



MMA TIMES

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Fourth USAMA Shooter Wins Olympic Seat



SPC Dan Lowe, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, aims downrange during the 2016 Air Olympic Trials, where he won an air rifle seat on the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team June 5. Lowe will join three other USAMU Soldiers at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro in August. (U.S. Army photo by Brenda Rolin)

USAMU PAO

CAMP PERRY, Ohio (June 9, 2016)-A fourth Soldier from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) is joining his teammates in Rio de Janeiro this August after the 2016 Air Olympic Trials June 3-5 at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Spc. Dan Lowe, Olympia, Washington, earned one of two available air rifle seats on the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team June 5 during the Olympic Trials, two years after his assignment to USAMU; he was assigned June 5, 2014.

Three other USAMU marksmen have already taken their places on the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team. They are Sgts. 1st Class Michael McPhail, Darlington, Wisconsin, for 50-meter prone rifle; and Josh Richmond, Hills Grove, Pennsylvania, and Glenn Eller, Katy, Texas, both for double trap, a shotgun discipline.

"There was an awful lot of pressure on this match," Lowe said. "I spent a lot of time on positive thoughts; the confidence you take to the line will make or break you."

Lowe shoots in three shooting sport disciplines-smallbore 50-meter prone rifle, smallbore three-position rifle and air rifle-but excels in air rifle, said his coach, four-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker.

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MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Dear members of the MMA,

This month the Executive Board mailed out the invitation packet to the USAMU 60th Anniversary Reunion. Most of you are likely reading this column in the newsletter mailed with that packet. Enclosed in the packet you will find a welcome letter signed by me and the USAMU Commander, an agenda,

registration form and USAMU Hall of Fame ballot and voting instructions. New for this year's reunion is an online registration option. You can register online by going to our website, www.militarymarksmanship.org. However, the Hall of Fame voting will only be done via hard copy mailing. We will of course also take registrations via mail for those that elect not to use the online registration process.

I would like to bring your attention to the fee for the reunion. This is new; in the past members have attended for free, and at other times members and guests have attended for free. This year we are charging a flat \$20 registration fee for each member, friend and guest. Discussions on the Executive Board about charging for the reunion have been going on for years. We have carefully weighed the value of a no-cost reunion against the impact on our operating budget. I hope that you will agree with the executive board that this nominal fee is a small individual price, but collectively it will save the MMA nearly \$5,000. Over the past decade that expense has represented 50% of our available operating budget. Savings this year will go directly to supporting the goals and objectives of the association.

Some highlights of the agenda for the reunion include: The MMA annual membership meeting Friday afternoon followed by the 2016 annual Soldier of the Year (SoY) presentations. That is new on the reunion agenda this year. We have typically held the SoY presentations at annual membership meetings in January and most of our membership are not able to attend. The MMA Executive Board is honored to be able to present awards to the outstanding overall USAMU Soldier, outstanding New Soldier, and outstanding support staff member. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served following the annual meeting. Time

has been set aside for section/team dinners on Friday evening, and information about those section dinners will be available at the registration desk. The USAMU Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on Saturday. We will also have a shotgun and action pistol demonstration on Saturday and a Bar-b-que dinner.

I would like to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Jim Barrows back to the Army marksmanship community. LTC Barrows has served previously with the USAMU as the S3/Detachment Commander. He is the first Department of the Army Command Selection Board selectee for command of USAMU with previous experience in the unit, and I'm sure that will serve him well.

Congratulations on a job well done are in order for Lieutenant Colonel Bret Tecklenburg. He transitioned command to LTC Barrows on June 21st, 2016. Thank you for all that you did for Soldiers and furthering Army marksmanship while you were in command.

Lastly, as I write this the final Olympic Team selection matches are underway for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Our service teams are gearing up for Inter-service and the National Championships. I'm sure that like me, you will want to watch for updates on all of the Army shooters this summer and hearing stories of their recent victories at the 2016 reunion in October.

