



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 52025, Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2025  
www.militarymarksmanship.org

June 2012

Issue Number LXXII

## What's Inside

MMA President's Report  
.....Page 2

USAMU Commander's Report  
.....Page 2

Coats Brown Legacy  
.....Page 3

New LIFE Members  
.....Page 4

Taps, Present Arms  
.....Page 5

Shoulder Patch Contest  
.....Page 6

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## USAMU champion embraces view from the top

USAMU PAO



SSG Daniel Horner, USAMU, prepares to complete a stage during the 2012 United States Practical Shooting Association Multi-gun National Championship in Las Vegas in April.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — In showcasing the U.S. Army and the very best of Army Soldier skills, Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit are expected to win regardless of the competition around them. Since joining the unit in 2006, Staff Sgt. Daniel Horner has embodied that notion and worn it on his sleeve.

Horner is a member of the unit's Action Shooting team and in the sport of Multi-gun shooting there is Horner and then there is everybody else. Horner recently won his fourth consecutive United States Practical Shooting Association Multi-gun National Championship in Las Vegas and his fifth overall.

"A champion expects to win every match," said Horner. "A winner goes to compete and see how it turns out. Sometimes he wins, sometimes he doesn't. A champion goes to a match and tells everybody to start engraving the trophy, because it's mine."

Shooting was in Horner's blood from the very beginning, being handed a hunting rifle by his father at the age of six and competing in his first action pistol match at the age of 12. The Suffolk, Va. native saw the sport of Multi-gun shooting taking off and gave it a try.

"I went out to a match with some friends and it was a lot more fun than straight pistol competition," he said "We saw it as a very fast-growing sport so we kind of envisioned it as the best way to go for the future."

He won a few pistol championships and some of the bigger multi-gun matches around the country. Then in 2006 Horner enlisted in the Army and became

## 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 extremely proud of what this Unit does for our Army's combat readiness, both in supporting Army recruiting and accessions and supporting the warfighter. With the Change of Command on 20 June rapidly drawing closer, this report will be my

last. As this unit's 19<sup>th</sup> Commander, I am proud to have been a part of the unique tradition that makes up the USAMU and have done my best to ensure that this unit will always stand as adaptable, innovative, and resourceful in the manner in which it accomplishes our wide-ranging mission. With a great team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, backed by the MMA, we will continue to be well postured to meet the needs of our Army. I believe that the best, brightest, and most successful days still lie yet ahead.

It's official! Our remarkable unit continues to make US Army history. Since my last MMA Times report, the Secretary of the Army approved the historic expansion of the USAMU for the incorporation of two new Sections, both comprised of Soldiers who are wounded and/or injured, yet are deemed able to continue to serve on active duty by a medical review board. These sections are a Paralympic Section and a Marksmanship Instructor Group. They will give our unit increased capabilities to showcase our Army and raise Army marksmanship proficiency towards to end of raising Army combat readiness. Chief of Staff of the Army endorsement and Secretary of the Army approval of our ground-breaking initiative demonstrate the confidence that our senior Army leaders have in our unit and our expanding influence and recognition within the Army based on the tremendous work of our entire team. In an era of force reduction and fiscal austerity, our unit's historic expansion carries even more significance. Building for the future will always be one of the most important things we will always continue to focus on. We will also always continue to look forward in an effort to constantly strive to make the Unit even better and raise our Army's overall combat readiness.

I have more good news to share... the Department of the Army and The Institute of Heraldry have approved our request to develop and design a distinctive shoulder

## MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



I am happy to announce the dates of the USAMU Reunion to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the founding of the U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit. The dates are 18-20 October 2012.

**Registration:** A reunion packet will be mailed mid-August to each active member. The packet will contain a joint USAMU/MMA Letter of Invitation, a Schedule of Events,

Billeting Information, and a Reunion Registration Form. All of the items in the packet will be posted on the MMA web site in case your membership had lapsed and you were not included in the mailing.

There is no cost or registration fee for active MMA members to attend this reunion, *BUT you must pre-register to take advantage of this membership perk!* Said another way, as an active member you get two meals and beverages for the cost of a first class stamp to mail back your Registration Form. However, your Registration Form must be received at Fort Benning *not later than Monday, October 8, 2012*. Members who do not pre-register will be charged the full \$15.00 registration fee upon arrival. The registration fee for non-members, spouses, and guests is \$15.00 per person.

