

MMATIMES

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

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!!Save the Date!!You are Invited to the 14th MMA Reunion 3 & 4 October 2025

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The Executive Board of the MMA and Commander, USAMU are excited to be planning another reunion for the Soldiers and Retiree members of the USAMU. This Reunion is being planned for 3-4 October 2025 with the main attraction being the inauguration of the USAMU Exhibit in the National Infantry Museum. And, of course, a great deal of story telling and meeting with old friends.



The proposed itinerary looks like:

Friday 3 October: Registration and visit of the AMU

12:00– 13:00 Light Lunch offered by MMA

13:30 Dedication of AMU Display at the National Infantry Museum

and explore the museum

15:00 Section Hall of Fame Inductions

18:30 Section Dinners at Restaurants to be determined

Saturday 4 October: MMA Meeting and BBQ

10:00 MMA Meeting and Election of Officers

12:00 BBQ hosted by the MMA

This schedule is subject to change due to the early planning phase at this time.

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MMA President's Report



Greetings fellow members,

Save these Dates! October 3-4, 2025

We are excited to be in the planning phase for the next MMA Reunion! This will be a special reunion that you won't want to miss. It will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and former teammates, as well as meet with the current AMU members. This reunion will feature the planned unveiling of a permanent AMU Display at the National Infantry Museum (NIM). The MMA Executive Council and MMA member, Steve Goff, have been collaborating with the AMU leadership and NIM staff on this project which will definitely enhance the legacy of The Home of Champions.

Please plan to attend and please help us by getting the word out to any of your friends who are not yet members or used to be members. Encourage them to join or re-join the MMA

and enjoy this special reunion.

What's in this edition?

This edition of the MMA Times features an article about the creation of the United States Army Reserve Marksmanship Unit (ARMU). Through the years, the ARMU has been attached to various Army Reserve organizations. This latest move should ensure a permanence for the Reserve's shooting teams - where many former AMU shooters, including me, were once assigned.

Also, in this edition are two (2) "In Memoriam" articles, LTC (Ret) Terry Lee Meredith and SFC (Ret) Douglas Bronson, a "Where are they now?" article featuring former AMU Shotgun shooter and Olympian, Matt Dryke, and a "Blast from the past" article about the 1967 National Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio.

A couple personal notes –

I was a member of the AMU, International Rifle team at the same time Matt Dryke was on the AMU, Shotgun team. I vividly recall him giving us a trick shooting exhibition at Hook Range that included a segment where he broke all 25 skeet targets from the eight (8) shooting stations in less than one minute - while riding a unicycle! I sure wish we had cell phones back then to make a recording.

The 1967 National Championships was the first time I made the trip to Camp Perry – as a 13-year-old. I have many memories from that trip to Perry. One of those memories was of the Army Band marching around the competitor housing area early each morning making sure the competitors were awake and encouraged! I think that may have been the final year the Army supported the championships at Camp Perry.

** Request for Shooting Artifacts ** As the AMU Museum Display project has completed the Fundraising Phase, the focus has shifted to the collection of content for the museum display. Though the AMU has access to much of the display content, we are requesting anyone who has a historically significant firearm and/or shooting memorabilia to please consider contacting the National Infantry Museum to see if they are interested in it.

Ron Plumb MMA President MMA TIMES Page 3

USAMU Commander's Report



Fellow MMA Members,

The Army Marksmanship Unit just concluded the US Army Small Arms Championship (All Army) on 15 March and what a championship it was! We had well over 200 competitors from the Active Duty Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Air Guard, and Cadet Command all participating. Despite a few hiccups with the national budget and scheduling, everything ended up going off without a hitch. The level of competition was high and the esprit de corps was on point. I am enormously proud of our AMU Soldiers and civilians for putting on such a spectacular competition.

Below are just some of our individual champions that we congratulated on Saturday (15MAR25):

Overall Individual Winner & highest overall aggregate score: 1SG Andrew McCallister

Cadet overall top combined score: CDT William Buettner First place Cadet in open category: CDT Paden Howard Highest Scoring Drill Sergeant: SSG Matthew Leib Individual Multi-gun champion: CW2 Matt Downing Individual Rifle champion: SSG Kendal Miller-Mather Individual Pistol champion: SSG Louis Gillaspie Combined Top Novice Shooter: SSG Adam Brown

Overall First Place Team: Alabama Alpha, Alabama National Guard

As we move into Spring, AMU competitors are looking forward to some major competitions, including world championships in Argentina and Chile for our international rifle and shotgun teams. Our service rifle, service pistol, and action shooting teams are also heating up with their competition schedules, competing in some of the most serious competitions of the year prior to the National Matches this Summer. I look forward to continuing to highlight our successes to the MMA, and as always, I'll see you on the range!

