



MMA TIMES

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MMA Names Soldier of the Year SFC Henderson has Historic Year

USAMU PAO



SOY Group:
MMA President Bob Hoidahl stands to the left of the 2009 Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year nominees. USAMU commander, LTC Dan Hodne stands to their right.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson, a service pistol shooter with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, was selected as the Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year for 2009. MMA president Col. (Ret.) Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr. made the announcement at the MMA Annual Membership Meeting January 29 at the Pool International Shooting Complex. Hoidahl presented the Soldier of the Year Award to Henderson - a .45 caliber pistol donated by the Smith and Wesson Corporation.

A Pasadena, Calif. native, Henderson became the first Soldier in 24 years to win the National Pistol Championship in 2009 at Camp Perry, OH. He won the National Trophy Pistol championship, the President's Pistol match, and the Interservice Service Pistol championship. He was a member of the first-place National Trophy Pistol Team, the first-place Interservice Service Pistol team, broke numerous national pistol shooting records and claimed countless other individual and team accolades in 2009. He was featured in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" section and got promoted over the course of the year—a very good year indeed.

"This is a great honor," Henderson said. "I have to thank the guys in the (custom firearms) shop. They help make this all possible. I have to thank my wife for all of her love and support.

"I couldn't have done it without the support of my team. They push me every day and if I mess up I know one of them will win the match. Being on this team and in this unit is the best job in the Army."

Henderson first served with the USAMU from 1991-1994 after tours at Fort Benning, Fort Sill and Korea. After a long stint in the Army Reserves, Henderson signed back up for active duty service and was assigned to the USAMU.

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USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Dan Hodne



It was great to see all of the MMA members present at our January Ball and during the MMA "Soldier of the Year" presentation. On behalf of all of the USAMU Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, the MMA has our sincere gratitude. Thank you for recording the rich history of this truly unique Unit that makes it so special. Thank you for supporting our events and publicly

recognizing our outstanding Soldiers. Most of all, thank you for all of your efforts to keep the USAMU family connected to one another. Our members, past and present, share a bond that only the most distinctive of units can enjoy.

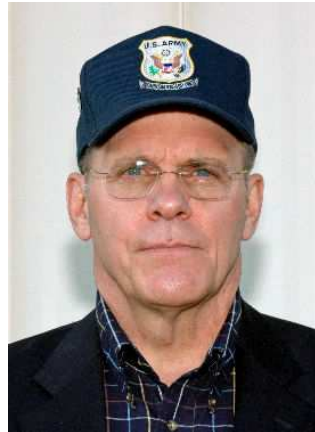
As I suspected, 2010 is shaping up to be another banner year for the Unit. With our Soldiers across the globe representing the US Army and the Nation, our Soldiers training others throughout the continental US and Afghanistan, and our Soldiers spearheading small-arms research and development, the USAMU is poised for another year for the history books. February's "All-Army" was just one indicator...

This year's U.S. Army Small Arms Championships ("All-Army") saw the largest field of competitors in 17 years, nearly twice as many from recent years.. The competitors had long days and Small Arms Firing School training went well into the evenings, but this ultimate train the trainer event for marksmanship will undoubtedly pay huge dividends for raising the overall combat readiness of our Army. We provided training materials for all who participated so they will have the tools to train their units. We will make a concerted effort to draw even more Soldiers to next year's All-Army. All of our Soldiers and Civilians who supported this event did a tremendous job. Only the USAMU can pull off such a match.

Meanwhile, halfway around the world, in the austere environment of eastern Afghanistan, the USAMU, in just three months, has made a profound impact on the way coalition forces will conduct marksmanship training for the Afghan National Army. I am extremely proud of our deployed Soldiers and the manner in which they are

MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



Spring can't come too soon as far as I'm concerned. This cold weather has got to STOP! Here it is March in Georgia and we're still getting snow flurries. I moved south for a reason, nice weather (or, so I thought).

USAMU Holiday Ball. The 3d Annual USAMU Ball was held at the new National Infantry Museum on January 14, 2010. All MMA participants enjoyed the warm atmosphere. Who says the Army traditions are lost?

