



MMA TIMES

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USAMU welcomes new commander

USAMU PAO



COL Brian Cavanaugh, Army Accession Support Brigade commander, transfers command of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit to LTC Bret Tecklenburg at the USAMU's Ceremony Hill. Tecklenburg assumed command from LTC Don King Jr. and is the 21st commander of the unit.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Soldiers, civilians, friends and family members of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) welcomed a new commander on Tuesday, June 24th to the 'Home of Champions.'

Lt. Col. Bret Tecklenburg assumed command from Lt. Col. Don King Jr. at the unit's Ceremony Hill located adjacent to Pool Range Complex. King, who commanded the unit for two years, is headed to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School as the executive officer to the commanding general.

"The AMU is the home of champions," said Tecklenburg. "I am honored to serve in this organization with these phenomenal men and women. I am humbled to be a small part of the legacy this unit has established."

Tecklenburg becomes the 21st commander of the USAMU after his tenure as the branch chief, division chief and operations planner at the Joint Special Operations Command.

He enlisted into the Army as a UH-1 helicopter crew chief and mechanic. He was commissioned in 1996 and served in a multitude of leadership positions throughout his military career. He deployed numerous times in support of overseas contingency operations, including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, serving in both infantry and special operations

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Membership applications are available on our website.

www.militarymarksmanship.org

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MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings MMA Members!

The past few months have been busy for the Executive Board.

In April, Sam Hunter informed the Executive Board of his intent to hand over the reins of his duties as Treasurer. Sam served the MMA with distinction as Treasurer for over 14 years. His

diligence and attention to detail kept our financial records straight, receiving commendable reviews from multiple audits. His efforts directly led to the reputation that the MMA currently enjoys on Fort Benning with the installation staff as "Among the best non-profits that we work with." The next time you see Sam, please thank him for his service as our Treasurer.

At our May meeting, the Executive Board approved SFC Kyle Ward to serve as MMA Treasurer. SFC Ward is currently the USAMU S3 Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge (NCOIC). He is a former team member and NCOIC of the Service Rifle team, where he was coach and firing team member on multiple inter-service and national championship teams. He led the first deployed team in the Unit's historic efforts in Afghanistan and in 2011, received the Army Accessions Command Leadership Legacy Award in 2011. During the April meeting the Executive Board also welcomed Sandra Uptagrafft and Charles Coffee as at-large board members. Sandra is an active international pistol competitor and member of the 2014 World Championship Team. Charles is a former Service Rifle shooter and coach as well as Shotgun NCOIC. Kyle, Sandra, and Charles – welcome to the MMA Executive Board! Preparations for the 58th Anniversary Reunion are ongoing. We are planning to mail the reunion Letter of Invitation and Registration Packet not later than August 1, 2014. In the meantime, check the website for updates on the reunion. The USAMU Hall of Fame Ballots are enclosed in the packet with this issue of The MMA Times.

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USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Bret A. Tecklenburg



I am a man working alongside giants. That is what I feel like as I begin this phenomenal opportunity to work with these extraordinary champions at the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU). Week after week, they are representing the Army and dominating shooting competitions around the country and around the

world. They are simply extraordinary. The Home of Champions is a title earned by the USAMU alumni who preceded those assigned here today. Lineage is a combat multiplier, and for the USAMU, this lineage consists of some great Americans who were heroes on both the field of completion as well as our nation's battlefields. Today, we stand in the shadows of these heroes and owe them our best. As the current commander, I want to share my vision and focus for this formation that the members of MMA remain members of the USAMU and that we owe so much to as a unit and as an Army.

USAMU – we are exceptional shooters, and we are champions; this provides our platform for continued success. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the USAMU in 1956, he did so to raise the standards of marksmanship in the U.S. Army. He also intended for the USAMU to beat the Russians in the Olympics and placed the best the military had to offer into a single formation so that one shooter can sharpen another "as iron sharpens iron." We compete and win in national and international shooting competitions. We are linked to recruiting because many young Soldiers, many of you, and certainly I, joined the Army motivated by the opportunity to do the things that the USAMU gets to do every day.

Our Fundamentals – how we execute our mission. Our people are our greatest asset and highly effective. We must continue to find, select, train and develop the right people for the USAMU. This includes maintaining and developing

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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.

In 1958 one of the scheduled away matches for his team was held at Fort Dix, New York. Coats decided to visit an old friend when the match was finished and he was enroute back to Fort Niagara. BG Throckmorton had asked Joe Benner to tell Coats "If he came by that way, stop in and say hello". BG Throckmorton was now the Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. As a young officer, Throckmorton had been a teammate of Coats in the 30's and had shot very well, competing as a member of the winning Infantry Team in the National Trophy Team Match. Coats and young Throckmorton had talked a lot as teammates. Coats knew him to be a very serious man. He would help you if he could. He treated Coats as an equal. Coats knew this hard working man would someday become a general officer. Coats asked the MP on duty at the USMA Thayer Gate for directions. He does not remember where he parked, but he was directed to the Commandants Office above the Plain. Coats spoke to the adjutant who informed him the general would return in minutes and please have a seat. Soon the General returned, saw Coats and said "Well I'll be doggoned Brown, How are you, Come on in and let's talk". They chatted for half an hour or so. They talked about the old team, the officers who made the team great, their friends who were lost during the war, a few shooting stories, a few funny happenings, they reminisced and laughed. It was a good visit to an old friend. The adjutant commented as Coats was leaving, "That was the first time he heard the general laugh". General Throckmorton went on to become CG of the Strategic Army Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He retired as a four star.

