



MMA TIMES

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Hook Range Round House Rededicated Ft Benning Icon is Revived

USAMU PAO

FORT BENNING --- A relic of an historic era on post was revived after persistent determination by a proud unit and generous contributions from those who understand the nostalgia of the old building.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit rededicated the USAMU Round House, commonly called the "Patton Round House" in association with Gen. George Patton's time at Ft. Benning, at a ceremony January 28th.

Originally built in 1938 on the unit's Hook Range, its purpose was to serve as a hunting lodge but soon became the Officers Club annex. The building of the Round House coincided with the designation of Hook Range as the post's skeet range. 2nd. Lt. Paul Tibbets attracted attention for his innovative method of using skeet training to teach aerial gunners to lead their targets at the range. Tibbets later attained the rank of brigadier general and piloted the Enola 1945, dropping the bomb on the Japa-Hiroshima.

It is also known that Generals Patton, Tibbets, Omar Bradley and Courtney Hodges all spent a significant amount of time on the range during the World War II era, and it is often visited by the adjacent Round House.



It has been said that the generals would place small wagers on shooting matches and then find refuge in the Round House afterwards. John Wayne used the building as a retreat while filming "The Green Berets" on post in 1967 and one scene of the film was shot on location at Hook Range.

In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower formed the USAMU to raise the overall marksmanship proficiency of the Army. By 1960, Hook Range and the Round House were home to the USAMU Shotgun team and it hosted the Olympic trials for marksmanship. Since that time, seven Olympic medalists, several World Champions and a slew of national champions have walked through the door of the Round House to shoot a game of pool or sit by the fireplace to relax after a match.

The wooden landmark has been beset by age and erosion the last several years and word got around that it was slated for demolition. Several former and current members of the USAMU made it their mission to ensure that the World War II artifact would survive and be better than before.

In a letter dated 1999, Tibbets wrote a letter describing the Round House as not just an old World War II building, but as "an icon to be preserved" because it

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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 also grateful for the time that I spent with some of you during the recent 2011 MMA Annual Meeting. Congratulations to SGT Sherri Gallagher for earning the distinct honor of being named MMA Soldier of the Year for 2010! As I mentioned

in my last report, 2010 stood out as the most accomplished year amongst the past three decades; SGT Gallagher's accomplishments (including ARMY SOLDIER of the YEAR) clearly stood out. However, it was areas that spanned well beyond the typical circumstances under which the Unit normally performed that deserve special recognition. In training warfighters through expanding our marksmanship training program, and in our sustained effort of training indigenous and coalition counterparts in overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan, our Unit made (and continues to make) a profound and lasting impact on the readiness of the Army's operating forces and those of our Allies.

I have submitted USAMU for consideration for the Army Superior Unit Award for its distinctive service and tremendous accomplishments in 2010. My rationale stemmed from a remarkable combination of the Unit's ability to showcase the best of Army Soldier skills in marksmanship competition, the Unit's demonstrated effectiveness in training warfighters through its wide-reaching marksmanship training program, ingenuity in developing the most capable precision small arms, and for the success we experienced while volunteering to significantly expand our marksmanship training programs and embark upon a sustained effort in a combat zone. Of note, USAMU's maintenance of a forward-deployed presence in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM amounts to the longest running continuous deployment of our personnel in the Unit's history. We have also proposed a concept for the creation of an Afghan National Army Marksmanship Training Unit (sound familiar?) and this initiative is quickly gaining momentum within the Combined Training Advisory Group – Afghanistan. Stay tuned for updates.

