



# MMA TIMES

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## 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 proud of what this Unit does for our Army's combat readiness, both in supporting Army recruiting and accessions and supporting the warfighter. Our wide-ranging mission makes us an asset to our Army. In a time when budget and personnel cuts are on the horizon, being viewed in such a light by Senior Army Leaders is extremely important. I will ensure that the USAMU continues to be adaptable, innovative, and resourceful 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.

It should be no surprise that Defense Department decisions regarding budget and personnel are inevitable. Many of you may remember the sweeping reductions that followed Operation DESERT STORM. Historical trends, since the first budget submission by the Department of Defense (DoD) in 1948, show that defense spending is cyclic with the reduction of resources following the end of major conflicts. The recent Secretary of Defense Efficiencies Initiative directs the reprioritization of DoD resources to more effectively support and sustain the force and the warfighter. Department of the Army fiscal guidance calls for revitalizing home station training and finding innovative means of reducing costs. This direction places the USAMU in a great position as I anticipate requests for marksmanship training will continue to increase as commanders from across the force view this unit as a cost-effective means of obtaining the highest quality of marksmanship training.

The SecDef Efficiencies initiative spurred the recent Secretary of the Army decision to inactivate US Army Accessions Command by September 30, 2012. The Accessions Support Brigade (our higher HQ) will remain intact. This unit will remain intact. Our mission remains the same. In nearly 55 years, the USAMU has either changed names or had its higher HQ changed at least seven times. Many of you have served in the USAMU during one or more of these changes. You have learned that change is constant; while organizational changes are on the horizon, you have always shown and we will continue to show our Army that we can execute our mission in a manner and with a flair that only this unit can. However, assessments from the Total Army Analysis are still ongoing. My intent is to continue to ensure that the USAMU continues to be viewed by Senior Army Leaders as relevant and essential.

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## MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Summer is upon us! We have been cheering on the Soldiers of the USAMU as they move through the competitive season this year. As you read this, the World Cup season will be coming to a close. Interservice and National Championships will be underway or right around the corner. As I write this the "Best Ranger" competition recently ended here at Fort

Benning. "America's Pastime" (that's baseball for you service rifle shooters) is underway once again. There's lots of competition going on. I thought I'd reflect for a moment on the value of competition. General Douglas MacArthur, while superintendent of the United States Military Academy from 1919 to 1922 was quoted saying, "Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that upon other fields, on other days, will bear the fruits of victory." It was deemed worthy enough to merit engraving the quote on the entrance to the gymnasium.

Competition hones skills. Competition enables assessment. It provides a way to measure performance against a standard or against an opponent, and competition is no stranger to the military. We are all familiar with military shooting competitions of course. One of my favorite quotes on the topic is from President Theodore Roosevelt's statement to Congress in 1903, *"The great body of our citizens shoot less as time goes on. We should encourage rifle practice among schoolboys, and indeed among all classes, as well as in the military services by every means in our power. Thus, and not otherwise, may we be able to assist in preserving peace in the world...the first step – in the direction of preparation to avert war if possible, and to be fit for war if it should come – is to teach men to shoot!"*

Competitive venues are used in other military training areas as well. Tankers jumped on the bandwagon about fifty years ago. International tank gunnery competition has changed over the years since the first Canadian Army Trophy (CAT) competition in 1963. CAT was a tank gunnery competition established to foster excellence among NATO countries with armored formations. The end of the cold war and Desert Storm marked the end of CAT, but the

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The ongoing Total Army Analysis aims to review, prioritize, and adjust all military requirements and Department of the Army civilian requirements to determine the right size and composition of the generating force, of which USAMU is a part. The Total Army Analysis also includes a review of each Command's mission, function, and personnel authorizations. Lower priority missions may be divested. Simply put, USAMU must be viewed by Senior Army leaders as mission critical and/or mission essential; units viewed only as mission enhancing may not be deemed relevant in a constrained budgetary environment.

The Unit's efforts to achieve the highest levels of accuracy and precision in national and international competition directly contribute to our development of the latest small arms innovations and proliferation of effective marksmanship training, both of which ultimately serve to raise the Army's overall combat readiness. To that end, now more than ever, USAMU Soldiers must be more versatile in all aspects of the unit's wide ranging mission. As our Unit's end strength is relatively small when evaluated against our mission requirements, and based on the new and increased standards for the Army semi-centralized promotion system, any Soldier's singular focus on competitive shooting is not in the best interest of the Soldier or the Unit. The new Army semi-centralized promotion system guidance is designed to support an expeditionary Army, emphasizing the importance of Soldier skills and invaluable experiences gained while serving on combat deployments. The USAMU has deployed its sixth marksmanship training team (Tm 11-2) to Afghanistan. Our Soldiers are steadily gaining these invaluable and broadening experiences and are making a profound and positive impact on our Afghan National Army counterparts. Already from my last report, our concept proposal for the creation of an Afghan National Army Marksmanship Training Unit (sound familiar?) is due to be approved this month!

