



MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 52025, Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2025
www.militarymarksmanship.org

March 2008

Issue Number LV

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MMA Soldier of the Year

USAMU



MMA Soldier of the Year:
MMA President, Bob Hoidahl congratulates SFC Grant Singley, MMA Soldier of the Year. Singley was presented an M1911 pistol donated by Smith & Wesson Corporation.

SFC Grant L. Singley, a service rifle shooter with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Service Rifle Team, was selected as the Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year for 2007.

MMA president, retired COL Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr. made the announcement at the MMA Annual Membership Meeting January 18 at the Pool International Shooting Complex. Hoidahl presented the Soldier of the Year Award to Singley - a .45-caliber pistol donated by the Smith and Wesson Corporation.

A Henry, Ill. native, Singley graduated from Henry Senachwine High School in 1989 before enlisting in the Army later that year. After completing Basic Training and Infantry Training at Fort Benning, he was assigned to the Army Marksmanship Unit in December 1989.

Singley has been awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, five Good Conduct Medals, Army Superior Unit Award, Distinguished Rifleman Badge and President's Hundred Tab.

"Singley takes great pride supporting the warfighter," said Donald Heuman, head coach of the USAMU Service Rifle Team. "He knows that supporting the warriors on the battlefield is paramount and has mounted many arduous hours in support of our warriors. He has demonstrated time and time again his ability to teach advanced marksmanship to those leaders who are in need of better marksmanship skills and knowledge. His untiring devotion and his efforts supporting the Army's war on terror is a tribute to his dedication to the Army Marksmanship Unit and the Army."

Singley expressed gratitude to the MMA for the award and thanked his teammates and coaches from the USAMU Service Rifle Team and the gunsmiths of the USAMU Custom Firearms Shop for their contributions.

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USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Frank Muggeo



The quality of the people that make up the AMU is our biggest asset. Those people continue to achieve month after month and this allows us to make those contributions to the Army and our country year after year.

This past quarter we recognized SFC Grant

Singley as the MMA soldier of the year. The board that picked him had a difficult task, all the soldiers that were in the running for the honor would have won if they were in different units, but the quality of the soldier here is just so high and there can be only one. I would like to thank the MMA for recognizing these soldiers and for the awards they bestowed on SFC Singley.

The Accession Support Brigade once again recognized the AMUs expertise. SPC Horner and SGT Adams have been selected to represent the AMU and compete for the Brigade Soldier of the year. SPC Horner from Action Shooting competed against soldiers across the Battalion and was selected as soldier of the quarter. SGT Adams from the Custom Firearms Shop competed against soldiers across the Battalion and was selected as NCO of the Quarter. They will both represent the Battalion in competition for the title of Accession Support Brigade Soldier of the Year.

I would like to thank those of you that attended the first Annual AMU Ball. This event not only continues a time honored tradition in the Army it also provides soldiers, spouses, family and friends the opportunity to gather and have fun. Our guest speaker Mr. JB Hudson's remarks were especially poignant in marking our past and he was the perfect man to be the initial guest of honor. Traditions as you all know are very important to the AMU. The generosity of the MMA has allowed to start a new tradition that we hope all of you can witness at future AMU Balls. The MMA donated "The Champions Bowl" which is the centerpiece for an Army tradition which is the

MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



I can't believe we are already well into 2008... time flies when you're having so much fun!

2007 MMA "Soldier of the Year". Congratulations to SFC Grant Singley, Service Rifle, for being recognized by MMA as the 2007 "Soldier of the Year." This was Grant's second award; his first

was in 1996. SFC Singley received a Smith & Wesson M1911 45 cal pistol donated by the Smith & Wesson Corporation for his accomplishments. See SOY article on the front page or at the www.militarymarksmanship.org web site.

MMA Annual Membership Meeting, 18 JAN 08.

