



MMA TIMES

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USAMU Reunion and Hall of Fame Induction



Photos by Ray Arredondo



Congratulations to USAMU Hall of Fame inductees for 2014: LTC Robert W. Aylward, International Rifle and Headquarters; SFC Martin I. Gunnarsson, International Rifle (wife, Alice accepting); and MSG Aubrey E. Smith II, Pistol.



On hand to dedicate McHugh Ceremonial Field were LTC Bret Tecklenburg, SGM (Ret) Eldon A. "Buddy" Gee and COL ((Ret) Bruce Meredith.

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings MMA Members!

Our 58th Reunion was a great success. Three hundred people registered for the reunion, or nearly three-fourths of our membership. For those of you who could not attend, the reunion featured several highlights. The USAMU dedicated their "Ceremony Hill" overlooking Pool Range Complex to First

Lieutenant John J. McHugh, former member of the International Rifle Team and recipient (posthumously) of the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during combat action in Qui Nhon, South Vietnam on January 30th, 1968. Several members of 1LT McHugh's Special Forces detachment and their families were present for the dedication ceremony. Sergeant Major (Ret.) Eldon A. "Buddy" Gee was the guest speaker and shared several memories of 1LT McHugh and their Special Forces unit. Former MMA President Colonel (Ret.) Bruce Meredith also spoke recalling 1LT McHugh's time with the International Rifle Team and his prodigious talent, especially in the standing position.

The Reunion also featured a Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The USAMU administers the Hall of Fame including establishing criteria, nominating candidates, and approving inductees. For the Unit Hall of Fame, MMA members vote on the slate presented by the Commander, and the Commander in turn approves the final class for each ceremony. Almost half of the MMA membership participated in voting for the 2014 unit Hall of Fame class. Inductees to Unit Hall of Fame for 2014 were: LTC Robert W. Aylward, International Rifle and Headquarters; SFC Martin I. Gunnarsson, International Rifle; and MSG Aubrey E. Smith II, Pistol.

The USAMU section Halls of Fame are also administered by the USAMU. Candidates are nominated by the unit and approved by the Commander. For 2014 the USAMU enshrined one inductee to the Support Hall of Fame, SFC Charles Coffee, and seven inductees to the Service Rifle Hall of Fame: MSG Norman Anderson,

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USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Bret A. Tecklenburg



I have had the honor of being part of and leading this great organization (the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit) for four months now. In the past four months I have seen a tremendous amount of accomplishments from all of our folks. Our competitors have won numerous competitions and the other Soldiers and civilians

around them have worked diligently to do their part so that our competitors can succeed. Last month we took time out to honor and remember our alumni at our reunion. The information below is provided to share with you what we are currently focused on.

Our mission: The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) wins national and international shooting competitions and advances small arms lethality to demonstrate Army marksmanship capability and enhance marksmanship effectiveness in combat.

Our two tasks (wins and advances) and these two purposes (demonstrate and enhance marksmanship) are what we focus on. Our priority is on winning because it provides the expertise and legitimacy for everything we do. For winning our focus is on winning the highest level of competition for each of the competitive disciplines, or sport, we are involved in.

Winning is the most important thing we do. Winning provides us with our principle means for connecting America's People with America's Army. It is the basis for our efforts for social media, TV, demonstrations, exhibits, and clinic. It provides our legitimacy.

Our focus for enhancing Army marksmanship is on implementing effective changes in training and doctrine that result in improved ability of Soldiers to engage targets with their individual weapons. To this end we have started a new five week training course which is the first course in the Army for

