



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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## USAMU Soldiers instruct with eye to future

USAMU PAO



SGT Shane Coley, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, watches as a junior shooter fire a pistol Oct. 26, during the 6<sup>th</sup> annual USAMU Action Shooting Junior Clinic at Krilling Range.

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) recently spent a week sharing their expert marksmanship skills with the nation's future leaders and competitive shooters.

Members of the USAMU Action Shooting team hosted the annual Action Shooting Junior Clinic at Fort Benning, then packed their bags for the Lone Star state and visited the cadets at Texas A&M University.

"From working with junior shooters to future leaders in our military on how to improve their marksmanship skills, it's been one of the greatest and most rewarding feelings I can say I've had in my military career," said Staff Sgt. Lee Dimaculangan.

The junior clinic's sixth iteration was among the best they have ever hosted, Dimaculangan said. The event saw an influx of new attendees, as well as participants from previous years, who were eager to learn from some of the nation's best shooters. One of the reasons the camp was introduced was to promote the sport and, by seeing the new faces, USAMU Soldiers believe their efforts are

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## MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Hard to believe it is December already! It has been a very active and productive year for the MMA. As of the publication date for this issue, our total membership stands at 447 which includes 137 living life members. The MMA continues to operate on sound financial ground, as evidenced by our recent favor-

able audit of our finances.

The annual meeting is scheduled for 3:00 PM, February 7, 2014 in the USAMU Pool Indoor Range. Please mark the date and plan to attend. We will present our annual MMA Soldier of the Year award and have an update on the MMA from the executive board. There will be light finger food and refreshments plus a drawing for a grand prize gift certificate for MMA members attending the meeting. Once again, a hearty "thank you" to the Soldiers and civilians of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit for their outstanding support of MMA activities.

As I mentioned it has been a busy year for the executive board. In November the executive board voted to raise the annual membership dues by \$5 a year. This was done to ensure our long term financial health while still maintaining a capacity to support the membership and support the USAMU in accordance with our charter. Early in the year we conducted a review of the production and distribution of the MMA Times. After weighing options about the number of issues to produce and how to distribute the MMA Times, the board decided to continue quarterly publication and "hard copy" distribution through the U.S. Postal Service in addition to posting the MMA Times on the MMA website.

The year also saw some significant discussion of dues and operating expenses. That conversation will be continuing into 2014. Our life member program has been very popular, with over 30% of our members electing "Life" status. The board is aware of the enduring financial obligations that we have for our life members, and have discussed ways to ensure that we safeguard a portion of our resources to be able to

service our obligations well into the future. At the same time the board wants to have the ability to continue current operations and maintain an ability to react to special requests in concert with our constitution. As always, I am open to your thoughts and suggestions on all of these matters, as are all of the executive board members.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting!

All ready on the firing line.

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## 1963 Unit Formation

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*Editor's note: LTC (Ret) Weldon M. Griggs, USAR, remembers a historical moment at the USAMU.*

In 1963, the USAMU did not have very many formations that had all assigned officers and men attending. There was one held in late November following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The formation was held in the gravel parking lot between the Supply building and the Headquarters building. The Headquarters building was a wooden WW II office building on the west side of Edwards Street, between Dixie Road and Burr Street. The troops were formed by Section. We were in the Class B uniform, which was Army khaki with garrison cap.

After being ordered to Attention, the Adjutant read from a letter which had been sent by the Department of Defense (I think). In any case, it was a formal proclamation that announced that Lyndon Baines Johnson was the Commander In Chief.

Most of us, along with the rest of the Nation, had watched the ceremonies in Washington, DC on TV during the previous weekend. The letter read at this formation was the Official Notice of the name of the new President.

This official pause in our regular duties made an impression on me at the time. I still think of it when I read or see images of the assassination of President Kennedy fifty years later.