The outline of events is arrival and registration on Thursday, October 18th. Later that evening you are invited to meet and dine (Dutch Treat) with the assigned members of the various sections (Service Rifle, Service Pistol, International Rifle, International Pistol, Action Shooting, and Shop) at separate section dinners. Location and directions to the dinners will be available at the in-processing registration.

Friday, October 19th, there will be a USAMU Open House with a weapons display in the Custom Gun Shop, range firing, and an afternoon welcome picnic in the Pecan Grove. We will also hold a General Membership Meeting to conduct some routine business and elect MMA Officers.

On Saturday, October 20th, the morning will be open time. I highly recommend that you visit the new National Infantry Museum. This year the museum will feature a display of USAMU in the Olympics. There will be memorabilia from several members of the unit that have participated in various Olympic games.

At 1:00 pm, we start at the restored historic Shotgun

## 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.**

1942 Fort Jackson, South Carolina: At least one member of the range cadre would escort the trainee's back to garrison for lunch. The trainees would be released to pick up their mess kits from their tents. Everyone used a mess kit for chow. There always seemed to be a line of people waiting to get in the messhall. The mess hall was a wood structure not quite large enough to hold everyone. The lucky ones found a seat at a table. The overflow dispersed outside to eat. Washing one's own mess kit was a ritual performed after every meal, preceded of course by a line. Mess kit washing lines were formed outside of the messhall. Each line consisted of four 36-gallon GI cans in a row. The first can accepted edible garbage. The last three cans held hot water and immersion heaters. Food residue was scrubbed from the mess kit using a brush in the first can of medium hot water. Food debris had to be skimmed off the top of this can of water every few minutes. The mess kit was then dipped and rinsed in both of the remaining cans where the hot water was kept at a rolling boil. There was a standing order that everyone, new and old soldiers would take part in marksmanship training. Some trainees did not understand the term "aim", and most did not know what a sight picture was. The course of fire was prone, sitting and standing on silhouette targets at 200 yards. When a trainee could zero his rifle and group to the required mediocre shooting standards, he was declared eligible for shipment. If a trainee could not function at all, or could not shoot, or was extremely clumsy, these facts were reported to Captain Carter. Marginal individuals were evaluated for possible 4F status and exclusion from service. Coats does not remember any obvious slackers attempting to dupe the Army into an early release. The range crew usually shot seven days a week. Coats remembers Fort Jackson as busy like a stirred up anthill. Fortunately a semblance of order prevailed. After several months, the various committees learned what was expected of them and the instructional efforts became much better organized. Coats remembers hearing that Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer were just like Fort Jackson – madhouses. Coats considers himself fortunate to have been a calm, laid back person. A high strung individual would've had a tough time as cadre at Fort Jackson those days. Coats usually remains calm except when someone tries to put something over on him, or tries to get away with something, or treats a subordinate unfairly. Sgt Brown worked hard, was worn to a frazzle and had earned some time off. Mary Brown visited Coats at Fort Jackson while son Vic stayed with his

grandparents in Plymouth, Ohio. He took a one-week leave and they visited Charleston. Hotels were crowded, but they found a nice clean room with private bath at a medium grade hotel. They ate lobster and enjoyed sight-seeing. They walked and traveled by bus. They enjoyed the beautiful antebellum homes and churches of Charleston. They also saw the downtown area and the museum. Wearing of the uniform was mandatory those days. Coats was proud to wear the uniform and the distinguished badge pinned to his left pocket flap. The people of Charleston treated Mary and Coats very well and they enjoyed their visit. Military personnel were treated especially well during the war years.

### CHAMPION / From Page 1 \_\_\_\_\_

a member of the USAMU.

"The whole lifestyle at the unit is positive," Horner said. "The resources here make it much easier and the team helps me more than anything. They watch me and I can compete against top-quality shooters on a daily basis instead of going out and shooting by myself not really knowing how I did."

A year after joining the Army, Horner won the first of his five national titles. In fact, he has won the title every year since enlisting except for one year when he didn't compete due to the demanding Army Soldier of the Year process after winning TRADOC Soldier of the Year.

