



MMA TIMES

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USAMU wins Army Superior Unit Award

USAMU PAO



COL(P) Walter Piatt, commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, attaches the Army Superior Unit Award streamer to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit colors as LTC Dan Hodne, commander, USAMU, looks on.

Even for the "Home of Champions," the Army's prestigious Marksmanship Unit where achieving the highest degrees of sustained excellence is expected, 2010 proved to be a year like no other, marked by historic firsts and bests.

Volunteering to embark upon its first sustained deployment of unit

personnel since Vietnam and its first effort to train indigenous Soldiers; greatly expanding its marksmanship training program; and showcasing the very best of Army Soldier skills at unprecedented levels in marksmanship competition, winning an unparalleled 27 championship titles in world, national, and interservice matches are just some of the accomplishments made by the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit in 2010, earning the Army Superior Unit Award, a first for one of the military's most unique units.

"This unit has made a profound and lasting impact on the readiness of the war fighter," said Col. (P) Walter Piatt, commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School. "In earning the Superior Unit Award, it reflects the readiness and relevancy that the (USAMU) brings to the Army. The contributions of this generation of Soldiers in our Army in Iraq and Afghanistan and their success have been in large part due to this unit and how they have instilled readiness throughout our force."

The unit distinguished itself for extraordinary accomplishments in raising the Army's overall combat

Get a friend to join MMA today!
Membership applications are available on our website.

www.militarymarksmanship.org

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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 extremely proud of what this Unit does for our Army's combat readiness, both in supporting Army recruiting and accessions and supporting the warfighter. Consistent with my past reports, I will ensure that the USAMU continues to be adaptable, innovative, and

resourceful in the manner in which we accomplish our wide-ranging mission. With a great team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, backed by the MMA, we will be well postured to meet the needs of our Army. We have accomplished a great deal for our Army and I believe that the best and most successful days lie yet ahead. The future of the USAMU is very bright!

At the end of January, during our 5th Annual Ball, the Commandant of the US Army Infantry School placed on our unit colors, it's first-ever unit award – the Army Superior Unit Award – this historic distinction bestowed upon our unit by the Department of the Army, made possible *only* through the hard work of the remarkable team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members that make up this extraordinary and one-of-a-kind unit. Your commitment to excellence and not settling for 2d place has proven to be too important to our Army. Your talents will continue to train warfighters and lead to the development of the latest small arms innovations. Our Army will always need you to be the best, both here at home and abroad.

Since my last report to the MMA, we continue to make steady and forward progress on our innovative effort to increase overall unit capability. In just three months, the Vice Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff of the Army have endorsed our concept plan to expand the unit with wounded warriors still able to serve. While their endorsement does not constitute final approval, I believe that it shows that our Army has recognized the invaluable contributions we have made to the warfighter and the importance of our efforts in connecting our Army to our nation's citizens through shooting sports.

Vice Chief and Chief of Staff endorsement of our concept plan in the Total Army Analysis also means one more thing. It means that we are only ONE signature away from seeing what may be the most significant

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings Soldiers, shooters, and friends of the MMA! For those of you who missed the annual meeting, let me share the highlights. Once again it was a pleasure for the Executive Board to review an outstanding slate of nominations for the USAMU Soldier of the Year. Every year the accomplishments of the unit Soldiers seem to raise the bar from the previous year adding new acco-

lades and new missions. USAMU Soldiers continue to exemplify the dynamic abilities that our nation expects. This year's winner of the Soldier of the Year award went to Staff Sergeant Cooper. Staff Sergeant Cooper is assigned to Service Rifle. Highlights of his accomplishments in 2011 include winning the Inter-Service Individual Championship, the Inter-Service Long Range Championship, firing on the winning Ten Man Team, and winning the National Service Rifle Championship among a list of other noteworthy accomplishments. Other nominees were Sergeant First Class Rose (Cross Functional Pistol Team), Sergeant Cleveland (Cross Functional Pistol Team), Sergeant First Class Uptagrafft (International Rifle), Staff Sergeant Richmond (Shotgun), PFC Sweeney (Action Shooting), and Specialist Hankins (Custom Firearms Shop).

Other news from the annual meeting includes the financial report and membership reports from the Executive Board. I am pleased to report that the MMA is in good standing in both areas. The MMA Life Member program continues to be a popular way to show added support to the organization. We currently have over one hundred life members, or about one fifth of the membership. Please join me in expressing congratulations and "job well done" to the USAMU for the recent award of the Army Superior Unit Award. The streamer looks great on the unit colors.

