



MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 52025, Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2025
www.militarymarksmanship.org

September 2009

Issue Number LXI

What's Inside

MMA President's Report
.....Page 2

USAMU Commander's Report
.....Page 2

Coats Brown Legacy
.....Page 3

A Good NCO
.....Page 3

Taps, Present Arms
.....Page 4

Conway Chronicles
.....Page 4

Keeping In Touch
.....Page 5

Membership
.....Page 6

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

www.militarymarksmanship.org

USAMU Change of Responsibility

USAMU PAO



NEW USAMU SGT MAJ - USAMU's new Sergeant Major, Martin Barreras stands to the left of LTC Dan Hodne and SGT MAJ Tom Fuller.

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Sgt. Maj. Martin Barreras assumed responsibility of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit from Sgt. Maj. Thomas Fuller at a ceremony Aug. 28 at Pool Indoor Shooting Complex.

Barreras becomes the 23rd senior enlisted advisor at the "Home of Champions." He arrives from the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served for more than 20 years. He served with distinction in all three Ranger battalions as well as the regimental headquarters.

"Sgt. Maj. Barreras arrives to the USAMU with a tremendous reputation — one of inspiring leadership, extreme competence, and extraordinary professionalism," said Lt. Col. Daniel Hodne, commander, USAMU. "I eagerly anticipate continuing the forward momentum and building upon the tremendous achievements and initiatives of this unit with the benefit of the counsel and leadership of Sgt. Maj. Barreras."

Fuller is retiring after 21 years in the Army. Under Fuller's mentorship the USAMU had some of its most successful years, which included seeing two of his Soldiers capture Olympic Gold medals in 2008 as well as nu-

merous international, national and interservice championships.

"In this year, the 'Year of the NCO,' it is entirely fitting that we honor such an outstanding NCO for his years of service in the defense of our nation," Hodne said. "I feel extremely fortunate that I had the opportunity to serve alongside a noncommissioned officer of such caliber."

Fuller put an emphasis on training that contributed to measured progress on the USAMU's marksmanship training programs, Hodne remarked.

He also developed a concept to field a paralympic shooting team at the USAMU for wounded warriors, as well as institute an installation-wide program for all Command Sergeants Major that provides a venue to share marksmanship training techniques for dissemination throughout the Army.

"The last two years (at the USAMU) has been an indescribable honor," Fuller said. "True human greatness is achieved when you are part of something bigger than yourself."

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Dan Hodne



It is an exciting time to be a part of the great USAMU tradition. Our soldiers continue to make history. *The USAMU has fielded three National Champions* this Summer. SPC Vincent Hancock of Shotgun earned the title of Men's Skeet National Champion, while SSG Josh Richmond shot his way to become the Men's Double

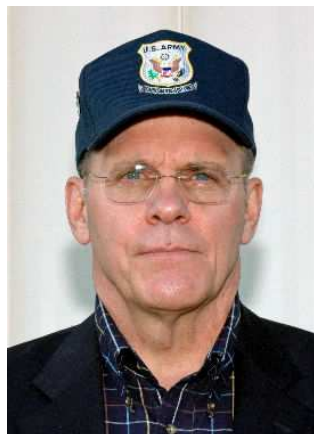
Trap National Champion during the 2009 U.S. National Championships. SFC Henderson of Service Pistol accomplished a feat that will undoubtedly be the topic of discussion among shooting circles for the foreseeable future. In sweeping every major individual championship at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, he performed in a manner that has never before been seen in the 100+ year history of the National Championships. SFC Henderson shattered 4 National Records and became the first USAMU soldier in 24 years to be named NRA National Pistol Champion. In individual competition, he swept every individual championship, including Interservice, for the entire 2009 competitive season.

Our Service Pistol and Service Rifle teams dominated Interservice competition and emerged as the clear winners in both Interservice matches. At Marine Corps Base Quantico, Service Rifle soldiers won four of five of the team events to include the Marine Corps Combat Development Center Commanding General's Cup, Interservice Long Range, the Infantry Trophy, and the Ten-man Team Championship. In addition, USAMU soldiers captured many of the individual awards - Coast Guard Trophy (SSG Tomlinson), Marine Corps Trophy (SGT Cooper), Army Trophy (SSG Tomlinson), 600 yd prone slow fire (SGT Green), 1000 yd (SGT Cooper), and Interservice Long Range Championship (SGT Green).

