



# MMA TIMES

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## USAMU Changes Commanders

USAMU



**NEW COLORS:**  
SGM Vidal Ybarra unfurls the new USAMU colors held by COL Walter M. Herd, flanked by LTC Charles "Ty" Connett and LTC Frank Muggeo. The colors were then passed in the change of command ceremony.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit bade farewell to its commander, LTC Charles T. "Ty" Connett, and welcomed LTC Col. Frank Muggeo at the USAMU Change of Command ceremony 9 a.m. May 23 on Ceremony Hill at the Pool International Shooting Complex. More than 200 people attended the ceremony including Olympic medalists, VIPs and Fort Benning officials. Members of the Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, also were present.

During the ceremony, Army Marksmanship Unit SGM Vidal Ybarra officially uncased the new USAMU colors for the first time and unfurled and presented the colors to Connett and Accessions Support Brigade Commander COL. Walter M. Herd. The teal blue flag consists of a shield bearing the Coat of Arms of the United States, since the unit was established by presidential directive and represents the nation in international competition. The USAMU also received a new distinctive unit insignia from the Institute of Heraldry. Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. The unit has won 21 Olympic Medals. The passing of the colors is the traditional act used to designate the passing of authority and responsibility from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. Ybarra passed the new colors to Connett, which represented

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## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Frank Muggeo



Hello and allow me to introduce myself. I am LTC Frank Muggeo the new Commander of the US Army Marksmanship Unit as of 23 May 2007. I had the privilege of meeting several of you at the Change of Command and I am sure I will meet many

more of you during this summers upcoming matches. Before I give you a little of my history I want to say that the previous Commander, LTC Ty Connett, spoke very highly of the relationship between the Unit and the MMA and I look forward to continuing where he left off.

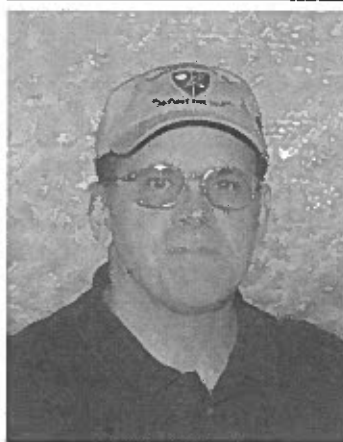
Since my father was a Police Officer in Connecticut I suppose I have been around guns all of my life. I entered the Army through ROTC and was commissioned in the Field Artillery. I entered into Special Forces in 1993 and have served as a Team Leader in 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group and a Company Commander in 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group. Having spent a fair amount of my military career in parts of the world that allow for long distance shoots, I placed a heavy emphasis on precision long distance shooting. I come here from STRATCOM in Colorado Springs where I recently returned from a tour embedded with the Iraqi Army as an advisor to an Iraqi Brigade in the Diyala Province.

As much as I enjoy firearms and shooting, I clearly understand that I am the Commander of the unit- not a shooter. My mission is to ensure that the shooters here have every advantage when it comes to competitions and that they fully understand the importance of teaching soldiers how to shoot in combat. I look forward to meeting you and I will do my best to keep you informed monthly to new developments within the Unit.

Keep shooting straight .

## MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



WOW! Another 3 months have flown right on by and our biggest news was the USAMU change of command on 23 MAY 07. LTC Charles "Ty" Connett turned over the reins of USAMU to LTC Frank Muggeo on Ceremony Hill, Pool International Range Complex. LTC Connett

and family are on their way to Hanover, Germany where Ty will command 5<sup>th</sup> Corps Special Troops Battalion. We wish the entire Connett family "Best of Luck" in their new assignment.

