



# MMA TIMES

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## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Frank Muggeo



**PASSING THE COLORS:**  
SGM Vidal Ybarra passes the USAMU colors to LTC Frank Muggeo who then passed to SGM Thomas Fuller. SFC Rod Pinkston looks on.

The last 3 months as the Commander of the AMU have been very busy and I would like to start this letter off by saying thank you to those of you that have taken the time to share your thoughts and experiences with me. Hopefully you find our newsletter informative.

One of the first things I did when I arrived was try to assess how we contributed directly to the warfighter. Winning competitions and Olympic medals clearly helps with the recruiting effort. I was surprised to learn though that we trained over 4000 soldiers Army wide last year. The majority of these soldiers were heading to either Iraq or Afghanistan and many of them were from either the National Guard or the Army Reserves. The focus of much of this training was to train the trainer. So not only did these soldiers receive marksmanship instruction by the best shooters in the Department of Defense but they took that training back to their units and trained other soldiers.

Over the last few months we have been fully engrossed in the competition season which has allowed us to make contact with thousands of military and civilian competitors as well as foreign competitors. Hundreds of junior shooters have been sponsored or mentored during junior events over the last several months which has allowed us to tell the Army message to these younger Americans.

Soldiers from the AMU have taught over 1000 civilians, young and old, during the Small Arms Firing Schools in both Pistol and Rifle at Camp Perry this year. After our soldiers spend long days on the ranges teaching civilians they roll into long days competing in the National Competitions. The Civilian Marksmanship Program and the National Rifle Association both have done a great job in organizing these events and having the ranges in excellent condition.

The Custom Firearms Shop added a few new faces and welcomed one back. SGT Daniel Kubicki and Mrs. Jackerland Richardson were new additions to the shop and we look forward their contributions to the team. Mr. Jay Wilson returned from a tour in Iraq with his Reserve Unit and he is already back in the groove. Hardy congratulations to Mr. Will Carpenter who earned the Accessions Support Brigade Civilian of the Quarter.

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## REPORT / From Page 1



Service Rifle and Service Pistol had a busy time, and exceeded expectations at Quantico and Camp Perry this quarter. While the entire Service Rifle team performed very well, special recognition goes to both SFC Hopper and SFC Ward. The overall 2007 Interservice Champion was SFC Hopper and the win-

ner of the Reynolds trophy was SFC Ward. The Service Pistol Team has now won the Interservice championships two years in a row. Service Pistol Team of St. John, Henderson, Sokolowski, Park and SSG Lyman P. Grover and Sgt. Michael S. Gasser won the Service Pistol Team National Championship. Service Rifle also has a few new faces. PFC Evan Hess just joined the team and SGT and Mrs. Grant had a baby girl in June.

The Shotgun Teams accomplishments have been incredible. We could talk in detail about the Olympic quota slots, national records, and world records but we won't. Just know that they are setting the standard very high. Special recognition to PFC Hancock who set a new world record in international skeet with a 125/125 + 25/25 in the final at Lonato, Italy World Cup. The first perfect score in the world.

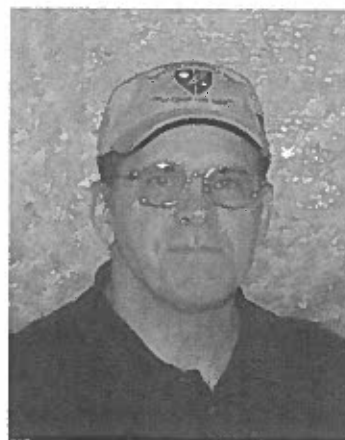
International Pistol and International Rifle are getting into the home stretch for the Olympics and have done well this past quarter. Along with all the other events they have won, SFC Thomas A. Tamas received the Gold Medal in the Free Rifle Prone competition, in which Spc. Michael D. McPhail got the Silver SFC Daryl L. Szarenski took the Silver Medal in the Free Pistol competition and SFC Thomas A. Rose got the Bronze in Air Pistol.

The Action Shooting team continues to set records and dominate the fastest growing shooting sport in America. Staff Sgt. Maxient J. Michel Jr. defeated over 390 of the country's best practical shooters to win the Open National Championship.

I would like to finish this letter by saying goodbye to SGM Ybarra and welcoming his replacement SGM Fuller. After 25 years of service in a wide range of assignments SGM Ybarra is going to retire. SGM Ybarra had 5 different BN CDRs prior to me and even though we have only been together for a few months, I have benefited greatly due to his experience. SGM Fuller is coming to us from the Ranger Regiment where his last assignment was as the Regimental Ops SGM. Their Change of Responsibility was on 24 Aug out at Pool range.

## MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



Another "HOT" Georgia summer is in the books, USAMU gains a new SGM and the shooters continue to blister the competition. Oh, before I forget, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook is delivered!