I know that MMA members will be glad to hear that the historic Roundhouse at Hook Range has been brought

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings and salutations members of the Military Marksmanship Association! It is a pleasure and an honor to take the helm of the MMA as President. It is also humbling to serve you and a challenge to live up to the diligent and faithful service of our former Presidents. I would like to salute our outgoing executive board members Ron Martere, Steve Goff, and Bruce Meredith, and

publicly thank them for their service. Bob Hoidahl is not really leaving the board, but moving from the President's office to the office of Immediate Past President. I look forward to his continued service and mentoring! If you missed the annual meeting, we welcomed onto the board Rick Hawkins (Vice President), Steve Young (Historian), and Kevin McMahon (Assistant Membership Chairman). They join your current stalwart executive board members Red Mosely, Sam Hunter, Dick Rebidue, Phil Cannella, Carter Berry and of course Bob Hoidahl. The continuity provided by the continuing board members is essential to the successful operation of this great organization. Without them we wouldn't be the organization we are: we wouldn't have permission to operate on Fort Benning, no reunions, no newsletters, no membership database, no balanced check book, and without them we wouldn't have the momentum to make our periodic meetings successful. Tell 'em thanks when you see them.

On February 4th we held our annual meeting at Pool Range. Thank you to the USAMU for hosting the annual meeting at Pool Indoor range. What a treat to use such a world class facility. Highlights of the annual meeting were the presentation of the Soldier of the Year award and installation of new members. Membership pins were debuted at the annual meeting and they look great. They were enclosed along with the 2011 MMA Membership Directory. Notably absent were the active duty Soldiers of the AMU currently in Afghanistan. We pray for a successful mission and their safe return.

Congratulations to SGT Sheri Gallagher for winning the Soldier of the Year honor. SGT Gallagher received a custom 1911 .45 ACP pistol from Smith and Wesson. I know you join me in thanking Smith and Wesson for providing such a fitting presentation firearm for the Soldier of the Year. We had a great slate of nominees this year, but SGT Gallagher really stood out as an exceptional Soldier

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 Brown was able to visit Mary during the summer of 1940. It was about 60 miles from Camp Perry to Mary's house in Plymouth, Ohio. Team member and friend George Wright from Fort Missoula, Montana owned a car. George would take Coats to visit the Munn family in Plymouth. They visited on Sunday once or twice a month. They returned to camp in early evening. They all shared a big Sunday dinner together. George got along fine with the Munn's. The parents of Mary had emigrated from England and were interesting to talk to. They lived in the village just a short walk from the Town Square. Coats and Mary sometimes walked to the drugstore on the square and had a milkshake. During the National Matches Coats was informed that he had been selected by the Professor of Military Science (PMS) at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville to teach weapons and marksmanship to the ROTC cadets. Coats proposed as soon as possible. He requested permission from Mr. and Mrs. Munn to wed their daughter. Coats also requested and received permission from Major Maertens to marry his sweetheart from Plymouth, Ohio. They were married after the National Matches in the Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Ohio. All the people of Plymouth were invited and they filled the church. M/Sgt Nelson and his wife took Coats to Plymouth and attended the wedding. Nelson was the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Infantry Regiment out of Fort Francis E. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Ray Orton of 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment had bought a used automobile in Port Clinton, Ohio and wanted Coats and Mary to ride south with him. Ray drove to Plymouth and Coats bought the gas as he and Mary rode to Knoxville with Ray.

The Army started getting bigger 1938-1940. Coats remembers approximately 50 men assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry in 1936. In 1940, Headquarters Company strength was approximately 70 men.

Coats regular pay in 1940 was \$40.00 per month. He was still assigned to the 22nd Regiment, but on the detached enlisted men's list (DEML) for duty at the University of Tennessee. DEML paid an extra \$118.00 per month, bringing Coats total income to \$158.00 a month. Coats and Mary bought a second hand Model A Ford in Knoxville. They found a small furnished apartment on the third floor with an elevator and set up house-

keeping. The apartment cost \$40.00 a month including utilities. Refrigerator, stove and cooking utensils were also furnished. Linens and curtains were not provided. His wife turned out to be thrifty and a good homemaker. She bought fabric; hand sewed the curtains and hung them up. They bought linens, and later on added a radio and a few other items. Her cooking skills were good to begin with and kept getting better as time went on. Mary had been taught by her mother to can food, cook and bake. She had baked cakes and sold them while in high school. She made pastry and home made bread on a regular basis. Mary's chocolate pie was the best Coats ever had. Everyone close to the Brown family knew that Mary's chocolate pie was the best to be had. Mary fixed up their apartment, cleaned and prepared their meals. They sent their dirty clothes to a commercial laundry for a few months until they bought a new Thor brand wringer washing machine. Coats had owned an electric iron, so they saved their laundry expenses.