Following our "Soldier of the Year" presentation, the new MMA Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the membership. Our Secretary, Red Mosely, then forwarded them to the Fort Benning Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) Office for review and approval. The Morale, Welfare & Recreation Office, this office manages ALL private organizations on post, commented that, "this was the first time that SJA has approved the constitution and bylaws of an organization without any comments!" A big "HOOAH" to Red for great job. I also want to personally thank ALL the Executive Board Officers: Ron Martere, Vice President; Red Mosely, Secretary; Sam Hunter, Treasurer; Dick Rebidue, Membership; Steve Goff, Historian; Carter Berry, Editor-MMA Times; Bruce Meredith, Past President; and Phil Cannella, Refreshments, for a job "Well Done" for the year of 2007. Without their untiring support of our organization, we would not exist! Thanks guys.

USAMU/MMA Reunion 2008. Mark your calendars for October 16-18, 2008 and plan on attending the 52d USAMU/MMA reunion. The format will be similar to other reunions prior to the 50th, low key and personable. Additional information about the reunion will be included in the June issue of the MMA Times. Registration packets will be mailed to

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.

Camp Perry and Erie Ordnance Depot: Long days were spent in training with most Sundays off. Bed check was a daily occurrence at 10:00 PM. Coats did not drink so he didn't worry about the no drinking policy. Some men did drink and were slick enough to get away with it. Others were caught drinking and banished, sent home to their units with a very strong letter of reprimand. Coats remembers two people getting bounced off the team. One was bounced for drinking at Camp Perry. The other was bounced for padding his score. This young cheat was called in front of a team formation. His indiscretions were announced for the purpose of humiliating him and he was banished. Public humiliation was not unheard of in the old military. The Marines had a ceremony in the old Corps to counter serious acts of dishonor. The guilty man would be escorted in front of a unit formation and the court findings would be announced. Buttons and other identifying insignia would be cut from his uniform. He would be marched under guard with a drum escort to the gate and sent on his way. The ceremony was called being drummed out of the Corps. David I. Boyd, a retired Marine witnessed what may have been the last "Drummed out" ceremony at Quantico in 1958. The Marine Battalion was given the command "About Face", after the courts decision was announced, to turn the men's backs to the guilty party and culminate the ceremony. Coats remembers a very embarrassing time on the range during his first year with the team. Everyone was supposed to read the shooting pamphlet and follow its guidance. Coats was young and knew that he was the best shooter in his battalion. Coats had skimmed through the material he considered mox nix. One beautiful day the team shot practice at 1000 yards. The temperature at the time was 84°. Coats shot 98/100 and Captain

Maertens recognized him for doing well at the team meeting and critique that day. The team shot 1000 yards for record score the following day. A cold front had moved down from Canada and the temperature was now 50°. Coats used his O'Hare micrometer and carefully set his sights. His first shot was a miss. He was startled and double-checked his rifle and sights. His second shot was also a maggies drawers. Coats was confused and disoriented, he had fired five misses and couldn't figure out what was wrong. Captain Maertens saw Coats struggling and came over to question him. Coats explained the

situation. Captain Maertens laughed and told Coats to come up two or three minutes. Coats made the adjustment with his micrometer and fired. It was a five at 6 o'clock. He used the same elevation, making sure not to break anything low and finished the rest of his string. Ignorance had cost Coats a bunch of points. His score of 75/100 placed him dead last on the team in that event. Apparently his initial shots were going just below the target frame and just above the butts. Had his shots gone a little higher, he would have had a spotter in the target, a little lower would have struck the top of the butts and kicked up some dust. He had been exactly wrong, but learned a valuable lesson. Coats reread and absorbed "The Plan of Campaign". Coats used most of this instructional pamphlet to teach the Army Team in later years. Coats considers this as a very valuable lesson for an overconfident young sergeant. Mayflies were a problem while shooting in early summer at Camp Perry. They were present for close to a month most years. They covered the ground and swarmed in the air everywhere. When you walked, you stepped on several. They reduced vision and were a hazard to driving near Lake Erie. They set on the shooters, and their equipment. A single mayfly fit well on the carbide blackened front sight blade. When a mayfly would light on the front sight during slow fire, you could bump your rifle and the bug would fly off. They were a real nuisance during rapid fire when there was little time to bump them off. Coats learned to aim through the mayflies that settled on his front sight post during a rapid fire string. He checked the sides of the front sight post to determine where the top of the sight was and where the bug's body began during his final exhale to sight picture. Sgt Huntley called Ziz by his peers, seldom cussed, but frequently sounded off with "Dad blamed bugs on my front sight". Mayflies had an odor about them like dead fish. If you stepped on a pile of dead ones, they really stunk. Mayflies were attracted to lights at night. The town of Port Clinton had work crews pick up the piles of dead mayflies under street lights each morning during the bug's peak period. As the weather warmed up in summer, the mayflies disappeared.