"Our champions are Soldiers first and members of the U.S. Army, the greatest team on Earth," said Lt. Col. Dan Hodne, USAMU commander. "Our Army expects our Soldiers to be the absolute best – always. Winning is what champions do, without having to be told to do so."

Excellence on the range has enabled Horner and his teammates to thrive when it comes to instructing other Soldiers in marksmanship proficiency. Soldiers from Special Forces, Ranger, and regular Army units repeatedly request the assistance of USAMU Soldiers prior to deploying to combat.

"I get a lot of satisfaction out of that," Horner said. "I really like teaching Soldiers and guys getting ready to deploy."

The fundamentals Horner uses in his sport--rapid fire engagement, engaging targets at varying distances, engaging moving targets, shooting in alternate positions and weapons manipulation—relate to the teaching points he uses to instruct other Soldiers.

"We don't tell them how to get to the target because they already know how to do that," Horner said. "Once they recognize the threat, we instruct them on how to engage it and neutralize it as quickly as possible, regardless of the distance."

**COMMANDER** / From Page 2 \_\_\_\_\_

sleeve insignia for our unit. We will use the same process that the Maneuver Center of Excellence followed when developing its new shoulder patch. We are looking for artistic talent in coming up with a suitable design! I believe that the MMA can help. We'll give the entire unit and MMA Officers the opportunity to vote on the recommendation(s) for submission to The Institute of Heraldry for approval. Naturally, any recommendation will have to meet the guidelines prescribed by The Institute of Heraldry. Please stay tuned for more information to follow regarding specific procedures, guidance, and timelines.

We continue to be actively engaged in shaping the way our Army trains our Soldiers in marksmanship, the key to combat readiness. The US Army's Combined Arms Center is leading the "Combat Shooter Strategy" which intends to improve the manner in which marksmanship training supports the Army Force Generation cycle and an expeditionary Army. The USAMU is a primary source and subject matter expert for this study. I have proposed to the Combined Arms Center that internal marksmanship training teams be created at Corps and Division level (using the MTUs as a guide, but being careful not to propose the creation of additional force structure in a constrained fiscal environment), known distance ranges be incorporated to a greater degree, and that these Corps and Division level cadre look to preparation for the US Army Small Arms Championships as a vehicle to enhance marksmanship proficiency and readiness...sound familiar? We are also leading the revision of several chapters of the Army's rifle marksmanship doctrine.

Our unit has deployed its tenth marksmanship training team to Afghanistan in support of our nation's overseas contingency operations. Our uninterrupted presence of a small, yet highly professional marksmanship training team since December of 2009 continues to make a lasting, positive impact on the marksmanship proficiency of indigenous, coalition, and US forces participating in Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan. Please keep our forward deployed unit members and their families in your thoughts and prayers and thank them when the opportunity presents itself, for their hard work under the flag of the United States of America.

In showcasing our Army in support of recruiting and accessions, our Soldiers stand ready to dominate the competition during the upcoming Interservice and National Matches. The USAMU contingent on the US National Team for the 2012 Olympic Games continues to grow. During the Olympic Trials for Shotgun in Tucson, Arizona, 2008 Olympic Gold Medalists SGT Eller and SGT Hancock led their disciplines and earned themselves nominations for another Olympic Games. USAMU NCOs will comprise half of the entire US National Shotgun Team and 75% of the Men's Shotgun team. SGT Eller (Men's Double Trap) and SGT Hancock (Men's

Skeet) will join fellow USAMU Soldiers SFC Uptagrafft (Men's 50m Prone) and SSG Richmond (Men's Double Trap) on the US National Team. SFC Olson, first active duty Soldier to ever be nominated for the Paralympic Games, will also compete in London this Summer. At the time of the release of this edition of the MMA Times, the USAMU will be in the midst of hosting the Olympic Trials for Rifle, Pistol, and Smallbore. This event will provide additional opportunities for our Soldiers to earn positions on the National Team.