Home of Champions, Chris Commander U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit



2024 Military Marksmanship Association awardees:

Shooter of the Year: SSG Sagen Maddalena

New Shooter of the Year: SPC Jake Hill

Support Person of the Year: Mr. Troy Lawton

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United States Army Reserve Marksmanship Unit (USARMU)

MSG Charles J Parker Action Officer and Operations NCOIC

In 1963, Major General (MG) William Sutton, former Chief of the Army Reserve (CAR), formed the United States Army Reserve Competitive Marksmanship Program (USARCMP). The program was not assigned a Tables of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) and has fallen under multiple units throughout its history. The team operates based on availability of Troop Program Unit (TPU), Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) and Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers. The team members compete around their civilian/AGR responsibilities and battle assemblies/annual training requirements in their current command. Team leadership and shooters participate in the USARCMP as an additional duty. A memorandum of agreement between their respective unit

commanders and USARCMP OIC is published yearly to establish team rosters. In 2004, United States Army Reserve Competitive Marksmanship Unit was codified into AR 140-1, Chapter 7.

On 19 July 2022, MG Jody Daniels, Chief of the Army Reserve (CAR), directed the creation of the United States Army Reserve Marksmanship Unit (ARMU) as a permanent force structure and Direct Report Unit (DRU) to the United States Army Reserve Careers Group (ARCG) with a focus on recruiting and retention (R2). Effective 1 October 2023, USARCG assumed responsibility of the ARMU. USARCG with support from OCAR and USARC will be responsible for planning, execution, funding, and all operations of the ARMU. During the initial phase, the ARMU will have no TDA assigned. ARCG will continue to augment Active-Duty Operational Support (ADOS) and/or TPU positions within ARCGs structure to help plan and resource the transition of standing up the ARMU as a unit.

Fort Knox Kentucky was selected as "The Home of the Army Reserve Marksmanship Unit" due to several reasons but mainly due to the amount of direct and indirect support from Garrison Command, Fort Knox Range Operations, DPW, and many other departments on FKKY. In March of 2024, during a meeting with FKKY Range Operations, Garrison, and DPW representatives a plan was developed for the ARMU to obtain exclusive rights and use agreement for two ranges on Fort Knox. French Range, the former Sportsman Club on Main Range Road, had been vacant for over 5 years with no plans for future development. After conducting multiple surveys and working closely with Range Operations, members of the 19th ENG CMD, and the 412th ENG CMD it was determined that this range with a variety of improvements could support 75% of the ARMU's competitive and training needs. Additionally, a second Range was identified that could support the construction of a 600-yard Known Distance (KD) range for Service Rifle and Long Range Rifle competitions and training.

French Range – As an MWR Sportsman Club the ranges supported rifle and pistol fire at ranges out to 250 yards and also included 4 Trap and Skeet bays. A new range layout was developed in an effort to support Service Rifle, Combat Action Rifle and Pistol and Service Pistol. Additionally, 5 Action bays are being built to support USPSA, IPSC, Bianchi, and Combat Action type training. The Trap and Skeet Bay to the South end of the range will be maintained to support Army Athletes and Command Teams for recreational and competitive events. Please see attached pictures for reference.

Long Range – Located less than 8 minutes from French Range on North Main Range Road, Long Range is a former Machine Gun Range that features a vast area perfect for the construction of a 600yd X 200yd wide/ 54 Firing points, Known Distance Range with Pits.

July 2024 to Present and future

In June of 2024 construction started on 2 concrete pads that will hold two mobile vaults for the storage of Team Ammunition and Weapons on site. All construction was completed by Army Reserve Engineers from the 412th ENG CMD, including the 463rd, 450th, 449th, and others. This will facilitate training by having everything "In House" as we move forward and grow. See Pictures Attached. Also, Engineers from the 412th and DPW removed old target bunkers, decaying range facilities and buildings from French and Long Ranges clearing the path for construction of the new facilities.

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In Memoriam

LTC (Ret) Terry Lee Meredith Taps - Present Arms.



Terry Lee Meredith died in Lexington, SC on February 26, 2025, one month shy of his 86th birthday. He was born in 1939 in Wheeling, WV, attended Linsly Military Institute in Wheeling on an athletic scholarship where he played football, basketball and track. He was first team All-Conference in track for hurdles both his junior and senior years.