As we all remember, the long hot Georgia summers bring with them SP/SR Inter-Service Competition; the annual pilgrimage to Camp

Perry for the NRA National Matches; the Pan American Games; and the beginnings of the 2008 Olympic selections. Shooting results are summarized elsewhere in the MMA Times and, for those old dinosaurs with a computer, on our website. Your MMA Executive Board did not meet in July. We took our usual "Bye" for the summer but remain committed to operating our organization smoothly and efficiently. However, our summer did not progress without some changes.

New USAMU Sergeant Major: We all bid SGM Ybarra and his family a fond farewell and best wishes in retired life. Memories of our own final assignment and retirement flashed through our minds at the recent formation on "Ceremony Hill." Where have the "Good old Days" gone? We also welcomed SGM Fuller and his family to USAMU and MMA. The Army always seems to provide us with another outstanding soldier to fill our ranks. They certainly did it again by providing this great soldier. Physical Training anyone?

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook Update: The long awaited yearbook has finally arrived. WOW! What an outstanding job our point man, Bruce Meredith, and his team of Jack Writer and John Feamster did to ensure that we got a quality product. The book looks great! Our book captures the true history of the unit that will live on into perpetuity.

Life Membership: To date we now have 69 Life Members of MMA. I encourage ALL our non-life members to think about taking that extra commitment and upgrading to Life Member status. There is no higher calling than supporting your organization for the rest of your life. I also encourage every member to recruit another member to add to our roles. Only through your word-of-mouth will we continue to grow our organization. HOOAH!

## 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.** In July of 1937, Coats was sent to become a member of the Infantry Rifle Team. The high rifle shooter in each battalion was sent to the Infantry Team those days. Qualification scores were also considered. In some cases, more than one member of a battalion made the Infantry Team. There were 60 – 70 shooters on the Infantry Team. Of this number, approximately 12 men were pistol shooters, the remainder shot or coached rifle. Making the team was based strictly on score, no politics. He traveled by train alone from Anniston to Toledo, then to LaCarne, Ohio, arriving about noon. He walked to Erie Ordnance Depot about 3 miles away and asked the front gate guard the location of the Infantry Rifle Team. He reported to the OIC, Major Easley. Major Easley welcomed Coats and had the team adjutant assign him to a tent. After a clerk pointed him in the right direction, Coats dropped off his gear and went to the Army Team Mess for lunch. He then drew bedding, mosquito bar, etc. and made his tent area neat. Team members were issued star gauged 1903 Springfield rifles and other necessary shooting accessories. They used M49 spotting scopes then as they do today, but they used the total Army system, as issued including the tripod. Shooting jackets were required and hand sewn. First time team members were issued a sheepskin and a World War I blouse. The high collar was removed from the blouse. Supply personnel had drawn the outline of elbow and shoulder pads on the sheepskins. The pads were cut out and sewed to the blouse shoulder and elbows so the fleece side did not show. Coats mother had taught him to sew and he earned extra money sewing for others.

The Infantry Team met as a group a couple days after Coats Brown had arrived at Erie Ordnance Depot. Major Easley introduced his officers and staff and each individual member of the team without notes. He knew every mans name. He would ask the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment to stand as he called their names. He then proceeded to

the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and so forth until everyone had been introduced. The scope of training and ground rules were laid out for the team. Major Easley had written a shooters guide to educate the shooters. He had "The Plan of Campaign" typed, reproduced and distributed to each team member as part of their issued gear. This pamphlet explained sighting and aiming; positions; trigger control; effects of weather; care and cleaning of equipment and everything else that he could think of that might make his men winners. Major Easley also taught marksmanship classes to the team. Coats remembers Major Easley warning the team about dampness warping the rifle stock and changing a rifles zero. Major Easley had also taught how temperature effects the strike of the bullet at long ranges.

A hard top road ran through the Infantry Team area and led to the ranges on Camp Perry. Two rows of a dozen or so tents were butted perpendicular to the road as accommodations for the team shooters. Tents were placed 4 feet apart. The distance between the two rows of tents was approximately 15 feet and formed the company street, about 75 yards long. The messhall was a brick structure located on one flank of the tent area. A wood structure served as team headquarters and was located directly across the hard top road from the tents. A wood latrine with showers and a place to wash clothing was located 25 yards past the back end of the company street. The area beyond the latrine was the service detachment personnel complex. The tents had wood floors and a wood frame. A wood frame screen door served as the entranceway. Each shooter had a 30" wide steel bed with a mattress 6" inches thick. There were five beds per tent. There was a table and chairs in the center area. A single light bulb hung by its electrical cord from the top center of the tent. Some shooters stored their rifle overnight by leaning them against the sidewall. Others suspended their rifles horizontally under the bed frame using two loops of cord. Coats slept with his rifle. He placed the piece under the bed covers next to him on the mattress. He knew that dampness and the wood rifle stock meant possible warping, zero changes and lost points on the range. A Bachelor Officers Quarters was located 500 yards distance from the tent area near the Erie Ordnance Depot Main Gate. The BOQ housed the nine or ten team officers.