HOUSE / From Page 1

"projects a strong nostalgic memory and image" for those who spent time there during the World War II era.

The building survived the chopping block thanks to the charity of a friend of the USAMU family. Prosser Mellon and the Mellon Foundation stepped in and made a significant monetary contribution to the Army with the intent of restoring the Round House.

Mellon is friends with Staff Sgt. Josh Richmond, a shotgun shooter for the USAMU. The two were introduced by a mutual friend, John Hamilton, Mellon's son-in-law, and they immediately struck up a rapport. Mellon was an invited guest of the unit one day a few years ago and after touring the custom firearms shop and the pistol range, he descended upon Hook Range to do some skeet shooting.

"Walking up to the skeet line he saw this building, unmaintained, and asked about it since it didn't really fit into the landscape with everything else so clean and in-shape," Richmond recalled. "He asked me the story behind this building, so I briefly told its history, about all of the famous and influential generals who used it, and went back to shooting.

"Prior to him leaving for the day, his wife Sandy Mellon came over and said that she needed to get some information on who to get in touch with—Prosser wants to redo that house. Basically it started there over night and we are where we are today."

After several months of construction, a few words, a ribbon cutting and "first shot" ceremony reopened the building Friday morning. From this point on, the Patton Round House is once again ready to host social gatherings, shotgun matches, and maybe even a few more of those "unofficial" officers meetings.

COMMANDER / From Page 2

back to life. At the end of January 2011 we held a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate its reactivation. The Roundhouse saw use by Generals Bradley, Hodges, Patton, Schwarzkopf, and Tibbets. In addition to having our Commanding General present, Mr. and Mrs. Prosser Mellon and members of the Mellon family were in attendance. The ceremony served as a fitting tribute to the enormous generosity of Mr. Prosser Mellon, whose charitable donation approved by the Secretary of the Army enabled this "icon to be preserved" (according to Brigadier General Tibbets, pilot the the Enola Gay) to be brought back to life. This event also served to connect a piece of Army heritage to America's people as an article that preceded the reactivation ceremony was widely picked up by the Associated Press. Four television stations and additional newspaper reporters covered this historic ceremony. During the evening of that same day, the USAMU 4th Annual Ball provided another outstanding venue to share in the camaraderie, pride, and enjoyment in spending the evening with special company that makes up our USAMU family. LTG Freakley and his wife were our Guests of Honor. The unit, our families, and our guests benefitted from the CG's insightful remarks.

Immediately prior to the 28 January Ribbon-Cutting ceremony, LTG Freakley presented awards to participants of the USAMU/Warrior Transition Command Paralympic Clinic that was designed to help wounded veterans in the process of their recovery and prepare them for the 2nd Annual DOD Warrior Games. This event will build upon the success of last year's inaugural DOD Warrior Games and will take place in May 2011 at the Olympic Training Center. Nearly two dozen Soldiers participated in a clinic run by the USAMU Paralympic Section and supported by the International Rifle and International Pistol Sections. USAMU's Personnel Concept Plan to obtain permanent authorizations for a Paralympic Section and an Instructor Group, both made up of wounded veterans assessed by a medical evaluation board as "continue on active duty," is now at HQDA for staffing.

To demonstrate success of this Paralympic initiative for wounded veterans deemed fit to continue to serve on active duty, I sought the help of the World Class Athlete Program and recently stood up USAMU's groundbreaking Paralympic Section. I am proud to say that in its very first competition as a Section, it resoundingly demonstrated "a Strength like no other." SGT Kisha Makerney, who arrived to the Unit merely three months ago, trained intensely and earned the Gold Medal at the Rocky Mountain Rifle Championship at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado, Springs. Her achievement amongst experienced international rifle shooters earned her a position on the US Paralympic Team for the May Paralympic WORLD CUP in Alicante, Spain. USAMU's

SFC Olson won the Bronze and new Paralympic section member SGT Price finished the match in 4th place. USAMU's Paralympic Soldiers will also serve as marksmanship instructors and participate in our robust marksmanship training program.