He was a member of the varsity rifle team at West Virginia University and Delta Tau Delta social fraternity.

Upon graduation in 1963 he was commissioned a 2LT in the Infantry and graduated from Officer Basic, Airborne and Ranger schools at Fort Benning, GA. He was assigned as a Platoon Leader to the 7th Cavalry Regiment (Gary Owen) of the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea in 1964. He competed with the M-14 rifle for the 1st Cav, 8th Army and USARPAC to the All-Army Championships. He was a summer pick up by the Army Marksmanship Unit and proceeded to the Interservice Matches at Quantico, VA and National Championships at Camp Perry Ohio. He is one of the three Meredith brothers (Bruce and Jim) who earned the Distinguished Rifleman Badge. Terry left active duty at Fort Jackson, SC and continued to compete for the Army Reserve Service Rifle Team until retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel.

His civilian jobs included working for Texaco and eventually retiring from Travelers Insurance Company as a Claim's Adjuster.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, daughter Victoria, two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Terry was named by his mother after the popular WWII-era comic strip character, Terry Lee, of "Terry and the Pirates". This was a continuing story of a dashing Army Air Force Officer operating in the China-Burma- India (CBI) theater of operations. Terry Meredith was openly friendly and always well-liked by his teammates.

His wishes were to be cremated and have his brother Jim take his ashes back to Almost Heaven West Virginia. Once a Mountaineer, always a Mountaineer.

SFC (Ret) Douglas Bror Bronson Taps - Present Arms.

SFC Douglas Bronson, born 1 July 1932 in Dearborn, Michigan, peacefully passed away on 7 May 2024, just prior to his 70th wedding anniversary and his 92nd birthday. Married his wife Laurel Sue (Parker) 6 June 1954 in Sunnyslope, AZ.

Doug retired after over 42 years of dedicated USAF/US Army/ARNG service at the rank of E-7. He began his pistol shooting career in the 50's being a major player with the Arizona Gun Slingers Association (fast draw and re-enactments) until deploying with the AZANG to Germany for the Berlin Airlift Support in 1961. There he got involved with competitive bullseye pistol shooting. After his return, he transferred to the AZ ARNG located at Papago Military Reservation in Phoenix. There he began his shooting career as a shooting team member, coach and mentor for the AZ National Guard Shooting Team. Over the years, he became a Master 2600 shooter, earning the US Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, the Presidents Hundred Tab, and earned the National Guard Chiefs 50 and Governors 20 recipient several times.



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In Memoriam

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He became a shooting team member, coach and mentor for the All National Guard Pistol Team, the All Army Team, 6th Army Area Team, Arizona State R & P Association Team and the Phoenix Rod & Gun Club Team for many years. He (and his teams, National and State) won numerous National and State Championships in several states and in several disciplines. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association (NRA), AZ State Rifle and Pistol Association, and the Phoenix Rod & Gun Club. He started the Arizona Desert Midwinter Pistol Matches.

His military career began in the USAF/ANG as an aircraft mechanic and crew chief, working many different aircraft such as P-51's, F-84's, F-86's, T-33's, and eventually F-104's. He was the crew chief for the late Major General Donald Owens during his career as a young officer. When he transferred to the ARNG in 1963, he worked on fixed wing aircraft and eventually multiple helicopters as the missions changed throughout the years. His favorites were the Huey and the Huey Cobra. When the ARNG unit was established in Marana, AZ, he was transferred there as the maintenance shop Foreman and eventually forced to retire from the military and civil service position at the age of sixty.

From 1/1/72 to 6/30/79 dad volunteered his services with the AZ Department of Public Safety as a reserve officer in district 6, badge number 9399. This badge number sometimes caused some confusion with dispatch, as three 9's means an officer needs help. He spent nearly every weekend (except the third) conducting traffic stops and breaking up the occasional bar fight on the south side of Chandler, AZ off AZ 87 (Country Club Dr.). He received a promotion to Sargeant 3/04/76.

After retiring, he began helping a long time friend rebuild and maintain his fleet of Bell 47 helicopters that he leased to the Tuna Fishing Industry. Dad also worked on several other privately owned 47's in several states. Dad obtained his Airframe and Power Plant (A&P) license, Commercial Rotorcraft, and Fixed Wing licenses as well enabling him to fly the Bell 47's, other planes that he loved and enjoyed so much. In addition, dad was a mentor to many upcoming aircraft technicians wanting to achieve their A&P licenses.