As with all changes of command we farewell one command team and receive another. LTC Frank Muggeo is a bachelor coming from Strategic Command, Joint Forces Component Command, International Military Division, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He served in NATO Allied Forces Northern Command. LTC Muggeo has deployed on numerous occasions to Haiti, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Bosnia. Frank is returning from his recent assignment in Iraq as an embedded advisor to an Iraqi Brigade. Welcome LTC Muggeo, MMA looks forward to working with you and all the soldiers of USAMU. We observed another special event during the change of command ceremony. It only took the AMU team several years to finally get USAMU recognized with its own set of unit colors from the Department of Heraldry. The new colors were unfurled which marked another milestone in USAMU history. Again, a big "HOOAH" to ALL the AMU team members who made this happen!!

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Book Update: Our point man for the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Book, Bruce Meredith, indicated that all corrections to the printer's proof were made and returned to the publisher. We await the final proof from the publisher before our book is printed, bound and delivered. I will not speculate on a delivery date. However, MMA is committed to a quality product.

National Museum of the U.S. Army: As you may be

## Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

*This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive them.*

**Fort McClellan, Alabama.** There were several large QM warehouses and a railhead located a couple of miles west of garrison. Equipment and clothing required for normal Post use was issued by Quartermaster from one of these warehouses. These warehouses also stored World War I excess gear and equipment. In 1937 the Mississippi River overflowed its banks. The flood made several hundred civilians in Arkansas and Tennessee temporarily homeless. Fort McClellan was directed to take U.S. Army blankets to the Memphis area. Coats was given five men and three trucks to accomplish the job. All six detail members could drive a vehicle. Coats and the detail picked up several hundred blankets from one of the QM warehouses. The blankets were stored in bales of 50 per bundle with plenty of mothballs. The trip was pre-planned and orders were cut describing the movement. A system of per diem may not have been in effect at the time. Post officials made telephonic coordination with a hotel enroute to arrange for meals and lodging. It was a two-day trip on gravel roads in each direction. They made it to the designated small hotel in Columbus, Mississippi on day one, where they had supper, a nights sleep and breakfast. They made it to the Navy Base in Millington, Tennessee on the afternoon of the second day. After unloading the blankets, they were assigned to a transient barracks for the night. The detail ate supper and breakfast in a Navy Messhall. Coats remembers the Navy Mess as larger than the Company sized messhalls at Fort McClellan, but the food was much the same. They spent the night during the return trip at the same hotel in Columbus, MS with the same arrangements. Coats remembers the hotel restaurant food as much like the messhall food in K Company. It was plain food and enjoyable eating. They returned to Fort McClellan on the evening of the fourth day. Their supper and breakfast meals had been arranged and paid for by the Army. They stopped at least once for a mid-day bite to eat. Purchased food during the trip came out of their own pocket, they were not reimbursed. Commercial gas stations had been few and far between. Fortunately, the trip planners had forecast the need for several five gallon gas containers to be carried along. The trucks used most of the spare gasoline enroute. They were able to refill the gas containers at the Navy Base in Millington for the return trip.

The Army leaders sensed that a war was coming. They had the foresight to encourage soldiers to learn as

much as they could about soldiering. Cross training was emphasized. In early 1937, the orders came down to cross train with all battalion weapons. All soldiers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion fired the Springfield model 1903 rifle, the Browning automatic rifle, the .45 caliber pistol, the M-6 machine gun, the Stokes mortar and the 37mm gun. M Company was the battalion machine gun Company and its soldiers carried a .45 sidearm. The M-6 machine gun was carried on carts pulled by mules. M Company was responsible for teaching the whole battalion the M-6 machine gun and the .45 caliber service pistol. Headquarters Company had Stokes mortars and 37mm guns and taught them to the battalion. The 37mm had a leaf sight system and an alidade bubble leveling system that allowed degrees of elevation of the barrel to be measured. The 37mm could easily hit targets at 1000 yards. It had been used extensively to knock out enemy machine gun positions in WWI. Coats Brown excelled. He was high shooter in the battalion with the service rifle, Browning automatic rifle, water-cooled M6 machine gun, 37-mm cannon and the Stokes mortar. Cross training pertained to the infantry units, and did not include 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Company. Coats remembers 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Company having around 30 people and two tanks assigned at the time. Tankers wore the blue fatigue uniform when working on the tanks.