Keeping In Touch

SFC Rand Albrecht, Service Pistol, wrote: "I retired from active duty in August 2006. In August 2007, I was recalled from retirement for a year of duty as a weapons instructor with the First Army Small Arms Readiness Group. I have spent three months at Camp Shelby, MS and am now into a four month long training mission at Ft Stewart, GA. After that, who knows?"

SOLDIER / From Page 1

In 2007, Singley was a member of the Winning Interservice Championship 10-Man Team, the winning National Infantry Trophy Team and the winning National Trophy Team. At the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, in August, he was the individual winner of the Mountain Man, Forces Command, Association of the U.S. Army, 25th Infantry Division, Rattlesnake and Porter Trophies.

Other MMA 2007 Soldier of the Year Nominees were Action Shooting Staff Sgt. Maxient J. Michel, Service Pistol Staff Sgt. James M. Henderson, International Pistol Pfc. Brad A. Balsley, International Rifle Sgt. Henry L. Gray, Shotgun Sgt. Joshua M. Richmond and Custom Firearms Shop Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Grieve.

COMMANDER / From Page 2

making the "grog" drink. The grog represents liquids that have special meaning in the history of the unit and the grog ceremony allows us to talk about the AMU's history at the ball.

I have received many positive comments and have been contacted by former unit members to make sure we invite them to next year's ball. A list of people and organizations contributed to make this happen but SFC Coffey and SSG Praslick are two soldiers that were especially involved with making this happen. Kathy Praslick was able to provide a special touch and a keen eye for details that made the night much more special.

As I write this we have two teams that are deployed competing for positions on the Olympic team and one is getting ready to go. While there are world cups and other prestigious events, a chance to compete for an Olympic medal continues to be the ultimate in sports. We all wish the soldiers competing for the slots the best and hope they have the chance to represent not only the AMU but the Army.

Shooters Memorial Plaza Walkway

The "Friends of Camp Perry" are taking orders for personalized bricks to be placed in the Camp Perry Shooters Memorial Plaza Walkway. The cost per brick is \$50. This is a unique and durable way to remember your participation at Camp Perry or to memorialize a departed teammate or family member. To obtain more information or to print an order form, please go to this Civilian Marksmanship Program web site page.

http://www.odcmp.org/1107/default.asp?page=CP_MEMORIAL

PRESIDENT / From Page 2

members by the end of June and registration information will also be posted on the MMA web site at the same time.

50th Anniversary Yearbook: The 50th Anniversary Yearbook is now sold out. The publisher will take orders but will not reprint until they receive 200 orders. The MMA is exploring how we can speed up this process. Please send an e-mail to our Secretary if you are interested in purchasing a book so we have a feel for how many books need to be printed. secretary@militarymarksmanship.org

United States Olympic Committee Hall of Fame. LTC (Ret) Lones Wigger is one of 18 nominees and the first from shooting to be on the ballot for induction into the USOC Hall of Fame. Deadline for voting is March 28th; one vote per computer, plus individuals can add comments to the discussion at the bottom of the voting page. Let's get the vote out for one of our own and a great American!

New MMA Life Members. I would like to recognize our newest MMA Life members: Victor M. Calderon, Service Rifle; and, Michel Dunia, International Rifle. Thanks for your commitment and dedication to your association. Hooah!

Welcome New Members !

