



MMA TIMES

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Inaugural Army Strong Collegiate Shooting Championships

USAMU PAO

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is excited to announce that the inaugural Army Strong Collegiate Shooting Championships, on course to be the biggest multiple-discipline, shoulder-to-shoulder gathering of collegiate and junior shooters in the history of competitive shooting, will commence next March 13-18 here at Fort Benning.

The dynamic format will draw the top college and junior shooters from the entire country competing in four distinct championships: the National Rifle Association Intercollegiate Pistol Championships; the NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship; the Scholastic Steel Challenge Collegiate Championship; and the Scholastic Clay Target Program Challenge.

“The USAMU, home to the absolute best marksman, marksmanship instructors, and gunsmiths in the world, is the ideal location to hold this ground-breaking Army Strong Collegiate Shooting Championships,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Hodne, commander, USAMU. “Our newest generation of collegiate champions across multiple shooting disciplines will earn their titles at the ‘Home of Champions.’”

Hosting the most prestigious of matches has become as synonymous to the “Home of Champions” as winning national and world championships. A number of world-class championships have been held on the ranges of the USAMU in the past few years, including two International Shooting Sports Federation World Cups (this past year’s event being the largest international shooting sports event to ever take place in North America,) USA Shooting National Rifle and Pistol Championships, the annual U.S. Small Arms Championships, and countless JROTC, collegiate and regional championships. The USAMU aims to make this an annual event.

The ASCSC is designed to connect the Army with and promote youth and collegiate shooting sports. It aligns directly with the youth and collegiate shooting programs of the NRA Competitive Shooting Division, SSC, and SCTP, which all foster junior and collegiate participation in prestigious competitions while promoting firearms safety. The USAMU connects to America's youth through teaching, coaching, and mentoring junior shooters throughout the year, and Soldiers make ideal mentors and role models for our nation's youth. In these respects, the Army's hosting of this event a perfect fit.

The ASCSC will be sandwiched around the electrifying Army Strong Experience, hosted by Maneuver Center of Excellence March 15-16. This event showcases the capabilities of the Army through demonstrations by an array of units on the Army post. Spectators can see the “Rangers in Action” demo, featuring the abilities of the world’s most advanced infantry Soldiers, or the “shock-and-awe” of the Hands-on Training Exercise (HOTEX), which shows off the lethality of some of the Army’s mechanized and armored forces.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to witness the “Airborne 5000” demonstration and Fort Benning Silver Wings Skydiving exhibition, and the jaw-dropping shooting demonstration performed by members of the USAMU Shotgun platoon. The Army Adventure Semi, a culmination of hands-on and interactive

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Dan Hodne



I am grateful for all of the support to our Unit members from a tremendous combination of families, friends, and the MMA. Thank you! I am extremely proud of what this Unit does for our Army's combat readiness, both in supporting Army recruiting and accessions and supporting the warfighter. Consistent with my last few reports, I will ensure that the USAMU continues to

be adaptable, innovative, and resourceful in the manner in which we accomplish our wide-ranging mission. With a great team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, backed by the MMA, we will be well postured to meet the needs of our Army.

The current operational environment remains consistent with my June 2011 MMA Times Report. The Army's top priority articulated by the Army Chief of Staff is to win the current fight, which means providing trained and ready forces to ongoing contingency operations. Marksmanship is and always will be the paramount Soldier skill and primary factor in overall combat readiness. As anticipated, requests for USAMU marksmanship training have continued to increase as commanders from across the force view this unit as a cost-effective means of obtaining high quality marksmanship training. Further, Army Munitions Requirements Planners at the Department of the Army, who must provide strong rationale for all ammunition purchases, admittedly view the USAMU's marksmanship training results for operating and generating forces as the primary justification for the Army's continued funding for our non-standard ammunition and hand loading component requirements necessary to showcase the very best of Army Soldier skills in competition. Therefore, the USAMU will continue to create opportunities through adaptation, innovation, and resourcefulness in supporting Army recruiting and accessions and meeting the increasing demand of our operating forces for marksmanship training while maintaining a continuous forward-deployed presence in Afghanistan.

In an innovative effort to increase overall unit capability, for nearly two years we have been working closely with HQDA G3/5/7 to obtain approval for our concept plan to create a Paralympic Section and Marksmanship Instructor Group comprised solely of wounded veterans. Our Commanding General discussed this concept with the

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings members! I hope that this letter finds you well and full of Christmas cheer.

Our annual meeting is right around the corner. Please join us at Pool Indoor Range on Friday February 3, 2012 at 1400. The agenda for the meeting will include remarks from the USAMU Commander, a report from the executive board, an opportunity to present new business, and the Soldier of the Year presentation.