Coats Brown had taken to the Army like a duck to water. He was ambitious and always worked hard. He set the example in leading his platoon. He related very well to his young soldiers and was highly respected throughout the battalion. He excelled in several areas and shot all of the infantry weapons extremely well. In 1937, Coats Brown was promoted to Sergeant.

### PRESIDENT, From Page 2

aware, the Army is finally recognizing the great sacrifices of past, present and future soldiers by constructing a museum; National Museum of the United States Army. As we all know the importance of marksmanship as a soldier skill, so does the museum designers. Mr. Judson Bennett, Project Director, National Museum of the U.S. Army, assures me that the National Museum is in the "early concept" stages of development. He appreciated our interest in the museum and will contact us for "expert" help with marksmanship exhibits and past USAMU accomplishments. Steve Goff, our historian, will monitor the museum design and periodically update us on its progress.

I look forward to reading about all the great shooting going on overseas with the Pan Am Games/World Cups and, of course, the summer season for ALL who attend the yearly pilgrimage to Camp Perry; Small Bore, Service Pistol and Service Rifle. I also encourage every member to recruit another member to add to our roles. Only through your word-of-month will we continue to grow our organization. HOOAH!

## More Reflections on SGM Hand

Bob H. Yanagibashi

The *Reflections on SGM Henry J. Hand* article by Norm Dauer and Emil Heugatter in the March 2007 issue *MMA Times* was well said and brought back many fond memories as I was a very close friend of SGM Hand and his wife Minnie. I hunted birds and fished for bluegills many times with him while I was at the Marksmanship Unit in the 1962-1964 time frame. Perhaps I can provide some additional remembrances of SGM Hand. After I left the Marksmanship Unit in April 1964, SGM Hand and I kept in touch through the years and into his retirement. He bought 100 acres of land in Tyler, about 9 miles south of Selma, Alabama, where he built a new house, a big fish pond, and groomed the land into a beautiful place while maintaining about 40-head of cattle.

Although we were in contact, I had not seen SGM Hand for almost 14 years when he wrote and invited me to his new place in the fall of 1977. When I arrived, SGM Hand was dressed in his Marksmanship Unit fatigues just like I last saw him when I left the Unit in April of 1964--I knew SGM Hand did this just for me!



From then on, I was a guest of SGM Hand and his wife for three weeks every year during the Alabama deer season. The only rifle he ever hunted with was a stainless steel heavy barrel, caliber .308 AMU (built by Master Sergeant Jack Click) and SGM Hand was deadly on Whitetail deer using that rifle. He often joked about the steel plate that was implanted in his head after a jeep accident and how cold it got on a frosty morning deer hunt.

SGM Hand passed away in November of 1982 at the age of 58. His wife was unable to care for the property in Tyler so she eventually sold it and moved to Selma. Minnie passed away in July 1989. To this day, I still make an annual trip to Selma, Alabama, to visit SGM Hand's daughter and occasionally visit his sister who resides in Florida. I hunt with people I met thru SGM Hand and go to the Old Cahawba Cemetery to visit my friend. Yes Sir, I'll never forget SGM Henry J. Hand!

## Keeping In Touch

*Bob Hanson, International Section, 1963-1965 wrote, "Found this New York Times story. I had previously read about Lanny's work with professional golfers in several golf magazines.*

*Jerry Kelly, who finished fifth in The Masters, attributes his success to working with Lanny. I can personally attest to the connections between high level target shooting and golf. I have maintained a single digit handicap for many years and feel that competitive shooting helped me both mentally and physically - especially with putting, where I believe the eye/hand coordination employed in shooting has crossover benefits."*

## Golfers Take Aim With Help of a Rifleman

By DAMON HACK, Published in NY Times: May 4, 2007

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In the past year, several professional golfers have traveled to Flower Mound, Tex., to meet a man trained to shoot a rifle between the beats of his pulse.

