



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)

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## MMA President's Report

Bruce Meredith



**Congratulations, Soldier of the Year: MMA President, Bruce Meredith presents a Smith & Wesson Doug Koenig model pistol to Staff Sergeant Maxient J. Michel, MMA's Soldier of the Year.**

The MMA meeting on 27 January 2006, at the indoor range of the Pool Shooting Complex, Fort Benning, Georgia, was the usual good attendance thanks to the members of the U S Army AMU. There were about 90 in the room to recognize the nominees of each section for the Soldier of the Year Award. As usual, the selection process was thorough and difficult. This year's winner was Staff Sergeant Maxient J. Michel, Jr. of the Action Pistol Team. He was the recipient of the Doug Koenig model .45 ACP pistol, donated by the Smith & Wesson Company. SSG Michel distinguished himself by winning 14 of the 16 matches in which he competed. He won the U. S. Handgun National Championship, The World Speed Shooting Championship and set three World Records in winning the U. S. Handgun Open Point Series. His resume has more to it, but suffice it to say, he was a good selection from an outstanding field of soldiers. The other nominees were SPC Sean Watson of Service Pistol, SGT Craig Nelson of the Custom Firearms Shop, SSG Keith Sanderson of International Pistol, SFC Norman Anderson of Service Rifle, SFC Thomas Tamas of International Rifle and PFC Josh Richmond of Shotgun. Past President, Phil Cannella, came through again with the astonishing and wondrous prizes for the drawing. You have to come to the meeting to appreciate the scene. The food disappeared quickly. Thanks to all that helped.

It is nice to see that Dick Rebidue's membership bar chart is headed in the upward direction again with the 128 number. Please continue to recruit for the reunion. We now have sixteen Life Members. Thanks to an anonymous admirer of significant contributions for many years, CWO Coats Brown is the most recent of the Life Members. As a point of clarification, the Board of Directors has decided to not bestow MMA Life Memberships in a gratuitous manner. Everyone has contributed to the best of their abilities over the years and there would be no end to the discussion and recognition. So, if anyone has been holding back waiting for a freebee, this should clarify the matter. The MMA thanks you for your many years of contribution to the AMU and the sport of shooting, so honor and reward yourself with the Life Member Status.

Onward toward the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion, we will be putting out housing/hotel information in the MMA Times and the MMA website. We are not staffed to be a travel agency, thus, you are on your own to make reservations as you wish. We are not reserving blocks of rooms, as that ended in a disaster at the last reunion. We will offer contact information and room prices as quoted to us at this time. Wheel & deal for the best rate on your own. All the best to everyone.

## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC David J. Liwanig

Spring and the 2006 All-Army Championships mark the end of the AMU's Warfighter Support season and the return to mission number 1, "Winning." Since September we have trained over 1,000 Soldiers as designated marksman instructors or Close Quarters Combat shooters, from home at Benning to as far away as Korea and Germany. By the time you read this we will have launched our first Designated Marksman Instructor Mobile Training Team to Kuwait to support the 1st Armor Division before they head into Iraq.

The Olympic discipline teams (International Rifle, International Pistol, and Shotgun) are well-positioned to earn United States Olympic Shooting Team positions towards Beijing in summer 2008, and the coaches and NCOICs are scouting for talent for the 2012 quadrennial to be fired in London. The Guangzhou, China World Cup is the first of the Asian continental world games to be held in China proper on the way to success.

The Service teams are well-poised to repeat "Clean Sweep" performances of the Interservice Championships and National Rifle and Pistol Champion titles. Action/Combat holds current national champion titles, and World Champion titles are in their future. Brinson Range is now established as one of the finest training ranges in the nation for action shooting.

We have hosted the Fort Benning Rifle and Pistol Championships for the Infantry Center, and are expecting attendance to grow in the All-Army. The new Drill Sergeant Trophy should attract more Soldiers from within our own command to compete. Lieutenant General Van Antwerp can see from his position as our Commanding General the affect a few can have on many. The Joint Special Operations Command is the first Major Command / Combatant Command to revive command matches, and the 82nd Airborne Division will be the first to revive their Division matches as part of "All-American Week."