By the time you read this, the executive board will have met to review the nominations from the USAMU for Soldier of the Year, and will have selected a winner among winners. I have seen the slate, and as always, the task of selecting one outstanding Soldier from such a group of stalwarts will be challenging. We are proud and humbled by the many accomplishments of USAMU Soldiers in 2011. Once again the resumes of the nominations include noteworthy victories on the firing line, accolades received in boards and schooling, and outstanding service to our nation at war through combat marksmanship training.

Those of you who are not living in the Columbus/Fort Benning/Phenix City area may not be aware of significant changes that have occurred at Fort Benning. The 2005 Congressional mandate to realign the U.S. Army Armor School from Fort Knox, Kentucky to Fort Benning, Georgia is complete. The first classes taught by the Armor School occurred this summer at Fort Benning, and the move of the school is now complete.

Our Life Membership program continues to be a popular way for members to show enduring support for MMA and its mission. Since I last wrote you, we have had six new life members. Aubrey Smith, Dick Rebidue, Charlie Davis, Sam Hunter, Greg Strom, and Bob Aylward have changed their membership status to "life". Way to go gentlemen, thanks for the support.

LTC Hodne's report mentions the ongoing effort to create a Paralympic section. 2012 will bring new opportunities to volunteer for those that wish to assist with competitions held at Fort Benning. Last summer the US Paralympic Shooting Coach contacted me inquiring about interest in volunteering for assistance in loading rifles during Paralympic competitions at Fort Benning. More and more wounded veterans are competing in Paralympic marksmanship competition, and I think it is a great opportunity

1982 USAMU Blue Pistol Team



In 1982, the USAMU Pistol Team accomplished the first “clean sweep” of the Inter Service Championships. While pistol squads from previous years had won all events at the Inter-Service Matches, this was the first time it was done by the same four firing members of the Army Team. The “whisk broom” trophy at USAMU Headquarters was presented to the USAMU Commander, Colonel Stanley J. Parmentier by the All-Guard Executive Officer after the Matches. The Members of the Blue Team (L-R) were MSG Ronald F. Martere, Head Coach, MSG Roger H. Willis, MSG Thomas R. Woods, SGM Max J. Barrington, and MSG Joe Steed, Jr. This team went on to win the National Championship in the following year. MSG Willis won the individual national championship in 1983. SGM Barrington won the title of Civilian Champion after his retirement. MSG Woods won the National title after placing 2nd on numerous occasions. MSG Steed, not to be outdone, won the .45 Caliber Championships during his tenure with USAMU.

Welcome!

New LIFE Members

Charles D. Davis Samuel W. Hunter
Richard D. Rebidue Aubrey E. Smith
Robert W. Aylward Greg A. Strom

New MMA Member

Darius R. Young

Remembering LTC Frank Conway

Editor's note: The MMA received a number of laudatory messages from our membership about their association with Frank Conway and the impact he had upon them. Although we cannot print all of them, the following message echoes the respect and admiration for Frank contained in many of the messages.

Jasper Kleinjan wrote: “The June issue of the MMA Times arrived and with it came my first knowledge of LTC Frank Conway’s passing.

The world, our nation, our Army, and all shooters have lost this great man to the passing of time. He was among the greatest of the great shooters of our time, a winner, a champion, a genius in weapons, a man with a desire to win, and the fortitude to finish and win.

Frank was in charge of weapons at the 1956 Camp Perry Matches. I had the honor to serve my two-year hitch in the AAMU with him. His knowledge and strength just seem to pass right on to you.

He sold me an M-70 heavy barrel rifle but would not let me have it until he had glass-bedded and accurized it. Thanks to Frank, that rifle won me many state and regional shoots including awards at Camp Perry.

Frank's accomplishments, attitude, and devotion to providing our soldiers with the best small arms will be remembered for a long, long time.”

SHOOTING / From Page 1

systems, will also be on hand enabling the public to get a glimpse of what it’s like to be a tank crew member, an Apache pilot, or an explosive ordnance disposal team member, among others.

“The USAMU is grateful to the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning for teaming up with us in connecting America’s Army to America’s people in a powerful way through the Army Strong Experience,” Hodne concluded. “There is no better way to showcase our Army and let our fellow citizens experience and witness ‘a Strength like no other’ than seeing our Soldiers in action. The positive Army impressions to be generated will last a lifetime.”

Check out www.usamu.com for information on the event and stay tuned for updates as the event draws closer.

