



MMA TIMES

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Soldiers Return With Many Trophies

USAMU PAO



Soldiers from USAMU fire on their targets from 600 yards away during the National Infantry Trophy Rifle team match Aug. 6. The USAMU won the match, soundly defeating 41 other six-man teams.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit completed one of the unit's most successful runs in recent years at the 2010 National Rifle and Pistol Championship, winning multiple individual and team championships, setting national records, and upholding the unit's reputation as the "Home of Champions."

Accomplishing the unit's mission to enhance the Army's recruiting effort and raise the Army's combat readiness takes up a lot of the Soldiers time, so the USAMU Soldiers' intense desire to train to win enabled them to prevail at Camp Perry.

"Our expansive mission of supporting the war-fighter limits the amount of time available to prepare for the National Championship," said Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Ward, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the service rifle team "When the team is able to come together and train, everyone is extremely focused on the task at hand."

The crowning achievement for the unit was finishing first in all of the major team competitions at the championships. The USAMU Service Pistol's Blue team started things off by winning the "Coming Through the Rye" trophy as the top four-man pistol team, winning the title for the second time in the unit's history.

Soldiers from the International Rifle team followed that up by winning the prone any sight team championship during the smallbore matches, defending their crown from a year ago. Soldiers from the Service Rifle team completed the sweep, winning the "Dogs of War" trophy and the coveted National Trophy Infantry Team match.

Much of the team's success is credited to teamwork, Ward said. Soldiers helped each other out during training sessions, communicated well during the matches, and, as is always the case at the USAMU, the Custom Firearms Shop

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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!

As predicted, 2010 has proven to be year to add to the remarkable history of this unique and distinctive Unit. At the conclusion of the most intensive part of the competition season, Sections across all shooting disciplines earned

championship titles and established new national, individual, and team records. The tremendous depth in the talent of our Soldiers and NCOs became readily apparent through numerous record-setting match performances. Our training of Units preparing to deploy to combat is resuming in earnest. Our mission in Afghanistan continues to yield impressive results. Finally, our tradition of leading precision small-arms innovation continues to contribute to Army combat readiness.

On the World stage the international teams won 12 gold medals, 7 silver medals, and 8 bronze medals at World Cups and the World Championships and earned two Olympic slots for the United States in the 2012 Olympic Games. Our Soldiers earned these medals at various international venues such as Germany, Serbia, Norway, China, Italy, Mexico and the USA.

In National match programs, our teams earned 64 gold medals (or champion titles), 13 Silver medals and 7 Bronze medals at all of the various National Championships. **USAMU established 32 new individual and team national records.** Finally, the Army emerged as the undisputed champions amongst the other Services as the Unit swept Interservice competition in all three disciplines (Shotgun, Service Pistol, and Service Rifle).

Perhaps of most importance, the balance of more experienced and younger shooters who earned World, National, Interservice, and Regional titles demonstrate that the Unit's approach to building for the future is on track.

Our first new hires of Wounded Veterans will trickle in to the Unit after 15 October. We look forward to welcoming these veterans who have proudly given much for their country and turning them into world-class shooters. We will enable them to continue to serve their country in a different capacity, that of showcasing the Army in paralympic competition. I know that I expect a great deal from our NCOs, Soldiers, and Coaching Staff in terms of

MMA President's Report

Bob Hoidahl



I had better be careful for what I ask...the heat continues in Southwest Central Georgia! It's time for the leaves to fall and the temperature to break. We've had a long hot, record breaking summer and I'm ready for the fall football season to start!

USAMU/MMA Reunion

2010: Official reunion registration packets were mailed,

with many already responding...Hooah. If you haven't registered by now, find your packet and get your Registration Form in the mail. All of the items in the packet are posted on the MMA web site in case your membership has lapsed and you were not included in the mailing. Remember, reunion attendance for current members is free if you register by October 4th. Otherwise, if you miss the registration date, you will be required to pay the \$15 registration fee upon arrival. The registration fee for non-members, spouses, and guests is \$15.00 per person. **RE-MINDER:** If you do not have a DOD sticker on your vehicle, you will need to stop and receive a temporary Fort Benning access pass at the building on the left prior to the manned checkpoints on I-185 or Fort Benning Road. All vehicle occupants must have some form of picture identification to get on post.

50th Anniversary Commemorative Book: The book will be on sale at the reunion for \$50, cash & carry. **AFTER** the reunion the USAMU Store will continue to sell the book. Red Mosely, our secretary, has attached a link on our MMA website to place orders.

New Life Members and a Contribution: I would like to recognize our newest MMA Life Members: Thomas D. Smith III, Edward C. Shelley III, and M. David Edmondson. Thanks to all for your commitment and dedication to your association. A special thanks goes out to John D. Loomis for his generous contribution to the MMA, way to go John!