Please mark your calendars for the reunion (yes, it's that time again!). We have tentatively set October 18-20, 2012 at Fort Benning for the reunion.

This issue of the MMA Times features additional material from the USAMU. We hope that you find this informative; let us know what you think.

Finally, Please join me in wishing a happy 80th birthday to our hard working Treasurer, Sam Hunter!

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.

1941 University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Rapid expansion of the Army allowed fast promotions for good soldiers. Sergeant Brown was promoted to Technical Sergeant while at U.T. Tech Sergeant was two grades higher than Sergeant. He skipped the grade of Staff Sergeant. The U.S. Army needed officers. Coats felt that his lack of a formal education would be a handicap as a commissioned officer and he did not want a commission. The Professor of Military Science ordered Coats to take a pre-commission physical. He took the physical at an old stomping ground, Fort Oglethorpe. Coats traveled the round trip from Knoxville to Fort Oglethorpe and return by Greyhound bus. It was fortunate that Coats had the physical, because they found a spot on one lung.

This part of the pre-commission physical story is not well documented. It had to be devastating for Sergeant Coats Brown, who had always excelled in the Army, but was suddenly struck by a very serious condition that would change his way of life threaten his future. Coats oldest son Victor was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in October 1941 and has provided some information to fill in the void. Lieutenant Colonel Victor Brown, US Army Retired sent the following – “The spot on Dad's lung turned out to be a serious "black-lung" kind of condition that almost resulted in his being medically discharged.” “This from conversations I had with him and from a letter he wrote me in the late 1960s.” “We guessed the black spot on the lung was the result of the many long hours he spent on the UT indoor rifle range, because he'd never smoked a cigarette or pipe in his life.” “Coats was put on light duty for an extended period of time.”

Technical Sergeant Coats Brown was transferred from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The Army would monitor his medical condition and decide in a few months what to do with and for Tech Sergeant Brown. Coats was on light duty and probably could have held down a do nothing job for as long as he liked, but that was not his way. Coats needed to heal and working outdoors could promote good health. Tech Sergeant Brown was assigned as the NCOIC of Rifle Marksmanship at Fort Jackson. All phases of training at Fort Jackson were just beginning. It was a period of rapid expansion everywhere. He remembered the first few weeks at Fort Jackson as like being in an unassigned status. It was a harrowing experience. Crowds of new arrivals were constant and required a place to live, clothing, food, training and care. Fort Jackson was not fully prepared. Post officials must have had a plan, but

the plan was not disseminated well. The lack of forecast ability resulted in the need to react. Leaders were kept busy putting out fires, rather than following a good plan. He was never briefed that the war expansion required a new Basic Training Center approach. He worked for Captain Carter, a good and hard working officer. He had a 35-point rifle range. He usually had three sergeants to assist him. These NCO's sometimes shipped out and were replaced by others. Coats knew that troop trains arrived frequently with new trainees and a sprinkling of experienced soldiers. Experienced soldiers would be utilized as trainers during their stay at Fort Jackson. Most old soldiers stayed a few months before shipping out. By the time that Coats saw the trainees, they wore uniforms, had received some classes and knew some close order drill. They usually marched route step to the range, unescorted by cadre in the mornings. It was approximately 2 miles from garrison to the range.

Army shooters hit their mark

USAMU PAO

Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Shotgun team started off the New Year in Texas displaying their skills as part of the week's long worth of activities leading up to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 3-7.

The team hosted dozens of civilian Army advocates, commonly known as Centers of Influence, at the San Antonio Gun Club. COIs guide young people down the right path towards their future and provide them with all of the information that the Army and ROTC offer our nation's youth.



CPL Josh Webb, USAMU, assists an Army advocate, commonly known as a Center of Influence, Jan. 5 at the San Antonio Gun Club. The COIs were invited guests of the Army and took part in the festivities leading up to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

COMMANDER / From Page 2

expansion of the unit in its history. Upon Secretary of the Army approval of the Total Army Analysis 2014-2018, our unit will expand with the creation of a Paralympic Section and Marksmanship Instructor Group. Both of these new elements of the USAMU task organization will be comprised of wounded warriors deemed able to continue to serve on Active Duty by a medical evaluation board. When approved, we will see an increase in our international rifle and pistol authorizations by 60% and our marksmanship training capability by 100%. In an era of fiscal austerity marked by reductions in force to include operating forces, any increase in unit size, especially of this magnitude, speaks volumes of this unit's relative standing in the eyes of our Army. This unit's future is indeed very bright. By the next MMA Times report, I expect that I will be able to announce its official approval.