In showcasing the Army, I am also proud to say that SSG Richmond (Shotgun) earned the Bronze Medal during Men's Double Trap competition in 2011 ISSF WORLD CUP CHILE. SSG Richmond is leading the point race for a US Olympic slot in that discipline for 2012.

In supporting the warfighter, we added a new marksmanship training course to our repertoire and I am pleased to report that 2011's first Close Quarters/Squad Designated Marksman (CQSDM) course was filled to capacity with students (including cadets) from across the force. This two-week train-the-trainer course provides students with the marksmanship fundamentals to for short and long range engagements. Students also have the knowledge to impart on their units. Another training venue that enables the proliferation of marksmanship training is the US Army Small Arms Championships (the ALL ARMY). Based on the number of registrants already for this year, the field of competitors will be the largest in 18 years!

USAMU Custom Firearms Shop reset of 3rd Infantry Division Designated Marksman Rifles (DMRs) is progressing smoothly. USAMU built 296 DMRs for 3ID in response to two Operational Needs Statements (2004 and 2006) submitted by the 3ID to HQDA for modification of M16A2 Rifles for their Squad Designated Marksmanship program. USAMU built M4-DMRs were unanimously selected as the DMR of choice during the 2010 Maneuver Center of Excellence Rifleman Configuration Study.

We continue to look forward in an effort to always make the Unit even better and raise our Army's overall combat readiness. ARMY STRONG!

TAPS. PRESENT ARMS

MSG Ronald D. Menz, 73, a USAMU Service Rifle Shooter and 9th Infantry Division Sniper School instructor, died September 4, 2010 at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio.

SFC Jesse E. McCaskill, a Service Rifle Shooter, died September 20, 2010 in Goliad, Texas.

MSG Nelson D. Dundas, 82, former acting USAMU SGM and a resident of Macon, North Carolina, died November 13, 2010.

MSG Richard W. Matthews, 79, former USAMU Operations Sergeant, died January 4, 2011 in Columbus, Georgia.

SFC Frank A. Recktenwald, a USAMU Service Rifle Shooter, died January 16, 2011 in Columbus, Georgia.

SSG Clement A. Hilsinger, 81, a USAMU Shotgun Shooter, died February 10, 2011 in Venice, Florida.

Editor's note: Individual obituaries are posted to the Taps, Present Arms page of the MMA web site.

An "At Ease" Story Nugget

LTC (Ret) Weldon "Mike" Griggs tells us that he is at his winter home in Palm Desert, California recovering from a serious illness but is getting back to normal. He said he enjoyed finding the following "nugget" about the person for which Parks Range at Fort Benning, Georgia was named in the book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends* by Dwight David Eisenhower.

In the early part of 1918, Captain Eisenhower was the commander of Camp Colt near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Camp Colt was a Tank Corps training area that had expanded to 10,000 men and 600 officers—all housed in tents. While waiting for tanks to arrive, "Ike" had his soldiers shooting machine guns from flatbed trucks at moving and still target. He used "Big Roundtop" as a "perfect backstop."

During the training, Captain Eisenhower was on the lookout for men who took to soldiering and had leadership skills. Buried in a footnote of his book, *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*, this quote was found:

"Floyd Parks, whom I found among the second lieutenants, showed such promise I gave him a company to command and succeeded in getting him promoted to first lieutenant. Shortly thereafter we were authorized to train as provisional battalion units but we were not allowed any "official" formations larger than that of the company. Parks made such progress with his company that even though he was not yet—I think—twenty-two years old, I put him in command of a battalion. After the war was over, he stayed in the regular Army and rose to the rank of lieutenant general before he retired."

PRESIDENT / From Page 2

among a group of special Soldiers. Her national record (by seven points!) and winning the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier of the Year honor put her over the top in the voting.

I want to hear from you! Our first purpose is to support the goals and objectives of the USAMU, and secondarily to provide a link to the history of the USAMU. How is your MMA doing? If you have suggestions for ways that we can do better, or projects the organization should take on, please let me hear from you. You can e-mail me at:

President@militarymarksmanship.org.

