



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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USAMU Reunion and Hall  
of Fame Induction  
22-24 October, 2004

## Military Marksmanship Association Celebrates Another Successful Year at Annual Meeting

### MMA

Olympians, Hall of Famers, World Champions, National and International record holders, and marksmen old and young were at the Pool Shooting Complex on January 23rd for the annual Military Marksmanship Association meeting. Over 100 members and guests gathered for the meeting, boosted by attendance of many USAMU soldiers and civilians.

After a welcome and introduction by MMA President, Arch Arnold, USAMU Commander, LTC David Liwanig gave an informative briefing on ongoing unit activities and future events. USAMU soldiers continue with exceptional shooting successes and have even deployed to Iraq to train soldiers in close combat techniques. Several matches are scheduled at Fort Benning this Spring and things are looking good for Summer competitions.

Arch Arnold briefed MMA business. The association is doing well financially and membership wise. We are on track with our tax exempt action and should know soon if we are successful in obtaining approval.

The forty-eighth USAMU anniversary reunion planning continues. As of now it is scheduled for October 22-24, 2004. More information and details on the reunion and USAMU Hall of Fame



USMAU Photo

**SOLDIER OF THE YEAR:** SSG Joe Harliss was awarded the traditional Smith and Wesson target pistol by MMA president Arch Arnold.

induction will be delivered as it becomes available. Your ballot for the Hall of Fame is included as an enclosure to this mailing.

A highlight of the annual meeting was introduction of all the Soldier of the Year candidates with summaries of their many successes. Staff Sergeant Joe D. Harliss, a Custom Firearms Shop gunsmith, was announced as the MMA association Soldier of the Year. He was presented a Smith and Wesson target pistol by the association President.

Following the formal activities a raffle was conducted. Lots of smiling faces with winning tickets claimed the many prizes.

The afternoon's activities concluded with a superb food layout and socializing.

Thanks to Smith & Wesson for donating the target pistol awarded to the MMA Soldier of the Year

## MMA President's Report

Arch Arnold

We enjoyed seeing the 100 or so members who attended the Annual Meeting at Pool Indoor Range on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a fine event focused mostly on the recognition of the MMA Soldier of the Year. Here are the highlights from my perspective.

### MMA Business Report

**Treasury :** Thanks to the continued great work by Sam Hunter, we enter the new year in very solid financial health.

**Membership :** Richard Rebidue is doing an excellent job keeping track of our 450 or so members scattered around the country.

**Public Affairs :** The quality and timeliness of our quarterly MMA Times editions are testimony to the truly outstanding talent of our editor-in-chief, Carter Berry.

**History :** We continue to struggle to fill the void left by Ken Hamill's retirement. We will try to make progress here in the next year.

**Recording Secretary :** We are blessed to have Red Mosely keeping track of the considerable administrative load of running our website, meetings, e-mail, etc.

**Bottom Line :** Bruce Meredith, our trusty Vice President, and I believe that your association is in good health entering its 11<sup>th</sup> year thanks to your support and the selfless service of those mentioned above.

### Soldier of the Year

As always, we agonized over the selection of this year's winner because of the extraordinary accomplishments of all the candidates during 2003. National champions, World Cup medalists, World record breakers.....it was truly a magnificent year for the AMU on the competitive shooting fields of friendly strife around the world. Ultimately, your board decided to recognize a most unsung nominee : Gunsmith and Staff Sergeant Joe D. Harless, who, along with his teammates, has been most indispensable to the success of countless USAMU champions. I can tell you that it was a great thrill and privilege for me to present the award of target pistol donated by Smith & Wesson to this fine soldier.

## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC David J. Liwanag

By the time you read this the AMU will have hosted the first All-Army Rifle and Pistol Championships at Benning in ten years. We planned a rifle and combat pistol small arms firing school, two days of individual rifle and pistol competition, separate rifle and pistol EIC matches, and a long-range championships. Next year we hope to add a combat rifle match and a Rattle-Battle type match. I'd like to thank the Association for their help and assistance to Mike Behnke so we could get trophies and trinkets for the competitor packets and awards ceremony.