The USAMU Action Shooting Team recently competed in Area 7 Handgun championship in Fulton, NY and the JP Rocky Mountain World 3-Gun Championship in Raton, NM and accomplished a

MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



Traditionally, I say something about the West Central Georgia weather, this issue is no different. As of September, the nights have become cooler and the days a little less sweltering; however, our humidity remains high and the occasionally late afternoon thunder shower remains omnipresent. But, my prediction is it

will get cooler and the leaves will again fall from the trees. This can only mean the start of football season!

USAMU Change of Responsibility Ceremony, 28 August 2009:

SGM Thomas Fuller said farewell to the unit and passed responsibility to SGM Martin Barreras. We wish SGM Fuller and his family continued success in life after the Army. They will settle in the area and we hope to see them around town. SGM Barreras and family are coming to us from the 75th Ranger Regiment (I have detected a trend here). We look forward to working with him and his family in the upcoming months. A big "WELCOME" goes out to the Barreras' family.

Columbus State University (CSU) Solicitation

Letter: I received a message from the CSU Athletic Director apologizing for the way CSU handled distribution of their fund raising letter. I have asked that the newly formed CSU Rifle Team Coach and Athletic Director brief the MMA Executive Board on their new program. Following our briefing I will report back to the membership about their program through the MMA Times and on our web site. If you received a solicitation letter from CSU asking for monetary support for their marksmanship team, act as your conscience dictates. More to follow.

MMA Annual General Membership Meeting-

January 2010: Mark your calendar, our General Membership meeting will take place on Friday, January 22nd at Pool Indoor Range.

MMA Life Membership: As of this printing our organization has a total of 93 "Life Members," (90 living and 3 deceased). I think it would be great to

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.

First battalion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment was located at Fort McPherson, Georgia, in Atlanta. Fort Mac as it is still affectionately called, remains a major headquarters post for the U.S. Army. Atlanta was also home for Headquarters of the Fourth Corps Area. In 1937 a General was bucked from his horse, unhurt but embarrassed. The General wanted to jump a fence while riding, but the horse stopped rather than jumped. The Fourth Corps Commanding General thought that a cartoon like sketch was in order. The Fourth Corps CG, General Mosely made a telephone call to Colonel Lang, the Fort McClellan Post Commander and asked if he had someone who could make a sketch. Colonel Lang requested Corporal Brown's presence at his headquarters office. Coats reported and Colonel Lang explained the horse-bucking incident, the CG's request and asked if Coats could, and would be willing to make the sketch. Coats sketched a rider being ejected from a horse cartoon style and carried it to Colonel Lang. Colonel Lang looked at the sketch and laughed, then said "very good" "very good" while still smiling. On 22 December 1937 a letter was sent from the Fourth Army Area CG, Major General George Vanhorn Mosely to Colonel John W. Lang, Fort McClellan Post Commander. The letter was received on 25 December. It seems the ejected rider was a General Bill Bailey, a friend of General Mosely. General Mosely thanked Colonel Lang and Sergeant Brown for the sketch; it was just what he wanted. The General said he wrote under the sketch "Yes, we all heard about it", and they all signed under the statement. Undoubtedly, the sketch was sent to General Bailey and proves that the royal raspberry was alive and well in the 1930's Army. Colonel Lang annotated the letter and gave it to Coats with his congratulations.

Eventually in 1938, Coats had ten men assigned to his intelligence platoon. He was responsible for training all of the platoon recruits. He remembers one of his new men, Pvt Kelly Guerin was learning to march and sometimes got out of step. Coats tied some hay around Guerin's left leg on top of his wrap legging. Coats counted cadence, "right foot, hay foot, right foot, hay foot", and within a few days Guerin had marching down pat. Coats later worked with Pvt Guerin on the smallbore and high power ranges and developed him into a very fine shooter. In 1940 Coats took Kelly Guerin with him to the Infantry Team and Camp Perry. Kelly Guerin shot very well. Guerin volunteered for one of the first airborne school classes. Kelly Guerin sent Coats a photo of a

combat jump he made in the Pacific (New Guinea), where he was wounded. First Sergeant Kelly Guerin was stationed at Fort Polk in the 1960's.

Falling asleep on guard duty was a very serious matter then, as it is now. A soldier charged with falling asleep on guard could expect repercussions and a new career direction. Coats preferred to handle this indiscretion in his own way, so long as he judged the soldier to be worth saving. Once, while Corporal of the guard, he found Pvt. Callahan sleeping on his post in the middle of the night. Coats took Callahan's rifle and hid it, then made some noise to wake him and watched from a distance as Callahan searched and agonized over his missing rifle. Coats returned the rifle to a very tired Callahan just prior to reveille. Coats later heard that Callahan had made Tech Sergeant and was killed at Anzio. Another time, the unit returned to garrison after a two-week maneuver and everyone was tired. It was very cold and Coats had to look for Pvt. Dunbar, one of his guards. He found the Private asleep near a heater in a utility room. Coats placed his hand on Dunbar's head and applied gentle but increasing pressure until the soldier awoke and jumped up startled. Coats told the guard "This is between you and me, don't tell anyone I caught you asleep, and don't let it happen again". Dunbar was later commissioned and made Major during World War II.

