



# MMA TIMES

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## USAMU Soldiers Off and Running in 2010

USAMU PAO



**Gold!** - Specialist Joe Hein (center) stands proudly on the winners podium after receiving the Gold Medal in the 50 Meter Rifle Prone Match at the 2010 World Cup in China. Sergeant First Class Eric Uptagrafft stands to his left, having won the Bronze Medal.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit picked up where they left off their successful 2009 competitive shooting season with wins all over the globe the past two weeks.

At the China World Cup, Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski led the American contingent of shooters by winning not one but two gold medals at the games. He started things off Apr. 19 when he won gold in the 50-meter Free Pistol match with a strong performance, then on the following day had to start from sixth place in the final round of the Men's 10m Air Pistol and climb to the top to win gold.

"I figured it was one of the other guys' matches to win so I just stayed calm and focused," Szarenski, a three-time Olympian, said. "I've been working hard and the training is paying off."

Fellow USAMU Soldier Spc. Joe Hein visited the podium as a first-time gold medal winner Apr. 20 after conquering the field in the Men's 50m Rifle Prone match. Fellow USAMU Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Eric Uptagrafft stood next to Hein on the podium after finishing in third place to win the bronze medal.

"You can't ask for anything more, unless it's three of us," Hein said. "It's great to stand up there with (Sgt. 1st Class) Uptagrafft."

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hadden wrapped things up for the U.S. team, claiming a bronze medal in Men's Trap during the event's last day.

While USAMU Soldiers were winning medals in Asia, the service teams competed in their first competitive matches of the season.

At the Florida Regional Pistol Championships in Jacksonville, Fla.,

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## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Dan Hodne



Just when I thought that 2010 couldn't get any better, it has. As I mentioned last month, we continue to add to the singularly distinctive history of this Unit in all areas of our mission. I am extremely proud of the tremendous accomplishments of all of our outstanding NCOs, Soldiers, and Civilians. It is no surprise that two of our Unit members were recognized by the com-

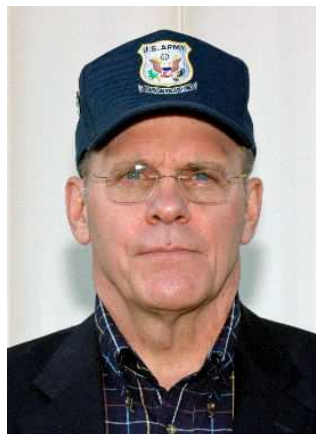
mand for their distinctive accomplishments. Mr. Gene Clark (Custom Firearms Shop) earned the title of Accessions Support Brigade Civilian of the Year and U.S. Army Accessions Command named SPC Sherri Gallagher (Service Rifle) as the USAAC Soldier of the Year! To the families, I am grateful for all of your support. I am also thankful for the support that the MMA provided to SPC Gallagher. Thank you!

The competition season has arrived once again and our Unit is well on track to surpass its impressive showcasing of Army Soldier skills from the recent years. At the completion of April's World Cup in Beijing, China, the USAMU medal count included three Gold and two Bronze medals. SFC Szarenski made history for American International Pistol shooting as he outperformed more than 60 of the world's top pistol competitors and earned two Gold Medals in Men's Free Pistol and 10M Air Pistol. No American pistol shooter has ever won two Gold medals in one World Cup. In the same World Cup program, SPC Hein took the Gold in Men's 50M Prone while SFC Uptagrafft won the Bronze. SSG Hadden earned a Bronze medal in International Trap. CPL Holguin earned a Bronze medal in recent World Cup competition as well. Each of the medalists have earned points towards a position on the US Olympic team.

The 2010 ISSF WORLD CUP USA came to Fort Benning and it has been a tremendous success. SFC Parker took the Silver in 3 Position Rifle, which was an incredible accomplishment considering he returned from Afghanistan just two months prior. SFC Uptagrafft out-shot all but one to take Silver in 50m Rifle and SFC Szarenski continued his medal-winning streak as he won the Silver in 50m Free Pistol. The USAMU, with the outstanding help of USA Shooting and the ISSF, put on a truly world-class event. WORLD CUP USA will come to

## MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



Now that the cold weather has gone, we are well into a hot steamy spring/early summer. AHHH! That's more like it. The hotter...the better!

### USAMU/MMA Reunion

**2010:** Our reunion planning remains on track and the execution dates of 14-16 October 2010 are locked. Initial registration begins on 14 October in conjunction with the USAMU "Open House" and culminat-

ing with individual section dinners. USAMU Open House, range firing and final reunion registration continues on 15 October. We will then conduct a MMA General Membership meeting and finish the afternoon with a hamburger/hotdog welcome picnic. Activities on 16 October include: Section Hall of Fame inductions, USAMU Hall of Fame induction, newly renovated Shotgun Round House dedication and finishing with the chicken and ribs barbecue. We will continue to offer our own "stimulus package," with the welcome picnic and barbeque FREE of charge to all CURRENT MMA Members. Non-members will pay \$15 for their meals. The USAMU store will provide hats, pins, T-shirts and other items for sale during this event. Official reunion registration packets will be mailed out in late July/ early August which will allow time for your positive response. Hope to see you'all there!