The Shotgun Team is hosting the Olympic Shotgun Finals at the Hook Complex, and in May we'll be hosting the Pistol, Rifle, and Running Target Olympic Team Selections. Team members will be going to Athens this summer, the cradle of civilization and the home of the Olympics. Exciting times for our shooters, all here on our home ranges.

Since the last Military Marksmanship Association meeting at Pool Range the Service Pistol Section has returned from their Mobile Training Team to Iraq. The Team trained over 250 1st Armor Division squad and fire team leaders in Close Combat techniques, seeing a fair bit of the greater Baghdad area as they traveled to 9 Forward Operating Bases. You should be proud of them, living up to our "Train-the-Trainer" standards in a war zone.

While Service Pistol was deployed the 1st Cavalry Division asked Fort Benning for M14 rifle training. Three battalions of artillerymen have been tasked to deploy to Iraq as dismounted Military Police and Infantrymen, and the Army handed them M14s for long-range engagements. We didn't have anyone immediately ready to deploy, and the National Guard and Reserve has also deployed most of their available trainers. We asked the Texas State Rifle Association for help and several retired Army, a Navy Reservist, and many civilian and police Master and High Master highpower rifle shooters volunteered to train three groups of soldiers. We asked, and it seems the CMP system was able to help out. The Army

## Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend. At 95 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.

On 12 July 1934, when he was nearly 26 years of age, Coats Brown left home to join the Army. He walked ten miles to Linden, the county seat to catch a bus. A bus ticket to Birmingham, Alabama cost \$1.50 from Linden. He found the Army Recruiting Station near the bus station in Birmingham. Sergeant Frank D. Sanders, a very sharp appearing professional had a knack for judging people. He judged Coats to be in need of a job and ripe for commitment – an excellent recruiting prospect. Coats did not bring a birth certificate to Birmingham. He told the recruiter his full name and desire to be known by the name Coats Brown. Sergeant Sanders administered the entrance examinations alone. Coats passed the written exam. A knot on the top of Coats right foot, a farm injury, nearly kept him out of the Army. Sgt. Sanders told Coats he couldn't accept him because of the bad foot. Coats hopped up and down on his right foot for 5 minutes to prove the knot did not bother him. Sgt. Sanders administered the oath of enlistment, prepared the necessary paperwork, provided a train pass with a meal chit and told Coats to report to Fort McClellan, Alabama. The new soldier would henceforth be known officially as Coats Brown. Several years later Coats would get a copy of his birth certificate for the purpose of a security clearance but his correct and full name was never questioned. Coats remembers the term "GI", an acronym formed from the words "Government Issue" as being in vogue when he joined the Army.

Coats traveled by train from Birmingham to Anniston, Alabama where a Fort McClellan duty driver met him with a sedan. Fort McClellan was home for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and the Regimental Headquarters. Battalion sized Posts were common at that time. The strength of the U.S. Army in 1934 was 62,000. Coats reported to Post Headquarters where he was assigned to K Company. Coats was directed to K Company, where he reported to the First Sergeant. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Johnson, a Colonel in the Reserve, greeted Coats with a handshake. He assigned Coats to Sgt Turner, the

Supply Sergeant. Sgt Turner issued Coats 2 blue fatigue uniforms, measured him for duty uniforms, and then went to the Quartermaster to arrange for the required items. Private Brown received his duty uniform the next day with shirts, trousers, coat, raincoat, socks, shoes, underwear, field equipment and rifle. Coats went to the company mess for supper that first day and breakfast the next morning in civilian clothes. The blue denim fatigues he had been issued were intended to be worn for outside work details that required sweat work. The duty uniform was worn to reveille, police call, normal work, training, meals, kitchen police, retreat and on a class A pass to town. There were 42 people assigned to K Company.