Senior Defense and Army leaders anticipate that resources and defense funding will continue to decrease; therefore, USAMU's effort to raise the Army's marksmanship proficiency and support the Army's precision small-arms research and development initiatives will be of increasing importance. Meeting the greater demand for marksmanship training from both operating and generating forces will help the Army meet the continuing demands of a

## 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.*

Coats remembers looking up CPL Heath and the rest of his old squad mates to say goodbye when he left for the Infantry Team in the Spring of 1940. He never heard of Corporal Heath again. Coats wrote Sergeant Gadluski a letter using the Fort McClellan address after transferring out. His letter was forwarded to Hawaii and Gadluski answered. Coats learned that Gad had requested transfer to Hawaii and the Army had honored his request. Coats never heard from Gad again.

Six officers and five non commissioned officers taught Army ROTC subjects and supervised training of the students at UT, Knoxville. The University of Tennessee was a land grant university which required all male students who were physically able to take ROTC for two years. It was a Infantry and Engineer Branch school. Graduates of the program were commissioned as Infantry and Engineer officers in the Army. A civilian employee who was also the school bandmaster took care of administrative matters, supply and uniform issue and cadet records. Coats went to work at 8:00 AM and returned home at 6:00 PM on most days. Coats taught a few subjects and passed on his shooting knowledge. The University of Tennessee Army ROTC Rifle Team practiced on some weekdays starting around 3:00 PM. The indoor range was in the basement and is remembered for having inadequate ventilation. Matches and some practice sessions were conducted on Saturday. Coats remembers competing with several other land grant colleges from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Rifle Teams did not usually travel to compete those days. Postal matches were conducted. Each team shot on a given day on their home range and mailed the results to each other. The Professor of Military Science, usually a full colonel, certified these results. There was a need for Coats penmanship here also. Coats made several scrolls and certificates of appre-

ciation for cadre and cadets during his tour of duty at Knoxville.

Coats experienced one ROTC summer camp during his tenure at Knoxville. A one-month summer camp was held at the military college, Clemson, SC in 1941. Cadets from several schools attended. Approximately 100 enlisted and 20 officers were assigned as cadre. Colonel Poole, the Clemson PMS was the camp commandant. All the dormitories were filled with cadets and cadre, with a large overflow group living in tents. Modern hot showers were available in the dorms. The cadre erected pyramid tents prior to the cadet's arrival. Each tent held 6 people without crowding. A folding canvas cot, two blankets and a grass floor offered adequate comfort. The cadets were kept very busy learning basic military skills, firing on the rifle range, plus day and night field problems. A Post Exchange was available to cadets and cadre. A cold coca cola or cherry cola cost 5¢, plus 5¢ for the returnable bottle.

Coats corresponded with some of his old friends at Fort McClellan and learned what was happening with the officers and men that he knew. The huge expansion of the Army in 1941 created rapid promotion opportunity for the officers and enlisted men. In 1941, Coats Brown's old Headquarters Company Commander from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, Major Drake, was promoted to Brigadier General. First Sergeant Johnson from K Company was promoted to full Colonel. Coats corresponded with Kirby, Mahan and Orton through notes in Christmas cards they exchanged for a few years. He lost track of Mahan in 1943. In the summer of 1951 he heard from Kirby's sister that Major Kirby had died from the wounds he sustained during the battle of Saipan.

### Welcome!

#### New LIFE Members

Jack W. Maple      John A. Britton

#### New MMA Member

Herman J. Kuhl, Jr.

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nation at war and beyond. Providing relevant and responsive support to warfighter requirements is a critical part of this Unit's implementation of DoD and Army guidance. All USAMU Soldiers will contribute to this effort.

My discussion of the Secretary of Defense Efficiencies Initiative, the Secretary of the Army decision regarding US Army Accessions Command, and the Total Army Analysis is not intended to paint a dire picture. It serves to encourage the MMA that the USAMU is very aware of the constrained budgetary environment and has been taking steps to ensure that we adapt accordingly to meet the Army's needs. We continue to head in the right direction and continue to add to the extraordinary history of this very unique Unit.