USAMU

54th Reunion

Hall of Fame Induction

October 14-16, 2010

Fort Benning, Georgia

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 remembers great competition with the Marines. The Marine Team would visit Camp Perry prior to the national matches in order to compete with the Infantry Team. The Marines invited the Infantry Team to visit Camp Curtis Guild, near Boston to compete. Eleven shooters and a team coach and team captain made the trip. Coats made the Camp Curtis Guild trip twice. One time the Marine dining hall served a steamed or boiled cod, potatoes and assorted vegetables dish that had been cooked in one pot and everyone thought it was great. The Camp Curtis Guild mess had civilian waitresses. Coats remembers his first taste of lobster during a trip to Camp Curtis Guild. One time, following a visit to the Marine Base, the team officers had business elsewhere. Some time off was in order. A three-day pass was declared. The team would muster following their return to Erie Ordnance Depot. Coats and Otis Lowe received permission to attend the Worlds Fair on Long Island, New York. Otis owned a car. They drove to Manhattan and found a hotel. They ate breakfast and supper at the hotel each day. They took a subway to and from the Worlds Fair each day. They ate dinner at a restaurant on the Fairgrounds. They saw and experienced a great deal for very little money. They had three fun days in New York.

Great competition and mutual respect was the order of the day. At the 1939 National Rifle Championships the Infantry and Marine teams shot one of the big matches side by side. It was the Herrick team match, eight shooters, 20 shots each, at 1,000 yards. Both teams using a 300-magnum bull gun. Speck Easley was team captain and on a scope conferring with Sgt Sharpe, team coach also on a scope for the Infantry team. Sgt Sharpe had been an Olympic Shooter along with Sid Hinds. He was a great wind reader who was willing to teach everyone on the Infantry Team who wanted to learn. Sgt Sharpe and Gunner Lloyd of the Marines were the two finest wind dopers in the country. On this day Sgt Clements and Gunner Lloyd coached the Marine Team. Infantry shot a new record score of 797 with 127 V's with three shots out due to elevation.

The Marines shot 800 with 123 V's. The beautiful Calvin Lloyd range at Quantico was named after the Marine coach. Coats thought Warrant Officer Lloyd might have been the finest all around coach in the country. He was respected by everyone, shooters, coaches, officers, enlisted men and civilians from all walks of life.

Sergeant Brown continued to soldier in 1940. He spent a lot of time in the smallbore range in the attic of the barracks. He occasionally got some high power rifle practice at the known distance range two miles down the road. They shot a lot of smallbore postal matches with other Army units. The Company Commander would authenticate the fired upon targets and have them mailed to the competing unit. There was time and opportunity to teach, shoot and coach. Major Fairchild, the Regimental Plans and Training officer scheduled some matches. Several matches were fired at the home, Fort McClellan ranges. A four man team was occasionally sent to away matches. Two pistol shooters and two rifle shooters formed the team. Joe Benner and Cpl Tumbler shot pistol. Brown and Alexander shot rifle. Major Fairchild would notify their Companies and provide travel orders to them all for away matches.

WELCOME!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Thomas D. Smith III Edward C. Shelley III
M. David Edmondson

New MMA Members

Finton E. Stewart Gale H. Boehnke
Michael E. Illovsy Amanda L. Elsenboss
Joel D. Turner, Jr. Matthew L. Rawlings

Thank You Notes!

Marvin and Polly Warren wrote, "This [note] is just a small way to say thank you for your love, prayers, calls, and contributions helping Brianna in her recovery. Brianna is doing very well now, but has a long road ahead with cosmetic surgery. Members of the USAMU and the MMA have always been there for anyone in need, so again we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts." — *Editor's note: Brianna was attacked and savagely mauled by a pit bulldog earlier this year.*

John D. Loomis wrote that unfortunately he cannot make this reunion. John said that his shooting career and the fond memories of the many friends he made during the 10-years he shot on different teams are among his life's high points. He said, "Please give my best regards to all at the reunion."

— *President's note: The MMA thanks John for his generous contribution to the MMA.*

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

SFC Denny M. Bynum, 76, a Service Pistol Shooter, died April 17, 2010 in Odenton, Maryland. He enlisted in the USMC in 1954 and joined the Army in 1958. He retired with 20-years of service in 1974. Denny was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving with Company C, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light) "Redcatchers" from 1969-70. He was assigned to the 1st Army Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) at Fort Meade, Maryland from 1970-74. His awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal (2), Air Metal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Medal (2), Good Conduct Medal w/5 clasps, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/1960 device, Combat Infantrymen Badge, U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge (1967), and Rifle Excellence In Competition Badge.

