



MMA TIMES

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USAMU Changes Commanders

From The Bayonet



USAMU GETS NEW COMMANDER

LTC Dan Hodne receives the USAMU colors from COL John Fenzel, Accessions Support Brigade Commander, as SGM Tom Fuller and SPC Joe Hein look on.

LTC Daniel C. Hodne assumed command of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit from outgoing commander LTC Frank Muggeo in a change of command ceremony May 5th at Ceremony Hill across from Pool Range.

It's not Hodne's first time at Fort Benning. He completed Infantry Officer Basic Course, Jumpmaster School, the Bradley Commander Course, Ranger School and the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in the 90s.

"It's great to be back at Fort Benning and working on an Army post," the Special Forces officer said whose last assignment was at the Pentagon. There he served as an action officer in the Joint Staff Operational Plans and Joint Force Development Directorate and Deputy Directorate for Special Operations and Counterterrorism and was a strategist on the staff for the chairmen of the joint chiefs of staff. Hodne said he plans to continue the "progress and remarkable achievements" of USAMU. He said he has no plans to change any procedures that are in place as of now.

While under Muggeo's command, USAMU trained 6,000 Soldiers in marksmanship, earned 66 national titles, 19 interservice titles, two Olympic medals among many other achievements. USAMU broke six national records, three world cup titles and three Olympic records. USAMU Soldiers were the 2007 and 2008 International Best Sniper champions.

See **CEREMONY**, Page 5

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Dan Hodne



I am honored to command the USAMU, an extraordinary and distinctive unit – the “Home of Champions.” It is unique for its mission, its history and accomplishments, and most of all; it is unique for its remarkable people. I look forward to making continued and measurable progress on the efforts of the past commander, LTC Frank Muggeo. I wish him the best in his retirement.

It is also an honor and a privilege to be perhaps one of the newest members of the MMA. Thank you for all that you do in promoting military marksmanship and supporting the soldiers and civilians of the USAMU. I look forward to advancing our invaluable relationship.

One of my priorities for the USAMU is to more effectively share information with the broader Army, the public, and amongst ourselves. In the interest of information sharing, I would like to use this first report to pass on my command philosophy and vision for the USAMU.

My command philosophy is simple; the USAMU will always focus on *our mission*; *our people and their families*; and *making the Unit even better*. Each focus area is equal in priority.

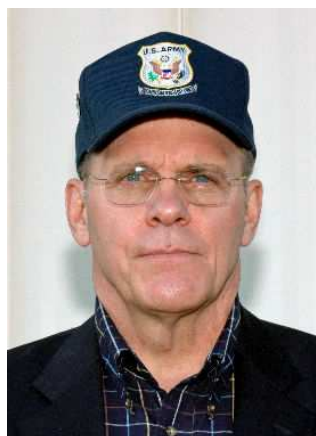
My vision for the Unit requires:

- The USAMU is always **ready** to perform its wide-ranging mission; from training, to research and development, to support for Army accessions.
- The USAMU is viewed by Soldiers, Leaders, and Unit Commanders as **relevant** for their marksmanship training and weapons research and development needs.
- The USAMU is **recognized** amongst America's people and on the World stage as the best shooters and most competent gunsmiths in the world. USAMU members serve as Army Ambassadors to connect America's people to America's Army.

Thanks again for your continued support of the goals and objectives of the USAMU. I look forward to advancing our efforts to make lasting contributions to our Army and build even further upon the USAMU's singularly distinctive accomplishments. ARMY STRONG!

MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



From the monsoons of spring to the sweltering heat of summer you've got to love the weather in West Central Georgia. I feel another very hot summer coming on!

USAMU Change of Command, 5 May 2009: All changes of command generally have two components: a farewell and a welcome. Farewell to LTC Frank Muggeo, who turned over the AMU reigns to

LTC Dan Hodne, Special Forces. We wish Frank “Good Luck” in whatever he decides to do in retirement. Sounds like foreign travel may be in his future; don't forget to keep your head down, Frank!

Welcome to LTC Dan Hodne, who is coming from the Pentagon via the Joint Staff J7 Directorate and J37 Deputy Directorate for Special Operations and Counterterrorism (see LTC Hodne's complete bio on the MMA web site <http://www.militarymarksmanship.org/usamucdr-hodne.htm>.) I know he's glad to be out of the DC area. Welcome LTC Hodne and family, MMA looks forward to working with you and all the soldiers and civilians of AMU.

