



MMA TIMES

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MMA Soldier of the Year - Sergeant Vincent Hancock

USAMU PAO



Vincent Hancock (middle), was named the 2012 Military Marksmanship Association's Soldier of the Year. Pictured are: CSM William Koller, USAMU; SFC Emil Praslick, service rifle; SSG Patrick Franks, service pistol; Hancock; SFC Josh Olson, paralympic; LTC Don King, USAMU commander; LTC (Ret) Robert Harbison, MMA president.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Vincent Hancock was selected as the Military Marksmanship Association Soldier of the Year for 2012. MMA president Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Harbison made the announcement at the MMA Annual Membership Meeting January 25 at the Pool International Shooting Complex.

A Eatonton, Ga., native, Hancock made history in 2012 when he became the first shooter in Olympic history to win back-to-back gold medals in an Olympic shooting event when he successfully defended his gold medal in Men's Skeet in London. Hancock set two new Olympic records in doing so, earning a place in Olympic lore forever.

Hancock left the military at the end of 2012. He established the Hancock Shooting Academy with his father, excited to pass off his knowledge and expertise to the next generation of shooters across the nation.

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.

Despite setting history on the grandest stage in all of sports, voting for this year's winner was one of the toughest decisions the board was forced to

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Don A. King, Jr.



This year has truly been a challenge for the USAMU; however, during times of uncertainty and military reductions, the USAMU continues to successfully execute their mission in showcasing the very best in marksmanship skills, connecting the US Army to its citizens and supporting the Warfighter with world class training and cutting edge research and devel-

opment. Although the USAMU has been limited to the various events that it will participate in this year, we are still training hard and competing in various competitions around the country and the world. Furthermore, we are looking forward to the upcoming summer interservice matches and national competitions at Camp Perry. Also, this year the USAMU will be locally hosting two World Cups Matches for the international rifle and pistol and a shotgun selection match for the 2014 shotgun World Cup Matches at Fort Benning Georgia. These events will take place 8-22 May 2013.

While we have been limited to the number of competitions that we are participating in this year, we are re-energizing matches that we have supported and executed in the past. One of these competitions is the US Army Junior Air Rifle Championship. This competition selects the top 68 national Junior Air Rifle shooters from across the country to compete at Fort Benning Georgia. This year we received 878 entries that produced 324 state medals across 22 states. This shows that High Schools, JR ROTC programs, and after school junior programs are becoming more involved in activities that provides young people valuable life skills that focus on discipline, training and individual accomplishment. In March we will also be hosting the All Army Intercollegiate Championships with an Army Strong Demonstration provided by Fort Benning.

In addition to competitions and matches support by the USAMU, our Instructor Training Group has become more active since its official start up on 1 October 2012. Since this date, the Instructor Training Group has received more requests than it can support in order to prepare operational units for their upcoming deployments to Afghanistan. The element has become an additional resource for the Army Warfighter and combines the talent of our world class shooters and provides the Army the very best in

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings Soldiers, shooters, and friends of the MMA! For those of you who were not able to attend the annual meeting, let me share the highlights.

As always, the slate of Soldiers nominated to represent their teams for the MMA Soldier of the Year humbles the MMA board in its challenge to identify a "champion of champions". This year was no

exception. Every year the accomplishments of the unit Soldiers seem to raise the bar from the previous year adding new accolades and new missions. USAMU Soldiers continue to exemplify the dynamic abilities that our nation expects.

Representing the shotgun team, this year's winner of the Soldier of the Year award went to Olympic Gold Medalist Sergeant Vincent Hancock. Sergeant Hancock won the gold medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games, setting a new Olympic record along the way with a score of 123 out of 125 targets broken with a final of a perfect 25. Sergeant Hancock is now the most decorated international skeet shooter in U.S. history. I thank Smith & Wesson Corporation for their continued support by donating the Soldier of the Year award.

With the addition of the USAMU Paralympic Team and Instructor Training Group, this year we reviewed two additional outstanding Soldiers. Representing the Instructor Training Group was Staff Sergeant Jonathan Halsey. SSG Halsey was instrumental to the success of the team in 2012 and honed his skills in numerous high profile training clinics across the country including both the "Street Fighter Advanced Combat Course" instructed by Terry Mason and the "Special Operations Marksmanship Course" conducted by the Tier 1 Group (TIG) in Arkansas. Sergeant First Class Josh Olson represented the Paralympic section in 2012 by earning a slot on the U.S. Paralympic Team where he represented the United States well. Staff Sergeant Daniel Horner had another outstanding year of shooting accomplishment in 2012, and represented the Action Shooting Team. In addition to numerous competitive shooting victories, Staff Sergeant Horner won the International Sniper Competition last year along with team mate Specialist Tyler Payne. Sergeant Matthew Sawallis represented the Custom Firearms Shop this year. He was instrumental in the development of the world's

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.