The Civilian Marksmanship Program continues to support the Army by hosting the JROTC National Championships at Pool Range, by providing manpower and equipment for the Designated Marksman Instructor Course, and by graciously providing Secretary of the Army Trophy M1 rifles for the All-Army.

You continue to support the Recruiter and Cadet Command by presenting some of the Army's finest Soldier-achievers. We must lead by example, and embrace the challenges of the Army's Recruiting and reenlistment mission whenever and wherever we can. Americans love successful, positive role models, and you are among the best. Your superior record of excellence for winning, Recruiting, retention, and safety are unmatched. You have set records, established new matches, and provided the highest level of training available within the Army.

My tenure as commander is dawning, and new leadership will soon establish new standards for winning, Recruiting, and training Warfighters.

I have been privileged to be a small part of the "Home of Champions," and I wish you all the best for Gold and glory, especially during our 50th year Golden Anniversary. I will always fondly remember being a small part of the Army Marksmanship Unit. God bless you all... shoot straight!

## USAMU 50th Anniversary

18-21 October 2006

USAMU Hall of Fame Induction, Shooting Ranges, Picnic, Story Telling

## Late Night Unexpected Visitors

Weldon Griggs

I had checked into a motel near Quantico, Virginia where the Marines were to hold a Running Boar competition. After a long flight from Seattle, the three hour time change and the trip from the Dulles Airport, I decided to go right to bed. I knew I would have to get up very early for me the next day. Sometime after midnight, I heard a knock on the door. I went to the door and said, "Who is it"? The answer was, "Major Griggs, it's me... Charlie Davis".

I looked through the peephole in the door and sure enough, there was MSG Charles Davis, the NCOIC of the Army Running Target Team. I opened the door for him and he soon had his gear and himself in the room. He explained that he got his team bedded down but there were no rooms left for him. Some sort of a mixup. He found that I was registered so he was soon at my door.

I had a double bed, so we both used it, grabbing as much sleep as we could before we had to get up.

My "training" for this type of situation came from an incident at Luke AFB in 1970 when I was the one in the ball in the middle of the night. Someone had decided that Army and Army Reserve shooters would stay at Luke AFB, outside Phoenix, in order to save money. I reported to the Billeting Office and was assigned a room in the Visiting Officers Quarters. When I got to the door of the room, it was already occupied by LTC Fred Keifer, who was the Admin Officer for the Army Team and MAJ Willis Powell, the ranking member of the Army Running Boar Team.

They both graciously decided that rather than for me to drag back over to the Billeting Office and try to find a room, which may not be available at that time of night, it would be better for me to stay with them. So, they took in this "refugee" Army Reservist and let me sleep on their couch. I was glad to have a place to crash.

As I recall, this was the only time the Army Team stayed at Luke AFB. There were problems with arms storage, jet plane noise, room assignments and it wasn't that close to the Black Canyon Range after all. In future years the Army Team stayed in civilian motels when they came to Phoenix.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE U. S. ARMY AMU  
OCTOBER 18 TO 21, 2006 AT FORT BENNING/COLUMBUS, GA

A MORE SPECIFIC AGENDA & REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE MAILED IN THE  
SUMMER AND POSTED AT: [WWW.MILITARYMARKSMANSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.MILITARYMARKSMANSHIP.ORG).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> – ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION AT FORT BENNING.  
SOCIALIZE AND CATCH UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS FROM OLD. MEALS ON YOUR  
OWN AT YOUR LEISURE. TOUR THE INFANTRY MUSEUM, THE INFANTRY  
HEADQUARTERS, BUILDING 4, THE AMU FACILITIES AND ALL THE NEW  
CONSTRUCTION ON POST. RANGE FIRING. REUNION COMPETITIONS.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> – CONTINUED REGISTRATION, UNIT AND RANGE  
ACTIVITIES. DISPLAYS, DEMONSTRATIONS, RANGE SHOOTING, TOUR THE  
MARKSMANSHIP UNIT FACILITIES. LUNCH ON FORT BENNING. EXTENDED  
EVENING MEAL BY SECTION. (SERVICE RIFLE, RUNNING TARGET, SERVICE  
PISTOL, SHOTGUN, INTERNATIONAL RIFLE, SUPPORT, ETC.).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - CONTINUED REGISTRATION, RANGE FIRING, RANGE  
DEMONSTRATIONS, DISPLAYS, LUNCH ON FORT BENNING, UNIT OPEN HOUSE FOR  
TOUR, INDUCTION OF SECTION HALLS OF FAME. LATE AFTERNOON BBQ MEAL  
AT THE PISTOL RANGE. AWARDS FOR REUNION SHOOTING COMPETITIONS.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> – LATE REGISTRATION, MORNING AND AFTERNOON  
ACTIVITIES STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES. DRAWING FOR PRIZES.  
PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES. EVENING BANQUET AT THE  
COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER (THE IRON WORKS). 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
BOOKS. INDUCTION OF SHOOTERS INTO THE UNIT HALL OF FAME. GUEST  
SPEAKERS.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – RETURN HOME

