



# MMA TIMES

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## USAMU Shooters Bring Home Gold

USAIC/USAMU



**Twice GOLD!**  
PFC Vincent Hancock (left) and SPC Glenn Eller proudly display the Gold Medals they won at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. Hancock won the Skeet competition and Eller the Double Trap.

Superb, excellent, exceptional — all of these words can be used to describe the two Soldiers who returned from Beijing with Olympic Gold Medals, but perhaps the most appropriate word is humble. SPC Walton Glenn Eller III and PFC Vincent Hancock are assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. They each won a Gold Medal in the sport of shooting, and they set four Olympic records. In his third Olympic Games, SPC Eller captured the Gold Medal and set two Olympic records in the Men's Double Trap competition at the 2008 Olympic Games.

Eller, who finished 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sydney Games and 17<sup>th</sup> in Athens, entered the final round four targets ahead of Italy's Francesco D'Aniello with a qualification score of 145, setting a new Olympic record. The previous Olympic record of 144 was set by Ahmed Al-maktoum of the United Arab Emirates at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

After missing his first pair in the final, Eller ended up shooting 45 targets and finished with a total score of 190 targets, setting another Olympic record and taking home the Gold.

PFC Vincent Hancock set two Olympic records and prevailed in a four-target shoot-off against Norway's Tore Brovold to win the gold medal on the Beijing Shooting Range.

Hancock shot an Olympic record 121 of a possible 125 targets in five qualification rounds and took a one-target lead into the final. During the final, Hancock missed his 20th shot and finished

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**USAMU Commander's Report**

LTC Frank Muggeo



Normally I start these out by saying how busy the Soldiers are in their competition and training schedules. Well the fruits of their labor are paying benefits. Due to a well planned and resourced schedule they have had a truly remarkable year—and they are not done yet. You may have heard about the big victories but there are some others that need to be recognized.

Service Pistol had a great year. Their performance at the Interservice can best be described as a sweep. While there were non-AMU members that won an event or two this was clearly one of the best performances in years. Followed up by a similarly great showing at Camp Perry. The award that the team is most proud of this year should be the "Coming Through the Rye" trophy. The Service Pistol team had not won this in several years and it is truly a great accomplishment.

Service Rifle had a similar year as Service Pistol. While both teams always perform well, this year the standard just seemed to be raised a bit. Both at the Interservice in Quantico and the Nationals at Camp Perry Service Rifle was the team to beat, and no one could. Individual and Team awards were hauled off the stage time and time again by AMU Soldiers. What makes the Service Teams accomplishments truly note worthy is that they had such a great year while they were busy training Soldiers to deploy and working with the Army on marksmanship doctrine.

I think the performance that most have heard about is how well we did at the Olympics. First of all to place six Soldiers into seven Olympic events is really something to be proud of, but to take two of the six shooting medals that the country won is really something else. Add to that the fact that the medals our Soldiers took were the only two Gold Medals the country won in shooting and you can start to imagine how proud the entire US Army command feels towards these Soldiers.

While these accomplishments would be more than enough to claim a great year and a successful quad, we aren't done yet. The CISM (Military Olympics) goes from

**MMA President's Report**

Bob Hoidahl



The Georgia summer heat continues well into September and now we also dodge the effects of various hurricanes. We have less than a month until the USAMU Hall of Fame Induction and 52d Reunion.

**USAMU/MMA Reunion**

**2008:** Reunion planning continues and remains on track. Official reunion registration packets are out, with many

members already responding...Thanks. If you haven't registered yet, go find your packet and get it in, NOW! Remember, reunion attendance for members is free if you register by October 6th. If your registration form is not received by October 6th, you will be required to pay the \$15 registration fee upon arrival. Hooah, hope to see you all there. **REMINDER:** If you do not have a DOD sticker on your vehicle you must come through the I-185 entrance and stop to get a temp pass at the building on the left prior to the manned checkpoint.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book:** Good news, Turner Publishing will deliver 200 copies of the book by early October 2008. The book will be on sale at the reunion for \$50, cash & carry. **AFTER** the reunion the USAMU Store will continue to sell the book and Red Mosely, our secretary, will also attach a link on our MMA website to place orders.

**2008 USA Olympic Team: CONGRATULATIONS!!** ALL USAMU Olympians performed well. 2 Shot Gun **GOLD** medals isn't too shabby. Way to go Shot Gun!!

**USAMU Hall of Fame Ballot:** Thanks to all who participated in the balloting process. **CONGRATULATIONS!!** USAMU Class of 2008: LTC (R) Sallie Carroll, CPT (R) Glenn Dubis and MSG (R) Burl Branham. HOOAH!