**MMA Executive Board Replacements:** As I have written in the past, we need to replace virtually every position on the MMA Executive Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, MMA Times publisher, membership, and refreshment coordinator. 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 my last tour as the "last past president" 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 but, we're willing to try "out of state" officers. We all owe it to our organization to find hard charging replacements. You all volunteered once, let's stick up your hand again!!

## 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.*

In April of 1938, the infantry team assembled at Fort Benning. It was traditional for the old shooters and coaches to gather at Fort Benning and the 5 or 6 new shooters to report directly to Erie Ordnance Depot. The old shooters and coaches could decline training at Fort Benning and stay with their units if they desired and some did this. The team trained on Fiske Range which was located on Dixie Road near Lawson Field. They would practice until late May, then report to Erie Ordnance Depot in early June. Railroad tickets were issued to people needing transportation. Mileage was paid to car owners and passengers who drove to Camp Perry. The team remained at Camp Perry until the middle of September. Released team members would report back to their assigned units. Coats Brown shot as a member of the Infantry Team again in 1938. It was a pretty good year. He won the Indiana Governors Trophy Match. A major match that attracted the better teams. Held at Frankfort, near Indianapolis, the match was sponsored by the Indiana National Guard. The Guard would host military teams, putting them up in a barracks with folding cots and offering three squares a day during the week long match. The range had 20 firing points. The Marines, Cavalry, Engineers and Infantry teams, along with numerous civilian shooters competed in the Governors Match. McBride, a shooting hero of "A Rifleman Went to War" fame lived in Indianapolis and attended the match. Despite being sick with appendicitis at the national matches, Coats was next in line to be an Infantry Team alternate. That placed him as 13<sup>th</sup> man on the Infantry Squad. Corporal Murkley started shooting for the Infantry Team in 1938. Coats helped Murkley with his shooting and they became friends. They talked while walking a five-mile course for exercise following the evening meal. Coats remembers one officer who worked with the pistol team. Charles Leonard had represented the United States in the 1936 Olympics, Berlin, Germany. Coats was asked to make a sign for the team. He painted a 2' X 3' sign – "INFANTRY RIFLE AND PISTOL TEAM".

The sign was placed at the end of the Company Street between the two rows of tents.

Almost all Army units in the mid to late 1930s continued to operate way under strength, as skeleton crews. The 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the only infantry regiment in the Army to be at war strength at the time. The 29<sup>th</sup> had three up to strength battalions and was stationed at Fort Benning in the first cuartel, the most eastward cuartel. The center cuartel housed Special Troops, Engineers, 66<sup>th</sup> Tank, a Chemical unit, and the Infantry School Detachment. The westward cuartel was the last to be built and housed two units. A battalion of the black 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment lived on the south side and the 83<sup>rd</sup> horse drawn field artillery lived on the north side of the cuartel. A 31 May 1933 photograph of one cuartel displayed in the Fort Benning Department of Public Works building is annotated "Barracks 3". A person of influence later added the Spanish term "cuartel". Lt Col Omar N. Bradley was Superintendent of the Infantry School at the time. Lt Col Bradley would visit the Infantry Rifle Team on McAndrew range. He would chat with Major Easley, Captain Maertens, the other officers and the enlisted team members. He and his driver, M/Sgt Costello modified his military vehicle. They stripped the Model A Ford down to frame, power train and two seats, and added balloon tires. They drove all over Fort Benning to garrison locations and field training sites. They were recognized instantly and were well known to the men of Fort Benning. M/Sgt Costello is credited with setting out oak trees all over the Fort Benning reservation. Omar Bradley would later become a five star General and Chief of Staff of the Army. Coats was one of several members of the Infantry Rifle Team to ride in a Christie Tank on a test run. Major Easley arranged these rides for his shooters through the Infantry Test Board. The tank ride was fast, rough and quite an experience but Coats preferred walking.

### USAMU

54th Reunion

Hall of Fame Induction

October 14-16, 2010

Fort Benning, Georgia

Be There!

Registration information and more details will be mailed soon and is on the MMA website

**COMMANDER** / From Page 2

Fort Benning again next year. We will be proud and honored to host another World Cup.

