



MMA TIMES

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MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison

Greetings fellow shooters! I hope that your summer was pleasant and enjoyable. I want you to know that your Executive Board has been diligently working through the summer on several ongoing projects to ensure that the MMA remains a viable, vibrant entity ready to serve you and promote the objectives of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit.

First some news: Miniature dress President's Hundred tabs are now available for purchase from a retailer in Columbus, Georgia. Commando Military Supply now stocks this item. Although it is designed as a military dress uniform accoutrement, it also makes a dandy hat or lapel pin. I have seen the pins and can attest to a plentiful stock on hand at Commando. They are listed at \$9.95, plus shipping and handling. If you'd like to order one, contact Commando Military Supply. Orders are best placed over the phone to (706) 689-0110. The store does have a web site www.commandosupply.com but it does not include online purchasing. I asked about that, and the clerk explained, "We're sort of a mom-and-pop operation still, and we just haven't gotten around to the online ordering yet." If you're in the area, the street address is 4411 Victory Drive, Columbus, GA 31903. Kudos are due to both Phil Canella and Steve Young (current Executive Board members) for keeping the "Pres 100 Pin" issue on the front burner and finding a suitable retailer. I already have one, but may buy some extras for my hat and shooting kit.



Miniature President's Hundred metal brassard, yellow background on brass, two inches wide with two military style pin clasps.

Some less exciting news that you should know: The Exec Board continues to take the necessary administrative actions to keep our wonderful organization on solid ground. Our license to operate on Fort Benning and a biennial audit are in progress,

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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 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 last report, I will ensure that the USAMU continues to be adaptable, innovative, and resourceful in supporting Army recruiting and accessions and meeting the increasing demand of our operating forces for marksmanship training while maintaining a continuous forward-deployed presence in Afghanistan. With a great team of Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members, backed by the MMA, we will be well postured to meet these needs of our Army.

In connecting America's Army to America's people, the USAMU officially announced that it will host the first-ever "ARMY STRONG Collegiate Shooting Championships" from 13-18 March, 2012. This pioneering collegiate and youth shooting sports championship event will consist of the NRA Intercollegiate Pistol Championships, the NRA Intercollegiate Rifle Club Championship, the Scholastic Steel Challenge Collegiate Championship, and the Scholastic Clay Target Program Challenge. The inaugural ARMY STRONG Collegiate Shooting Championships (ASCSC) for March 2012 just may become the largest, multi-discipline shoulder-to-shoulder collegiate and youth shooting sports championships to ever take place in the United States. I aim to make this unique collegiate shooting sports championship venue an annual recurring event. This unit will become the beacon for such prestigious collegiate shooting match programs.

I am proud to report that in showcasing our Army in support of recruiting and accessions, 2011 is on track to be another absolutely phenomenal year. Service Pistol and Service Rifle completely swept their respective Interservice Championships, established new records, and won some of the most prestigious of trophies during the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. International Pistol and International Rifle also claimed numerous individual and team National Champion titles. Shotgun and Action Shooting have key championship matches quickly approaching on the horizon (World Championships in Belgrade, World Shoot in Greece, and 3-Gun Nationals in

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as are preparations to provide a trophy firearm for the USAMU Soldier of the Year for 2012, which will be awarded at the annual meeting early next year.

Life memberships have been on the rise since I last wrote you. John Britton, David Grimshaw, Roger Hayes, Adam Sokolowski, and Lyman Grover joined the ranks of MMA life members in the last few months. Well done gentlemen! The generous gifts of the life member dues position the MMA well to continue to support our membership and the USAMU. I want to thank Jim Hagearty, Executive Director of the Illinois Junior Precision Shooters, for providing two life memberships recently.



As I write this our Nation is approaching the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country in September 2001. The decade has seen our country at its best; we have seen brave men and women step up to defeat our enemies here and abroad, protecting what we hold dear against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I am reminded of a wonderful story of the Soldiers of the USAMU answering our

country's call during the Vietnam War. Willis Powell recounted to me while we were preparing the 50th anniversary book how the Instructor/Shooters responded to a call for volunteers to serve as sniper instructors in Vietnam. Willis said, "The line was out the door of the headquarters building." It is a seldom told footnote to the Camp Perry results from those years that many of our best marksmen were indeed on the line, although not at Camp Perry but at division sniper school ranges in Southeast Asia. As you read this the Soldiers of the USAMU are once again answering the call for expert marksmen-this time in Afghanistan. Please keep our deployed unit Soldiers in your prayers, and send them a note or care package if you're so inclined.

All ready on the firing line!

WELCOME!

New LIFE Members

Roger A. Hayes Lyman P. Grover
Adam E. Sokolowski David A. Grimshaw

New MMA Member

Andy L. Sherrer

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

MSG John D. Loomis, a resident of Salinas, California, died on his 82nd birthday March 20, 2011.