Keeping in Touch and MMA Times Stories Wanted:

The MMA Times has published a number of stories about two of our unique members—Coats Brown and Frank Conway—and will continue to feature them in future issues recalling their tales of a bygone era. However, with a membership of nearly 600, I know there are many more fascinating stories to be told. We want your story, or the story of an event that was meaningful to you, or an event happening now. You don't have to be a professional writer—just put it in your own words (handwritten is OK—it need not be typed). Afraid of spelling or grammatical errors—don't worry we will run your input through a computer spelling checker. We would also like to “Keep in Touch” with you personally. For example, what are you doing in retirement, is there someone in your family you are very proud of and should be recognized, you reached a milestone (birthday or anniversary), or just a note to let us know how you are doing. Please mail your story or “Keeping in Touch” item to the MMA Times Editor or email it to him. editor@militarymarksmanship.org

MMA Executive Board Replacements: Although MMA elections do not take place until 2010, I would like to plant several seeds. Starting in 2011 we will need to

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive them.

Camp Perry: One Sunday, Coats walked to the closest church that he knew of; it was in LaCarne where he had disembarked the train. He went in the church and found out it was a Mennonite gathering. The men were dressed in black and wore beards. The women all wore a bonnet of sorts. Everyone was friendly. Coats was invited to several homes for Sunday dinner. He said they were great folks, but he did not accept their invitation to join them for a meal.

The dozen or so pistol shooters on the Infantry Team trained on the pistol ranges on the west end of Camp Perry at Hogans Alley. They traveled to matches in Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia hosted by Police Departments. Police officers dominated pistol competition at the time. They were assigned to a tent by the team adjutant. They were purposely intermingled with rifle team members. They lived in the same tents and ate in the team mess with the rifle team members. It was a team, some team members shot rifle, some shot pistol. Two members of 4th Tank Company at Fort McClellan made the Infantry Team. Coats remembers Cpl. Tumblin making the team in 1937 and 1938. Coats thinks Joe Benner made the team for the first time in 1938. Some other fine pistol shooters that Coats remembers are; First Sergeant Hilderton from Fort Howard, MD, First Sergeant Sarmon from Fort Missoula, MT, Sergeant Okie Weinmeister from Fort Benning, and Captain Rau from Fort Benning. Coats heard later that Tumblin retired from the Army and became a deputy sheriff in Calhoun County, Alabama.

The Infantry Team was composed of a few Privates first class, Corporals and senior non-coms, but most were three striper sergeants. They were all teammates competing with each other for a chance to shoot on the Infantry Team in the national trophy team match. Rank did not matter. The top ten shooters would compete for the Infantry Team, regardless of stripes or pay grade. The senior sergeants were scattered among the tents, but, tent NCOIC's were not assigned. It was not an issue, nor required. All tent mates were teammates. Sergeant

Miller made the team for the first time out of the 34th Infantry and was assigned to the same tent as Coats. Miller was advised to draw a mosquito bar with his equipment, but didn't see a need for that. Mosquitoes were not a problem where he was assigned, back in Utah. Miller was eaten up by the Ohio mosquitoes that first night. His sheets were speckled with little blood spots and he drew a mosquito bar first chance the following morning. Coats remembers one fight in the tent area. It was a Friday night card game. Two people argued during a game of hearts. Wagner, an Army shooter and boxer started by knocking his opponent through the screen door of the tent. Everyone heard the ruckus in the company street and it was soon over. The fighters shook hands and it was forgotten. Oscar Gallman was playing in the game and was assigned to that tent. In 1953 Oscar was the first enlisted man assigned as Head Coach of the U.S. Military Academy, Cadet Rifle Team. BG Throckmorton was Commandant of Cadets at the time and arranged the assignment. Throckmorton had been a member of the Infantry Team in the late 1930's and shot on the winning rifle team in the national trophy match in 1938 and 1939. General Throckmorton also assigned Joe Benner as the first enlisted Head Coach of the Academy Pistol Team in 1953. Coats Brown remembers the term "Buck Sergeant" starting around 1940.

PRESIDENT / From Page 2

fill the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Membership, Refreshment Coordinator, and MMA Times Editor. Virtually every position needs another hard charging replacement in order to keep our organization prosperous and to continue supporting the USAMU mission. I will continue on for another two years as the immediate past president after my current term expires, but we will need volunteers to step forward to fill some very large shoes. Some of the officers have been around a very looooooong time and desire to turn the organization over to a "younger" generation. Hopefully, we can get replacements from the immediate area to assist with this changeover. We all owe it to our organization to find hard charging replacements. You all volunteered once, let's stick up your hand again!

New MMA Life Members: I would like to recognize our newest MMA Life members: SFC Eric Daniels and SSG James Henderson--both of Service Pistol. Thanks for your commitment and dedication to our association. Hooah!

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

SFC Andrew N. Jackson, 93, a Service Pistol Shooter, died March 12, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1960, SFC Jackson won the National Trophy Individual Pistol Match (Custer Trophy) with a score of 294-12x, was a member of the winning National Trophy Team, and was a member of the USA team in the Mayleigh Cup International Pistol Match. He was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1960.

SFC James L. "Jim" Tuck, a Service Rifle Shooter, died March 17, 2009 in Punta Gorda, Florida. Jim was an airborne infantry soldier and served in the 82nd Airborne Division, the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, the 11th Airborne Division, and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He served in combat with the 2nd ID during the Korean War and in Vietnam as a sniper with the 9th ID. Jim was assigned to USAMU in the late 1950's to the mid 1960's where he excelled as an Infantry Trophy team member. Jim was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1958.

