mauser action which I had shortened up an inch. I had a gunsmith in Baltimore fit my action with a 28 inch bull barrel. Stocking took a couple of months and I already had a 20X Lyman Super Targetspot scope. I was soon showing the chucks and crows some new trajectories. Two civilian friends had to have them too! So I built rifles for them. One day as we were checking our zeros in the gravel pit north of the town of Aberdeen, another friend showed up and after listening to a few shots, said "Elery what are you shooting in that thing"? "It rings like a bell"! Elery said "39 grains of 4320 with the Sisk (Sierra did not exist yet) 55 grain bullet, like it says in the book". Gerry said "You better read the book again, that's 4350, You are running about 4 grains over maximum". So, y'all take heed, read the book carefully.

Tidbits

A speedy recovery to Earl Waterman: Former USAMU Service Rifle shooter and current USAMU Range Maintenance Technician, **Earl Waterman**, recently had a leg amputated due to a circulatory problem. He is in good spirits and on the road to recovery. In fact, Earl was able to make it to the recent USAMU Change of Command ceremony.

Congratulations to **Richard Haynie**, former Shotgun Administrative NCOIC. Richard is employed with Synovus Financial Corporation as an Information Systems (IS) Manager. Synovus is the parent company of Columbus Bank and Trust Company, and

Taps, Present Arms

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of **Donald S. Haldeman**. Mr. Haldeman, 55, died in his home at Harleysville, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, February 22, 2003. Mr. Haldeman was the 1976 Olympic trap gold medalist.

Mr. Haldeman was an ATA life member and first registered targets in 1965 when he was out of high school. In 1969, he joined the Army's Marksmanship Unit and was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia, and while in the Army he competed several times in Europe and once in Mexico. He earned the silver medal in trapshooting at the first trap competition in the Pan American Games, in 1975. He broke 196 and the U.S. group of Haldeman, Dan Carlisle, Charvin Dixon, and Wally Zobell set a team record of 391x400.

Mr. Haldeman participated in the 1972 Olympics in Munich and then the 1976 Games in Montreal, where he captured the gold medal in trapshooting. At the time, he was also the only U.S. shooter to have earned his way to two Olympics since the U.S. reentered trap competition in 1960.

He was a member of Souderton-Harleysville Fish and Game Club, Branch Valley Fish and Game of Perkasio, and the National Rifle Association.

Mr. Haldeman was a tool and die maker for Budd Co. of Philadelphia for 30 years, retiring in 1992 due to illness. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he was a life member of the American Legion and a member of the Lutheran Church.

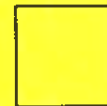
Survivors include his mother, two aunts, and many cousins.

he is in the process of rolling out over 2000 Windows XP computer workstations for the bank.

James A. Eberwine of San Antonio, TX just published a book, "The Inadvertent Conspiracy: The Nursing Home Killers". Copies are available from him and should be in book stores soon. He was also recently featured in two chapters of "Outlaws in Vietnam".



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



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BRUCE A. MEREDITH
103 WOODFIELD CIR.
LA GRANGE GA 30240 -9209