That man, Lanny Bassham, does not play golf. He does not have a degree in sports psychology.

But neither of these facts has kept his appointment book from becoming crowded with the names of PGA Tour players.

"When I first heard about him, he told me that Fred Funk had been there a month before," Paul Stankowski said at the Wachovia Championship, which began Thursday with Padraig Harrington taking the first-round lead with a six-under-par 66. "I thought it was just me and Fred. I didn't tell anybody, but guys started coming up to me to talk about it. There's no way to keep a lid on it. I've tried."

What began as a secret between Bassham and a small number of golfers is growing into louder chatter at PGA Tour events. When the golfer Harrison Frazar met Bassham in Flower Mound on Wednesday, he became the 10th Tour veteran to try Bassham's system, joining players like Justin Leonard and Ben Crane.

Bassham says he offers players the mental approach that helped him win a gold medal in shooting at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal after years of struggling to reach the pinnacle of his sport.

While golf and shooting have marked differences, Bassham and his clients see an overlap in which one athlete shoots at a flagstick on a green and the other fires at a tiny 10 ring on a distant target.

Some of the emotions and variables, they say, are similar.

"Golfers don't have to worry about pulse beats, but it's still very similar to rifle shooting," Bassham, 60, said in a telephone interview.

"There, it's just you and the golf club; I've got a rifle. He has a target; I have a target. He has to consider the wind, which is what we do. I think golf is a lot closer to rifle shooting than it is to football."

Bassham is cryptic about the specifics of the system, which he has put into books, DVDs and seminars. But he says part of it focuses on an athlete learning to bring balance to the conscious mind, the subconscious mind and the self image, with no factor being larger or smaller than the others. The program also teaches competitors to focus on the process in competition instead of results.

"It's not for everybody," said Jerry Kelly, who met Bassham days before last month's Masters and turned in his best finish in a major, a tie for fifth. "He gets a bunch of calls from sports psychologists saying: 'What right do you have teaching psychology? You don't have a degree.' Then he says, 'I have a gold medal, do you?'"

Bassham said he created his system in the aftermath of the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, where he won a silver medal. He said he felt he was not prepared mentally. After the Games, he called a number of athletes who won gold medals in various sports, asking them about their own preparation methods and what separated him from them.

"I choked," Bassham said of the 1972 Olympics. "I caved under the pressure, so I started to collect data from Olympians. What they were

## Fort Churchill Winters

Francis B. Conway

*Frank Conway recalls his participation in an Arctic ordnance test called "Operation Churchill" and meeting Bill Krilling. — MMA Times Editor.*

Bill Krilling and I have known each other since the winter of 1948. I was TDY on two different occasions from Aberdeen Proving Ground to Fort Churchill, Canada, for winter testing of artillery, fuses, and small arms. Fort Churchill is in the northwest corner of Hudson Bay. We were sent to Fort Churchill when the temperature got down to minus 35 degrees. I was there from January to March 1948 and from December 1948 to March 1949.

A permanent party member that I soon met was Sergeant Krilling. He was well known by both Americans and Canadians as one who had no fear. For example, the U.S. and Canada flags in the middle of our post were quite visible as the staffs ascended over 70 feet above the ground. The rope on the American flag broke as a result of a howling wind one night. The following day, with the wind still howling and the ground temperature at about minus 35 degrees, Bill climbed to the top of the pole and put a new rope into the pulley. He said it was a little colder up at the top but the view was great.



Quite often, Bill would be seen leaving Fort Churchill on a Friday afternoon "mushing" a dog-sled team into the wilderness. He would cut a hole in a snowdrift as a shelter to sleep overnight, and did not return to the fort until late Sunday afternoon.

Our outdoor testing schedule was so full that we worked seven days a week. We could not get to use our ordnance shop until after 5 p.m. The shop had hot air heaters, but at the floor level it was about zero

degrees most of the time. We kept our tools in a pan of warm oil so we could work with thin gloves—or even barehanded for a few moments.