## USAMU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Published

The history of the USAMU 50th Anniversary Book has been printed and shipped to those who purchased the book.

This 312-page book was three years in the making--MMA signed a contract with Turner Publishing Company in August 2004. It is truly a magnificent book that you will be proud to own or to give as a gift.

Turner Publishing Company printed 550 books (185 leather cover and 365 standard hard cover). At last check with the publisher, there were eight leather cover books and 100 regular books still unsold. Twenty books have already been sold after all pre-ordered books were shipped in August.

Thanks to our members that purchased multiple copies of the book, but the math says that there are more than 200 of our members that have not yet bought a book. Here are a few messages we received from our members about the book:

*I would like to thank you very much for the "MOST BEAUTIFUL BOOK IN THE WORLD", I received mine yesterday and it is beautifully put together. I am sending one copy of the three that I ordered to the Guam Museum for the Sons and Daughters of Guam that served their country. I want to thank all of you at the USAMU, from the OICs, Coaches, and all the support personnel. Thank you very much for the Great Book. - J.L., NV*

*Unbelievable! The content and binding (I have #46 in leather) is the best presentation I have ever seen. Thank you all who really delivered a "labor of love" in the end product. I sat down the evening I received the book and went through every single page. I could not put it down! Lots & lots of wonderful memories. - J.H., IL*

*The USAMU 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book is superb! It is obviously the product of exceptional work and dedication. It helps me to recall many adventures, and many friends, in the finest unit in the U.S. Army. My sincere appreciation to all that worked so hard to put it together! - H.L., NM*

*Received the book today. Great product. - K.B., AR*

*I received my book yesterday. It is great, you'al did a great job. - W.P., NY*

As one member said, after seeing a copy of the book, "You can kick me, I didn't think it was going to be that good. How do I order one?" You should act today to order your copy. There is no plan to do a second printing.

You can order the book from the Turner Publishing Company online web site: <http://www.turnerpublishing.com/detail.aspx?ID=1126> or by calling Turner Publishing Company at 1-800-788-3350. More information about the book and how to order is on the MMA web site.

Thanks to all who purchased a book, and thanks to all who submitted their bio and chose to become part of this magnificent book.

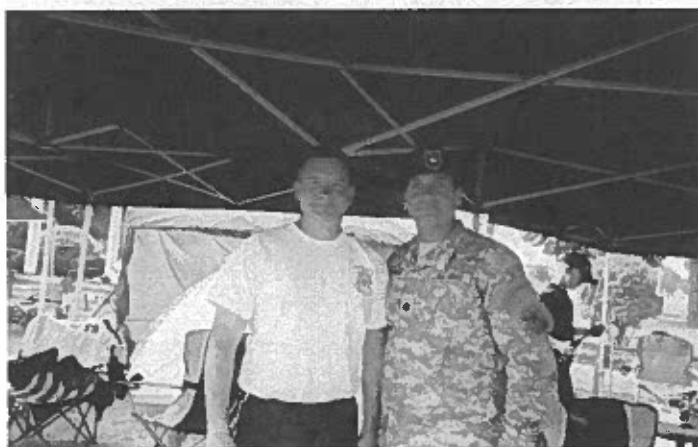


Mexico City International Rifle Competition Awards 1967: Margaret Thompson, Tommy Pool, Pepe Gonzales.



La Fayette Keaton, MMA Life Member, circa 1957 while with the 101st Airborne Division Team. He became Distinguished in 1958. SSG Keaton made two combat parachute jumps in Korea while assigned to the 187th Regimental Combat Team. He was awarded the Silver Star and was inducted into the Oregon Military Hall of Fame in 2007.

National Smallbore Rifle Prone Champion, LTC Rob Harbison meets with USAMU Commander, LTC Frank Muggeo, under the Army Tent at Camp Perry, OH - July 2007.



## Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

**Sight In Days:** A woman came up during target changing and pointing to a target asked how far away it was. On being informed that the target was 200 yards away she said, "That's not what my husband said, he said it was 1,000 yards and that he had killed deer at almost that distance."

### Keeping In Touch

Immediate MMA Past President, **Bruce Meredith**, recovered from his heart malfunction and surgery to compete in the smallbore rifle team matches at the 100th Anniversary of the National Matches at Camp Perry in July. He shot with the Blackhawk Veterans.