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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 1958 a fictitious shooter was created by MSgt Thorsen and MSgt LaCau, the All Army team's choice for comedy central at the time. Herb Duncan remembers the fictitious shooters name as Oswald. Oswald's name was posted on the team scoreboard every important match. No one ever saw who put the fictitious Oswald's scores up on the scoreboard, but he always led the pack. If someone else cleaned standing, Oswald did too with a higher V count. The Marines and other service shooters tended to sweat out the fictitious Oswald's scores more than the Army team members did. Thorsen and LaCau had a couple of rubber masks that were very life like portraying a monkey man and a very ugly man. They took turns wearing the masks around the range and got a lot of double takes wherever they went. They sometimes wore a mask when riding as a passenger in a car. They could hold the masks chin up with their teeth until getting someone's attention, and then drop the chin suddenly which created a gaping appearance and a startled spectator. They also created a caged animal known as Mongo that everyone wanted to see. They built a large sized squirrel cage having a lid with heavy duty springs that would slam open when activated with the trigger mechanism. A large furry tail attached to the lid, would flail an unsuspecting victim attempting to see Mongo. Coats remembers the team assembling at Dispensary A, for shots perhaps. Thorsen brought along Mongo the mongoose. A working Medic at the Dispensary became very interested in seeing the caged mongoose. The Medic was cautioned not to get too close or let Mongo loose because he was mean as the Devil. Everyone nearby gave the cage plenty of room while the Medic got on his knees to peer into the cage in order to see Mongo. When Thorsen triggered the device, the cage lid slammed open with a bang and the foxtail jumped out and slapped the Medic's face. The Medic jumped into the air and screamed like a panther. Mongo, like the rubber masks, was a complete success. What a great bunch of people on the early teams. They had a good time and were fine soldiers, shooters and just plain good folks. An exchange visit between the Canadian Army and the U.S. Army was inaugurated during Coats tenure as head coach. The host units were the Royal Canadian School of Infantry (RCS of I) located at Camp Borden, Ontario and the U.S. Army Infantry School located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Personnel who excelled with a rifle and pistol were selected to represent the Canadian Forces and an equal number of shooters were selected from the USAAMU. The national match course was taught and

fired when the exchange took place at Fort Benning. Some years, all the shooters were divided into teams composed of half Canadian and half U.S. personnel. U.S. rifles and equipment were used at Fort Benning, Canadian rifles and equipment was used at Camp Borden. The Belgian FN rifle in caliber 308 with its three available stock lengths was excellent. The Canadian 308 ball ammunition in waterproof bandoliers was as good as our match ammo. Training methods, courses of fire, equipment and methods of accurizing weapons were freely exchanged with our counterparts. Some Canadian courses of fire were similar to our own. Some courses incorporated negotiating obstacles prior to firing. One excellent course was called falling plates. Several 10 or 12 inch square steel plates were located in front of and at the base of the butts. Each team was delegated 20 or 25 plates which toppled over when struck with a single round. The first team to knock down all its plates won the match. One year, on the final day of firing, the pit detail challenged the Canadian and U.S. shooters. The match was modified so the AMU and our Canadian counterparts would run from the 300 yard line to the 200 yard line upon command and commence firing. The pit crew would remain in position at the 200 yard line and commence firing upon command. The keyword was "Lookout", which signaled the pit crew to commence firing and the AMU/Canadian group to start running forward. The experienced shooters of AMU and the Canadian Army overcame the pit crew's advantage and won the match. In later years when the Brown family was in Germany, another course of fire was introduced. It required each shooter to fire ten shots, two shots each at a silhouette target from the 600, 500, 400, 300 and 200 yard lines. Shooting at each yard line was preceded by a 100 yard run. The relay would prepare to fire from the 600 yard line. Two shots were fired when the target was raised for a few seconds. The targets were pulled and the relay ran to the next yard line and fired two shots, and so forth. One year, Hook Boutin, a great All Army gunsmith and shooter joined the relay late along with his Canadian counterpart and missed the briefing. Hook fired all ten of his shots at 600 yards and found out during the run-down to the 200 yard line what the course of fire was supposed to be. Hook had ten shots in the silhouette and was high shooter of the match.

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SFC Lance Dement, SSG Sherri Jo Gallagher, SSG Brandon Green, SFC Kevin McMahon, SFC Emil Praslick, and SFC Tobbie Tomlinson.

LTC (Ret.) Lones Wigger was the guest speaker for the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and he shared a few reflections on the value of the USAMU to the Army and keys to success.

The USAMU's Killed-In-Action Memorial was also unveiled during the 58th Reunion. Memorialized on the wall at Hook Range are: SGM Herbert Roberts, Jr., MSG Jared N. Van Aalst, 1LT John J. McHugh, SSG Leslie E. Wright, CPT Henry R. Phillips, and CSM Martin R. Barreras.