King Company barracks were modern at the time. They were newly built of brick or stone, covered with stucco and had a tile roof. I and L Company barracks would be finished in 1936. The ground floor of the barracks contained the orderly room, day room, kitchen and dining room. The day room offered several easy chairs, 3 pool tables and a small library. A full size basement housed the supply room. The second floor was living quarters. Coats remembers one sleeping bay and a few rooms. Individual rifles stood in rifle racks in the sleeping bay. Browning automatic rifles and crew served weapons were secured in the supply room. The cooks had their own room. The most senior NCO's shared a room. Beds in the sleeping bay were arranged in 4 rows with at least 4 feet between beds. Corporals or senior people preferred the corner locations. These were single beds, not double decked bunks. The steel beds had been hospital beds during WWI. Each mattress was approximately 6 inches thick. There was one electric receptacle in the sleeping bay located in a corner that was used for ironing clothes. The hand made ironing board was returned to its place of storage and the area cleaned up when ironing was completed. A large mirror hung on the inside of the sleeping area entrance door as a reminder for everyone to check his dress and alignment prior to leaving.

**Please be sure to return your  
Hall of Fame ballot.**

**Your vote is important!**

**USAMU 48th Anniversary Reunion  
and  
Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony  
22-24 Oct 04**

## USAR SHOOTER PROFILE:

### Victor Auer, International Rifle

Born 24 March 1937 in Santa Anna, CA, Victor Auer began shooting at the age of 10 when his father established the Brea Junior Rifle Club. His first match win was the 1948 California Sub-Junior Smallbore Rifle Prone State Championship. Always one of the top smallbore prone shooters in the nation, Vic won the Junior Championship at Camp Perry in 1956 and 1957. He shot with the UCLA team and graduated in 1963 with a degree in English Literature. He served in the U S Air Force Reserve from 1960 to 1966 and shot with that organization that won smallbore team championships at Camp Perry in 1960-61-62. He fired at the Bisley matches in England in 1963 and won the Bell Trophy with a new record. Recruited by the Army Reserve in 1971, he joined the 828 Station Hospital in Fresno, CA and was a member of the USAR International Rifle team from 1971-1978.

Vic won the gold individual and team medals in the 50 Meter Prone Rifle event at the Pan American Games in Cali, Columbia in 1971 which also qualified him for the US International Distinguished Badge. At the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany, Vic won the silver medal, again in the same event - 50 meter smallbore rifle prone - his specialty. In 1973 he earned the NRA Smallbore Rifle Prone Distinguished award. At the Benito Juarez International Championships in Mexico City, Vic Auer won the 50 meter prone rifle championship in 1974, 1975 and 1977. At the 1974 World Shooting Championships in Thun, Switzerland, he was on the silver medal winning USA team in his event. In 1975, in Mexico City, at the Pan Am Games, he was a member of the USA gold medal 50 meter prone team. He was a member of the USA Olympic team in Montreal, Canada where he competed in the 50 meter prone rifle match commonly referred to as the English Match.

During his career, Vic established 140 individual and team national records and won numerous state and NRA regional championships. Vic was invited by the U S Army Reserve and the U S State Department to coach the national teams of Brazil in 1973, Venezuela in 1975, Ecuador in 1976 and Puerto Rico in 1977.

Author, film writer, teacher and coach by profession. Vic earned M.A. credits from UCLA and Exeter College, Oxford University. He was an assistant Dean at UCLA for the development of the Athletes for Academics program. He has been author of articles for the Olympian Magazine, The American Rifleman and the UIT Journal.

Vic currently lives at 2179 La Granada Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Telephone (805) 496-1310.

## PRESIDENT / From Page 2

Thanks !!!