Prior to some of these prestigious match programs and during the Interservice Pistol Championships at the USAMU, LTC Don A. King, Jr. will assume command as the 20<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer of the USAMU in a formal ceremony on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June on Ceremony Hill. I hope that local MMA members will be able to join us that morning at 0900. LTC King, a Special Forces Officer with extensive operational experience from Ranger and Special Forces assignments, will arrive to Fort Benning from his most recent assignment as the Director of the Human Dynamics Department, US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In this capacity, he was responsible for the assessment and selection programs and supporting learning and performance enhancement for various Army special operations forces. The Army has selected the right officer to continue the unit's forward and positive momentum.

I would like to thank the MMA for providing the traditional bullet plaques to departing unit members. The USAMU ran out of the supplies to make them and the MMA unhesitatingly stepped in to fill this gap.

In closing, I would like to thank the remarkable team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members from the US Army Marksmanship Unit and the Military Marksmanship Association for the dedication, support, and tireless efforts in accomplishing our wide-ranging mission, taking care of our people and families, and always making the unit even better. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009, I proudly, willingly, and without hesitation assumed command of this Army treasure – the US Army Marksmanship Unit; I will sadly relinquish command on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 2012. Having the opportunity to serve as the 19th Commander of this extraordinary unit made up of equally extraordinary people will always be one of the greatest experiences of my life. ARMY STRONG!

**Welcome!**  
**New LIFE Members**

Merriweather Jones  
Dennis P. Harris  
Kenneth M. Hamill

**PRESIDENT** / From Page 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Roundhouse for a Shotgun shooting demonstration then a combined Section Hall of Fame and USAMU Hall of Fame induction ceremony followed by a traditional chicken and ribs barbecue.

Check the website for schedules and other updates as we get closer to the reunion.

I urge you to start getting the word out to those you know who are not an association member and get them to join the MMA, and come be a part of this event.

I will provide more information in the September 2012 issue of the *MMA Times* about the reunion.

**A note about lodging:** The MMA cannot reserve blocks of rooms on-post; however, reservations are accepted by billeting 30 days in advance of your arrival. Also, the MMA cannot make reservations for you at local hotels as we are not staffed to make housing reservations.

The building boom is still ongoing in the northern part of Columbus. One such location is called Columbus Crossings. It is a mega-sized outdoor shopping mall with a number of franchise restaurants (Bonefish Grill, Red Lobster, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Olive Garden, Chillies, Cheddars, Fridays, Ruby Tuesdays, Smokey Bones, and more close by) and the building boom also includes new hotels in the general area. All of the hotels are close to Interstate 185, which leads into Fort Benning.

You can do an Internet search by entering **hotel + columbus, georgia** and you will be presented with a number of web sites that compare and list hotel/motels in Columbus and Phenix City. For example:

<http://hotel-guides.us/georgia/columbus-ga-hotels.html>

<http://www.metrotravelguide.com/hotels/Columbus/GA/USA/>

<http://www.visitcolumbusga.com>

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/hotels-motels/hotels/us-ga-columbus.html>

<http://www.hotels.com> then enter Columbus as the city on the opening screen.

Thus, you are on your own to make reservations as you wish. Wheel and deal for the best rate on your own.

**Georgia Welcome Center:** For those who are driving down from Atlanta on Interstate 185, there is a Georgia Welcome Center on the north side of Columbus just before you enter the city. A good place to stop and get a map and directions.

Remember, there is no cost for active members to attend this reunion, *BUT you must pre-register to take advantage of this membership perk!* Your Registration Form must be received at Fort Benning not later than Monday, October 8, 2012. Members who do not pre-register will be charged the full \$15.00 registration fee.

Finally, I would like to commend LTC Dan Hodne for a job well done as he transitions command of the USAMU to LTC Don King. Dan has commanded the unit through challenging times and as always, the unit has served the

Army and our nation admirably. Under Dan's watch the unit began and has sustained a forward presence in Afghanistan doing what it does best-train Soldiers. Dan supervised and oversaw the approval of the effort to expand the unit-an unprecedented accomplishment when most of the Army is getting smaller. We wish LTC Hodne good luck and God speed in his future endeavors. See you at the 56th Anniversary Reunion

**CHAMPION** / From Page 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Only 25-years-old, Horner finds himself as the old, wily veteran on a very young team. He was the first one from the team to volunteer for deployment to Afghanistan when the unit began sending cross-functional teams to teach marksmanship to Afghan Soldiers. As the standard bearer in the sport teammates look to him for guidance. Horner said he relishes their camaraderie and pushes them to be at their very best even if it means knocking him off his pedestal along the way.