Gerald E. Wehner	Bob J. Davenport
James A. Travilian	Luther B. Rogers
Brad A. Balsley	Jason M. St. John
William T. Pace	Daniel M. Pettry
Kevin C. Trickett	Evan M. T. Hess
Jeffrey G. Holguin	Daniel J. Kubicki
George K. Norton	James A. Ruiz
Michael A. Starwas	Gary L. Singley
William M. Stobie	Chad E. Barringer
Michael S. Washburn	Jon J. McMullen

Norman N. Peterson (Incorrectly listed in the December issue.)

Welcome New Life Members !

Victor M. Calderon
Michel Dunia

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

SFC (Retired) **Clyde Malphus, Jr.**, 78, died March 4, 2008, in Columbus, Georgia.

Clyde entered the Army in 1951 and took his Basic Training at Fort Dix, NJ and Airborne training in 1952. His military assignments included the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, 1952; 11th Airborne Division, 1955; 101st Airborne Division, 1956-1958; Caribbean Command, 1958-60; USAMU, 1960-66; Alaska Marksman-ship, 1966-69; and Vietnam Sniper Team, 1969-71.

After retiring from the Army, Clyde was employed as a civilian gunsmith in the USAMU Custom Gun Shop from 1981 to 1994. His craftsmanship as a high-power, long-range weapons gunsmith earned him numerous Civil Service exceptional performance and "on the spot" awards plus the admiration of those who shot rifles built by him. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, President's Hundred Tab, and Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

The MMA announces with sorrow the recent passing of MMA family member **Vi Tuck**. Vi was the wife of SFC (Ret) James "Jim" Tuck.

The MMA remembers **Kenneth W. "Ken" Sedlecky**, 67, who died January 3, 2008.

Ken graduated from high school in Baldwin, Michigan, and then attended Ferris State University in Big Rapids. He began shotgun shooting at the age of eight and developed into an outstanding skeet shooter. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the Department of Special Forces Shooting Team competing in skeet.

Ken was a member of the U.S. Team at the 1962 World Moving Target Championships in Oslo, Norway, and the following year at the 1963 Pan American Games in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He won both individual and team Gold medals firing a perfect 150 and setting the Pan American Games record and was awarded the United States Distinguished International Shooter badge number 46. Upon discharge from the Navy, Ken was employed by Federal Cartridge Corporation, Winchester Arms Corporation, and then as a sales representative for Smith & Wesson Corporation for 30 years. Ken was inducted into the National Skeet Shooting Hall of Fame in 1979 and was also a member of the *Sports Afield* All American Team.

Ken served on the Board of Directors for the Ladies Charity Skeet Classic benefiting the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and supported the Irlene Mandrell Charity Shoot for the Wish Upon a Star foundation. Ken was also a friend of the MMA. He facilitated the donation of the annual award for the MMA Soldier of the Year. More importantly, Ken will be remembered by those MMA members who competed against him being as a tough competitor and a true champion.

Thomas E. Henshaw, 80, died, December 14, 2007, in Alton, Illinois.

Tom, a World War II Navy veteran, was a marketing executive with Olin Corporation for 35 years, retiring in 1985. In the mid-1950s, Tom was a field representative for Olin-Winchester ammunition. During that period, he was a familiar face at many pistol matches and at the USAMU gun shop van. He was instrumental in the development, by Olin-Winchester, of quality controlled, accurate commercial pistol ammunition to meet the need of USAMU shooters. Tom was a member MSG (Retired) Roy L. Sutherland, 89, died on March 12, 2008, in South Charleston, West Virginia.

MSG (Retired) **Roy L. Sutherland**, 89, died on March 12, 2008, in South Charleston, West Virginia.

Roy was a proud veteran who served 30 years in the U.S. Army. He enlisted in 1940 and retired in 1970. He courageously fought in three wars: World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. His decorations include the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal.

Roy was one of the "building-blocks" of the initial USAMU Pistol Team and was assigned to the team during the mid '50s and early '60s. Roy was a member of the U.S. Free Pistol Team that won the silver medal at the 1958 World Championships in Moscow, USSR, and a member of the gold medal Center Fire Team and gold medal Free Pistol Team at the 1959 Pan American Games in Waukegan, Illinois.