In 1958 the Army Team competed at Cape May, New Jersey at the Coast Guard Range. Ellis Williams was a very fine rapid-fire shooter. At Cape May, Ellis creedmoored his opponents and won the sitting rapid-fire match by shooting five consecutive perfect strings including refires on the old 6" V ring target. Kenner Ravencraft remembers shooting a tight group sitting during an important match that summer and was scored a 45. Cracker was depressed after losing the challenge for a keyholed shot. Coach observed Ravencraft's discomfort and went to advise him. Coach Brown told Cracker "Don't worry about it, it is out of your control". "Concentrate on what's

to come". "You have a lot of shooting yet to do". Coats remembers a rifle match fired at Claremore, Oklahoma when it got dark before completion of the final relay and Loyd Crow shot an amazing score anyway.

Loyd described the event as a 1000 yard string and part of the grand aggregate. He was the last firer because the relays infiltrated and the shooters on his point were slow. There was no wind at that time of day, it was dead still, but it was getting dark. Loyd could see the crosshairs of his scope for the first four shots. With oncoming darkness he centered the target frame in the scope reticle without benefit of crosshairs and released the shot. The muzzle flash would illuminate the crosshairs, it seems prior to recoil and Loyd could give extremely accurate calls and became very comfortable with this technique. Loyd called his final shot a V at 7 O'clock. The pit detail could not find the shot until they removed the target and examined it under electric lights in the target shed. It was a V at 7 and Loyd Crow had cleaned the 1000 yard string. A couple of interesting points stand out about the city of Claremore. The town had a Will Rogers Memorial Building. The Mason Hotel where the Rifle Team stayed and ate their meals, housed the Davis Gun Collection. The collection consisted of 25,000 guns of all types, sizes, and descriptions that were displayed in glass cases or hung on the walls of the lobby and walls of all floors of the hotel. There were no duplicate guns in this collection of 25,000.

Welcome!

New Life Members

Alan E. Anderson
Waymond L. Alvis
Bret A. Tecklenburg

New MMA Members

Michael A, Soule
Marie T. Alkire
Jimmie McCauley
Sandra Muchow
Thomas A. Smith
James M. Kennedy, Jr.

PRESIDENT / From Page 2

Please take the time to review the excellent slate of candidates and vote.

Speaking of websites, the Executive Board is exploring ways to make managing member services more user-friendly. Several companies offer membership management services and we are in the process of conducting trials of top candidates to meet our needs. Potential services could include online renewal of membership, online change of address or other contact information, and possibly future (not in 2014) event registration. As we review these services, the Executive Board will ensure that our members who prefer to use the U.S. Postal Service for correspondence will be able to do so in the future. However, as younger members of the MMA join our ranks, we are attempting to meet the needs of the tech-savvy generation.

Finally, it was a distinct pleasure for members of the Executive Board to attend the USAMU change of command ceremony. We extend hearty congratulations on a job well done to LTC Don A. King, Jr. and wish him success in all his future endeavors. LTC Bret A. Tecklenburg took command of the USAMU on June 24th, 2014. When you see LTC Tecklenburg at the reunion please join us in welcoming him to the extended USAMU family.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES:
ARTICLE III-MMA Bylaws**

A new membership dues rate was approved at the Annual Meeting, February 7, 2014. **Article III - MMA** Bylaws, Section 1. Annual Membership – Initial annual dues for all active members will be \$20.00. Subsequent annual dues will be \$15.00. Members may elect to pay dues in advance for multiple years at the current dues rate. When the annual membership of a member has expired and the member does not renew their annual membership dues by the following month then their membership will have lapsed. A member whose membership has lapsed must renew their membership at the initial annual dues rate of \$20.00.

Note: Your membership expiration date is shown on the first line of your mailing label.

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relationships with key partners. Our resources enable us to accomplish our mission. Routinely, we will consider how we can better use the resources we have. We are responsible for the effective use and stewardship of the things we are given from weapons and ammunition to money and ranges. Events we host and that we attend provide the opportunity for us to do what we exist for, representing, teaching, and developing.

The things we do are good for our nation. President Dwight Eisenhower stated, “I have only one yardstick by which I test every major problem - and that yardstick is: Is it good for America? “ The USAMU is good for shooting sports, for the U.S. Army and for America. Our ability to win national and international competitions provides our legitimacy for small arms proficiency making us better representatives for the Army, better marksmanship trainers, and improves our expertise for developing weapons and ammunition. Army Shooting is for the Army, and it is for the Nation.