The submission of this ground-breaking concept plan would not have been possible without SFC Josh Olson blazing a trail for our Army that has served as a proof of concept for this initiative. Even more fitting, SFC Olson has earned a special place in unit and US Army history by earning his place as the very first Active Duty Soldier to ever be nominated to a US Paralympic Team. Pending his confirmation by the US Olympic Committee, he will compete in this year's Paralympic Games in London. I expect that the USAMU will emerge as the dominant force in the world of international Paralympic shooting.

In addition to the US Army Small Arms Championships, this month we will kick off the the Inaugural ARMY STRONG Collegiate Shooting Championships (13-18 March 2012), which promises to be the largest multi-discipline, shoulder to shoulder collegiate and junior shooting championship shooting event to ever take place in the United States. The USAMU created this ground-breaking opportunity with the assistance of the National Rifle Association; Scholastic Steel Challenge; and the Scholastic Clay Target Program who partnered with the USAMU to make for what will be a collegiate rifle championship like no other. The USAMU will again leverage the US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning for Army capability demonstrations to create a truly unique and exciting experience for all participants and raise the visibility of competitive shooting sports.

We intend to make the ARMY STRONG Collegiate Shooting Championships a recurring annual event and make the "Home of Champions" for collegiate and junior shooting sports championships synonymous with some of the most recognized championship venues in other sports. We are already planning for next year's event to take place within the 9-17 March 2013 window. Further, we are in discussion with the Association of College Unions International regarding the potential for

their collegiate shotgun championship as part of the 2013 ARMY STRONG Collegiate Shooting Championships. The USAMU continues to look to the Military Marksmanship Association and unit alumni as centers of influence among shooting circles and we offer to host shooting programs for youth, high school, and collegiate audiences. I envision that over time, the USAMU in mid-March of each year will become the beacon of collegiate and junior shooting championships.

As always, at the individual unit member level, I will expect and require a razor-like focus on the part of all of our people on their task in the present. Whether it be achieving perfect practice and showcasing our Army and our nation on the firing line; whether it be training Soldiers so they have a true understanding of marksmanship and can effectively employ their weapons to the maximum range; or whether it be refining our weapons and ammunition to achieve the highest standards of precision and accuracy, ultimately our razor-like focus will enable us to evolve, innovate, and make our unit even better. With such highly talented and remarkable people in our one-of-a-kind unit, who consistently operate to meet the highest of expectations...the best, brightest, and most successful days are still ahead. Just take a look at the talent assembled for selection as the MMA Soldier of the Year. Based on the short list stacked with the highest of caliber people, I know that the MMA had a tough choice to make. Congratulations to SSG Cooper, Service Rifle, on his selection for this prestigious honor! Building for the future will always be one of the most important things we focus on. We will 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. ARMY STRONG!

Welcome!**New LIFE Members**

Richard N. Hawkins Herbert N. Clark

New MMA Members

Sharon E. Best Derek A. Haldeman
Shane M. Herman Tom C. Nussbaum
Joshua E. Webb Howard G. Rice
Reuben J. Anderson Daniel R. Cody
David L. Bahter Arthur L. Colborn

AWARD / From Page 1

readiness through outstanding devotion and superior performance in executing its wide-ranging mission. 2010 also saw a continuation of its nearly half-century tradition of leaving its stamp on the Army's precision long-range small arms. With its proven track record of the M21 and M24 sniper rifles, the USAMU Custom Firearms Shop enabled its rapid provision of technical and user evaluation feedback that assisted the Army in adopting a new sniper weapon system capability. Its Squad Designated Marksman Rifle emerged as the unanimous top choice during the Maneuver Center of Excellence Rifleman Configuration Study.

To add to these achievements, the unit coached, mentored, and produced the 2010 Army Soldier of the Year, who also served as the Army's first-ever female Soldier to earn this prestigious title.

"This unit's efforts to obtain the highest degrees of precision and accuracy in world-class marksmanship competition directly translate to our efforts in raising Army marksmanship proficiency and supporting broader Army small-arms research and development initiatives," noted Lt. Col. Dan Hodne, USAMU Commander. "When it comes to all aspects of marksmanship, our Army needs and expects us to be the absolute best in the world."