We found that when the temperature drops to minus 40 degrees, you suddenly find yourself only able to operate at about 40 percent of your physical and mental capacity. This was a dangerous challenge we always had to worry about.

One of the purposes of the testing was to see how equipment functioned in extreme cold temperatures. In one of our tests, two of us fired 93,000 rounds from an M2 carbine in 10 days or about 4,600 rounds a day. All this was with no ear protection except for a pile cap with the earflaps down.

While testing caliber .30 machine guns, we would shoot them until the brass and links piled so high that no more brass could eject downward. We then lifted the machine guns up, set them on the top of the brass pile, and continued to fire.



During a test of towed artillery, the trailing leg of one of the guns cracked when the first round was fired after an extremely bitter cold night (the cold temperatures caused the metal to become brittle). I had heard at Aberdeen that there was a 50-foot indoor range at Fort Churchill. So I took my Remington Model 37 target rifle with a 20X Lyman Super Target spotting scope, but alas, I found no indoor range and my rifle rested quietly during my TDY. That was a first for me!

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**CHANGE / From Page 1**

his last act of service to the outgoing commander. Connett then passed them to Herd, symbolizing the passing of the authority of leadership through the senior commander. Herd presented the colors to Muggeo giving him responsibility of the unit. Muggeo then returned the colors to Ybarra; Ybarra's receipt symbolized his first act of allegiance to the new commander.

"Ty, you did a great job of commanding the Army Marksmanship Unit; you couldn't have done anything better," Herd said to the crowd of 225 people at the ceremony. Looking at the USAMU's 90 Soldiers standing in formation, Herd commented that there was "an abundance of talent right here on this field" and reminded everyone that the Olympics are only a little over a year away.

Connett addressed the USAMU for the last time and said it was "an awesome privilege" to command the unit. "I'm pulling for each of you," he said in reference to the upcoming Olympic Games. "You make me proud to be an American."

He thanked the Fort Benning community as well as the Accessions Support Brigade and the Military Marksmanship Association, the alumni organization of the USAMU. He also stated his appreciation for the support of USA Shooting, the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports, as well as the Civilian Marksmanship Program of Camp Perry, Ohio. Addressing the USAMU for the first time, Muggeo said it was "an unexpected honor" to command the unit - "a unique organization with a long and proud history" - and said it would continue to support Soldiers on the battlefield. He thanked his family, Herd and the Connett family for their support.

Before the ceremony, Herd awarded the Meritorious Service Medal to Connett and presented Army Certificates to his family. The Infantry Band provided the music for the ceremony, after which a reception was held in the Pool 10-Meter Indoor Range.

**TAPS, PRESENT ARMS**

Captain (Retired) **Patrick O. "Butch" Powell**, 62, died in Columbia, Tennessee, on April 10, 2007. Captain Powell joined the U.S. Air Force in 1965 and served four years during the Vietnam War. Upon discharge from active duty, he joined the Tennessee National Guard and retired as a Captain with a total of twenty-nine years of military service to his country. He was a 2670 pistol shooter, awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Badge in 1983, awarded the President's Hundred Tab 10-times, 3-time Mayleigh Cup Team member, 3-time Wilson Matches Champion, 2-time Interservice Champion (3-gun), 1995 National Trophy Individual Pistol winner, 3-time National Guard Champion, Winner "All" Army Championships (3-gun), National Guard Marksman Hall of Fame Inductee, and Tennessee State Champion (multiple times). He was also the Officer-In-Charge of the "All" National Guard Service Pistol Team from the mid-1980's to 1989. After his retirement from the National Guard, he was a member of the Springfield Armory Pistol Team. He will be remembered as a champion shooter and a team-leader respected by all of the military service team members who served with him.

Specialist Four **Hugh L. Brown**, 68, died October 12, 2006, in Milwaukee, WI.