All ready on the firing line!

WELCOME!

New LIFE Members

Sallie L. E. Carroll
Phillip R. Crider
Clint J. Hilbert
Michael J. Behnke

New MMA Members

Matthew S. Sweeney
Shane A. Coley
Christopher R. Abalo
Robert M. Price
Kisha A. Makerney
Douglas M. Childs

Keeping In Touch

Former International and Running Target Shooter, LTC (Ret) Weldon "Mike" Griggs has been elected to a third three-year term as president of the General Barton & Stovall History / Heritage Association (GBSHHA). For more information about the association, visit their web site. <http://www.generalbartonandstovall.com/>

This nonprofit organization is comprised of mostly the descendants of five Confederate infantry regiments from North Georgia. During the Civil War these regiments fought in six states during 17 major battles and marched over 5,000 miles. They started with 7,000 officers and men and finished with 400.

As president, Griggs organized a return tour to one of the battlefields over the 2010 Labor Day weekend. The group retraced the deployment of the regiments along, their routes of march and bivouac locations. The regiments were brigaded under the command of Brigadier Generals Seth Barton and Marcellus Stovall.

This year the group will visit three bridge sites that were defended during the Carolinas Campaign by the outnumbered Confederate forces during their deployment in North Carolina.

Ray "Dead Head" Carter is now competing in Cowboy Action Shooting. Ray, Distinguished International and Service Rifle USAMU shooter, now lives in New Hampshire. Another USAMU Distinguished International Shooter, Ernie Vande Zande competes in Cowboy Action Shooting as "The Padre".

Gallagher: MMA Soldier of the Year

USAMU PAO

Sgt. Sherri Jo Gallagher, a service rifle shooter with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, was selected as the Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year for 2010. Outgoing MMA president Col. (Ret.) Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr. made the announcement at the MMA Annual Membership Meeting February 4 at the Pool International Shooting Complex. Hoidahl presented the Soldier of the Year Award to Gallagher - a .45- caliber pistol donated by the Smith and Wesson Corporation.

A Prescott, Ariz native, Gallagher had a remarkable year on and off the range. She was a member of the team's victorious 10-man team at the Interservice Rifle Championships in July, setting the stage for bigger things to come at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio a few weeks later. Gallagher became the first servicemember in 23 years to win the National High-Powered Rifle Championship, establishing 11 new national records along the way.

She won the championship despite minimal preparation for the matches. Gallagher spent the majority of 2010 participating in Soldier of the Year contests, beginning at the unit level and going all the way to the Best Warrior Competition, the culmination of a year-long test to recognize the Army's Soldier and NCO of the Year for 2010. At the annual Association of the United States Army meeting Oct. 24, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston announced that Gallagher was the 2010 Army Soldier of the Year.

the 2010 Army Soldier of the Year.

"I want to thank the MMA for all that they do," Gallagher said. "They supported me throughout the year as I went to all of the Soldier of the Year boards. I couldn't have done it without the help of my teammates and all of the Soldiers in the unit. The USAMU is without a doubt the best unit in the Army."

The MMA's objectives are to provide a link to the history of the USAMU, host ceremonies and social events, and support the goals and objectives of the USAMU. It also presides over the hall of fame voting. The MMA now boasts more than 600 members.

Gallagher has served with the unit since 2008. She has been awarded and earned the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, Distinguished Rifleman Badge, President's Hundred Tab, Schutzenschnur badge, and the Accession Support Brigade Soldier of the Quarter and Soldier of the Year, Fiscal Year 2010.

Besides being named Army Soldier of the Year, she was also named Soldier of the Year in 2010 for Training and Doctrine Command, U.S. Army Accessions Command, and Accessions Support Brigade. She is currently training for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The MMA 2010 Soldier of the Year nominees were: Staff Sgt. Travis Tomasic from the Action Shooting team; Staff Sgt. Robert Park from the Service Pistol team; Shotgun team member Staff Sgt. Josh Richmond; Sgt. Joe Hein from the International Rifle team; and from the Custom Firearms Shop, Spc. Thomas Marshall.

