



MMA TIMES

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Hancock first Olympic champion to repeat in men's skeet

USAMU PAO



USAMU's Sergeant Vincent Hancock proudly displays his Gold Medal he won in Men's Skeet at the 2012 Olympics in London.

LONDON – In double record-setting fashion, Sgt. Vincent Hancock became the first shotgun shooter to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in men's skeet at the Royal Artillery Barracks.

Hancock, 23, a Soldier in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit from Eatonton, Ga., eclipsed his own records set at the 2008 Beijing Games for a new qualification record of 123 and total score of 148. He struck gold in China with a qualification score of 121 and total of 145.

Hancock prevailed by two shots over silver medalist Anders Golding (146) of Denmark and by four shots over Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiya (144), who secured the bronze medal by winning a shoot-off against Russia's Valeriy Shomin, who is ranked No. 2 in the world.

"Being able to stand up there again and listen to the national anthem again, it's got to be better," said Hancock, who also holds the world records for skeet qualification (125) and final (150) scores. "It hasn't set in fully yet, but going out there and doing it again and taking the opportunity God's given me to get back out on the field to compete for the gold medal again, there's just no feeling like it."

Golding did not feel unfortunate about settling for the silver.

"Hancock is the best competitor you can find," he said. "He is very, very

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Don King



First, let me tell everyone how proud my family and I are to belong to such a great and historic unit. I would like to thank everyone that was able to attend the Change of Command. It was great to meet everyone and provided me great insight on the true greatness of this unit. A greatness that comes from those

Soldiers that currently service within the USAMU and all of our great Veterans that have served within the organization. Since taking command as the 20th Commander of the USAMU, I have had the opportunity to meet many individuals who have served and currently support this organization. I would like to tell everyone that I have met, thank you for your support and assistance as I become more familiar with everyone and everything that allows the Soldiers of this great unit to do great things. Your support and assistance are critical and truly appreciated.

Over the span of the last sixty plus days, I have had the opportunity to observe the USAMU and its members compete in a variety of competitions across every discipline within the organization. I have had the opportunity to observe and participate in the award ceremonies of the Interservice Pistol Matches at Fort Benning and the Interservice Rifle Matches at Quantico. I was truly impressed by the talent in both of these sections and was proud to see that this is a continuation of great feats that the USAMU has always displayed. Other events that I had the opportunity to observe in my short time in Command were the National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry. Here I was truly impressed with the unit performances. At Camp Perry, I was provided the awesome opportunity to observe the USAMU perform as National Champions and I was also able to meet many great former USAMU members who continue to compete at a world class level.

During the last sixty days, I was also able to observe USAMU Soldiers compete for and make the US Olympic and Paralympic Shooting Teams. I was

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Well it's "targets down" on another eventful summer for the USAMU and MMA. The changing of the season means that the USAMU reunion is right around the corner...more on that later. I would like to highlight a few notables of the summer from my perspective. First, in my last column, I congratulated

Lieutenant Colonel Dan Hodne as he passed the unit colors to Lieutenant Colonel Don King. I know you join me in wishing LTC King every success. You'll have a chance to meet him at the reunion if you haven't had the pleasure already. LTC King is the first USAMU Commander to be selected by a Department of the Army Command Selection Board. That means that LTC King competed for the job with the Army's finest, and he was at the top of the list. Please congratulate LTC King when you see him, and wish him well.

The summer of 2012 was an Olympic summer, and once again all of the Soldiers of the USAMU represented the nation well, both on and off the firing line. I would like to draw your attention to a couple of USAMU Olympic "firsts", in case you haven't noticed. Sergeant Vince Hancock won the Men's Skeet Gold Medal, as did the spouse of Staff Sergeant Hank Gray. Jamie Gray won the Women's 3x20 Gold in first class fashion. But the "first" I'd like to go into more detail about is Sergeant First Class Josh Olson competing in the Paralympics in two events, 50 Meter Prone and 10 Meter Air Rifle. SFC Olson lost his right leg during a firefight in Tal Afar, Iraq in 2003. After a long road to recovery in Germany and stateside, Josh joined the USAMU International Rifle Team in 2005, and I was honored to call him my teammate. Josh joined the team about a week before we went to Camp Perry. He had never fired in anything remotely like a smallbore prone competition. Yet incredibly, Josh drew equipment, did a bit of training (he's a good listener), and competed a week later in the NRA National Smallbore Rifle Prone

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.

The Army transferred Coats Brown to ROTC duty, Chattanooga, TN after several months at Fort Jackson. Coats and his wife Mary and son Vic spent two weeks with the Munn family, his in-laws in Plymouth, Ohio. After a cab ride to a hotel and an overnight stay they found a place to live in Chattanooga. It was a small, very well furnished apartment, one mile from his work and cost \$50.00 a month. They did not need a car, public transportation was convenient. Trolley rails led everywhere they needed to travel. They caught a streetcar to and from church, downtown, doctor's office, movie theater and grocery store. Coats walked to and from work. Their youngest son Paul was born in May 1946 in Chattanooga. Mary's parents visited for a couple of weeks to help out with the new baby. Paul became a successful businessman currently living and working in the Atlanta area.