## Coats Brown Legacy

Ken Hamill

**This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend. If you shot or worked with or for Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.**

The Army Brass had discussed the possibility of training closer to Camp Perry and getting out of the hot Georgia sun. Fort Niagara, NY and Fort Snelling, MN were considered. Col Sharpe visited General Maxwell Taylor, the Army Chief of Staff and sold the idea of training up north. In 1957, the Army Rifle Team started training at Fort Niagara, New York. This was home to an Army Air Defense Command unit. This was the prior home of a battalion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, where Sid Hinds senior served his platoon leader time as a Lieutenant and trained for the 1926 Olympics. During WWII the fort housed German prisoners of war. One POW, an artist had started a large mural in the O Club, but was released at war's end, prior to finishing the painting. In the 1990's this artist expressed a desire to return and finish the mural at his own expense. The citizens of Youngstown, New York coordinated his request and he did return and finish the mural. The O Club is one of the few remaining buildings still standing on the once proud fort. Fort Niagara had approximately 50 firing points at 200, 300, and 600 yards and perhaps 35 points at 1000 yards. The range was laid out to fire in a northern direction like Camp Perry. The impact area was Lake Ontario for Fort Niagara, while the impact area for Camp Perry was Lake Erie. Weather conditions at both ranges were very similar. It was an excellent place to train in June and July. The local people treated the team well. One neighbor lady baked a huge cake for the team, perhaps for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. An old farmer and his wife with an apple orchard lived a few hundred yards behind the range. Coats introduced himself and got along well with them. He would visit and chat on the porch in the evenings and was invited to some home cooked meals. The lady was a great cook. This nice couple learned that Coats wanted his 12 year old niece from Pennsylvania to visit and invited her to stay with them. Coats niece stayed for a month and had a great time. They fed her, did her laundry and enjoyed her company. She helped the old lady and did whatever chores she was asked to perform. The host family would only accept \$25.00 for all they had provided. Lieutenant Marchioli took

8 teammates to his family home in the Buffalo area for a home cooked meal. It turned out to be a special five course Italian meal. The Marchioli family made all the visitors feel at home and it was a very enjoyable evening. Coats remembers buying maple sugar candy from the roadside stands along the old country road leading to the front gate of the Post. Billy Willard once ordered grits from a local restaurant. They didn't have grits on the menu and no one had previously asked for grits. Willard sent home for some grits and demonstrated for the restaurant cooks how to properly prepare them. Grits became a regular part of the breakfast menu while the rifle team trained at Niagara. These were our heyday years. At first a perfect score across the national match course won a damn fine rifle, then a fishing rod, later a cigarette lighter and finally your name painted on the 250 plaque until they changed to the decimal target. A rifle company from Fort Riley or another post would provide range support. Over 200 shooters and coaches representing USAMU, Army Eastern, Western, USAREUR, USARPAC and ARADCOM would train for the Nationals. The shooters and support personnel slept and ate in tents during the early years. LTC Sharpe had arranged for the Officers Club to reopen to provide meals for all the team members' three meals a day, but this arrangement only lasted the first two summers. The enlisted men who snored loud were assigned to a snoring room or tent. The officers who snored loudly stayed in their assigned tents with the non snorers. MAJ Jack Frost could really snore and usually had to look for his partial plate in the mornings. The Air Defense Unit eventually moved out making the barracks available to the shooters. The Post was closed in 1965. An entry/exit cloverleaf for the Moses Highway was planned to go where the rifle range had been. What a loss. What a shame.

### Welcome!

#### New Life Members

Robert J. Lukavic

#### New MMA Members

Ronald C Rider

Jimmie L. Purdy, Jr.

Alton L. Self, Jr.

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working, he said.

Another major objective of the camp is to leverage the unique capabilities of the USAMU shooters to support Army accessions efforts, specifically through interaction with new participants and their parents. Program success was notable during the camp - two of the instructors, Sgt. Shane Coley and Spc Matthew Sweeny, were recruited after attending the Action Shooting clinic.

"There was a lot of talent out here," Coley said. "When I came through the clinic all I wanted to do was impress the (USAMU) team and show them I had the skills and demeanor to be a competitive shooter on the team and serve my country. I saw that same intensity on a lot of the faces out here during the weekend."

After three days of showing juniors techniques on accuracy, movement techniques, transitions, reloads and an introduction to the rifle, three of the team members traveled to College Station, Texas for a week of instruction with the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Marksmanship Unit (CCMU).

"Being in the unit is an opportunity for each cadet to develop and use leadership skills," said Kevin Jimmerson, coach of the team. "As cadets are promoted within the organization they take on more responsibility and earn more of the credit for our success. Competition of any sort is its own reward, and the opportunity to compete on a national level and represent an organization like the 138-year-old Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M is an even greater challenge with greater rewards."