These sorts of events don't come off well by accident. We are particularly grateful to:

- Phil Cannella and his trusty assistants, Etta Griffith and Doug Duncan, for arranging the food, refreshments, and door prizes

- Mr. Ken Sedlecky and Smith & Wesson for the most kind donation of a target pistol.

- To AMU Cdr, David Liwanag and Operations Officer, Kim Howe, and S3 Shop for their excellent support of the event.

And Finally...

Remember to mark your calendars for our 48<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion scheduled for the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>.

## COMMANDER / From Page 2

picked up the volunteers' gas, rooms, and food, and in future will try to work out a per diem for their time lost from work.

I hope you will be able to come and see the Olympic Team Selection Matches or the USA Shooting National Matches this summer. The International shooters have a full schedule during an Olympic and CISM year, and the Service Rifle and Pistol Shooters have a full year between bullseye, combat, and Train-the-Trainer.

*MMA Web Site at -*

*militarymarksmanship.org*

*Join Us Today!!!*

**Photos needed:** If you have a 8" X 10" shooting photo of yourself or a team, please photo copy it, identify the event, date, people and send it to: MMA Historian, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025. Photos received will be captioned, placed in document protectors & notebook binders and stored in the USAMU Photo Archives.

## Keeping In Touch

**Charlie D. Davis**, who turned 77 on February 12th, is still shooting. In 2002 he received eight NRA Senior National Record certificates. Seven were team records and the other an individual record. The records were set in the NRA silhouette sports of Hunter's Pistol and Cowboy Lever Action Rifle.

He won a Georgia Regional Championship and a Washington State Championship in Smallbore Hunter's Pistol-Open Sight. In the Hunter's Pistol Nationals in New Mexico, he won three of the four Super Senior (age 70 plus) awards.

In 2003 he received four NRA Senior Team National Record certificates. One record was set at the Alabama State Championships. Three were set at the Idaho State Championships. He won two Super Senior awards in open sight pistols at the Hunter's Pistol Nationals in New Mexico. His senior team placed first in the Master Class in Smallbore Hunter's Pistol and second in the Master Class in Hunter's Pistol.

Charlie's first tour with USAMU started in 1957. He retired in 1979. He served with Service Rifle, International Rifle, and Running Target.

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## Donations

**Rock M. Soike** made donations to the Trapshooting Hall of Fame in memory of past USAMU commanders **COL Robert F. Bayard** and **COL Joseph J. Peot**.

**Mark H. Lindsley** and **Dallas L. Krapf** made donations to the MMA.

**Marylou Hinds** made a donation to MMA in memory of **SGM Roy H. Combs** and **Hazel Combs**.

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**Stories needed:** If you remember a funny, inspiring or interesting shooting experience, please share it with us, so we can share it with the membership through the MMA Times. Please send your experiences or second hand stories to: MMA Times Editor, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025.

## Taps, Present Arms

The Military Marksmanship Association announces with sorrow the passing of Major (Retired) **Robert W. Lowe**, 86, on January 8, 2004, in Washington, DC.

Bob began his service career in the Marine Corps in 1939 and attained the rank of Captain. He served in Korea with the First Marine Division. In 1954, Bob was selected as a member to the USMC Rifle Team and earned the designation as Distinguished Marksman and Distinguished Pistol Shot.

Bob resigned his commission from the Marine Corps in 1956 and was re-commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. Bob was then assigned to the U.S. Army Advanced Marksmanship Unit as a member of the U.S. Army Service Rifle Team. He earned the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1957 and the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1958. Bob is believed to be the only person to earn these "double" Distinguished designations in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army.

Bob retired as a Major in the U.S. Army in 1959 and was employed by the National Rifle Association (NRA). Over the next 20 years, he served as Associate Technical Editor, Museum Curator, and Manager of the Annual Trade Show at the NRA's yearly convention. He retired from the NRA in 1980.