Roy earned the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1957 and was retroactively awarded the United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge number 130 for his 1959 Pan American Games performance. In 1959 Roy set the U.S. international Free Pistol course record with a score of 567.

After retirement from the U.S. Army, Roy worked until age 86. In 2007, he was presented the Order of the Thirty-Fifth Star, the highest honor bestowed to a West Virginian, by West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin. (West Virginia was the 35th state admitted into the Union.) His military service was also featured in a front-page article in *The Charleston Gazette* on November 12, 2007.

Roy will be remembered by those who served with him as a tough soldier and competitor yet one who had great sense of humor, as a foot-stomping fiddler, and as an excellent cribbage player.

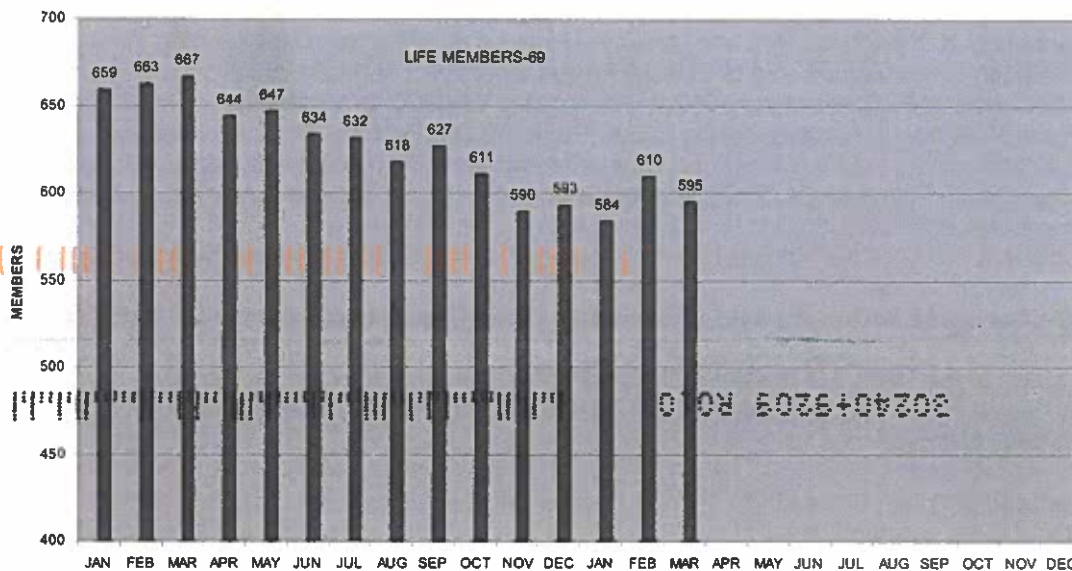
Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

Former club member Jess Williams is now a long time in the happy hunting grounds. However, many moons back he had a friend from the east, who was here for several days on a visit. He took him for a ride on the levee of the Rio Grande, at one point they saw a crow perched on the top of a bare tree across the river. Jess had a 30-06 with a scope and some 125-grain varmint loads. So he asked his friend if he would like to shoot the crow. This fellow had never shot anything in his life, but agreed to try. He rested the rifle on a pad across the hood. Jess

was watching the crow with his binoculars. The fellow said, "I can't see anything"! Jess started to look at him, but he said, "There he is". On the shot the crow flew off, but they had to head for the hospital. As best I can remember it took eight stitches to close the cut over his right eye. First time ever for a scope, he had put his eye right up against the eyepiece. The recoil of the 30-06 really took care of him. I have shot scopes for about 60 years, but one time I crowded my 375 magnum and drew blood! I didn't need stitches, but it sure did smart. I was shooting it prone with a sling and on the 63rd round got over confident! An added note: The range of the crow ends above Socorro. The big black birds we have around here are really White Necked Ravens now called the Chihuahuan Raven.

MEMBERSHIP 2007-2008



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