A Good NCO

SFC Clyde Turner was the NCOIC of Parks Range in 1962. He had gone to the Korean War as a PFC and returned from combat as an SFC. **Weldon M. Griggs** was a Second Lieutenant at the time and recalls SFC Turner had many talents, which he was to learn about firsthand.

2LT Griggs returned to Parks Range one day with a parking ticket. Griggs told SFC Turner that it was for infraction in a zone that was not marked and that he thought it was not right. Turner looked at the citation and said, "I will take care of it Lieutenant," and left the range saying that he was going to the Provost Marshal's Office.

It was not very long before SFC Turner returned to Parks Range. Turner never said who he talked to or what he said, but he simply told Griggs it was taken care of and not to worry about it. Griggs remembers SFC Turner as a good NCO that took care of his people and that sometimes it is best not to question how NCOs get the job done.

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

TSgt Robert Louis Koonce, USAF Retired, died December 30, 2008 at Baltimore-Washington Medical Center, Glen Burnie, Maryland. TSgt Koonce was a Life Member of the MMA.

SFC Leon Rufino Labang, a Service Rifle Shooter, died June 30, 2009 in Pearl City, Hawaii. Leon was a member of the US Army Pacific Rifle Team, the US Army Europe Rifle Team, and the "All" Army National Trophy Group Rifle Team. He was a sniper in Vietnam and his awards include the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

SFC Ronald Moses Kaiwilohia Barenaba, Sr., a Service Rifle Shooter, died July 21, 2009 in Tacoma, Washington. Ronald was a member of the US Army Pacific Rifle Team, the Sixth US Army Rifle Team, and the "All" Army National Trophy Group Rifle Team. His awards include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Silver Star Medal. Ronald was also awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1958.

SFC Thomas Orr, USAMU S4, died August 21, 2009 in Grandin, Florida. SFC Orr was assigned to the USAMU as the unit's Supply Sergeant during the period 1962-1967.

Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

Sight In Days: A fellow came up to the workbench with a restocked 1903A3. He proudly told me he had mounted the scope himself. A friend, a professional welder, had fixed up his bolt handle to go under the scope. Real nice job. Anyway he could not get it on paper! Looking at it I could see the scope pointed to the left in relation to the barrel. The collimator said the same and there was not enough adjustment to get it zeroed. He had made a fairly common mistake. He assumed the rear flat surface on the receiver bridge was centered with the rest of the receiver and consequently the barrel. If you look at it from the rear you can see just how much it is off center to the right in relation to the safety leg channel. Couple of days later, in my shop I was able to drill and tap a 10/32 hole on center in my Forster drilling jig, loosing only .005-.006 inch on the right side. The Weaver base for the 1903A3 has only one hole but straddles the dovetail of the receiver so recoil was no problem. I did not see him again but it was collimated in the shop. I hope this has been enlightening but as you can see, some incidences are also quite scary. Good Shooting!!

COMMANDER / From Page 2 _____
tremendous feat. The team's competitors, SSG Tomasié, SPC Dimaculangan, SFC Johnson, and SPC Horner, competed in different divisions (Limited, Open, Tactical Irons, and Tactical Optic,) and took first place in each of their respective divisions for both competitions. On a personal note, a USMC Wounded Warrior who lost a leg, ear, and eye, competed respectably at the Rocky Mountain 3-Gun. Out of respect and appreciation to this Marine, competitors initiated a collection of guns to continue shooting; Firebird Arms provided a rifle, Tri-angle Shooting Sports and Arredondo accessories offered a pistol and a slot in the Fort Benning 3-Gun competition. USAMU's SFC Johnson gave him his personal Bennelli M3 shotgun! This act of generosity is a testament to the caliber and character of the people in this unit.

Our USAMU soldiers will soon make history in another unique way as they will provide an invaluable contribution to the war effort in Afghanistan. Not since the tremendous efforts of the Sniper Instructors and the Customs Firearms Shop during the Vietnam War has the USAMU directly provided prolonged direct support to ongoing combat operations. Our soldiers will deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as 5-man elements on a rotational basis for approximately 120 days to export our marksmanship expertise through training the trainers in a marksmanship training program. We have an open dialogue with one of the major headquarters in Afghanistan and should have USAMU "boots on the ground" for the first element by mid-December.