Doug is presided in death by his parents, Jesse and Jessie, one Granddaughter Brandi and one Great Granddaughter Juniper. He is survived by his wife Sue, son's Terry and Jay (Vancie), daughter Lori (David) Bronson-Holst 8 Grandchildren, 17 Great Grandchildren and 1 Great- Great Grandchild, with a second on the way. He was buried at Green Acres Cemetery with full military honors

USAR Shooting Teams Reunion

There will be an USAR Shooting Teams Reunion at Ft. Knox, KY during the period of 23-28 September. We have not locked in the exact specific dates but anticipate conducting a full 3 days on ground.

Why Ft. Knox? The Army Reserve just recently stood up its Marksmanship Unit at Ft. Knox and we believe it would be a good time to meet the current team and understand their mission. Also, this time of the year will likely enable us to billet at Ft. Knox since it's the last week of the FY and all TDY for the Army should be completed. Local to Ft. Knox is the Patton Museum, the Bourbon Trail and Louisville is 45 minutes up the road.

More information is forthcoming in the upcoming months, but we wanted to get this info out now so dates could be reserved. In the interim, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if we can answer questions. If you know of shooting member that are not on the list, please let Ruland know and we'll reach out to HRC (Human Resources Command, the old AR-PERSCOM) to get contact information for those members so they too can be invited.

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April, 2025 begins the next phase of construction for French and Long Ranges. Engineers from both the 412th ENG CMD and our Active Duty partners on Fort Knox, the 19th ENG CMD will begin renovation of the French Range Operations Center/ Club House and begin construction of the Action Bays and Berms for all ranges. We are also

working with the 81st RSC and Fort Knox to acquire additional support for long term maintenance and expansion of other projects and training areas.

What does the future hold for the USARMU?

In February 2025 an official letter established the ARMU to become a Provisional Unit under ARCG. There are many plans for ARMU competitors / Soldiers moving forward. While MG Daniels Initial Decision brief did not include training Soldiers as a primary task. MG Harter (CAR), current Commander and CSM Betty (OCAR CSM) do see a need for the ARMU's involvement in training the force. Plans are working for the USARMU to potentially conduct Train the Trainer Courses, Squad Desig-



nated Marksman Course, and possible the Master Marksmanship Training Course at some point on FKKY at our facility.

The USARMU will also be conducting the USAR Small Arms Championship for the first time in 2 years from March 28th – April 5th at Camp Atterbury Indiana while construction starts at Fort Knox.

> ter, Ellen. The family continues to reside in Sequim, where Dryke has resumed shooting lessons at Sunnydell Shooting Grounds despite some health issues in recent years. Sunnydell is his family's 40-acre gun range that his father started and Matt learned to

Matt joined the USAMU in 1977 and won

shoot starting at age seven.

Where are they now? - Matt Dryke



2024.

the U.S. National Championship the next year. He made four consecutive Olympic Teams, winning the Gold Medal in 1984. He won eight U.S. National Championships. He set two World Records and one Olympic Record. He won gold medals at the 1983 and 1987 Pan American Games and the 1981 and 1985 Championships of the Americas. He was World Champion in the 1983 World Moving Target Championships and the 1986

Matt Dryke is alive and doing well in Sequim, WA. He was recently honored by his hometown with "Honor Matt Dryke Day" on September 13,

He is married to Yvonne, a pistol shooter from Peru that he met in 1995 while training shooters abroad. They married in 2002 and have a daugh-

World Shooting Championships. He was inducted into the USAMU Hall of Fame in 2006. Page 8 MMA TIMES

Blast from the past – 1967 National Matches, Camp Perry, OH (Courtesy of *Shooting Sports USA*)

PISTOL - Army Master Sgt. Bill Blankenship shook the effects of two consecutive second-place finishes in the National Pistol Championship and returned to the winner's podium for a record-tying sixth time. After firing a 2632-122X without a single sub-aggregate win, he joined the elite company of Joe Benner and Harry Reeves as the only hand gunners to claim six national titles.

Army Capt. Sallie Carroll won her second consecutive women's title while John Johnson of Fullerton, California, nabbed civilian honors in addition to the President's Hundred Pistol Match title. Air Force Staff Sgt. Edwin Teague won the National Individual Pistol Match on Xs and became the first airman in the 64-year history of the National Matches to claim the title, while Army shooters dominated team competition by winning both the NRA team aggregate and National Trophy Team Match. The winner of the National Trophy Pistol Team Match receives the Gold Cup Trophy. The 1967 winner was the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit Blue Team (Robert Pruden (team captain), Emil Heugatter, Hershel Anderson, Owen Schroeder and Marvin Black).