TIDBITS

USAMU sweeps the NRA National Pistol Championships July 8-12

1st -SSG Patrick Franks 2649 / 147X
2nd - SFC James Henderson 2649 / 131X
3rd - SGT Greg Markowski 2640 /127X

USAMU also won the overall team championship with a score of 3495 / 152X.

Shotgun Shooters Medal at Munich World Cup June 9

Silver—SSG Glenn Eller
Bronze—SSG Jeff Holquin

USAMU sweeps the Interservice Pistol Championships

Individual Match - SSG Patrick Franks

Overall Team Championship - USAMU Team Blue (SSG Patrick Franks, SFC Michael Gasser, SGT Greg Markowski, SSG Jeffery Lewis)

Bruce Meredith receives award

Bruce Meredith, Past President and first Life Member of the MMA, was presented the International Shooting Sports Federation highest award, The President's Order with Diploma of Honor, at the World Cup Shooting event at Fort Benning in April 2014. The presentation was made by the ISSF President, Olegario Vazquez Rana of Mexico and Franz Schreiber, ISSF General Secretary of Germany. The award was for more than 50 years of competition, loyalty, devotion and outstanding contributions to the sport of competitive shooting. His first competitive events were the High Power Rifle Championships, Camp Perry, Ohio in 1958, and his last the USA Shooting Olympic Spring Selection Match at Fort Benning in 2010. Col Meredith is President's 100 in both rifle and pistol. He competed with the U.S. Army, the U.S., and U.S. Virgin Islands. At age 63, he was the oldest competitor in any sport at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He also competed in the Olympics in Seoul 1988, Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996, and coached in Athens in 2004. He is the only shooter distinguished in six disciplines – Rifle, Pistol, International, SB Rifle Prone, SB Rifle Position and Modern Crossbow.. He was invited as a VIP guest of the ISSF President to the 2010 World Championships in Germany. He has competed in 41 nations and traveled to 50 states and 102 nations. He has served on committees with the NRA, the ISSF and the CMP.



Olegario Vasquez Rana congratulates Bruce Meredith on receiving The President's Order with Diploma of Honor.

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assignments.

To serve as the leader of the AMU is an exclusive opportunity for any officer who assumes battalion command for the first time, said Col. Brian Cavanaugh, commander of the Army Accessions Support Brigade and reviewing officer.

“The (AMU) is unique in both the value that it provides to the Army and in its organization and structure,” said Cavanaugh. “When you have the professional excellence of the people in the AMU you can achieve so much more than a counterpart with a large staff.”

King led the unit through both exciting and challenging times. Under his leadership the unit sent seven Soldiers to the London Olympics in 2012 and also saw the creation of the unit's Paralympic team. He also guided the unit through fiscal constraints in 2013, finding innovative ways to train and maintain the right balance of capabilities to sustain the unit's unique mission. Under his leadership, the unit raised marksmanship proficiency Army-wide and upheld its tradition in competition, including winning every Interservice individual and team championship, said Command Sgt. Maj. William Koller.

“It's really tough to leave this place because of the professionalism displayed every day by the Soldiers and civilians here,” King said. “They touch all aspects of the Army and are truly the best in the entire Department of Defense at what they do. It's tough to walk away from that, but I'll always remember the extraordinary people who make up this battalion and know our Army is better off because of this unit.”

USAMU is part of the U.S. Army Accessions Support Brigade, Army Marketing and Research Group and is tasked with enhancing the Army's recruiting effort, raising the standard of Army marksmanship and furthering small arms research and development to enhance the Army's overall combat readiness.

58th USAMU Anniversary

Reunion

October 16-18, 2014

Fort Benning, Georgia

Mark Your Calendars

Taps, Present Arms

MMA Life Member **CSM Martin R. Barreras**, 49, former USAMU Sergeant Major and a resident of Tucson, Arizona, died May 13, 2014 from wounds suffered on May 6th in Herat Province, Afghanistan.

LTC George R. Blair, Jr., 68, OIC of USAR National and International Pistol teams and a resident of Mount Airy, Maryland, passed away January 19, 2014.

MMA Life Member **SFC D. L. Crowell**, a USAMU Service Rifle competitor of the 1960 era passed away on July 4th, 2014.

SGT Donald J. Fulmer, 71, USAR Pistol Team member and a resident of Clarion, Pennsylvania, passed away March 6, 2014.

LTC Kless Gyzen, 88, a USAMU Service Rifle competitor and a resident of Waukegan, Illinois, passed away June 16, 2014.

LTC Charles T. "Tom" Haskell, Jr., 77, former USAMU Operations Officer and a resident of Columbus, Georgia, passed away April 17, 2014.

MMA Life Member **SFC Jack W. Maple**, 83, USAMU Pistol Gunsmith and a resident of Smiths Station, Alabama, passed away July 2, 2014.

MMA Life Member **SFC Earl L. Waterman, Jr.**, a USAMU Service Rifle competitor and a resident of Fort Mitchell, Alabama, passed away April 21, 2014.

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