During the training clinic the cadets spent four days on indoor and outdoor ranges with the USAMU instructors, Jimmerson said. Each of those days focused on different aspects of shooting, from fundamentals to advanced multi-gun moving and shooting drills, including a 90-minute lecture and discussion on the monumental importance of mental preparation and mental focus. The majority of participating CCMU cadets will be

commissioning into the four branches of the U.S. Military in just a few short years, Jimmerson said. Besides the shooting lessons learned, what stood out was the impression made by the professionalism of the noncommissioned officers of the USAMU.



**SSG Lee Dimaculangan instructs a cadet from the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Marksmanship Unit on pistol techniques Oct. 30, in College Station, Texas .**

"The cadets on the team were all extremely impressed with not just the shooting ability of the USAMU Soldiers, but their ability to teach, to coach and to communicate their skills in a simple and concise way," Jimmerson said. "I don't think any of them were prepared for the skill level of the USAMU Soldiers or the very professional manner in which they conducted the training clinic."

After the week of instruction, the Soldiers were guests of the Corps at the Texas A&M football game before heading back to Fort Benning. The opportunity to pass along their skills to such a range of shooters on many different levels of experience left them feeling satisfied with what they accomplished that week.

"There were two things I took away from our week-junior shooters are the future of our sport, and it is vital to train our future leaders at their infancy," Dimaculangan said. "It's very gratifying to be involved and making an impact in their futures."

## Remembrance of a former teammate

Bruce Meredith

John James (Jim) McHugh was one of the few USAMU shooters to be KIA in Vietnam. Jim was a talented smallbore rifle shooter. In 1964, he held several civilian National Rifle Association of America (NRA) National Rifle Records. He won a second place position in the National Indoor Rifle Championships in early 1964. His first attempt at the Olympics was Summer 1964, as a civilian at Fort Benning,



Ga. He entered into the U. S. Army 12 November 1964. After basic training at Fort Jackson, SC, he attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, OK to become a Draftsman Plotter. He was assigned, on 22 April 1965, as a Private (E-2), to the International Rifle Section of The U. S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit, Fort Benning, GA. He lived in the unit barracks building 1498, and participated in shooting competitions with the team. On 12 July 1965, he was promoted to Private First Class. He competed with the Army team at the 1965 National Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. On 8 January 1966, he and the team competed in the NRA National Indoor Rifle Sectional in Conover, NC. He placed second, by two points, to a more experienced team member, a World Champion and Olympic gold medal winner. Jim McHugh's projected end time in service (ETS) was 11 November 1966. However, he volunteered to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 1 July 1966. He was reassigned back to the International Rifle Team again on 13 July 1966. He continued competition with the team, including the NRA Smallbore Rifle Position Regional in Wellsboro, PA 30 July 1966. He was beaten by a point by a teammate, a World Champion and eventual Olympic gold medal winner. On 16 September 1966, in the National Outdoor Rifle Regional in Charlotte, NC. He beat 70 other competitors only to lose, again by one point, to a MTU teammate, a World Champion and Olympic Medal winner. Shortly thereafter,

he volunteered to become a Green Beret in the U. S. Army Special Forces. His service in the Republic of Vietnam began on 10 July 1967. He died of wounds from enemy small arms fire in Vietnam 31 January 1968. Jim had all the talent and motivation to be on the USA Olympic Rifle Team, if he had lived to return and continue in competition. All of his teammates are proud of his shooting accomplishments, devotion to the sport and service to his country. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions.

## Taps, Present Arms

**SSG Rocco "Rocky" Di Lorenzo**, 87, Service Pistol competitor, and a resident of Smiths Station, Alabama, passed away October 30, 2013.

**MAJ Forest R. Smith**, 94, Service Pistol competitor, and a resident of Columbus, Georgia since 1958, passed away October 12, 2013.

**LTC John W. Torbush, Jr.**, 79, Chief of R&D, Custom Gun Shop, Service Rifle and Running Deer competitor, and a resident of Marco Island, Florida, passed away November 4, 2013.

**Gisela A. Harmon**, 78, the wife of Service Pistol competitor MSG Bonnie D. Harmon (Deceased), died November 27, 2013 in Columbus, Georgia.

**Helga Edmondson**, a resident of Holiday Island, Arkansas and the wife of Service Rifle and Running Target competitor MSG Martin D. Edmondson, passed away December 7, 2013.

*Editor's note: Expanded member obituaries are posted to the **Taps, Present Arms** pages on the MMA web site. [www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)*

**2014 MMA ANNUAL MEETING  
FORT BENNING, GA  
USAMU POOL INDOOR SHOOTING  
COMPLEX  
3:00 PM, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7**