We are reaching new levels in our increasingly important outreach role as well. I am happy to announce that the hard work of our International Rifle team through their Junior, High School, and support to collegiate programs paid off immensely. The NCAA approved our bid with Columbus State University to co-host the 2011 NCAA Rifle Championships. We are committed to making this Championship match program an “experience” unlike any other and will leverage the capabilities from the Fort Benning’s Maneuver Center of Excellence in order to do so.

We have also have retained the honor of hosting the annual NRA Intercollegiate Pistol Club Championship. We are very close to securing our bid to host the NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship. Our Facebook page fan base continues to grow exponentially. If you haven’t seen it yet, please check it out. It is a great way to stay connected to what is going on in the Unit.

The USAMU is going to expand. We have found an innovative way to enhance the Army’s ability to support the Warfighter through marksmanship training and demonstrate the notion on “Army Strong” in support of our support to recruiting. This way is through a primarily untapped resource – our Wounded Warriors. Our Commanding General has approved our request to hire Wounded Veterans to serve as marksmanship instructors and also hire those eligible for Paralympic Competition into our ranks. These Soldiers will form two new Sections, an Instructor Group and a Paralympic Section.

The incorporation of this select group of Army Wounded Warriors and their families will start happening soon. During the recent inaugural DoD Warrior Games at the Olympic Training Center, three wounded veterans particularly exemplified the warrior ethos and possess the traits that we are looking for in Soldiers and NCOs of this prestigious Unit. They will be offered an assignment here. We have also advertised the opportunity for our Wounded Warriors and are also working closely with the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, US Army Special Forces Command, and the Warrior Transition Command to find the ideal candidates.

The USAMU has a proud tradition of providing the U.S. Army with its precision long-range small-arms weapons. In the recent Maneuver Center of Excellence Rifle Configuration Study, the USAMU-built M4 SDMR outperformed all other weapons to be unanimously selected as the top system after testing. More to follow, but this weapon from the Custom Firearms Shop just may become another Army program. The Custom Firearms

Shop continues to provide this Unit and the Army with a unique, tremendous, and invaluable capability in terms of small arms research and development.

USAMU's deployed team continues to make a profound positive impact on the ANA marksmanship training mission. They recently completed split-team operations and took advantage of all available opportunities to proliferate effective marksmanship training for our Afghan counterparts. One element rotated through various Remote Basic Warrior Training Sites (RBWTs) to conduct marksmanship training. The USAMU Custom Firearms Shop gunsmith trained ANA armorers at these locations in the appropriate level of maintenance and how to identify issues that must be submitted to a higher level. The second element trained ANA Drill Sergeant School cadre in a similar fashion to our BRM Instructor Course. They also provided marksmanship train-the-trainer instruction for US trainers of the ANA Officer Candidate School. Just recently, we deployed another two Unit members. One will provide an additional Operations NCO capability while the second will provide train-the-trainer classes in pistol marksmanship for the very first Afghan National Army Female Officer Candidate School. This NCO is the very first female NCO or Soldier from the Unit to deploy to a combat theater of operations and this endeavor by the ANA is also the first of its kind. We are again making history. Please keep all of our deployed Unit members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

We continue to look forward in an effort to always make the Unit even better. ARMY STRONG!

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## Say What?

SGM Barreras gave an update to the MMA Board at the last meeting. He related the great work being done by the AMU team in Iraq, teaching their soldiers marksmanship. How about this for a hoot? The AMU soldiers were on the range teaching rifle marksmanship to a group of the local new recruits, most of who just got off the camel or donkey. They were zeroing at a known range. The instructors went down range to check and change targets. When the instructor came back to the firing line, he checked the soldier's sight settings and saw that the elevation knob had been raised to the upper limit. The instructor told the shooter to not touch the sight setting. They shot again and when the instructor returned from down range, the sights were raised to the upper limit, again. The instructor called over the interpreter and told him to ask the soldier why he is cranking the knob all the way up. The response from the soldier was that he wanted to adjust to FULL POWER!

**SOLDIERS** / From Page 1

the members of the service pistol team continued their recent domination in service pistol competition. Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson, the reigning National Pistol Champion, blitzed the field to win the overall individual aggregate championship, fending off teammate Staff Sgt. Robert Park, the second-ranked service pistol shooter in the country.

USAMU swept the field in the team matches. USAMU Blue won the .22-caliber, center fire and .45-cal. matches, while USAMU Gray won the service team match.

In Donaldsville, La., the service rifle team competed in the Bayou State Regional Rifle championships. Sgt. Tyrel Cooper won the 800 point individual aggregate championship with a score of 788-35x. He was followed by teammates Sgt. 1st Class Lance Dement in second with a 787-30x and Staff Sgt. Brandon Green in third with a 783-29x. Sgt. 1st Class David Steinbach won the Excellence in Competition match and USAMU Craig won the four-man team match.

The teams continue to train in preparation for the National Championships slated for later this summer.