Annual MMA Meeting

Friday, 3 February 2012, 2 PM

Pool Indoor Shooting Range

COMMANDER / From Page 2

Director of the Army Staff, HQDA Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, and HQDA Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, raised the level of visibility of this pioneering concept, and created the necessary forward momentum to move it closer to decision. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Cost and Economics validated our cost benefit analysis, a decisive step in the approval process. The Director of Force Management ruled to defer the decision until the results of the Total Army Analysis 2014-2018, which automatically brought a higher level of visibility to this opportunity for our wounded or disabled veterans who desire to and are deemed able to continue to serve on Active Duty. In fact, the USAMU's expansion for Wounded Warriors is one of seven Army-wide "Command Concerns" that triggers Vice Chief of Staff of the Army oversight and review. The Total Army Analysis still requires a series of resourcing panels and an internal progress review for Senior Army Leaders (on or about 9 December 2011) with the projection of a Secretary of the Army decision memorandum to be published in early 2012. Meanwhile, we continue to actively recruit potential prospects. The Sergeant Major of the Army committed to advertise our search for candidates during his monthly visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid. We will continue to work very closely with USA Shooting's paralympic program to advance this aspect of shooting sports. I am highly confident that the United States, by way of the US Army, will become the world leader in paralympic shooting competition.

Regarding other opportunities for innovation and resourcefulness, I will continue to leverage the unit's world class range facilities to bring the most prestigious of competitions to the "Home of Champions." We were very proud to work alongside USA Shooting in hosting two absolutely superb international events with May's International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup USA 2011 and October's International Paralympic Committee (IPC) World Cup USA 2011 (Paralympic Qualifier) on the USAMU range facilities. Both of these world-class venues brought national prestige to our country in the world of competitive shooting. ISSF World Cup USA 2011 emerged as the largest international shooting sports event to have ever taken place in North America and earned recognition as "complete success, the best ISSF World Cup ever organized in the US, so far," by the ISSF Technical Delegate during that event's closing ceremony. The IPC World Cup USA 2011 stood as the very first Paralympic World Cup to ever take place in this Hemisphere. The USAMU is grateful to USA Shooting, the city of Columbus, and all of the volunteers who made both of these events experience such a high degree of success. The unit is proud to have the opportunity to

host another ISSF World Cup in 2013.

In mid-August the unit announced the Inaugural ARMY STRONG Collegiate Shooting Championships (13-18 March 2012), which promises to be the largest multi-discipline, shoulder to shoulder collegiate championship shooting event to ever take place in the United States. The USAMU created this ground-breaking opportunity with the assistance of the National Rifle Association; Scholastic Steel Challenge; and the Scholastic Clay Target Program who partnered with the USAMU to make for what will be a collegiate rifle championship like no other. The USAMU will again leverage the US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE) and Fort Benning for Army capability demonstrations to create a truly unique and exciting experience for all participants and raise the visibility of competitive shooting sports. USAMU continues to look to the Military Marksmanship Association and unit alumni as centers of influence among shooting circles and we offer to host shooting programs for youth, high school, and collegiate audiences.

In support of the warfighter, the USAMU's continued emphasis on raising the standard of the Army's marksmanship proficiency is a critical investment in the unit's future. Our military personnel will all be cross-trained to support this mission essential task. In anticipation that resources and defense funding will continue to decrease, our effort to raise the Army's marksmanship proficiency and support the Army's precision small-arms research and development initiatives will continue to be of increasing importance. Next Quarter, the USAMU will be proud to host the MCoE Combat Pistol and Rifle Championships (14-16 February and 22-24 February respectively) and the US Army Small Arms Championships (1-10 March). These events demonstrate that marksmanship competition is an effective tool for raising a Soldier's marksmanship proficiency.

The USAMU's presence of a marksmanship training team in Afghanistan continues to yield impressive results. The unit's emphasis on the requirement for a core cadre of marksmanship instructors led to the Afghan Minister of Defense approval for the creation of an Afghan National Army Marksmanship Instructor Branch (trained by the USAMU forward contingent) within its Training and Education Command, in effect creating an Afghan National Army Marksmanship Training Unit. The USAMU recently deployed its eighth team in late September, 2011. The unit has maintained a forward presence for two straight years at this point. In consideration of DoD and Army guidance regarding the Army's semi-centralized promotion system and combat deployments, even those particular Soldiers in pursuit of individual Olympic and Paralympic quota slots will continue to be considered eligible for deployment. SFC Uptagraff's world-class

A Round House Nugget

LTC (Ret) Weldon "Mike" Griggs provides us with another "nugget" about two of the personalities intertwined in the history of the USAMU: Generals Eisenhower and Tibbets. This nugget recalls a near accident in the early career of Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbets, which Griggs found in the book: *Aviation Art of World War II*, by Paul Stillwell, James H. Kitchens, and Patrick Murray.

The March 2011 issue of the *MMA Times* ran a lead story about the "Patton" Round House on Hook Range. In that story, Second Lieutenant and later Brigadier General Tibbets is mentioned and it was noted that he wrote a letter in 1999 describing the Round House as "an icon to be preserved."