**MMA War Veterans Status:** Good news! Several months ago I reported that MMA War Veterans status had changed. After further discussion with the Internal Revenue Service, MMA will withdraw our request for War Veteran status change and again be recognized as a War Veterans Organization. What this means is that a charitable donation to the MMA will again be tax deductible 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:** The team started each day with 30 minutes of exercise. It was mostly stretching exercises and one eye exercise. Training at Camp Perry consisted of triangulation exercises, position training, dryfiring and daily live fire. Major Easley demanded total concentration during dryfiring exercises. Two-hour dryfire sessions were usually scheduled twice each week. Major Easley could tell if a person was shamming during dryfire. One of his favorite sayings was "shoot like you dryfire and dryfire like you shoot". He observed everyone on the team and paid special attention to those having problems. He would lay next to someone dryfiring prone and observe him closely for possible rifle movement, sometimes manipulating the trigger himself. Everyone had to demonstrate clean breaking shots without rifle movement. Dryfiring was conducted on the 200, 300, 600 and 1000 yard firing lines of the Camp Perry ranges. A or B or C targets would be raised in the butts for slowfire dryfire exercises. For rapid-fire dryfire strings, a line talker, usually Major Easley or Captain Maertens gave the commands and the targets would be raised and lowered at the appropriate times. Dryfire sessions were conducted as realistic rehearsals as much as possible. Each days training was preceded by an informal lecture and followed by a team meeting and critique. Team officers asked a lot of questions at these sessions. Good shooting was also recognized at these sessions. If a good shooter started having problems, the OIC helped eliminate the problems. Through observation, questioning the shooter, analyzing the possible problems, discussion with the experienced coaches and having another top shot test his rifle, shooters with problems got some help. During inclement weather the team would dryfire and train in an empty Erie Ordnance Depot shop building. Training focused on positions and range distances that were weak. The team shot for record 2 or 3 times per month. There were 4 line coaches who were top-notch shooters and wind readers, mostly NCO's, sometimes officers. Major Claudius Easley was the Team Officer in Charge 1936

through 1939. Captain Kameil Maertens was his assistant OIC those same years. Easley was called Spec by his peers. Maertens was called Kem or Kemmy by his peers. Major Easley and Captain Maertens were both assigned to the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on paper, but for duty with the Infantry School. Major Easley taught weapons and marksmanship and Captain Maertens was in charge of bayonet training for the Infantry School. Major Maertens became the Team OIC in 1940. Lt Col Easley had been posted to the Army General Staff in Washington, D.C. and later became the 96<sup>th</sup> ID Assistant Division Commander. Coats said Major Maertens was an excellent OIC and a fine leader. Maertens continued to use the organizational and training methods he was familiar with from past years. He signed his name – Kameil NMI Maertens. If you didn't have a middle name those days, you were required to add the abbreviation, which stood for "no middle initial" as part of your signature. Ironically both of these fine leaders lost their lives during World War II. Colonel Maertens perished as one of several passengers in an Army Air Corps plane that crashed near Saxe, Virginia in 1943 under mysterious circumstances losing all hands aboard the aircraft. BG Easley was killed by small arms fire, perhaps a sniper during the battle for Okinawa. Easley Range and Maertens Range are known distance ranges on Fort Benning, that give testimony to these fine officers contributions to Army Marksmanship.

## Keeping In Touch

LTC (Retired) **Frank Conway** and his wife Christine report that their son, LTC Franz Conway, returned to Fort Hood, Texas, after serving a 16-month deployment in Iraq as the Logistics Officer of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. LTC Conway (senior) was a proud father when he pinned on his son's silver oak leaf rank insignia at a Fort Hood promotion ceremony. They also report that Franz was selected as ROTC Professor of Military Science at the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) in Roswell and he took command in June 2008.

**Marvin Fitzpatrick** sends his regrets that he cannot attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> Reunion. He says that he feels fine after his heart surgery, but his doctor said, "Flying from Anchorage, Alaska, is out of the question."

**COMMANDER** / From Page 2

12-22 Sept this year and is being held in Sweden. We have fielded a strong team this year and we will be putting nations on notice that we will be the team they need to beat for the coveted "silver pistols". It has been some time since we won best nation honors but the team this year is going over with this honor as their mission.

The Action Shooting Team's "Olympics" takes place this year in Oct. While technically this would be considered an event for next year because it is in Oct, it was moved back a few months to Oct so it will be counted on the 2008 events calendar. Here too we are sending a strong team and even trying to win a title for a Soldier that still qualifies as a "junior". Traveling so far and dealing with the cultural/food issues is always interesting but we feel that the team will perform very well.

I would like to remind everyone that we have the 52d Reunion coming up in Oct and I really look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We are inducting three members into the Hall of Fame- CPT (R) Glenn Dubis, LTC (R) Sallie Carroll, MSG (R) Burl Branham. Please come join us for the camaraderie and to welcome these fine representatives of the unit into the Hall of Fame.