Speaking of making history, since my last report, the USAMU hosted the largest US Army Small Arms Championships (the ALL ARMY) in 18 years. 301 Soldiers and cadets from across the force received training and put their training to the test in a variety of rifle and pistol matches conducted throughout that week. We, alongside USA Shooting, also hosted the largest international shooting sports event to ever take place in North America – International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup USA 2011. This year's World Cup proceeded very smoothly as a result of the hard work of all involved. While the Rifle and Pistol World Cup will not come back to the United States next year prior to the 2012 Olympic Games, the Secretary General of the ISSF asked USAS and USAMU to consider hosting a Rifle and Pistol World Cup for 2013. Further, the ISSF Technical Delegate cited World Cup USA 2011 as the "best ISSF World Cup ever organized in the US, so far." Although USAMU Soldiers did not make it to the medal podium during this World Cup; I am extremely proud of how they represented their country and the US Army. They are preparing for this month's World Cup for Rifle and Pistol in Munich, Germany. The road to the 2012 Olympic Games continues.

Elsewhere, our World Cup performances continue to show why we are known as the "Home of Champions." USAMU shooters performed exceptionally well during the WORLD CUP in Sydney, Australia. Frontrunner in the bid for an individual 2012 Olympic berth in Men's Double Trap, SSG Richmond (Shotgun) earned the Silver medal. SSG Richmond's consistent medal-winning performances place him even further out in front for that coveted Olympic slot. We anticipate that USA Shooting will make an announcement of SSG Richmond's nomination to the US Olympic Committee for his

individual spot on the 2012 US Olympic Team. Meanwhile, SFC Uptagrafft (International Rifle) earned a Silver medal in Men's Rifle Prone. His performance earned an Olympic country quota slot in that event for the United States in 2012. SFC Uptagrafft earned another Silver Medal in Men's Prone during the 2011 ISSF World Cup in Korea. As SSG Richmond, SFC Uptagrafft's performance in this world-class competition has earned him enough points for an individual position on the 2012 Olympic Team and the announcement of his official nomination to the US Olympic Team is likely.

USAMU Paralympic NCOs from our groundbreaking Paralympic Section represented the USA during the largest International Paralympic Committee World Cup in Alicante, Spain. SFC Josh Olson and SGT Kisha Makerney have each earned minimum qualifying scores (MQS), giving the US Paralympic program a tremendous boost for earning slots for London in 2012. For the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, some slots will be awarded based on the number of MQS' a country has.

Our Service Pistol and Rifle Sections have dominated regional competition thus far and have set National records while doing so. They are in great shape heading to the Interservice Championships and National Matches for each discipline. Our Action Shooting Section emerged as Champions of two divisions of the US Practical Shooting Association Alabama Sectional. SGT Lee Dimaculangan won the "Production" title and SGT Daniel Horner took the "Limited" title. Stay tuned, it looks as though 2011 may be another banner year for showcasing our Army.

In supporting the warfighter, we continue to be a resource to units throughout the force. Of note, USAMU sent an MTT to provide marksmanship training to 2d Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis in order to help them prepare to deploy. 2/75 reported that they were completely satisfied with the training. Coincidentally, USAMU was invited to and participated in the 75th Ranger Regiment's Regimental Marksmanship Instructor Course Program Development Conference. USAMU will continue to be a resource to that unit in the continued development of this important instructor course. The 75th RGR RGT views USAMU involvement as essential to bringing credibility to this new program; which is great news for us.

The peak of our competition season is upon us, which provides us with ample opportunity to connect our Army to America's people and show that we are Champions. We also continue to look forward in an effort to always make the Unit even better and raise our Army's overall combat readiness. **ARMY STRONG!**

## An "At Ease" Story Nugget

**LTC (Ret) Weldon "Mike" Griggs** found another shooting related "nugget" in a book by Dwight David Eisenhower.

General Dwight David Eisenhower had a number of titles during his life. Among them were football half-back, father, Supreme Allied Commander, Chief of Staff, President of Columbia University, President of the United States, and rifle team captain. Eisenhower wrote about his rifle team captain experience in his 1967 book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*.

In 1919, Colonel George S. Patton, a polo player and pistol shooter, was stationed at Camp Meade, Maryland, with Eisenhower. They both worked on developing a new and better doctrine for the Tank Corps. They used trial and error and testing of alternatives to train and experiment. During this period "Ike" remembered:

"Word arrived that the rifle matches at Camp Perry were to be resumed, now that the war was over, and the Tank Corps would be allowed to send a team. As a new organization we were placed in the lowest classification. This was fine with us. We had a number of first-rate marksmen at Meade and we'd make a splendid showing in the C Class. We set up rigid training, with incessant practice, eliminated cigarettes and drinking, limited the amount of coffee of man could have during the day. For competitive purposes, we established two teams. George did not like this form of rifle support as he was a non-shooting captain of one team while I captained the other. We debated every hole in the targets, shouting out claims of which shot had touched the black, etc.

Morale was elaborately high. Then we got an order from the War Department that there would be no Tank Corps team. The Corps was to be only a branch of the Infantry.

Ultimately, we learned not to regret long practice sessions. There was no trip to Camp Perry but it had been good training for many soldiers and from our enlisted group certain fine non-commissioned officers emerged. These men became excellent instructors."