The unit continues to aspire to new heights and expectations. In 2011, the USAMU hosted the first International Paralympic Committee World Cup to ever take place in the entire Western Hemisphere that brought hundreds of Paralympic athletes from around the world to Fort Benning to showcase courage, determination, inspiration and equality in shooting sports. Earlier in the year, the unit hosted its second consecutive World Cup in two years which stood as the largest international shooting sports event to ever take place on the continent as dozens of shooters earned coveted quota slots to the 2012 Olympic Games. By dramatically expanding its marksmanship training outreach, the unit

established itself as a primary source and main proponent for marksmanship training in the Army.

In 2012, the unit looks to take it a step even farther. In Afghanistan, the unit is prepared to assist in the creation of the Afghan National Army Marksmanship Instructor Branch. A handful of Soldiers will represent the unit, the Army and their country at the Summer Olympic Games in London followed by the very first active-duty Soldier to ever compete in the Paralympic Games.

In March, the unit will host the annual U.S. Army Small Arms Championship, the premier marksmanship training event in the military, and the inaugural Army Strong Collegiate Shooting Championships. The USAMU intends to make this innovative event the largest multi-discipline, shoulder-to-shoulder collegiate and junior shooting sports championship event to ever take place in the United States as it brings four prestigious competitive shooting sports championship venues to the USAMU's world-class facilities simultaneously.

In addition to the increasing number of Soldiers it will train in 2012 the USAMU is preparing to welcome 24 new members to the family with the creation of the Wounded Warrior marksmanship instructor group and Paralympic section upon approval by Army headquarters as part of the "Total Army Analysis." This novel approach to giving the Army's wounded combat veterans a chance to continue to serve will enhance the combat readiness of the Army, highlight the notion of ability rather than disability, and serve as an inspiration for those who relish the chance to continue service to their country as a Soldier.

"I am grateful to the Army for bestowing the Army Superior Unit Award on this extraordinary unit made up of remarkable people," concluded Hodne, "I am even more grateful for the opportunity to serve with such an incredible team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members who enable this unit to accomplish its wide-ranging mission in a manner and with a strength like no other."

Wounded Warrior Marksmanship Units - An Army Bull's-eye

USAMU PAO

Showcasing courage, determination and inspiration, USA Shooting has announced the nomination of Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit to the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Team contingent on the approval of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Olson is the first active-duty Soldier to be nominated for the Paralympic Games and first active-duty servicemember to ever be nominated to compete in shooting sports at the games.

Olson qualified for the team based on the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) two-part qualification system for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. On Jan. 15, the IPC announced that the U.S. earned a second participation slot per the minimum qualifying score (MQS) allocations. At the 2011 IPC World Cup in Sydney, Australia, Olson finished sixth in R3 (Mixed 10m Air Rifle Prone). Earlier that year, he finished seventh in R6 (Mixed 50m Rifle Prone) at the IPC World Cup Alicante and eighth in R6 at the IPC World Cup USA held on Fort Benning.

Deployed to Iraq in 2003 with 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Olson was struck with a rocket-propelled grenade while on patrol, resulting in the loss of his right leg from the hip down. After spending 18 months at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Olson received his assignment to the USAMU.

During his time at the USAMU, Olson has become a pioneer and advocate for Wounded Warriors. He has led the effort to establish a Paralympic team at the unit, enabling wounded warriors deemed able to continue to serve on active duty to showcase the Army in support of recruiting and accessions while enhancing its overall combat readiness through the unit's robust marksmanship training program.

"Sgt. 1st Class Olson is a trailblazer for our Army," says Lt. Col. Dan Hodne, commander, USAMU. "His unique Army story speaks volumes of the notion of 'ability' rather than 'disability,' and exemplifies professional Soldiers who all must be 'Army Strong.'"

Olson is also heavily involved with "Operation Proper Exit," where he aids other veterans recovering from injuries sustained during combat by visiting their place of injury in Iraq. In honor of his service and dedication to the country, Olson was awarded the Purple Heart from former President George W. Bush.

This is Olson's first Paralympic Games nomination—he just missed the threshold in 2008, but has been a member of the National Paralympic Team for five years.

"I want to thank my family and friends for all the support, understanding and sacrifice; my coaches for the instruction and world-class mentorship; and finally, the

U.S. Army for providing the opportunity to continue to serve and represent the USA on the world stage," said Olson.

Consideration for the expansion of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit for Wounded Warriors deemed able to continue to serve on active duty as marksmanship instructors and Paralympic shooter/instructors is currently ongoing as part of the Army's "Total Army Analysis."



SFC Josh Olson, USAMU, is the first Active Duty Soldier to be nominated to the U.S. Paralympic Team and will compete in London this summer.

Olson was seriously injured while deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom yet continues to serve on active-duty with the USAMU.