**Dr. Thurston Banks** has recently been elected to the Tennessee Tech Sports Hall of Fame. He joins **Ed Etzel** -1984, **Ray Carter** -1985, **Robert Aylward** -1992 and **Kurt Fitz-Randolph** -1995. The induction will be later in the Fall in Cookeville, TN.

### Membership Benefits

The MMA is an affiliated Civilian Marksman-ship Program (CMP) club. The MMA club number is 30449. The MMA will not be displayed in the online database of CMP affiliated clubs because only shooting clubs are displayed and the MMA is grouped in a class of special organizations. However, the MMA satisfies all the requirements of an affiliated club so that our members can purchase surplus military firearms. Your MMA membership card meets the CMP requirements for membership in a CMP affiliated club. Other eligibility requirements are listed on the CMP website. [www.odcmp.com](http://www.odcmp.com).

### Welcome New Members !

Mike Campbell	Elmhurst, IL
Buford Cobb	Leoma, TN
Frank Muggeo	Ft Benning, GA
Gordon L. Peterson	Fresno, CA
Rich L. Stanley	West Point, NY

## TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

**LTC (Retired) Clyde Carter Chadwick**, 79, died on Thursday, August 9, 2007, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

LTC Chadwick was drafted in 1946 and served in the U.S. Army for over 22 years in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Clyde graduated from OCS at Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1949, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He was stationed in Japan when the Korean War began and was assigned to Task Force Smith in Korea where he was a platoon leader. He was wounded and awarded the Silver Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

LTC Chadwick served in a variety of assignments including a tour in Iran where he was personally decorated by the late Shah, and in Vietnam where he tested the AR-15 rifle which would be adopted by the Army as the M-16 Service Rifle.

His last assignment was the Commanding Officer of the 6th U.S. Army Advanced Marksmanship Training Unit at Fort Ord, California.

**SFC (Retired) George H. Floyd**, 72, died in Phenix City, Alabama, on August 11, 2007.

SFC Floyd was a USAMU Service Rifle Shooter. He was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1969.

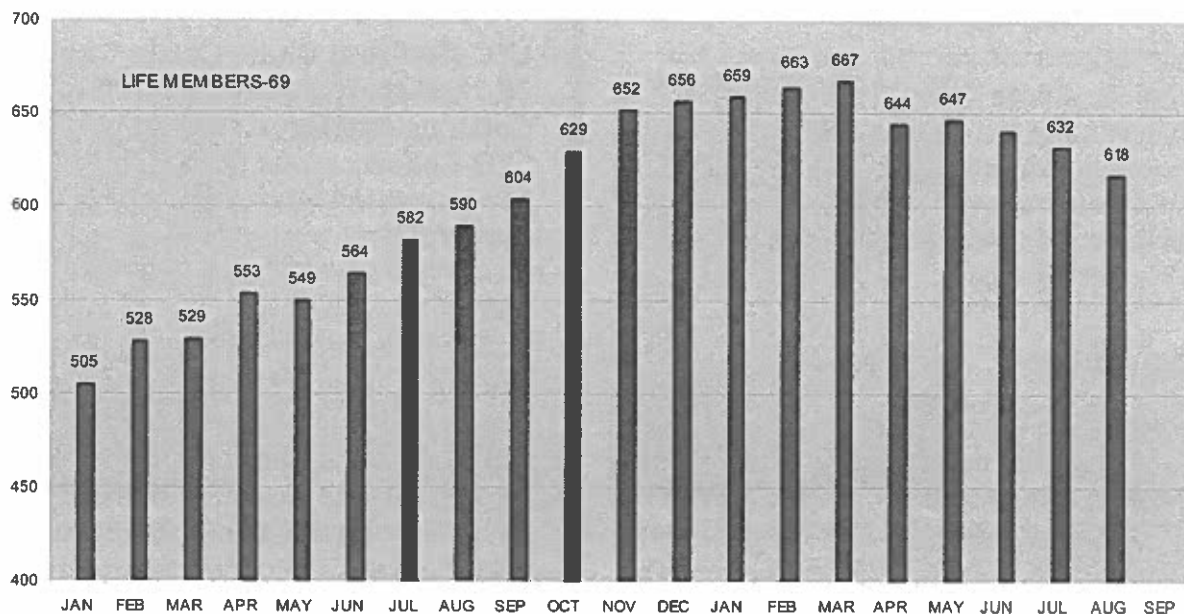
**SFC (Retired) Marvin H. Wing**, 79, died in Columbus, Georgia, on August 20, 2007.

SFC Wing was assigned to both the USAMU Service Rifle Section and the USAMU Custom Gun Shop.

### New Life Members !

Dean O. Clark  
William H. Kuhnke, Jr.  
Kurt H. Fitz-Randolph  
Sue Ann Sandusky

# MEMBERSHIP 2006-2007



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MMA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 52025  
Fort Benning, GA 31995-2025