SFC William H. Thornton, 83, a Service Rifle Shooter, died on May 16, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. SFC Thornton was known as "Pappy" by his Army buddies and was a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was in the first battle of the Korean War, July 1950, and was assigned to Company B, 21st infantry, 24th infantry Division, Task Force Smith. During the Vietnam War, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as a sniper and sniper instructor. SFC Thornton shot with the 3rd and 6th Army Marksmanship Training Units, 7th and 8th Army Rifle Teams, and was assigned to the USAMU Service Rifle Team. His shooting awards include the German Gold Schutzens Badge, President's Hundred Tab, and the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge (1964). SFC Thornton retired from the Army after a distinguished 27-year career. Upon retirement, he trained to become a barber and worked a second career at the Barber Shop located on the U.S. Naval Support Base in Millington, Tennessee. SFC Thornton was buried with full military honors at the Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada, on May 21, 2010.

MSG Donald W. Jaynes, 76, a Service Pistol Shooter, died May 23, 2010 in Rising Star, Texas. During the Korean War, he was assigned to C Troop, 9th Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Cavalry Division (DMZ) and was a Platoon Sergeant in Company C, 1st Battalion (Swamp Rats), 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One) during the Vietnam War. As an Infantryman, his most valued military award was the Combat Infantryman Badge. Donald was assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) Service Pistol Team at Fort Benning, Georgia and later assigned to the Fourth Army Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He was a member of the NRA 2600 Pistol Club and was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1959. Donald retired from the United States Army after 20-years of service to his country.

CPT John R. "Pinky" Edwin, 79, an International Rifle Shooter, died May 26, 2010 in Mansfield, Texas. CPT Edwin was one of the initial members of the USAMU International Rifle Team.

SGT Walter J. Zdon, Sr., 70, a Service Rifle Shooter, died June 4, 2010 in Churchville, Maryland. Walter started shooting in 1959 with the Fort Eustis, Virginia, Transportation Command Team, then was selected to represent the 1st Army Rifle Team, and finally was picked up by the USAMU Service Rifle Team. He was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1965. Upon leaving the military in 1966, Walter accepted the position of Master Gunner, Aberdeen Test Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, where he tested all types of weapons and equipment. Walter retired in 1995 with 38 years combined federal service as Chief, Michaelsville Range Branch, Small Arms Test Facility.

MSG James Bentley, 73, a Service Pistol Shooter, died June 7, 2010 in Leesville, Louisiana. He was awarded the U. S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1978.

SFC Henry T. D. Mele, 84, a Service Rifle Shooter, died June 11, 2010 in Columbus, Georgia.

SFC Robert D. Hunkapiller, 77, a Service Rifle Shooter, died July 16, 2010 in North Carolina. Hunkapiller was born in Tampa, Florida and joined the Army in 1951. He served in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War and retired in 1972. SFC Hunkapiller was part of the second group of USAMU sniper instructors to be deployed to Vietnam and established the 25th Infantry Division Sniper School at Cu Chi. The NCOIC of the sniper school said, "I could not have had a better or more qualified NCO, sniper instructor, or sniper than SFC Hunkapiller. He carried out all details and missions--no matter how onerous or dangerous they were." SFC Hunkapiller also shot with the USAEUR Rifle Team and the 5th Army Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU). SFC Hunkapiller's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd award), and Bronze Rifle Excellence In Competition Badge (1967). SFC Hunkapiller was buried July 23, 2010 with full military honors at the Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida.

MSG Jared N. Van Aalst, 34, a Special Operations Soldier, was killed August 4, 2010 during a combat operation in Konduz Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. MSG Van Aalst, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He also served with 75th Ranger Regiment, was the Chief Instructor at the Sniper School, and assigned to the Service Rifle Section of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia, from 2001 to 2003. He was awarded the U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 2002 and the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 2008.

COMMANDER / From Page 2

turning these new paralympic hires into world-class shooters in a fraction of the typical time, but we are the "Home of Champions." The Army expects us to accomplish this task.

In other aspects of our mission, an Afghanistan National Army delegation recently visited the MCOE, Fort Benning. BG Aminullah Patyani, the Commander of the Kabul Military Training Center; BG Gary Patton, the Deputy Commander-Army, NTM-A/CSTC-A; and party (including Commander of Basic Warrior Training - Bn Cdr 2-22 IN) visited the USAMU. Both BG Patyani and BG Patton expressed their appreciation for USAMU support to the training effort in Afghanistan. BG Patton attributed the vast improvement in rifle qualification rates (citing that he witnessed this qualification rate jump from under 30% to nearly 95%) to the train-the-trainer efforts of our marksmanship training teams and added that the US Army Marksmanship Unit is making a "huge impact on the fastest growing Army in the world." Our fourth marksmanship training team (Team 10-4) is conducting pre-mission training and will deploy towards the end of September, conduct the relief in place, and continue the mission.