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

ST1 Herbert B. DeLong III, 72, a resident of San Marcos, California, died September 1, 2011.

LTC George D. Wolfe, Jr., 77, a resident of Ligonier, Pennsylvania, died December 27, 2011.

LTC Joseph B. "Joe" Berry, a resident of Newport, Washington, died January 6, 2012.

SFC Buckley T. Norris, a resident of Abbeville, Alabama, died January 19, 2012.

CPT Ralph R. "Dick" Fuller, 74, of Waverly Hall, Georgia, passed away February 23, 2012.

Editor's note: Individual obituaries and photos are posted to the Taps, Present Arms pages on the MMA web site.

Cooper wins MMA Soldier of the Year

USAMU PAO

Staff Sgt. Ty Cooper, a service rifle shooter/instructor with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, was selected as the Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year for 2011. MMA president Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Harbison made the announcement at the MMA Annual Membership Meeting at the Pool International Shooting Complex. Harbison presented the Soldier of the Year Award to Cooper - a .45- caliber pistol donated by the Smith and Wesson Corporation.

"It means quite a bit to me to win this award going up against a couple guys who secured slots for the Olympics," said Cooper. "I honestly didn't think I would win and had to do a double take at the screen to see if it was my name they had actually called out. I think the thing I am most proud of was winning the two biggest matches that we have in our season in the same year."



SSG Ty Cooper, USAMU Rifle shooter/instructor, was named the MMA Soldier of the Year for 2011. Cooper won both the Interservice Individual Championship and National Service Rifle Championship in 2011. Pictured with Cooper is Rob Harbison (left), MMA president, and LTC Dan Hodne, commander, USAMU.

A Mariposa, Calif. native, Cooper had a remarkable year on and off the range. Cooper claimed his first Interservice individual championship at Marine Corps Base Quantico in July. He also won the long-range individual championship and was a member of the overall team champions, making it a clean sweep.

A few weeks later, Cooper won the overall National Service Rifle Championship at the National High-Power Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. All of this success was accomplished without his usual training regimen which was altered due a deployment to Afghanistan that stretched into the spring.

"Looking back over the whole year I really am proud of being able to maintain the level of consistency it took to stay right there at the top," said Cooper. "My

goals kind of progressed as the summer went.

"I had never won an Interservice Championship and that was top of the list. After doing as well as I did my next goal was to continue competing at that level throughout Nationals. I had a burning desire to prove myself at the NRA Nationals and I won the Service Rifle National Championship."

In addition to his competitive feats, Cooper is also a lead instructor for the service rifle team. Whether it is hosting Soldiers at Fort Benning or traveling as part of a mobile training team to various posts around the country, Cooper passes along the skills and knowledge that enabled him to win the national championship to Soldiers preparing to deploy or hone their marksmanship proficiency. "I really have to thank my whole team, both junior and senior Soldiers," Cooper said. "I learned things from everyone, whether it was getting advice from the senior guys or sharing what knowledge I have learned through the years and assisting the junior Soldiers through their problems."

The MMA 2011 Soldier of the Year nominees were: Pfc. Matthew Sweeney from the Action Shooting team; Sgt. Lawrence Cleveland from the Service Pistol team; Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Rose, International Pistol; Shotgun team member Staff Sgt. Josh Richmond; Sgt. 1st Class Eric Uptagrafft from the International Rifle team; and from the Custom Firearms Shop, Spc. Billy Hankins.

SHOOTERS / From Page 3

"The COIs are some of the most influential people students, juniors and those thinking about their future look to for advice and guidance," said Cpl. Josh Webb. "It's important that we display the professionalism of the Soldier so these influencers can go back to their local areas and provide all of the answers to the questions those contemplating a future with the military are asking."

First-time and experienced shotgun shooters received instruction from USAMU Soldiers, including 2008 Olympic Gold Medalists Sgt. Glenn Eller and Sgt. Vincent Hancock. Soldiers urged the importance of safety and assisted them in establishing a proper firing position before allowing the spectators the opportunity to pull the trigger and have some fun on the range.

"It was very cool," said Pete Anders, the Chief of Police at Millersville University, Pa. "They asked me what I did for a living and knew that I have shot a lot of targets, but this was a different style of shooting. I got a rhythm going but lost it before the friendly competition they had for us. They were fantastic instructors."

Staff Sgt. Josh Richmond, already a qualifier for the 2012 Olympic Games, and Staff Sgt. Mark Weeks performed their jaw-dropping shotgun demonstration, blasting everything from six or seven clay targets at a time to heads of lettuce, tomatoes and shaving cream out of the sky.