SMALLBORE RIFLE PRONE - The statistical crew had a daunting task before it as it sharpened pencils and polished magnifying glasses prior to the start of the smallbore matches. Between prone and position, officials scored close to 600,000 record shots and the skill was well appreciated by Army Capt. Bruce Meredith, who went nip and tuck with Army Reserve Capt. David Ross III (former USAMTU) and turned in a prone score of 6396-539X to trim Ross by two points and push the National Match record up by 29 Xs. Meredith lost his four points during the metallic sight aggregate and his any sight score of 3200-281X set a new standard of excellence. Oddly enough, his only fired-match win was at 100 yards with any sights, where his 400-33X score bested the field.

About one in six prone competitors were military, but they accounted for almost half of the individual victories. In addition to Meredith, Chief Warrant Officer David Boyd and Lt. Ray Green of the Marines, Airman Second Class George Hadley, USAF, and Army Capts. John Foster, Lones Wigger, Jr., and Army Reservist David Ross III accounted for the rest. Noted gunsmith Karl Kenyon, Kim Rickert, Robert Wempe, Douglas Knoop, senior champion Herb Hollister and metallic prone sight champ Kenneth Leasure held up the honor of the civilians. Hollister was the only competitor to shoot a perfect 400-40X in any match, and he did it twice—in the any-sight 50-yard and any-sight meter matches.

SMALLBORE RIFLE POSITION - With three-time national champion Lones Wigger in Vietnam, the position field was viewed as an open contest. However, Wigger's commitment to shooting and winning might have been underestimated. He was about halfway through his tour and due for two weeks of leave when instead of heading to one of the popular destinations like Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia or even Hawaii, Wigger orchestrated a series of flights and ended up at Camp Perry in time to compete. You may take Wigger out of the National Matches, but you can't take the National Matches out of Wigger. Firing line rumors of his possible entry notwithstanding, the competition was truly surprised by his presence. And Wigger's presence was surely felt despite his reduced training opportunities.

Wigger won a prone match, earned a spot on the Dewar Team and then fought it out with National Guard Capt. Gary Anderson (former USAMTU), John Writer, John Foster and Dave Kimes (former USAMTU) for the position title. And while his effort was heroic, Wigger was not able to capture a fourth title. Anderson, 28, prevailed in the end with a tally of 3171-205X.

The U.S. Army Blue Smallbore Rifle Team of Wallace E. Lyman (captain), Presley W. Kendall, Gary L. Anderson, John R. Foster, John W. Writer and William C. Pullum (coach), won both the Hercules Trophy Match (4-pos., iron sights) and Caswell Trophy Match (4-pos., any sights) team events with 1580-104X and 1582-93X scores, respectively, at the 1967 National Matches.

Army Lt. Margaret Thompson ran her string of women's titles to three while Cliff Davis (later USAMTU), the prone collegiate champion in 1966, garnered the 1967 position honors for the scholars and William Schweitzer succeeded his brother Jack as the junior champion

HIGH POWER RIFLE - While two newcomers joined the list of national champions in smallbore, a familiar name was called out at the 1967 High Power Rifle award ceremony, when Middleton Tompkins walked across the stage to collect his fourth Wright Memorial Trophy. Tompkins's last title came in 1964 and this year's score of 1554-38X represented a National Match record as a new military target was employed that doubled the possible point value from 800 to 1600. Tompkins won a fired match in the process, the Scott Trophy, while Marine Lt. James Bowen won the Service Rifle title with an M-14 and a 1546 tally that included a victory in the Navy Cup Match. Familiarity reigned supreme in women's high-power competition as both bolt and service winners were former champions many times over. Miralotte Ickes won her seventh bolt title (she also won in 1957-1960 and 1964-1965), while Army Staff Sgt. Barbara Hile proved to be the only defending national champion in 1967. Hile beat out Margaret Thompson, this year's women's smallbore position winner and former women's service rifle champion, to claim her sixth service title in seven years, the only break coming when Thompson won the crown in 1965.

As was the case in 1966, the National Infantry Trophy Rifle Team Match led off the high power program and this year the record score was upped by 15 points by one of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit teams. The three most historic matches were then contested on the three days following the National Board match and victory went to Army Staff Sgt. Arpail Gapol in the President's Rifle Match, Theodore Fasy in the Leech Cup and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Paul Holcombe in the Wimbledon Cup. In addition, Marines dominated the last two days of shooting, when Staff Sgt. Robert Goller earned the Daniel Boone Trophy for his National Trophy Rifle Individual Match win and Marine Corps shooters finished atop the National Trophy Rifle Team event.