"Spc. Tyler Payne won in West Virginia last year and is one of the very few people who have beaten me since 2007, and I was so happy for him," Horner said. "I always want to win, but if for some reason I get beat it better be by one of my teammates. I want them to win just as much as I want to win."

Besides his national championship, Horner has also dominated both 3Gun Nation Matches in 2012. There are still Soldiers to train. He wants to go to Ranger School and Airborne School in the near future. He and his wife Joanna may be ready to add to their family a few years down the road. But today he is poised to continue his superiority in the sport for years to come, vowing to compete "forever".

"I just simply love to win," he said. "I don't feel any pressure out there. This is too much fun. The Army has helped me mentally as much as physically and I will continue to go to matches expecting to take home that trophy every time."

**Taps, Present Arms**

**CPT Bobby G. Tubbs, Sr.**, 77, a USAMU Service Rifle and Running Target team member died Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Baptist Memorial Hospital-East in Memphis, Tennessee. He was a resident of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

**SFC Herbert L. Duncan**, 79, a USAMU Service Rifle shooter and resident of Phenix City, Alabama, died March 30, 2012.

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

**USAMU DISTINCTIVE SHOULDER PATCH CONTEST**

USAMU has requested and been granted the authority to design for wear (on the left shoulder) a Distinctive Shoulder patch (SSI). The original intent in the request to DA was to use the existing unit crest; however the new regulation states that if we use one design as the Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI) which is the historic and current USAMU crest, we cannot use the same artwork for the Shoulder Patch. USAMU is requesting ideas through July 15, 2012 for the USAMU SSI. At that time a committee will be established consisting of current USAMU members and the MMA Officers to review all suggestions. Upon review, up to 10 suggestions will be submitted to all USAMU members and the MMA Officers for their recommendation of what should go forward. The top ideas will be submitted to the USAMU Commander for his approval and submitted to Heraldry for their design and approval process. We are requesting all that have a history with the USAMU put pen to paper and design a patch that would best represent the USAMU through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Basic rules for designing an SSI are as follows:

- The designs should be simple and provide a bold visual identification of the USAMU.
- If a motto is used it must be in English and is limited to 26 characters (letters and spaces).
- Colors: No more than five colors will be used. The color of the overedge stitching is included in the color count.
- Symbols: A shoulder sleeve insignia cannot duplicate the symbols on the distinctive unit insignia. If you place symbols on the proposed SSI, the number of symbols is limited to four. Symbolic allusion to the present or past mission may be made; however modern weaponry, equipment or branch insignia will not be used. Historical weapons may be used if appropriate. Letters, words, or numerals will not be used except as a part of a historic badge or device which is used in its entirety. Outlining of symbols is to be avoided; however, if necessary it will be not less than 3/32 of an inch wide for manufacturing purposes.
- Shape: The shape of an SSI can be a shield, circle or disk, square, triangle, rectangle, or lozenge (diamond). Irregular shapes with indentations are not allowed.
- The subdued insignia for the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) are limited to two colors: Foliage Green and Black.

**NOTE:**

The history of the unit is not to be included in the design;

Along with your design you must explain what every item represents; I.E. the color blue as a background represents X. The symbol in the middle represents Y; The shape represents Z; etc.

Submissions may be sent via e-mail in files no larger than three megabytes to [Robert.Aylward@usaac.army.mil](mailto:Robert.Aylward@usaac.army.mil) or mailed as a hand drawn submission to USAMU ATTN: SSI; 5101 Bills Street, Ft. Benning GA 31905

The individual(s) who submit the shoulder sleeve insignia selected by USAMU SSI committee will receive a framed final patch.

Disclaimer: The Army will acquire ownership of all entries, and each submitter agrees that submission of a design constitutes (1) assignment to the Army of any and all rights in the design, including copyright, and (2) a disclaimer of any trademark rights. All entries become the property of the Army, and the Army will have the sole right, at its discretion, to alter or modify any submitted design. By submitting a design, the submitter warrants that the design is original; that it has not been previously published; and that it does not infringe upon the copyright of any other person or entity.