2009 MMA "Soldier of the Year." Congratulations to SFC James Henderson, Service Pistol, for being recognized by MMA as the 2009 "Soldier of the Year." SFC Henderson received a Smith & Wesson M1911 45 cal pistol donated by the Smith & Wesson Corporation for his accomplishments. See SOY article on other page or at the www.militarymarksmanship.org web site.

MMA Annual Membership Meeting, 29 JAN 10. Following our "Soldier of the Year" presentation, I personally thanked ALL the Executive Board Officers: Ron Martere, Vice President; Red Mosely, Secretary; Sam Hunter, Treasurer; Dick Rebidue, Membership; Steve Goff, Historian; Carter Berry, Editor-MMA Times; Bruce Meredith, Past President; and Phil Cannella, Refreshments, for a job "Well Done" for the year of 2009. Without their untiring support of our organization, we would not exist! Another big, "Thanks Guys" for keeping our organization viable and prosperous. NOTE: The \$100 AAFES gift card was won by Rick Hawkins, Service Pistol Coach. Hooah Rick!

USAMU / MMA Reunion 2010. Mark your calendars for October 14-16, 2010 and plan on attending the 54th USAMU/MMA reunion. The format will be similar to other past reunions, low key and personable. Additional information about the reunion will be included in the June issue of the MMA Times. Registration packets will be mailed to members by the end of June and registration information will also be posted on the MMA web site at the same time.

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.

All units of the 22nd Infantry Regiment and some units of the 4th Infantry Division used the Fort McClellan ranges. The 6th Cavalry from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, near Chattanooga, TN was assigned to the 4th ID. Coats visited Fort Oglethorpe several times. He would live in their barracks and eat in their messhall while conducting marksmanship clinics. He developed several cavalrymen friends. They in turn would show off their horses and demonstrate cavalry tactics. Fort Oglethorpe had been built on the site of the civil war "Chickamauga" battlefield. The fort was named after James Oglethorpe, the British general who founded the colony of Georgia and became its first governor. Oglethorpe delivered settlers to Savannah in 1733. He conceived the colony as a haven for religious dissenters and insolvent debtors who had served time in British prisons. Fort Oglethorpe remained an active Army Post until 1947. Photos of that time show the Post surrounded by open fields and farms. The old stables are gone, but many of the original barracks and family quarters are still in use. These buildings still surround the bandstand, polo and parade fields. Coats remembers Fort Oglethorpe being 20 miles of lonely road south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The cities of Chattanooga, TN, Rossville, GA and Fort Oglethorpe, GA now blend into a single metropolis.

Regimental commanders of the 22nd Infantry that Coats remembers are COL Baltzel, LTC Jennings, COL Lang and COL Simon Buckner. Coats remembers two road marches from Fort McClellan to Fort Benning. The 127 mile road marches started on Monday morning at McClellan and ended at Benning on Friday afternoon. The troops humped their packs and individual weapons. Route step and forced marches tested everyone's endurance. Everyone made the trip and most walked the whole distance. Colonel Baltzel rode his horse during the trek in 1935. Colonel Simon B. Buckner walked with the main body during his command in 1938. There was a standing order on road marches to walk for 50 minutes and rest for 10 minutes. The men's calves would bulk up during the first 50 minutes walking. The first 10 minute break of each day was spent loosening the trouser laces and leggings. Some of the cooks rode on the chow truck. Sandwiches were provided for lunch each day. The night bivouac sites were pre-selected. A mess tent was erected when wet weather required it. The daily march ended