I look forward to seeing you at the USAMU/MMA 54th Reunion in mid-October. It should be a wonderful event and enable past and present Unit members and families to reconnect and share the camaraderie from service in this unique and special Unit. For those former Unit members who have been inquiring about obtaining a new black hat to replace one that may have been lost or is worn out, we will have black hats available for a one time purchase.

In addition to this special Reunion event, I am pleased to inform you of other great opportunities to stay connected with the Unit:

SAVE THE DATE... **28 January 2011** will mark a significant date in the history of our Unit. **The Patton Roundhouse Reactivation Ceremony** will take place that morning at Hook Range; the **4th Annual USAMU Ball** will take place later that evening at the RiverMill Event Centre in Columbus. The symbolism of the Patton Roundhouse event, being that General Patton is affiliated with this building and the Armor Center is arriving to the Maneuver Center of Excellence cannot be understated. *This building is as unique as our Unit is.* Our 4th Annual USAMU Ball promises to be a great event as well.

We open both of these events to MMA members. We need your help in determining the number of attendees for the Ball. Therefore, **to receive an invitation to the 4th**

Annual USAMU Ball, please RSVP by 1 November to usamuball@gmail.com or call 706.545.1272.

On a final note, I am happy to announce that SGT Gallagher (recently promoted) advanced to earn the title of TRADOC Soldier of Year! She will compete in the upcoming months for the honor of being named the Army's Soldier of the Year. She is well-prepared to represent TRADOC and succeed during the Army selection process. We are extremely proud of her and wish her the best of luck.

We continue to look forward in an effort to always make the Unit even better. **ARMY STRONG!**



Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Service Pistol team won the National Pistol Championship overall team championship. Team members were: (front) SSG Lyman Grover; SSG Robert Park; and SSG Patrick Franks. (back) SFC James Henderson; SFC Gregory Wilson; and SSG John Ennis.

Keeping in Touch Items Wanted:

We would like to "Keep in Touch" with you personally. For example, what are you doing in retirement, is there someone in your family you are very proud of and should be recognized, you reached a milestone (birthday or anniversary), or just a note to let us know how you are doing. You don't have to be a professional writer--just put it in your own words (handwritten is OK--it need not be typed--if you mail it to us). Are you afraid of spelling or grammatical errors? Don't worry, we will run your input through a computer spelling checker. Please mail your "Keeping in Touch" item to the MMA Times Editor (use the return address of this newsletter) or email it to [edi-
tor@militarymarksmanship.org](mailto:editor@militarymarksmanship.org)

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provided the direct support that enables the USAMU to stand tall above the rest.

“I attribute much of our success to the professionals in the Custom Firearms Shop and loading facility who went the extra mile in ensuring that we had the best equipment possible,” said Ward.

Individually, USAMU Soldiers stood out amongst the huge field of more than 6,000 competitors throughout the six-week period in July and August.

Sgt. Sherri Jo Gallagher persevered against one of the toughest field of competitors in the history of rifle competitions to win the national high-powered rifle championship. Gallagher set a new national record in the process with a score of 2396-161x, beating out a ten-time champion, a four-time champion, and the defending champion.

She is the first service member to win the championship since 1987 and only the second woman ever to do so—her mother was the first. Gallagher won eight individual matches, seven aggregate championships and set four other national records over the course of the week.

Staff Sgt. Shane Barnhart swept the field during the smallbore matches, winning both the national three-position and prone championships, the second

consecutive year a USAMU Soldier has accomplished the incredible feat and only the third shooter ever in the history of the matches. It was the fourth time he won the three-position championship.

“I have been close to winning the prone before, but this year I was hungry for it,” Barnhart said. “I worked my butt off during the entire nationals. I never let up.”

“Being only the third person in history to double up on the championships feels amazing. This motivates me to really train hard to make the Olympic team and World Cups.”

Staff Sgt. Robert Park led the way for the Service Pistol team. Park won the prestigious President’s Pistol Trophy for the second time and finished in third place overall at the National Pistol Championship, his first time making the podium. He was a member of three team championships and won three other individual titles, including the overall service pistol champion during the Civilian Marksmanship Program’s National Trophy Pistol matches.

Soldiers are primed for a busy fall season conducting marksmanship training for Soldiers preparing to deploy. Combining the unit’s performance at the nationals with their sheer dominance in the Interservice competitions, the training those deploying Soldiers will receive will undoubtedly come from the best.



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