SFC Franklin J. Dodd, a Service Pistol Shooter, died March 28, 2009 in Columbus, Georgia. Frank was a member of the Third Army Pistol Team and was later assigned to USAMU from 1975 to 1978 as an instructor in the S3 Training Section.

Mrs. Mozelle C. Dunn, 81, an MMA Member, died April 29, 2009 in Columbus, Georgia. Mozelle was the wife of USAMU Service Rifle Shooter MAJ (Ret) Alfred D. Dunn. Mrs. Dunn was active in volunteer activities at Fort Benning and was once recognized as the Fort Benning Volunteer of the Year. She also taught calligraphy at Columbus State University.

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

I am going back in time to the early 50's to tell about some of the shooting done in our area at that time. The Las Cruces Rifle and Pistol Club was going strong. We had an outstanding range to 1000 yards with pits having cement walls and staircases. One time with a couple of big sand storms it filled up level full and we had to shovel it out! The location was out Juniper Street. The big dirt days has covered it all up. We held the High Power Rifle State Championships there and also our portion of the Coronado Cup. The Coronado was fired all over the state on three pre-designated consecutive weekends. Two or more clubs got together to shoot the course of fire. It was in two phases, ten shots standing and ten shots rapid fire sitting at 200 yards and twenty shots at 600 yards. One phase to be fired on our club's range and the second on the other clubs range. With the permission of the State Association Secretary, the whole course could be fired on our club's range and on the same day. So at times four or five clubs fired together. There was not a team championship, only individual. The first year I fired it I was number 82 of 83 competitors! I had what was called a "left hand stack" with my Model 54 Winchester heavy barrel and saved three rounds in rapid fire. At this time in history the NRA Match rifle had to be caliber 30-06, weigh not more than 10 ½ pounds and have at least a 3 pound trigger pull. The next year I won it! I fired a record 197, which, as far as I know still stood when the match sort of died out. I won the State High Power Championship in 1953 shot in Clovis and our Las Cruces Team won both the four man and two man (VanNoy and I) team matches! Some names that you old timers will remember and you young 'uns may have heard of, were Jess Williams, Ben Shook, Chalmer Alfrey, Jim Flanagan, Bob Meyers, Burl Ledbetter, Col Charles Petrie, Don Law and myself. The State Association was held together by two people for many years and they should have been given more recognition than they got. They were R.H. Hedgcock of Ruidoso and Frank Sorelle of Fort Sumner. If it had not been for these two men, there would not have been a New Mexico Rifle and Pistol Association. Frank added this anecdote. The range was a 1046-acre tract of land that was just north of and parallel to Juniper Street. The concrete lined pits were just below where the dirt dam is today. The 200-yard line was west, about where I-25 runs today and the 300, 600 and 1000-yard lines continued west towards Salano. The three club members who paid a total of \$34 in taxes during the war were eventually awarded title to the land after a ten year court battle.

Keeping In Touch



Frank B. Conway, age 90, sets the example for retired AMU members! He still shoots pistol every Tuesday with the Picacho Gun Club in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The target in the picture is timed fire at 25 yards. He has won the club match the last five times and has shot a club record of 886x900. Frank won the Wimbledon Cup in 1955 and 1956 and was the AMU Ordnance Officer from 1966 to 1970.

CEREMONY/ From Page 1

"Muggeo's relentless pursuit of excellence has truly made an enduring and indelible mark and he has set a very high standard," said COL John Fenzel III, commander of the Accessions Support Brigade and reviewing officer of the ceremony. "He led the way to USAMU's best year competitively in its long history. Muggeo was instrumental in the effort to improve and recast the way we train basic rifle marksmanship in our Army and that effort continues at Fort Benning."

Muggeo was first enlisted in Connecticut Army National Guard as an Infantry Scout in 1983 and after graduating college in 1987, he was commissioned as a 2LT in field artillery. His career includes commander of A-Detachment in 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, program manager for special operation counterproliferation and tours in Haiti, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Iraq. The last assignment of his Army career was at USAMU. Muggeo's retirement ceremony was held prior to the change of command.



Columbus Pistol/Gunsmith Group Dinner: About 30 local Columbus area retired pistol shooters and gunsmiths meet monthly at the Bavarian Haus restaurant for fellowship and great German meals. Service Rifle retirees meet every three months at various locations. If you are in the Columbus area and would like to attend either one of these group dinners, please e-mail the MMA Secretary and he will link you to the respective group coordinator for more information (time, date, and location). secretary@militarymarksmanship.org

NEW LIFE MEMBERS!

Eric G. Daniels
James M. Henderson

Welcome New Members !

Herbert Delong III
Dennis M. Morgenstern
Daniel C. Hodne

MEMBERSHIP 2008-2009