Sincerely,
Rob

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Larry Leutenegger
William Trebon

Thank you for your commitment
to the organization!

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

Ret. Maj. **Willis L. Powell**, 85, of Columbus, GA died Monday, May 16, 2016 at his home.

See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ledger-enquirer/obituary.aspx?n=willis-l-powell&pid=180035429&fhid=4521&eid=sp_shareobit#sthash.Asdh0vsQ.dpuf

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC James R. Barrows



Greetings! It is truly an honor and privilege to take command of the USAMU and have the opportunity (again) to work with some of the finest Soldiers and Civilians in the Army. Command is an exceptional and remarkable part of any career, but to command a unit as distinct as the USAMU is truly an honor for me. I look forward to getting to know both the members of the unit and also members of the MMA.

I also want to welcome CSM Joseph Tinker, who assumed responsibility in May, as the new Command Sergeant Major of the USAMU. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the USAMU that will benefit us all. Together, we look forward to continuing with the success the USAMU has achieved for decades.

As I write this column, the unit is already preparing for the busy summer competition season. Inter-service matches, the National Matches and the 2016 Olympic Games, among many others, will be upon us quickly. Currently, we have 4 shooters traveling to Rio as part of the US Team. I wish all of our teams and shooters success as they continue to represent the Army and our Nation.

Again, I am humbled to have the opportunity to command the USAMU and serve with the best marksmen in the world. Our contributions to the Army, both past and present, have been tremendous and we will continue to do the same. I look forward to being a part of such a great organization and hope to see many of you at the 60th Reunion in October.

Again, I am humbled to have the opportunity to command the USAMU and serve with the best marksmen in the world. Our contributions to the Army, both past and present, have been tremendous and we will continue to do the same. I look forward to being a part of such a great organization and hope to see many of you at the 60th Reunion in October.

Save the Date!

USAMU 60th Reunion & USAMU Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony

October 14th & 15th 2016
Fort Benning, Georgia

On Target

From: LTC Bret A. Tecklenburg, Farewell

"Leave 'it' better than you found it." I am unsure of the origin of this phrase but it is one that I have routinely heard throughout my career. This summer is a bitter sweet time for me. I am retiring after 24-years and moving on to the next chapter in my life. This is a transition that I am looking forward to and excited about. I am not looking forward to departing the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. This was far and away the best and most enjoyable assignment in my career. I am glad to see that the Army has assigned the highly talented LTC Jim Barrows and CSM Joseph Tinker to lead AMU. I don't know if I left AMU better than I found it, this is for others to assess. I do know that I am leaving a better man and a better leader than when I arrived at AMU thanks to our tremendous Soldiers and Civilians.

USAMU Welcomes New CSM

FORT BENNING, Ga. (May 23, 2016)—Command Sgt. Maj. Isaac Ragusa III relinquished responsibility of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Tinker May 23 in the Finals Hall of the Pool International Range Complex.

Ragusa's new assignment will be the Brigade Operations Sergeant Major, The Citadel, South Carolina.

Ragusa cited two people who have helped him most in his life: his wife Cindy, who he said is "...my everything," and his mentor and "dad," Morgan Arthur.

He said although he is leaving for another assignment, USAMU is not just another unit to him.

"From Civilians to Soldiers, from shooters to gunsmiths, everybody is a big family here," Ragusa said. "I am going to miss them and the friendships we have built over my last two years as the command sergeant major in this unit."

During his 26 years in the Army, Ragusa served in positions from Infantry team leader to command sergeant major with assignments at Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Fort Hood, Texas. His combat tours include Operation Just Cause, Bosnia, Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom I and II, Operation Iraqi Freedom II and III, and Operation Spartan Shield Kuwait.

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He said Lowe has the confidence needed to win in a tight situation.

"Specialist Dan Lowe's strength is what he demonstrated today," Parker, of Omaha, Nebraska, said. "He is absolutely fearless; he can go into a competition and shoot a good score and come away with a medal. He thrives on the energy and the spotlight."