During the MMA General Membership Meeting, a new slate of officers was presented. Elected officers for 2015 are: Robert Harbison (President), Michael Behnke (Vice President) Charles Coffee (Secretary), and Kyle Ward (Treasurer). In addition to the elected officers, I reported on the rest of the slate of the Executive Board including Robert Hoidahl (Immediate Past President), Kevin McMahon (Membership), Michael Howard (Historian), Phil Cannella (Refreshment Coordinator), Sandra Uptagrafft (Member-At-Large) and Carter Berry (MMA Times Editor). "Red" Mosely is transitioning secretary duties to Charles and Sandra (website) over the next few months and will officially hand over responsibilities following the conclusion of the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting. Outgoing Treasurer Sam Hunter was recognized by the membership for his fourteen years of stalwart duty to the MMA. Thanks again Sam for a job well done.

2015 promises to be another significant year for the MMA as we see transitions in several key executive board positions.

All ready on the firing line!

Congratulations to 2014 USAMU Section Hall of Fame Inductees -

Support Hall of Fame, SFC Charles Coffee, and seven inductees to the Service Rifle Hall of Fame: MSG Norman Anderson, SFC Lance Dement, SSG Sherri Jo Gallagher, SSG Brandon Green, SFC Kevin McMahon, SFC Emil Praslick, and SFC Tobbie Tomlinson.

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developing marksmanship trainers.

It is a tremendous honor to work with and be a part of the great men and women in the Army Marksmanship Unit. Often these men and women have to travel and it is not unusual for them to work on a weekend when they are here. I recognize that they are able to achieve the things that they do in part because of the legacy previous members of AMU left for us to strive to continually live up to achieve. Thank all of you for your support of AMU.

Thanks for Your Donations

Thanks to **Staff Sergeant Mark Weeks and Specialist Mary Weeks** for their generous donation to purchase the six bronze KIA memorial plaques.

Thanks to an anonymous donation in remembrance of deceased USAMU Hall of Fame member Major Sallie L. E. Carroll. This donation enabled the purchase of inductee medallions for this Hall of Fame Ceremony and for future hall of fame ceremonies.

Thanks to **Margaret Murdock** for her generous donation to the MMA in honor of Major Sallie L. E. Carroll.

Thanks to **Ken Hamill** for his generous donation to the MMA.

Thanks to **B. J. Snow** for his generous donation to the MMA.

Thanks to **Charles Davis** for his generous donation to the MMA.

Thanks to the **U.S. Sugar Corporation** for their generous donation to the MMA for the USAMU Annual Ball.



**58th USAMU
Reunion
Memories**

Photos by
Ray Arredondo



Welcome!

New Life Members

David A. Cannella
Mernice P. Alkire
Lance D. Dement
Mark L. Weeks
Mary K. Weeks
John Kolb (Posthumously)
(John Kolb's membership was a gift by John Roka)

New MMA Members

Austin Odom
Dustin Taylor

Taps, Present Arms

MAJ Alfred D. Dunn, 93, a Service Rifle competitor and a resident of Columbus, Georgia died August 13, 2014. MAJ Dunn was a highly decorated World War II and Korean War veteran. He was a 1994 Charter Member of the MMA.

MAJ Sallie L. E. Carroll, 82, a USAMU Pistol Competitor died on September 11, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona. MAJ Carroll was a pioneering female competitive pistol shooter from the mid-1950s through the early-1970s. She was the first female pistol shooter assigned to the Service Pistol Team of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit (USAMTU) at Fort Benning, Georgia. MAJ Carroll was a 1994 Charter Member and a Life Member of the MMA.

COL Sidney C. Carpenter, 100, former CONARC Marksmanship Coordinator, National Matches Match Director, U.S. Olympic, Pan American Games, and World Shooting Championship Team Captain, Manager, and Coach, ISU Referee and Jury member died on October 12, 2014 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He was a highly decorated Korean War veteran. COL Carpenter was the CONARC Action Officer who was directly responsible for staffing that lead to the creation of the USAMTU.

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