SP4 Brown was an International Trap shooter assigned to the USAMU Shotgun Section from 1961 to 1964. Hugh never fully recovered from an automobile accident in the early 1970's, which ended his shooting career. Hugh was a charter member of the MMA.

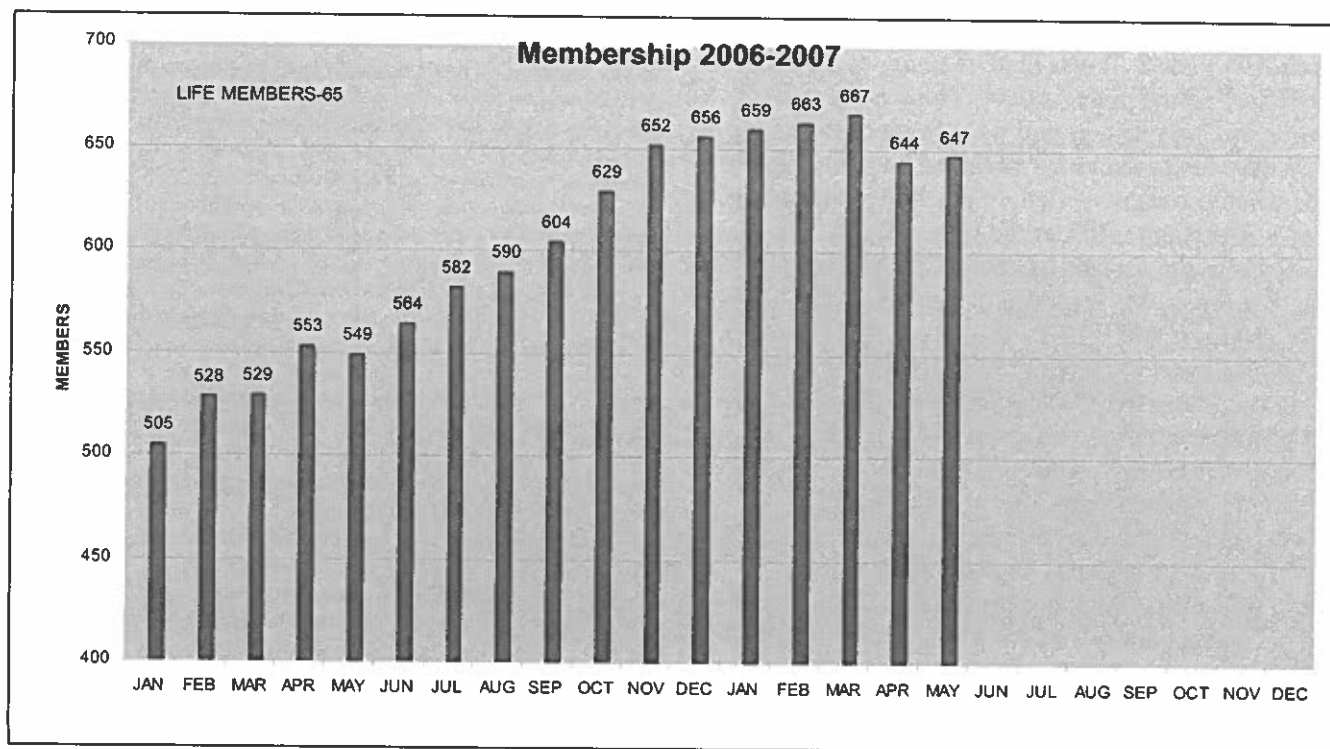
**MMA Times available as E-mail**

As you know the price of postage has gone up and many of us have, though reluctantly, moved into the 21st century. Several of you have indicated that you have switched from receiving several other publications via e-mail rather than hard copy. So, if you would rather receive the MMA TIMES via e-mail, let us know. The savings in printing and mailing costs will benefit you. We will still continue to send hard copies of the TIMES to all that do not sign up for the "email option".

- - - Just trying to move our association forward.