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## USAMU / MMA REUNIONS

The USAMU 50th Reunion will be held in 2006 (USAMU was activated in 1956). We will have a 48th Reunion and Hall of Fame induction October 22nd through 24th, 2004. Any one with input of ideas and time-frame for the 50th anniversary should contact the MMA VP, Bruce Meredith at [bameredith@mindspring.com](mailto:bameredith@mindspring.com) or via mail at 103 Woodfield Circle, LaGrange, GA 30240.

Your input is important. We want to make these events special for all attendees. We hope to see a huge turn-out for both reunions. Tell your friends and plan to be there.

## Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

In the Las Cruces, New Mexico area back in the early 50's we had only one Anglo officer in the Sheriffs Department. He was Jim Flanagan, the Chief Deputy. I managed to find a couple of cases of 45 acp tracer ammo and gave him a full case to use in his M1A1 Thompson Sub-Machine gun. He and Sgt. Brunk of the State Police were talking about the 1-3 ratio and wondered what it would be like to shoot all tracers over a crowd of trouble makers? So they went out west Picacho across from the crushed lava place. At that time there was nothing else out there. They turned off the lights in both cars and Brunk got off to Flanagan's right. Jim loaded a 20 shot magazine with all tracers into the gun. He pulled back the operating handle until he heard a click, however the bolt went part way forward. So he gave it a strong pull all the way back. He raised it to his shoulder and pulled the trigger. One tracer went out the barrel and a second came out the ejection port and right across in front of Brunk's face! The click was the top round in the clip popping up in front of the bolt. When the bolt went forward, it put the first round into the chamber. Then when the bolt went forward after the full cock the second round hit the round in the chamber and fired it. At the same time the fixed firing pin in the bolt face fired the second round. Pressures broke off the bottom of the feed rib on the bolt making it useless. I got a new bolt on my Christmas trip home.

**Information for the "Keeping in Touch" column needed:** If you shot for the Army, your old friends want to hear about you. Send us a description of your experiences, when and where you shot, coached, accurized weapons, or other duties. When did you get out of the Army? What did you do? School? Work? When did you retire? What are your hobbies? Please jot down some information about yourself and send it to: MMA Historian, PO Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2025.

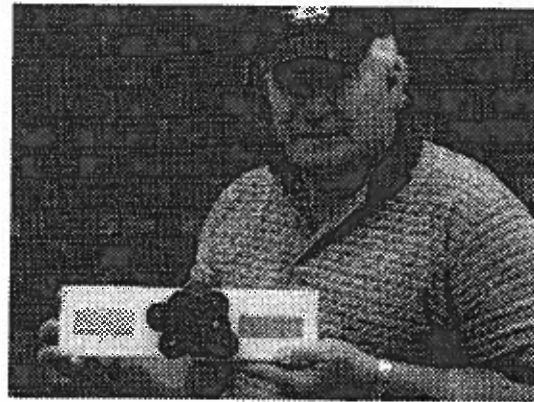
## Phil's Story - Lessons Learned

Phil Cannella

Phil Cannella has a slightly different memory of a hot Fort Benning day a "few" Summers ago. The original story was submitted by R. M. Williamson

R. H. Williamson didn't give the whole story for the mid-seventies range incident ..... After waiting for the guys in the pits to score the target, I called down to hurry them up (over five minutes). Finally, after some guidance over the field phone, they disked me 10 Maggie's Drawers. You can imagine how peeved I got. I immediately realized what I had done! In the process of taking care of some OIC business while on the firing line, I had forgotten to raise my rear sights the seven clicks from the bottom (I did check, but we practiced taking the sights to the bottom and counting them back up with the coach to ensure no screw-up in a team match). Well, I learned to double check things after that. I also am not bothered on the firing line!

They presented me with the 2 x 4 with spotters at the Perry banquet. I keep it around to remind me I am not perfect and to never assume anything!



Phil Cannella proudly displays the plaque awarded to him at Camp Perry by members of the Service Rifle Team.



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