Yet, the three-day competition was somewhat of a roller coaster ride for Lowe. After the first day of competition, he was in second place, but seemed to falter on the second day, finishing in sixth.

On the final day, however, he roared back to life and was in second place behind Lucas Kozeniesky, U.S. Shooting Team member, before going into the finals.

Kozeniesky was unbeatable at 10 points ahead of Lowe—competitors can only earn a maximum of eight points in the finals—and had already earned one of the two air rifle seats.

That left second-place Lowe fighting for the final air rifle seat with two other shooters—Spc. Bryant Wallizer, a World Class Athlete Program Soldier, and U.S. Team member Dempster Christenson—who were just a few points behind him.

Lowe persevered and finished in first place in the finals, securing his victory and the second air rifle seat, while Wallizer finished in eighth and Christenson ended up in third in the finals. Neither had enough points to pass Lowe.

"The second day was a little rough, but this is the Olympic Trials and a lot of things can happen, so you do the very best you can, and that is what he did," Parker said about Lowe. "He shot a world-class final today, and you just can't ask for more."

Staff Sgts. George Norton, air rifle, and Greg Markowski of Sycow, Poland, air pistol, also competed in the Air Olympic Trials. Although neither earned enough points to win seats on the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team, Norton, of Salinas, Kansas, said he was extremely proud of his teammate Lowe and of his performance.

"Dan didn't take anything for granted, and his scores were excellent," Norton said. "Dan came into day three and he fought hard and he shot an amazing score and then he won the final. Anyone else might not have been able to do that, but Dan came back."

Norton won the men's three-position rifle event during the 2016 Smallbore Olympic Trials April 1-8, but because there were no U.S. seats available in that discipline, he couldn't join the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team for that victory.

"I am very proud of the results I had in the men's three-position and without the support of Sergeant First Class Jason Parker, the International Team, the USAMU Custom Firearms Shop, the USAMU and the Army, I would not be where I am today," Norton said.

Army Olympians provide a direct connection between the Army and the American people through competitions, demonstrations, outreach and engagements on the local, regional and national level.

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However, Ragusa's assignment to the USAMU represented one of the most difficult challenges in his military career.

Ragusa immediately had to learn six different shooting disciplines and all of the competition rules so that when he accompanied his Soldiers to matches and championships, he could serve as their advocate if something was amiss.

"This is the first unit where I am not the subject matter expert in the unit—these Soldiers are," Ragusa said. "I am here to protect our Soldiers and the Army's investment in them. We truly have talented athletes in the Army Marksmanship Unit who possess talents I have never seen before—it's amazing." One of several goals during his assignment was to ensure all USAMU Soldiers had the same standard competition and demonstration uniforms—to include cold and wet weather gear—that were properly branded to reflect the Army and USAMU.

"I made a standards book that has uniforms common to all of our Soldiers, and it also has individual team uniforms," Ragusa said. "I wanted every Soldier to look the same and be equipped to fight the elements."

Ragusa said he will leave USAMU confident in the knowledge that he tried to provide a positive and lasting impression on each Soldier and Civilian in the unit.

"I want people to remember me as the sergeant major who was willing to help you whenever you need help," he said. "I spent a lot of time with the teams and each Soldier and Civilian. I want them to not only respect me for my rank but for the person I am." Tinker, who joined the Army in 1995, was last assigned to 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, where he was the brigade operations sergeant major.

His duty stations include Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Drum, New York; and Fort Riley, Kansas.

He has served in all leadership positions from infantry team leader to sergeant major. This is his first assignment as a command sergeant major.

Tinker, who visited USAMU last year, said the professionalism of all the Soldiers and Civilians had a lasting effect on him.

"Everyone wants to be here and is motivated," he said. "That makes coming to work easy and fun. I want to be here too; I am excited and honored to be part of the team."

He resides in Columbus, Georgia, with his wife, Libbie. They have two sons: Nick, age 29, and Ben, age 21.