In 1952, Major Davis formed a small team again from the experienced shooters of Fort Benning. WO Coats Brown shot and coached in 1952. The National Rifle Matches were fired at Fort Benning in 1952. Major Davis arranged a flight to a match in Texas this year. Captain McCubbin and Coats went to Fort Sheridan, Illinois to try out for the Olympic Team in 1952. They both used Captain McCubbin's beautiful Winchester M52 and shared expenses while driving in the good Captain's car. They had a confrontation near Dalton, Georgia when McCubbin was nearly forced off the road by a passing motorist. They kept the bad driver in sight and stopped at the same gas station as the wise guy. Several young men were at the station. McCubbin was very cool and deliberate as he gassed up and paid for his purchase. He then went to the cracker who was standing outside of his car and said "You ran me off the road back there". The cracker challenged McCubbin with "I know, I did it on purpose". McCubbin punched the wise guy dead in the face. When the cracker tried to fight back, McCubbin, who must have trained in martial arts, kicked him a good shot to the head. The cracker jumped in his car and sped away. The majority of the people at the station congratulated McCubbin for getting the best of the troublemaker. It seems the wise guy was the son of the local sheriff and had been lording it over the locals for some time and they resented him. They saw the trouble maker in his car as they drove north out of town, but they were not bothered again. Coats had an allergic reaction to the rye grass on the range at Fort Sheridan. He saw an Army Doctor who prescribed an allergy shot and Coats was able to finish the match. Coats and Jake Svela both had an allergic reaction to the rye grass in San Diego later that year. Coats got another allergy shot but was unable to continue shooting. The reaction included severe swelling of his face and extremities.

In 1953 LTC Frank Palmer and MAJ Carl Byas ran the rifle team at Fort Benning. It was also the year that the Nationals returned to Camp Perry, Ohio. In 1953, WO Coats Brown was assigned to the 656th Engineer TOPO Battalion at Thompkins

Barracks, Schwetzingen, Germany for a three-year tour. Homes belonging to Nazi's had been requisitioned by the allied forces to house military families. The Brown family lived in one of these requisitioned houses for three years. These houses were returned to their original owners in 1956. Two or three readiness alerts were conducted by military units every month. Units had to deploy when the whistle blew and assemble at a certain place within a certain time limit. Lieutenant General Bruce Clarke, 7th Army Commander would also conduct rehearsals to evacuate families in case of war. The Russian threat was taken very seriously. Two highlights of this tour stand out in Coats memory. One - Everyone in the Company qualified with a rifle in 1954. Two - a German lady who cleaned billets on Post befriended the Brown family. She would visit the Brown's in their quarters. She had a daughter "Monika" who was five years old. Her husband had been a cook in the German army and a Russian prisoner of war until 1954. Monika's mother went in the hospital for cancer treatment. She had asked the Brown family to care for Monika during her hospital stay. The mother died in the hospital. Monika's father gave permission for the Brown family to adopt Monika. The poor man was beat up from his years of Russian confinement and had a hard time supporting himself. The Army also gave Coats permission to adopt and a German lawyer made it happen. Monika became a part of this loving family. She now has her own family and lives in Maryland.

Welcome!

New MMA Members

William M. Claypool

David W. Jones

James E. Harbison

Conrad F. White

Joseph C. Hall

SOY / From Page 1 _____

make in several years. Among the other nominees for Soldiers of the Year were:

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson, Paralympic. Olson became the first active-duty Soldier wounded in combat to compete in a Paralympic Games when he shot in two events at the 2012 London Paralympics.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Horner, Action Shooting. Horner won his fourth consecutive and fifth overall USPSA Multi-gun National Championship. Horner also was a member of the first-place team at the 2012 International Sniper Competition.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker, International Rifle. Parker competed in his fourth Olympic Games, competing in Men's three-position rifle. He also won gold medals in Men's 3P in both the Italy World Cup in May and the season-ending World Cup Final.

Sgt. 1st Class Emil Praslick. Praslick guided the service rifle team to another dominating performance at the Interservice Rifle Championships and both the CMP Games and NRA High-powered rifle matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Franks, Service Pistol. Franks won the National Trophy Individual Pistol Match at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Also nominated were Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hallsley, Instruction Training Group; and Sgt. Matthew Sawallis, Custom Firearms Shop.



Vincent Hancock demonstrates the skills that earned him MMA Soldier of the Year honors.

COMMANDER / From Page 2 _____

small arms marksmanship training and skills. While times may be challenging for our military, the USAMU remains dedicated to its mission and will continue to move forward every day to ensure that we represent our Army and our nation as the very best World Class Soldiers and Marksmen in the World. –“Home of Champions”!!

PRESIDENT / From Page 2 _____

first and only Beretta M9 that operates on the blow-back principle. Representing the Service Rifle Team was Sergeant First Class Emil Praslick, who coached the team to nearly every possible championship and trophy available to the team. Staff Sergeant Patrick Franks represented the Cross Functional Pistol Team with his victories at the Interservice, NTI, and NTT matches. Sergeant Jason Parker from International Rifle rounded out the nominees this year. He won a national championship and won two gold medals in world cup competition, in addition to qualifying for the 2012 Olympic Team. Each nominee was presented a gift certificate by the MMA in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments.