We are also working closely with the Accessions Support Brigade to increase the number of "Instructor/Shooters" in the unit to meet the Army's high demand of our training courses. We plan on adding Wounded Warriors to our ranks to allow these combat veterans the opportunity to continue to serve, train soldiers, and represent the US Army to America's people. We should all feel very proud of what our unit's members are doing are doing for the organization and for the Army. ARMY STRONG!

**Annual MMA Meeting
January 29, 2010 - 3 PM
Pool Indoor Shooting Complex**

Keeping In Touch

Walter Zdon of Churchville, Maryland says that two early 1960 era Service Rifle shooters met, because they were wearing the famous unit hat. Back in late May, I was wandering around the 39th Ordnance Military Antiques Show held at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, Maryland when I heard someone yelling for me to wait. That person was **Norman Dauerer** of Hopewell Junction, New York and he was wearing a unit hat, too.



We had not seen each other since the 2006 USAMU 50th Anniversary Reunion. We had shot on the same Service Rifle teams from 1964 to 1966 and became Distinguished together in 1965. Norm was assigned to the MTU, and I was from the First Army at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Norm travels around the East Coast, with his wife Joanne, showing his restored 1942 Jeep with the 103rd Cavalry markings. This was the unit that liberated his hometown in Germany when he was six years old. I'll be on the lookout for some wearing the unit cap and hope to see you all at the next reunion.

Hillary Hinds-Schmidt, daughter of former USAMU commander COL Sidney R. Hinds, Jr. and **Marylouise Hinds**, has reached the five-year mark for being cancer free after being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in 2005. Many of you will remember her as "Hickory" -- a fourth grader at Dexter Elementary School in 1978. Marylou says, "Hi to everyone at the AMU."

The new **National Infantry Museum** is now open, and it is a really spectacular building. You need to set aside at least a half a day to tour the museum the next time you come to Columbus and Fort Benning.

Weldon M. Griggs (Int'l Rifle and Running Target) has graduated as a volunteer docent (guide) at the Palm Springs Air Museum, California. Volunteers must be interviewed, back ground checked, and complete OJT of four hours in each of the five sections of the museum, complete an assigned presentation, and finish 100 hours of service in the museum. Additionally, 20 hours of World War II classroom training is required. Many of the docents are former military or civilian pilots and wear a distinctive uniform when on duty.

The museum features 22, World War II aircraft with all but two in flying condition while a C 47, with a June 1944 paint scheme, is being refurbished.

The docents are given some freedom in discussing the planes and the men who flew them. Griggs says he works marksmanship into his remarks by telling visitors how LTC Jerry Johnson, 5th Air Force, shot down three Japanese fighters in 45 seconds flying his P-51 Mustang fighter plane, and how Captain Bill Shomo, in his first aerial combat, shot down six Japanese fighters and one bomber in six minutes before running out of ammunition. Captain Shomo was awarded the Medal of Honor. Griggs says he carries a .50 caliber machine gun round in his pocket to show visitors when discussing the .50 caliber machine gun armament that was used on U.S. airplanes. Griggs says that the museum is a learning experience for many, and sadly, many persons do not know who we were fighting at the time, much less the airplanes that were used or the sacrifices of the airmen.

PRESIDENT / From Page 2 _____

reach the "Century" mark by years end and to start on our second hundred in 2010. I can think of no higher calling than supporting your organization as a "Life" member. I encourage ALL of our non-life members to think about taking that extra commitment and upgrading to Life Member status. Heck, our treasurer, Sam Hunter, will even credit any membership years you have paid in advance toward your Life Membership. Let's get to 100 Life Members by the New Year. Your commitment to MMA is vital in support of the USAMU mission. HOOAH!

New MMA Life Members: I would like to recognize our newest MMA Life members: Robert C. Brizee, Allen Craig Fletcher, James H. Krilich, and Robert W. Leary III. Thanks for your commitment and dedication to our association. Hooah!

Thank you, **Gary L. Singley**, for your donation to the MMA Library of the book, *Marksmanship in the U.S. Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training* by William K. Emerson.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robert C Brizee
James H. Krilich
Robert W. Leary III
Allen Craig Fletcher

New MMA Members

Robert W. Leary III
Allen Craig Fletcher
Michael A. Molinaro
Michael A. Payne

MEMBERSHIP 2008-2009