around 1800. A hot meal was served each night for supper. Two man pup tents were put up, dressed and aligned as much as the terrain allowed. Dog robber details pitched the larger officer's tents. Lister bags of water were hung and the troops were allowed some water for washing up out of their steel helmets, even through the webbing remained in the old helmets. Company slit trenches were dug on arrival day and covered up prior to movement each morning. A hot breakfast of bacon, scrambled eggs and bread was usually served each morning. Coats doesn't remember anyone falling out of these marches. A few people got blisters, which were treated by the walking medics during the 10-minute breaks. The shoes were of excellent quality and experienced soldiers wore shoes that were well broke in and didn't get blisters. On rare occasions, a soldier got sick from the heat and exertion and was forced to ride in the back of a truck until well enough to walk. The dirt roads of that time guaranteed a bumpy ride for everyone riding in a vehicle. Everyone on the road march, toughed it out. Even the oldest soldiers like Sgt Von Selle, Pop Simpson and Sgt Gadluski with his stiff leg walked the 127 miles. Young soldiers would gripe, but the old soldiers would laugh at their gripes. Gadluski would say to the complainers, "Get with it guys, get with it."

Keeping In Touch

MAJ Gary Chittester, CO of the 9th and 25th ID Sniper schools in the RVN era, USAMU Shotgun Shooter, 5th Army MTU Commander, and a Spanish translator for the Nashville Police Department sustained a life threatening brain injury along with other severe injuries in an accident back in December 2009. He floated in and out of consciousness for next month and a half before beginning a miraculous recovery in the middle of February. Gary is at home now! His wife, Claudia, wrote, in her e-mail updates about Gary's recovery progress, "Thanks to everyone for the support they have given [me] and my son Tebyn ... Now is time to tell ALL OF YOU A BIG THANKS for being part of Gary's recovery...."

Birthday Wishes: Happy 91st Birthday to: Frank B. Conway (February 7, 2010) and Forrest R. Smith (February 25, 2010).

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

MSG Harold J. Brown, 84, a Service Pistol shooter and 4th Army Gunsmith, died August 10, 2009. Harold served in WWII and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal for action in the Battle of the Bulge, Ardenes Forest, Belgium. He also served in the Korean War where he was awarded his second Purple Heart Medal. Harold was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1954.

SFC Gilberto A. Garcia, 78, a Service Rifle shooter, died December 11, 2009. Gilberto was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1962. He was a member of the MMA since 1998.

LTC Thomas D. Gillmore, 80, a Shotgun shooter, died July 2, 2008. Tom was drafted in 1946 and received a direct commission in 1951 during the Korean War. He was assigned to the USAMU from 1963 to 1964 as OIC of the Gunsmith Shop and from 1964 to 1970 as a shooter and OIC of the International Skeet and Trap Section. He represented USA as a competitor and team captain at numerous UIT competitions and served as a Juror at the Pan American Games, Olympic Games, and Shotgun World Championships. Tom was appointed to a committee established by President Ford to study amateur athletics and also assisted the U.S. Olympic Committee in the development of the shooting training program at the Colorado Springs Training Center. He was a member of the MMA since 1998.

COMMANDER / From Page 2

executing their mission. Their recommendations have been adopted by the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan Headquarters for implementation throughout all of the Basic Warrior Training Sites. In this manner, the USAMU is contributing to the President's national security policy with respect to Afghanistan. The sooner we can collectively build competent and capable indigenous security forces, the sooner US forces can redeploy. By the time this edition is published, our second marksmanship training team will have boots on the ground to continue this mission.

In international competition, USAMU Soldiers continue to showcase the very best of Army Soldier Skills. At the recent World Cup in Acapulco, Mexico, SSG Richmond took the Gold Medal in Men's Double Trap. His teammate SPC Holguin earned the Bronze Medal. This match program marked the first time that competitors could earn points towards a spot on the National Olympic Team for 2012. The World Cup venue will soon come to Fort Benning as well. We are extremely proud to host the World Cup at the USAMU Range Complex this May. We are well-prepared for this event and with our steady pace of upgrades, the USAMU will be prepared to host international matches with greater frequency. We have improved Pool Indoor Range by installing new lighting and converting our Sius Ascor target systems from 921 to 931 at 50 meters. We have added overhead cover on our upper trap field and our fourth trap bunker is fully operational. The Unit now has four international trap and four international skeet fields that are capable of supporting world-class events.