In 1942, Major Tibbets was assigned to fly General Dwight D. Eisenhower from England to Gibraltar. The trip would take eight hours and cover 1,200 miles. For two days, rain and heavy fog grounded the aircraft. On the third day, weather conditions remained same and Tibbets did not want to take-off; but Eisenhower ordered the mission to proceed.

As Major Tibbets taxied his B-17 bomber (named the "Red Gremlin") along the foggy taxi strip, the aircraft behind him, which was carrying Major General James Doolittle--hero of the B-25 Tokyo air raid earlier in the year--developed brake trouble and barely missed crashing into the "Red Gremlin." Had that happened, it likely would have led to a fire and explosion with the probability that all on board both aircrafts would have been killed.

General Doolittle's plane went back for repairs and left the next day. While enroute, Doolittle's aircraft was attacked by four German fighter planes but was able to land safely. Of the six bombers that carried Eisenhower and his staff, one was never heard from again after it disappeared during the flight.

Later in the war, Eisenhower became the Supreme Allied Commander, Doolittle became the Commander of the Eighth Air Force, and Tibbets dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. One can only speculate the impact the outcome of World War II if the near accident had occurred and one can wonder, too, if the USAMU would have been activated or the Round House restored.

PRESIDENT / From Page 2 _____

to give back to the shooting sports for those so inclined.

2012 is sure to bring many changes within the Army. I am confident though that one thing that will not change is that the USAMU will continue to provide valuable service to the nation through its unique mission and skill set. Marksmanship skill will remain a core competency that our citizens expect from our Army, and the USAMU will remain a decisive element toward meeting those expectations. Likewise, the MMA will continue to support its members and the USAMU.

Enjoy the holidays and please continue to remember our deployed Soldiers and keep them in your prayers. All ready on the firing line!

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

SFC Harley J. "Doc" Nolden, a resident of Brunswick, Georgia, died October 21, 2011.

SFC Nolden began his shooting career in 1958 with the 66th Armor Battalion Pistol Team of the Fourth Armored Division in Germany. Throughout his 22 year military career, his assignments permitted him to participate as a competitor, coach, and gunsmith. During one of his tours in Germany, he served in the dual capacity as First Sergeant and Head Coach of the Eight Infantry Division AMU. He also served on the Board of Governors for the Wiesbaden Rod and Gun Club.

While stationed in Mainz, he joined the local Schutzen Gezelschaft (Shooting Club) and participated in 1972 German Olympic tryouts. He qualified for the German shooting team, but had to decline because of citizenship requirements. "Doc" was selected as a Line Coach with the 1975 and 1976 USAMU Pistol National Trophy Group.

After retirement from the Army in 1979, he was a Civil Service employee repairing weapons at the Fort Benning Weapons Pool. He then was selected as a firearms instructor for duty with the U.S. Treasury Department at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Georgia. "Doc" was also a state officer in the American Legion for five years.

Editor's note: Individual obituaries are posted to the Taps, Present Arms page of the MMA web site.

COMMANDER / From Page 4 _____

Silver medal performance during the last month's 2011 World Cup Final in Wroclaw, Poland, came less than one month after redeploying from Afghanistan. Similar to SFC Parker's winning of a Silver medal during ISSF World Cup USA 2010 within five weeks of his return, SFC Uptagrafft's feat further demonstrated that these broadening experiences have served to enhance the capability of our Soldiers. The unique, powerful, and positive Army stories of Olympians, who recently serve their country in other ways, such as in support of our nation's overseas contingency operations, will help to promote the Olympic shooting sports and advance US Army priorities.

Finally, I am proud to report that by order of the Secretary of the Army, the US Army Marksmanship Unit has been awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for outstanding meritorious service throughout 2010. In addition to citing the unprecedented degrees to which the unit's Soldiers showcased our Army, the citation highlighted the unit's ingenuity in developing the most capable precision small arms, significant expansion of its marksmanship

training program, and volunteering to embark on a sustained effort of training indigenous counterparts in a combat zone, the latter two spanning well beyond the typical circumstances under which the unit normally performed. I am grateful to our outstanding team of Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, Soldiers, and Civilians who proudly accomplish our wide-ranging mission in a manner and with a flair like no other unit.

Building for the future will always be the key tenet of our unit's campaign plan, which means developing versatile Soldiers capable of showcasing the Army in support of recruiting and accessions and equally capable of training warfighters. The American public must always view this unit as the "Home of Champions." The Army must always view this unit as absolutely essential to the accessions mission and as the Army's primary source for marksmanship training and small arms innovation, ... especially as we enter an era of austerity. We will always continue to look forward in an effort to constantly strive to make the Unit even better and raise our Army's overall combat readiness. **ARMY STRONG!**