'Red' Mosely, our Secretary/Webmaster, will be sending an e-mail message to all on our e-mail list offering you the option to receive the MMA Times via e-mail or continue to receive a hard copy of the MMA Times.

**Get a friend to join MMA today!!**



**Membership in the Military Marksmanship Association, Inc** is voluntary and is open to all active duty and retired members of the U. S. Armed Forces and to the general public (civilians without military service) who support the goals and objectives of this Association subject to the restrictions in the next paragraph. Additionally, the Military Marksmanship Association, Inc., is recognized as a War Veteran's Organization under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(19); therefore, the membership composition must be maintained so that at least 75 percent of the members are past or present members of the U. S. Armed Forces and that at least 97.5 percent of all members of the association are past or present members of the U. S. Armed Forces, cadets (ROTC or armed services academies), or spouses, widows, or widowers of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Application for membership by civilians without military service could be restricted based on the above formula.

### Welcome New Members !

Robert L. Koonce	Odenton, MD
James T. Moore	Augusta, KY
Jean C. Powell	Columbia, TN

### New MMA Life Members

*Robert L. Koonce*  
*John O. Chubb*

*Life Membership is only \$300*

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our website- [www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org) -  
and join today

## Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

When the U.S. Army rifle and pistol teams were formed in the early '50s, one of the first outside matches that we attended was at St. Petersburg, Florida. It was a small bore prone rifle match. It was kind of scary, as they did not "cease fire" on the practice day. You simply tried to stay in your shooting lane as you went forward to change targets. When we started at 50 yards, we had only fired a few shots when some guy yelled, "Somebody is shooting my target"! The Range Officer did give a "cease fire" and came over to the shooter. There was no shooter on his right. A woman shot on his left. The guy said, "I shot one, corrected for it and then shot another and corrected for it". "While I was looking through the spotting scope, a bullet went into my target". The Range Officer from his standing position could see the angle of the spotting scope was not on the shooter's target but on the one to his left. Checking it out, he found this guy was scoping the woman's target and was actually shooting at the target to his right. There were no shots on his target! Naturally, the woman was correcting her sights as she shot and he assumed his corrections were taking. He was almost out of the white on the wrong target to his right! Oh, the trials of a Range Officer!

## KIT / From Page 4

telling me was a lot different than what I thought. I was trying as hard as I could on every shot to get it in the 10 ring. I was very outcome oriented, and the Olympic champions were telling me not to be outcome oriented, not to try to win. They said you should try to execute. The process is more important than the outcome."

Dr. Stephen Taylor, a clinical psychologist who works with athletes in Plainview, N.Y., said Bassham's methods could work, whether or not he has a degree. "The thing we do in this field is to try to be a scientist even though we know there is no exact science," Taylor said in a telephone interview. "Even though there are no absolutes, we try to be. That's the only critique I would say of someone without a degree. That doesn't mean someone can't be effective. I don't think any sports psychologist would say we've cornered the market on helping."

Several golfers say they have seen improvement in their play with Bassham. Funk, for example, started working with him last year and has won a PGA Tour event and two Champions Tour events since. Stankowski visited Bassham last year, then earned his PGA Tour exemption with a tie for eighth place at qualifying school.

"To me, it's not voodoo, it's not sports psychology, it's just a program," Stankowski said. "Tiger Woods, obviously since he was a kid, was raised to have a strong mind. I don't know how he does the things he does. Vijay Singh, Phil Mickelson, all of the guys who have had success out here at a consistent level, have more than just a good game. They have a good mental game."

Kelly, who has occasionally fought a bad temper on the course, added: "What it's done is gotten into my immediate reaction, so the immediate reaction is diffused and it doesn't get too steep. I have my son out here sometimes, and one day we were talking about slamming clubs and how it can get you kicked off the course. It's calmed my temper." In his early work with the players, Bassham said, some of his biggest proponents have been his clients' swing instructors.

"They like working with us because they know we won't change the player's swing," he said.

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