We recently hosted the NRA Intercollegiate Pistol Club Championship and the Junior Air Rifle National Championships, both are tremendous events that provide America's youth the opportunity to compete at the highest level and gain a little bit of exposure to our Army and our Soldiers. We are currently working very closely with Columbus State University to obtain approval from our offer to the Director of NCAA Competitions to host the 2011 NCAA Rifle Championships. I've also asked the President of the NRA for the distinct honor of hosting the NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championships in 2011. More to follow. We continue to look forward in an effort to always make the Unit even better. ARMY STRONG!

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

SOY / From Page 1 _____

Henderson has been awarded two Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, five Good Conduct Medals, Army Superior Unit Award, Distinguished Pistol Badge, President's Hundred Tab, and Accessions Support Brigade Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter, Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2007.



As it is for most years, Hoidahl said that it was extremely hard picking a winner among the finalists for the award. The MMA 2009 Soldier of the Year nominees were: Sgt. Daniel Horner from the Action Shooting team; Service Rifle shooter Spc. Sherri Gallagher; Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski from the International Pistol team; Sgt. Michael McPhail from the International Rifle team, Shotgun team member Sgt. Vincent Hancock; and from the Custom Firearms Shop, Spc. James Travillion.

WELCOME!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Clenoa L. Anthony
 Martin D. Edmondson
 Joe A. Deckert
 Robert M. Rains
 Michael Tipa

New MMA Members

Weldon J. Lackey
 Damon G. Baxter
 Kevin M. Heermann
 Michael M. Howard
 Emil Kovan
 Jason R. Sculthorpe
 Richard R. Bradley

PRESIDENT / From Page 2 _____

MMA Membership/Life Member Pins. Your Executive Board is considering several designs for Membership/Life Member pins. Our goal is to have the pins in place by the 54th Reunion. More to follow.

MSG (R) Marvin Warren, Service Rifle/IR needs our help. This past December 2009 MSG (R) Marvin Warren's granddaughter, Brianna Watkins, was severely attacked by a pit bull while she was in her back yard. The damage done to Brianna was significant and she spent a month in the hospital. She is now home with her grandparents who raise her, but is facing an uphill climb to regain a normal life. She has undergone numerous surgeries this past month and is facing dozens more over the next couple of years. While Tri-Care is covering most of the hospital bills, rehabilitation and other costs to Marvin and Polly are staggering. If you would like to help, the community has set up a fund to assist her. Simply send a check to the **SunTrust Bank, 1645 Bradley Park Drive, Columbus Georgia 31904** and make the check payable to the **Brianna Watkins Rehab Fund**. The account number is **1000106441479**. Any questions can be answered by SunTrust Bank at (706) 649-3725. Thank you for your consideration.

New MMA Life Members. I would like to recognize our newest MMA Life members: Clenoa L. Anthony, Martin D. Edmondson, Joe A. Deckert, Robert M. Rains, and Michael Tipa. Thanks to all for your commitment and dedication to your association. Hooah!

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

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

When I was assigned to White Sands Proving Ground in 1950, I was using a Weaver K-1 scope on my shotgun. I met John Van Noy that year and convinced him of the benefits of a shotgun scope. Some of us sergeants had built a skeet range and soon had quite a number of shooters. John had mounted a K-1 on a German drilling that had double 16 gauge barrels over an 8 X 57 R barrel. John had gone clean (no misses) for the first time on singles and was going into doubles. He was rather excited. He loaded and on the release of the birds, he only got a "click" on the right barrel! He opened up the gun and the right chamber was empty. He put in a shell and closed the breech. Just as he got ready to call for the birds, he thought better of it. He opened the gun, dumped out the shells and looked down the barrels. The right barrel had something in it, a lipstick sized lens brush he used to clean the lenses on his scope. That would have made a real mess of his drilling. He did miss one bird to wind up with a 24. Later, using the K-1, John won the state championships several times!

USAMU

54th Reunion

Hall of Fame Induction

October 14-16, 2010

Fort Benning, Georgia

Be There!

Registration information and more details will be in the next MMA Times and on the MMA website



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