**PRESIDENT** / From Page 2

NOTE: We will approach DA Civilians and military to assist in this effort. How much time is involved? We generally conduct monthly 1 hour meetings and our annual meeting of approx 2 hrs. The heavy lifters are the Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership plus the MMA Times editor producing 4 newsletters per year. We need your HELP!!

**New MMA Life Members:** I would like to recognize our newest MMA Life members: Joe Berry (our 100<sup>th</sup> Life Member mentioned in a separate article); Al Sylvia Procter; Phil Miranda; William Lange; USAMU SGM, SGM Martin R. Barreras (way to go SGM); and our most recent life member, Bob Yanagibashi. Thanks to all for your commitment and dedication to your association. HOOAH!!

**USAMU Hall of Fame Ballot:** Hall of fame ballots will go out in a separate mailing. Once received, request you immediately sit down and VOTE your choice and return your ballot to USAMU ASAP! DO NOT DELAY! Early tabulation is important to prepare appropriate plaques.

Thanks for your help.

## USAMU 54th Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction October 14-16, 2010

### WELCOME!

#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Joseph B. Berry  
Al Sylvia Procter  
Martin R. Barreras  
Bob H. Yanagibashi  
William H. Lange  
Phillip S. Miranda III

#### New MMA Members

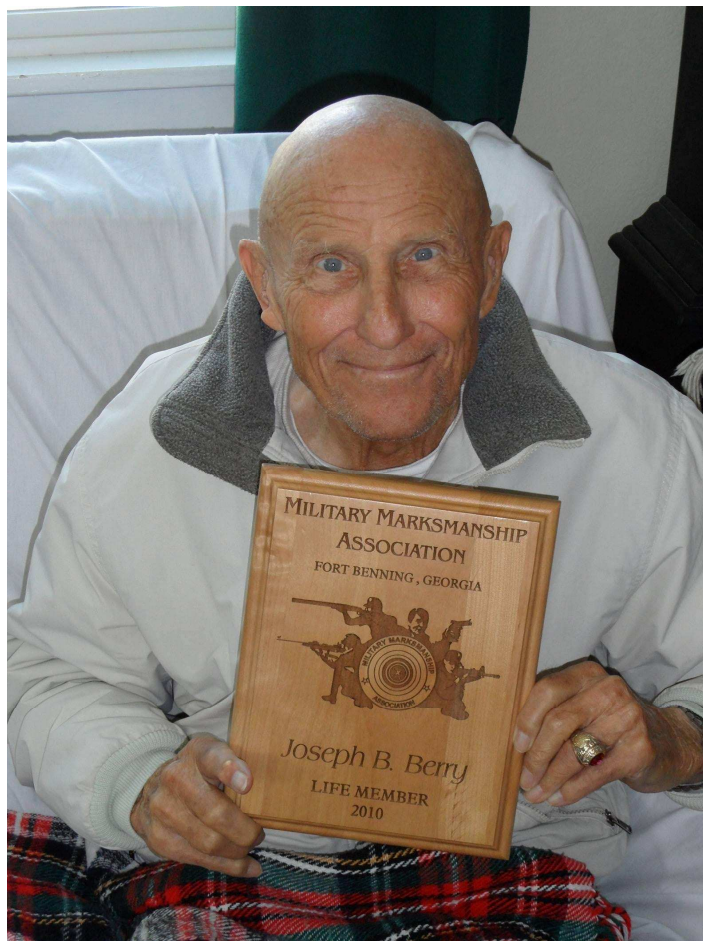
Martin R. Barreras  
Dennis E. Ellis  
John P. Harris, Jr.  
Jerry L. Franklin

### Keeping in Touch Items Wanted:

We would 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. You don't have to be a professional writer--just put it in your own words (handwritten is OK--it need not be typed--if you mail it to us). Are you afraid of spelling or grammatical errors? Don't worry, we will run your input through a computer spelling checker. Please mail your "Keeping in Touch" item to the MMA Times Editor (use the return address of this newsletter) or email it to [editor@militarymarksmanship.org](mailto:editor@militarymarksmanship.org)

## 100 MMA Life Members

Congratulations to Joe Berry on becoming the 100th MMA Life Member. Joe was presented his plaque by MMA Member, Allan Ewing. Joe is a veteran of WWII, having served as a Platoon Leader and Infantry Company Commander with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in Italy. He was also an Infantry Company commander with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division during the Korean War. Joe is a Distinguished Rifleman, President's Hundred and All Army champion. He served as the Director of Civilian Marksmanship and coordinator for Army Reserve Teams for years. Joe was Team Captain of the United States Shooting Team to the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Now 87 years of age, he is just taking it easy at his home in the State of Washington. Members like Joe make the MMA a strong and proud organization.



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