Other news from the annual meeting included the financial report and membership report 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 association. We currently have 132 life members, or about one fourth of the membership.

All ready on the firing line.



Taps, Present Arms

MAJ James M. "Jim" Clawson, 64, USAMU and USAR Shotgun Shooter, and a resident of Missoula, Montana died January 31, 2013.

SFC Phillip R. Crider, 63, USAMU Custom Firearms Shop Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, Civil Service Weapons and Ammunition Tester, and a resident of North Adams, Michigan, died December 21, 2012.

SFC Fred L. Hildebrand, 82, USAMU Service Rifle Shooter/Instructor, Custom Firearms Shop Rifle Gunsmith, and a resident of Sherrills Ford, North Carolina, died December 24, 2012.

MSG James L. "Mac" McQuien, 81, USAMU Service Rifle Shooter, USAMU Hall of Fame Inductee, Custodian of the Rifle and Pistol Club of Fort Benning, and a resident of Columbus, Georgia, died January 18, 2013.

MSG Marvin E. Warren, 80, USAMU Service Rifle Shooter, International Rifle Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, and a resident of Columbus, Georgia, died January 25, 2013.

MSG Billy H. Willard, 77, USMC and USAMU Service Rifle Shooter, and a resident of Randleman, North Carolina, died February 6, 2013.

MAJ Verle F. Wright, Jr., 84, USAMU International Rifle Shooter, USAMU Hall of Fame Inductee, and a resident of Hemphill, Texas, died November 4, 2012.

Sara Nell Crow, wife of MSG Loyd G. Crow, Jr., Running Target Shooter, died January 31, 2013 in Columbus, Georgia.

Florence Salmon, wife of MSG Mack Salmon, 1950-1960 era Service Pistol Blue Team Coach, died January 27, 2013 in Farmers Branch, North Dallas, Texas.

Editor's note: Expanded Individual obituaries are posted to the Taps, Present Arms pages on the MMA web site. www.militarymarksmanship.org

U.S. Army Small Arms Championships

USAMU PAO

A California National Guardsman needed an extra suitcase to haul away the hardware he collected at this year's U.S. Army Small Arms Championship.

Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Applegate won the overall individual championship, ending the reign of the competition's four-time defending champion and putting an exclamation point on an outstanding two-week run at the All-Army.



SFC Geoffrey Applegate (center) is presented a Secretary of the Army M-1 Garand Trophy Rifle by LTC Don King, commander, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (left) and COL Michael W. Rauhut, commander, 197th Infantry Brigade.

"I am still a bit overwhelmed," said Applegate, an infantryman with the 184th Infantry Regiment. "I love this competition. I have a competitive spirit—it's what I love to do and to win here at the All-Army is awesome."

A railroad conductor/engineer who lives in Weed, Calif., this was Applegate's third time at the All-Army. He improved on his 17th-place finish in 2012 to get his name engraved on the champion's trophy. In addition to Applegate's overall championship, he and members of Team California claimed the overall team championship. He also earned the coveted Distinguished Rifleman's Badge, the open class title and was the combined arms match individual winner. Among the items he was awarded for his strong showing was a Secretary of the Army M-1 Garand Trophy Rifle.

Army Reservists Sgt. 1st Class John Buol and Master Sgt. Russell Moore took second and third place, respectively. Moore came into the match as the reigning four-time champion. He won the overall pistol individual championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP / From Page 5 _____

“It doesn’t matter how many times I come here I always learn a lot,” Applegate said. “When you get to train and shoot against Soldiers like (Master) Sgt. Moore, whose name is on those trophies since he was a staff sergeant and is an amazing shot, you are going to learn something.”

Spc. Nicholas Girardin, Maine National Guard, won the novice class overall individual championship. More than half of the field competed in the novice class of shooters. The competition was originally structured to influence novice shooters the chance to gain invaluable marksmanship training in an effort to enhance the overall combat readiness of the Army, which still holds true today.

“I learned so much in these two weeks and had a lot of fun,” Girardin said, a computer detection systems repairman with the 152nd Maintenance Company. “I loved the combined arms match since we never get to do

that sort of thing. I met a lot of people who gave me advice. My marksmanship got a lot better in just these two weeks.”

The matches at the championship were designed to raise the shooting proficiency of Soldiers and units across the Army by teaching advanced combat marksmanship techniques using issue rifles and pistols. Soldiers shot in several pistol, rifle matches and a combined arms match to test their capabilities against their peers. Weather played into the event as Soldiers dealt with cold mornings, unseasonably warm days and one day when Mother Nature tested everyone’s mettle with a torrential rain storm.

“It rains in wars so it just made things realistic,” Applegate said. “There’s no better training aid for shooting than All-Army. You get the best shooters, a whole range of shooters, and you can pull from so many. It’s a friendly competition but its serious business when we get on the line.”