Note: When the defense legislation of 1920 was passed, the Tank Corps was abolished and was made part of Infantry.

## PRESIDENT / From Page 2

concept of competition in warrior skills lives on. This year was the 28<sup>th</sup> Best Ranger Competition. That great event continues to grow and gain an audience. I can't help but ponder the second order affects of other nations, including our adversaries, looking on the Best Ranger Competition and seeing how well prepared our Army is. During the 1994 CISM competition in Switzerland, I was squadded between a service member from Iran and one from Syria. I kicked their butts that day; big time, and they probably remember it. A growth area in military competition is in something called "combatives", or hand to hand fighting. The Army has recently begun hosting an Army Combative Championship.

Of course, combining military training and competition isn't really new. The ancient Olympics featured wrestling, athletics, and rudimentary weapon events such as javelin and discus. Modern Olympic events still feature many events with military backgrounds or linkage: Pentathlon, Judo, Wrestling, Biathlon, Equestrian, and of course shooting.

Let's keep cheering for our Soldiers in competition, and keep praying for our Soldiers who have put down their competition tools to pick up combat weapons in the defense of our nation and our way of life.

All ready on the firing line!

## TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

**LTC (Retired) Charles E. "Chuck" Orr, Jr.,** died February 20, 2011.

Charles was drafted in 1952 and commissioned after attending Infantry OCS in 1953. After a tour in Korea, he was assigned in 1954 to the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii where he began competitive shooting. He was a member of a 1955 USARPAC Rifle Team and was selected to shoot with the "All" Army Rifle Team that won the 1955 Infantry Trophy Match at Camp Perry, Ohio. He also was a member of the USARPAC Rifle Team the following year and was subsequently assigned to the AMU in 1956. He shot on the Army's record setting 1957 National Trophy Rifle Team. After leaving AMU in 1959, he attended Airborne "Jump" School and was assigned to the Second Infantry Division where he commanded Company A, 701st Ordnance Battalion.

Charles earned a master's degree from American University, became an African foreign area specialist, and had assignments in Rhodesia and Ethiopia. Other assignments included logistics staff positions in CONUS and in 1969 he commanded the 2nd Maintenance Battalion in Phu Bai, Vietnam. After a Defense Intelligence Agency assignment in September 1972, he returned to AMU and was assigned as the Custom Gun Shop Officer. He retired in June 1973 and then spent 22 years as a businessman in Scottsdale, Arizona.

During his military career, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge, and the Presidents Hundred Tab.



## TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

**LTC (Retired) Francis B. "Frank" Conway**, 92, a resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico died April 25, 2011.

Answering the call to duty in World War II, he joined the U.S. Army the day after Pearl Harbor and was assigned to the Small Arms Repair Section, Company C, 130th Maintenance Battalion, 8th Armored Division. He served in that organization throughout World War II seeing action in Normandy, France; Battle of the Bulge, Alsace, Belgium; Germany; and Czechoslovakia until the division was deactivated in November 1945.

After World War II, he had tours with missile and ordnance organizations in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, and White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico.

As a Master Sergeant, he joined the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in 1956. He was commissioned as a Captain in the Ordnance Corps by the Army Chief of Staff in 1957, and served as the Commander of the U.S. Army Europe Marksmanship Unit in Grafenwöhr, Germany from 1963 to 1966, and as the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Ordnance Shop Officer from 1966 to 1970. After tours in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Korea; Germany; and Fort Benning, Georgia, he retired with 29 years of service on October 1, 1970.

Shooting was his passion, and 1950 was the beginning of his reign in high power rifle shooting. His victories include the Infantry Center Rifle Championships, Third Army Rifle Championships,

Coast Guard Cup, Member Trophy, Marine Corps Cup, and Wimbledon Cup in 1955 and again 1956. Along the way, he also set several national and international shooting records. His passion continued through his 40 years of retirement, both as a shooter and as a gunsmith. He was the chief architect of the Butterfield Trail Shooting Range, Coach of the 1977 Bolivian National Rifle and Pistol teams, and he provided weapons displays and seminars at gun shows and at schools. He is the "father" of the XM-21 military sniper rifle and contributed to several technical shooting publications.

His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany), Good Conduct Medal with five loops, U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge, and the Presidents Hundred Tab.

Frank was inducted into three halls of fame: the New Mexico Shooting Sports Hall of Fame, the United States Army Marksmanship Unit Hall of Fame, and the NRA Legion of Honor. He was a life member of the Military Marksmanship Association.

**Patricia L Mueller** died on May 9, 2011 in Columbus, Georgia. Patricia was the wife of MMA member MAJ (Retired) Tommy R. Mueller, former OIC of both Service Pistol and Service Rifle teams.