MSG Loomis was a member of the Sixth Army MTU and Eighth Army USARPAC pistol teams, a 2600 shooter, and was awarded the U. S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1960.

John was a Vietnam veteran assigned to the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. During that tour, he was seriously wounded by a VC sniper and never was able continue his marksmanship career.

"Big" John will be remembered as a serious pistol competitor who was able to lighten the pressures of competition with his hearty laugh. John was a Life Member of the MMA.

MSG John C. Kesler, 67, a resident of Irmo, South Carolina died on April 6, 2011.

MSG Kesler served in Operation Desert Storm during the Iraq War and Homeland Security Operation Noble Eagle. He was a member of the "All" USAR Rifle Team and was awarded the U. S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1975.

John retired from the U. S. Postal Service after 27 years of service and was owner and operator of Kesler Logging.

SFC Jason R. Sargent, 39, lost his courageous battle against a terminal illness on June 25, 2011.

Sargent was a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit for more than five years. He was a decorated member of the Service Pistol platoon and a member of several championship teams. In 2010 he was named the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the unit's International Pistol platoon and tasked with preparing USAMU soldiers in their pursuit of becoming a 2012 Olympic Games gold medalist. He also was the lead instructor in numerous close quarters marksmanship training courses, which raised the combat readiness of thousands of Army soldiers.

Born in Bar Harbor, Maine, Sargent graduated in 1990 from Ellsworth High School in Ellsworth, Maine, and then studied professional aeronautics at Embry-Riddle University. In 1993, Sargent enlisted in the Army. His initial assignment was at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as an aerial observer with the 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment. He also served in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division and at Fort Carson, Colorado, with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment before his first assignment with the USAMU. In 2003, Sargent volunteered to serve a combat tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the Combined Joint Task Force-180 CJ3 Aviation NCOIC. He served in the Army Reserves before returning to active duty and joining the USAMU in 2008.

During his military career, Sargent was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, three Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Deployment Ribbon, Aircraft Crewman Badge, Air Assault Badge, U. S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 2004, and President's Hundred Tab.

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel C. Hodne, USAMU Commander, paid tribute to the memory of SFC Sargent stating, "Although his time on this Earth was cut short, his impact on each of us will last the rest of our lives, Let us live by Jason's example, let us make each day count, and let us live with a sense of the profound impact we can all have on each other."

Editor's note: Individual obituaries are posted to the Taps, Present Arms page of the MMA web site.

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Las Vegas). Finally, our Unit will host the very first International Paralympic World Cup to EVER take place in the Western Hemisphere at the beginning of October.

I am also proud to share that USA Shooting nominated SFC Uptagrafft (International Rifle) and SSG Richmond (Shotgun) to the 2012 US Olympic Team! Pending approval by the US Olympic Committee, they will join the US Olympic Team bound for London in the 2012 Olympic Games. Congratulations!

Regarding the Service and International Pistol disciplines, I have considered USAMU's historical practices, and at the recommendation of the NCOICs, I have combined their efforts as a cross-functional team when appropriate. America's people most recently witnessed this practice as SFC Rose (an IP shooter/instructor) won the National Trophy Individual at the 2011 National Matches. I envision an SP shooter/instructor making a bid for the 2016 US Olympic Team. Simply put, IP and SP shooter/instructors will be expected to shoot both disciplines as the unit did from 1956-1980. Mission, TDA, and force structure remains intact and unchanged; however, the manner in which we execute our missions will, to the end of creating efficiencies and opportunities, while making the unit even better. Resourcefulness in the manner we operate will contribute to the Unit's relevance over the long term.

Speaking of relevance, when reflecting on this outstanding organization, I am most proud of one simple fact...our NCOs and Soldiers routinely accomplish incredible achievements in the name our Army and this Unit, while embracing their status that they are Soldiers FIRST. This September marks the tenth anniversary of the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. As of this October, our nation will have been engaged in overseas contingency operations against global terror for ten years straight. Our fellow citizens entrust our Army to protect our freedoms at home and abroad, secure our homeland, and defend democracy worldwide. Our Unit plays a vital role to these ends by contributing to raising Army combat readiness. We also maintain a continuous presence in Afghanistan. Team 11-3's mission will be complete after they conduct a relief in place with Team 11-4 and safely redeploy home with all personnel, sensitive items, and equipment. I would like to thank in advance all of our Unit, Family, and MMA members who check on the families of our deployed personnel. Acts of consideration are greatly appreciated. Our people and their families are our most precious resource.

As the peak of the competition season is behind us, we are ramping up our marksmanship training efforts for units across the force. We also continue to look forward in an effort to always make the Unit even better and raise our Army's overall combat readiness. **ARMY STRONG!**