Lodging Information for the 50<sup>th</sup> AMU Anniversary Reunion, October 18 - 21, 2006

Reunion activities are daily at Fort Benning, except for Saturday evening, 21 October, which will be at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center (The Iron Works), 801 Front Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31902. This is right on the Chattahoochee River in the Historic Section of the City.

Fort Benning housing – any military I D Card. Do not have to be on orders. First call basis. Lieutenant Colonel and above, call protocol at 706-545-1459. \$51.00.  
Other ranks: Call Marshall House at 706-689-0067. Single \$33. Double \$36. Extra person \$5.

If you want to be down town Columbus, across the street from the Iron Works: The Marriott Hotel, 800 Front Ave. 706-324-1800. \$139.00 No military rate. 10 + rooms better rate. Call.

Also down town Columbus, 5 blocks from the Iron Works: Howard Johnson, 1011 Veterans Parkway. 706-322-6641. \$62 single/\$85 double. Military \$49/\$59.

If you want to be right at the gate of Fort Benning, Exit 1- B of I 185: Econo Lodge, 4413 Victory Drive, 706-687-9128. Single or Double \$76.00. Military \$68.00.

Same exit, 1-B from I 185 at 3170 Victory Drive. Days Inn Suites. 706-689-6181. One bed \$55, 2 beds \$60. Military \$49 and \$54.

Exit 6 off I 185, Macon Road, Columbus Square Shopping area:

La Quinta Inn, 3201 Macon Road, 706-568-1740. \$75 Dbl Bed/ \$85 King. Military \$68/\$78. Each extra person \$10.00.

Best Western, 344 b Macon Road, 706-568-3300. \$69.00, Military \$65.00.

Comfort Inn, 3460 Macon Road. 706-256-3093. 1 bed \$85, 2 beds \$90. Military \$68/\$78.

Days Inn, 3452 Macon Road. 706-561-4400. Single \$60, double \$65. Military \$54/\$63. Week ends (Fri & Sat) higher by \$10.

Hotels at Manchester Expressway and Columbus Square Mall:

Exit 7-A off I 185. Courtyard by Marriott, 3501 Courtyard Way (by Bill Heard Chevrolet), 706-323-2323. \$124. Military \$79.

Exit 7-B off I 185. Holiday Inn Airport North . 2800 Manchester Expressway. 706-324-0231. Single or Double \$85. Military \$68/\$78.

Exit 7A off I 185. Extended Stay America, 5020 Armour Road, 706-653-0131. \$60/\$65. No military rates. All rooms have kitchens.