**Welcome New Members !**

Luis E. Tabares    Al Sylvia Procter  
Tony Mason    James P. Young III  
Danielle P. Lewis    Bruce W. Reynolds

**Webmaster Notes:**

Currently, there are 495 members who have valid email addresses in the MMA Email List. When you change your Internet Service Provider (ISP), remember to submit your new email address to:

[webmaster@militarymarksmanship.org](mailto:webmaster@militarymarksmanship.org)

Please note that for privacy reasons, the MMA is no longer furnishing the MMA Email List to members. Thanks to all who responded to the email questionnaire asking if you would be able to attend the 52nd reunion.

**PRESIDENT** / From Page 2

the donor under IRS Code section 170(c)(3). So, remember MMA at the end of year tax gifting and take a deduction.

**TAPS, PRESENT ARMS**

Sergeant Major **James H. Lamon** died December 2, 2007. He was a resident of Moulton, Alabama. SGM Lamon was a USAR Service Rifle shooter and was awarded the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1970.

Sergeant First Class **Peter K. Giuchici**, 81, died June 10, 2008, in Orlando, Florida. SFC Giuchici was a Service Rifle shooter in the 1950-60 era. He was assigned to the Fort Lewis Marksmanship Training Unit and shot with the USAMU National Trophy Group. SFC Giuchici was awarded the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1958.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 **James McCollum**, died June 12, 2008. CW4 McCollum was an ARNG Service Rifle shooter and was awarded the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1979.

Lieutenant Colonel **Louis E. Roninger**, 93, died July 24, 2008 in Arizona. LTC Roninger was instrumental in the design and development of the Ben Avery (Black Canyon) Shooting Facility and was one of the principal organizers of the 40th World Shooting Championships held in Phoenix, Arizona in 1970. He also served as Director of Classification for the shooting events at the 1984 XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles, California. He was awarded the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1960.

Colonel **Jeremiah M. McKenzie** died on August 4, 2008, in Tennessee. LTC McKenzie, was assigned in 1964 to U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU), Fort Benning, Georgia, as Executive Officer and Director Small Arms Firing School (The USAMU was then a part of National Matches Staff at Camp Perry, Ohio). He retired from the Army on December 1, 1969 with rank of Colonel. Mr. "Mac" rejoined USAMU in the summer of 1974 as a Department of the Army civilian employee and functioned as the Executive Officer until he retired 1986 for health reasons. He was responsible for moving the USAMU from the old wooden WWII buildings into Sharpe Hall (Building 243). More importantly, he obtained the funding and oversaw the construction of the world-class Pool Range Shooting Complex. Mr. McKenzie was inducted into the USAMU Support Hall of Fame in 1982 and the USAMU Hall of Fame in 1996. See the Taps, Present Arms page of COL McKenzie on the MMA website - [www.militarymarksmanship.org/tapsmckenzie.htm](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org/tapsmckenzie.htm)

**MEDALISTS** / From Page 1

regulation tied at 145 with Brovold, who shot a perfect round to force the shoot-off.

Brovold drew from a hat to determine who would shoot first in the extra session and aligned the stars for Hancock.

Both of the co-world record-holders hit their first two targets in the extra session, but Brovold missed one of his next pair.

Hancock then stepped up and knocked down two targets to clinch the gold with a final score of 145 (+4). Brovold finished at 145 (+3) to win the silver medal.

Both USAMUSoldiers started shooting at a young age, but they attribute their recent successes to their military training.

"Being Soldiers really helped us overcome the nervousness and the hardships we encountered as athletes," Hancock said. "We were well-equipped to handle the pressure."

Hancock, the youngest member on the USAMU team, has been shooting since the age of 10. He joined the Army on the advice of his older brother.

Hancock said it was the knowledge his brother gained from his military experience that convinced him to join. As a member of the USAMU, he now has access to the best ranges and the best facilities, but he said it's the people he trains with who really put it "over the top" for him.

Hancock's teammate also credits his Army training for perfecting his accuracy. Eller competed as a civilian shooter in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney and the 2004 games in Athens, but he never medaled. In September 2006, he joined the Army and was assigned to the USAMU four months later.

"I'm so proud to be a Soldier, it's unbelievable," he said. "The Army gave me the tools I needed to stay calm under pressure and perform to the best of my abilities. They helped me achieve my dream of winning a Gold Medal."

In addition to competing on national and international levels, the AMU also trains Soldiers on the fundamentals of marksmanship and accuracy. Competitions such as the Olympics better prepare them to train their fellow Soldiers because international shooting teaches you how to cope with pressure, said

Hancock, who said he can't think of a greater pressure than being on the battlefield. Accuracy under pressure is exactly what brought home the gold for Hancock and Eller, who described their Olympic experience as surreal.

"It's awesome to know that what you've been competing for and dreaming about is finally coming true," Hancock said. "I didn't have anything else to prove. I had the Gold Medal around my neck, and as I watched the flag go up and heard our national anthem play, I couldn't help but smile."

Both Soldiers now have their eyes set on the future, specifically to London 2012 — the next Olympic Games.

"Shooting season isn't over," Eller said.

"This was just another competition. From here we go right into training for the world championship selection match for next year. I want to repeat for the Army."

"Absolutely," Hancock said.

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## **Conway Chronicles**

**Francis B. Conway**

Sight In Days: A rather confident hunter said his Remington 700 in .308 Winchester was shooting a very large group, could I check the rifle? I told him I would like to check the scope, starting with the bases which would mean removing the scope. He agreed to it. The bases and the screws were just fine. However the rear guard screw was a half turn loose and the front guard screw was two and a half turns loose! Nuff Scd!!

### **USAMU 52d Reunion**

**16 - 18 OCTOBER 2008**

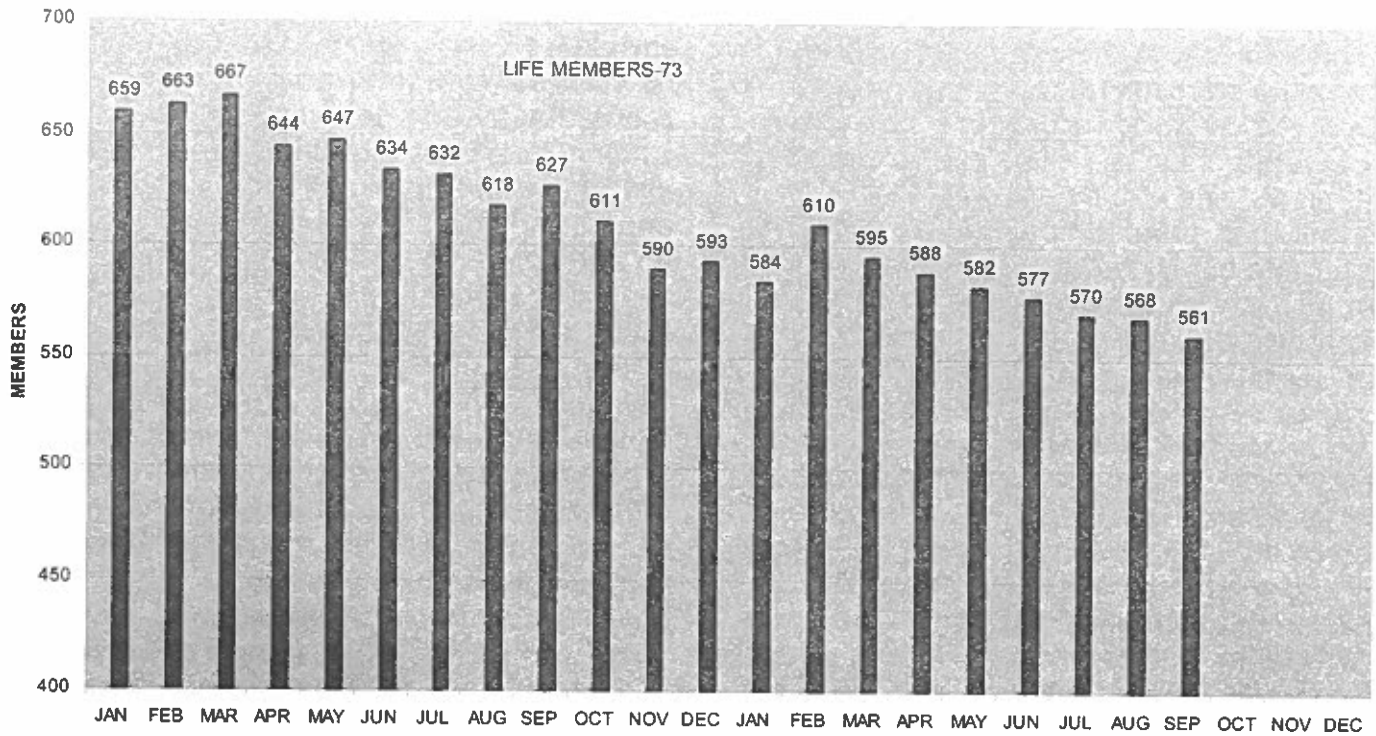
### **USAMU Hall of Fame Induction**

**Open House, Range Firing, and Demos**

**Burgers, Dogs, BBQ**

**Don't miss it, See you there!**

MEMBERSHIP 2007-2008



BRUCE MERRITH  
(LIFE)



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