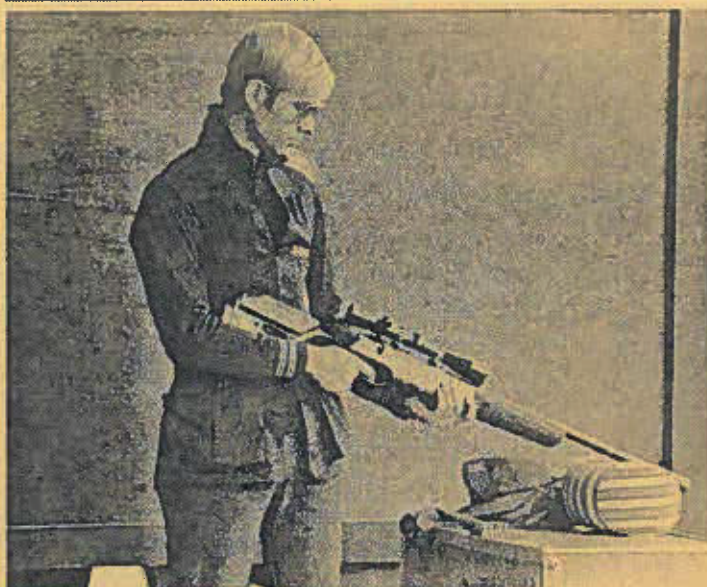
Exit 8 off I 185, Airport Thruway, Also by shopping/restaurants:

Sheraton Inn. 5341 Sidney Simons Blvd. 706-327-6868. \$110. Military \$68.00.

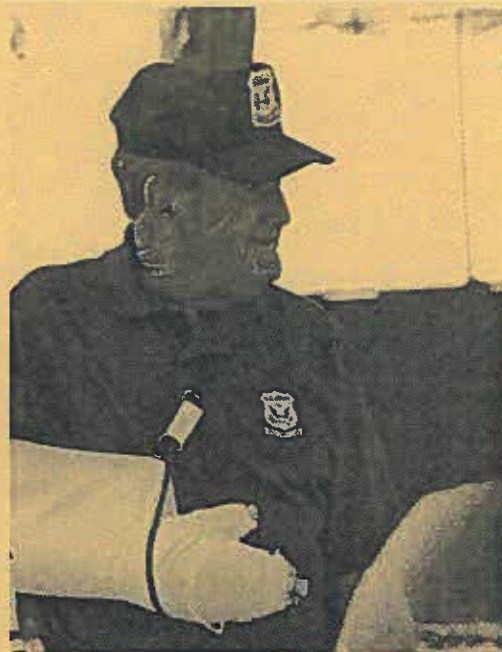
Sleep Inn, 5100 Armour Road. 706-653-1330. \$85. Military \$68 Single \$73 Double.

Most rates do not include tax. Rates are very uncertain and fluid per demand at any time. Some Military rates are active duty only. Some don't know the difference. It's a jungle. Go get 'em. I have never stayed in any of them, but the President's choice from kicking around town would be Fort Benning, Marriott, Marriott Courtyard, La Quinta. Call your friends for their thoughts.





**Michael Theimer - 1976 Olympic Team. Gold and Silver medals 1973 Championships of the Americas. Multiple Time National Champion. Running Target Hall of Fame.**



**Burl Branham - Service Rifle and Shotgun shooter and coach. Teaching Point: Don't grip the stock too tight with your right hand.**

## Vintage

**Willie Jordan - Set the standard for Service Rifle shooting from 1959 to 1969. All Army, Interservice and National Champion. When shooters came to the AMU truck, the first question was, "What did Willie do?"**



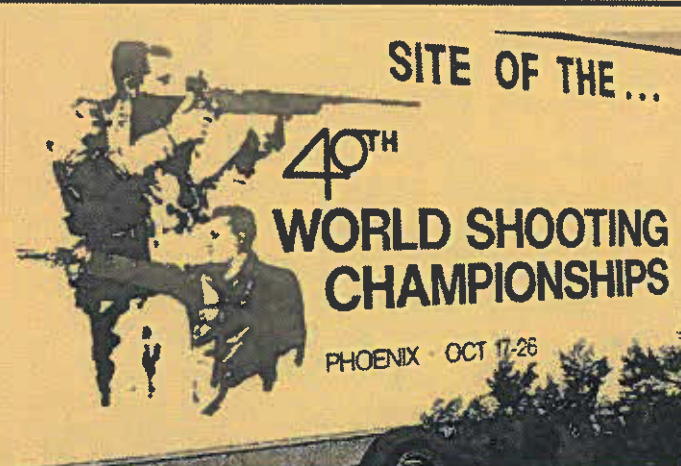
## Photos:

**Daniel Puckle - Founding member of the AMU in 1956. 1958 World Championship Team, Moscow. World Record 300 meter 3x40 at 1959 Pan American Games, Chicago. Olympic Team 1960, Rome. International Rifle Hall of Fame.**





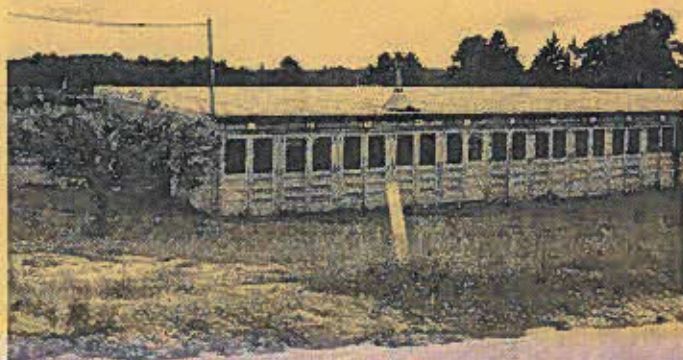
1961 National Trophy Pistol Team match (Gold Cup Match) L-R SFC William B. Blankenship, SFC Samuel W. Hunter, MSG Mack Salmon, COL Robin G. Montgomery, LTC William R. Brophy, SFC Robert L. Jones, MSG James E. Kurtz.



1970 Phoenix, Arizona. The last time the USA hosted the World Shooting Championships.

## People & Places

Parks Range International Shooting House 1967. Champions of Free Pistol and International Rifle were developed here. Shooters can make even the most austere facility famous. Latrines back in the woods, please.



COL Robert Bayard, USAMTU Commander at Camp Perry, Ohio 1968 for the Service Rifle awards ceremony.

Camp Kaiser, Korea January 1965. 8th Army team training in the snow and below freezing (-10 F) temperatures. Getting ready for the USARPAC Matches in Hawaii. When the rifle shooters arrived in Hawaii all the shooting jackets were too big. Wonder why?



# Conway Chronicles

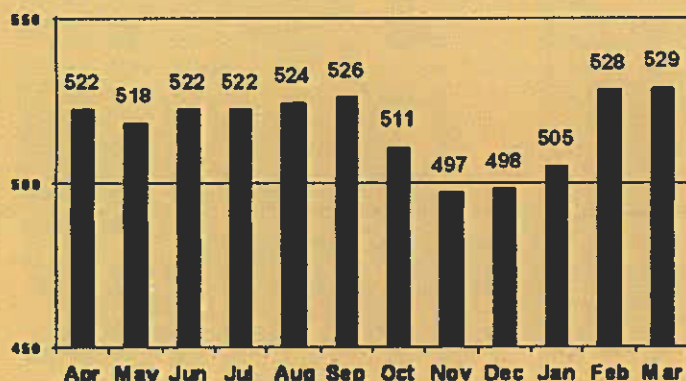
Francis B. Conway

As I have said before, after W.W. II, I was assigned to the Ordnance Board Detachment at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. I was in the machine shop testing hand and power tools, but we did get some outside requests that were approved by the Ordnance Board. One time I had to make four 90 mm projectiles out of aluminum. They had to have a fuse well 2" in diameter and 2" deep and a 2" wide copper rotating band. What For? Well, put into 90 mm cases they made four candleholders for the Post.

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. MMA Times Editor, P.O. Box 52025, Ft Benning, GA 31905-2025.

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 • **USAMU 50th** •  
 • **Anniversary Reunion** •  
 • **October 18-21, 2006** •  
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MMA Membership as of 1 March 2006



## Welcome New Members !

Nicole M. Allaire	Bradley J. Carnes
William D. Carpenter	Charlie Collins, JR
Lee M. Dimaculangan	Esmeralda Escribano
John H. Feamster	Joseph A. Felix, JR
Wentworth C. Grey	Lyman P. Grover
Oscar Olsen	Mark T. Palmer
Lewis E. Patrick II	Willis L. Platt
David R. Sprecher	Louis C. Strickland
Glenn R. Sulser	



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