Some of these memories are vague, but Coats remembers the assignment as working for 3rd Army out of Fort Mac, but for duty at Chattanooga High School. It was a large school and ROTC controlled an armory. The armory floor was an open expanse with seating for classes on one side, rifle racks on the other side and an 8-point range with bullet traps at one end. Formations and drill were conducted in the center area during inclement weather. Since there were no interior walls, cadre in the armory could observe and oversee every activity taking place within the structure. The armory was sometimes noisy, especially when firing was in progress. Shooting was always scheduled to not interfere with drill or classes. Two entranceways led to NCO offices. The Senior Army Instructor (SAI) and another officer had offices on the second floor of the school building. Coats and one officer held down the fort in 1946. In 1947 Lt Col Smoak, Regular Army (RA) was the SAI and Major Byington, a reserve officer on active duty was his assistant. M/Sgt Brown and M/Sgt Proctor, both Regular Army, taught drill and ceremonies, weapons, marksmanship, map and compass.

CHAMPION / From Page 1

strong.”

Hancock struggled through a letdown after striking gold in Beijing and considered giving up his beloved sport. He came to London ranked 13th in the world by the International Shotgun Shooting Federation despite finishing fourth at the London 2012 test event, a World Cup stop here in April.

“The expectations helped me get through 2009,” Hancock said. “I won the world championships to the day afterward a year later, and last year, I almost considered quitting. I wasn't enjoying myself going out there anymore. I didn't want to go train, and for this sport, you have to be dedicated to your training.” Since winning the 2009 World Championship in Maribor, Slovenia, Hancock had not won a major title.

“At the end of the year, I knew that I had to change something,” he said. “My wife and I reassessed what we wanted to do. We prayed about it a lot, and we came up with this is my passion. This is what I love to do every single day. So I reset my goals and I wanted to come out here and win another gold medal and just keep going – win as many gold medals as possible.”

Four-time Olympic shotgun shooter and Team USA shotgun coach Todd Graves said nothing is beyond the realm of possibility for Hancock.

“That's the greatest thing in the world – two in a row,” Graves said. “He shot lights out, seriously, lights out. I told him out there when I hugged him that he's the best I've ever seen. And I've seen a lot. “I don't believe that's going to be his last one,” Graves added with a wink and a sly grin. “I really don't think that's going to be his last one.”

Having already competed in the Olympics, Hancock said, was the catalyst for his unprecedented success in London.

“This time I knew what to expect,” he said. “I firmly believe that I'm shooting better right now than I ever have in my entire career. A month ago to the day, I won our national championships shooting a 274 out of 275, so being able to come here and shoot a 148 out of 150, I'm already one target behind. so I've got some working to do.

“Hey, I leave myself a little room for improvement next time. Maybe I'll get that 125 and that 150.” Graves said he thought the bird Hancock missed on

LEGACY / From Page 3

The officers taught military history and some other classes. Regular Army people were commonly assigned to Junior ROTC duty those days. Coats replacement in the spring of 1949 was a Regular Army Master Sergeant. Six platoons of 36 boys each, formed two companies and kept the cadre busy. Large open areas of mixed elevations surrounding the school were excellent testing ground for map and compass courses. The kids proved they knew how to read a map. A nice story involves the teaching of how to orient a map with a timepiece and the sun. Miss Anita Trimble taught calculus and trigonometry. She was 82 years old, very sharp, very active, healthy and still excited by teaching. Two senior cadets who Coats had taught the watch and sun orientation procedure to, told Coats about attending her class. The boys mentioned the map orientation procedure during Miss Trimble's class. Miss Trimble stopped the math class and demonstrated mathematically how the orientation procedure works. She reviewed the earth's rotation and its time zones. She explained the declination diagrams purpose of correcting the difference between true and magnetic north. The impression made on these two boys after absorbing similar information from such diverse avocations as soldiering and teaching, was the need for an education. Both youngsters later graduated from Georgia Tech. Coats Brown coached two rifle teams at Chattanooga High. The traditional team was comprised of ten male JROTC students. Several girls petitioned school officials to form a female rifle team. Soon after their request, a ten-girl student rifle team was formed and competed with the male team. Both teams also competed with Central High of Chattanooga. Coats thinks that some Chattanooga High cadre might have been involved in Senior ROTC summer camps, but he was not. His summers were spent fixing things that needed fixing and preparing for the coming school year. Mary remained at home cooking, cleaning and caring for the children.

USAMU 56th REUNION**18-20 October 2012****Fort Benning, GA****COMMANDER** / From Page 2

proud to see the USAMU earn six Olympian positions and one Paralympian position. It is clear that this organization and former members are truly some of the greatest marksmen and Olympians that this country has ever had and as we continue into the future, we will continue produce great marksmen and future Olympians/Paralympians. With the upcoming MMA reunion, I look forward to meeting those of you that can attend. For those that cannot make the reunion, you will be in our thoughts and prayers and hopefully you will be able to make the next reunion. This reunion will be a great event and I am looking forward to the induction of all of the new Hall of Fame members that have been selected. As the USAMU continues to move forward with its missions, we will continue to exemplify pride and excellence as we continue to represent our unit, the US Army and Our Nation. Always Army Strong!!!

Welcome!**New LIFE Members**

D. L. Crowell

Robert L. Merritt

Julie A. Golob, née Goloski

New Members

Don A. King, Jr.

William H. Koller, Jr.

John I. Cady

Peter J. Del Ponte

Neal G. Dickey

Jeremy Mangione

Lester G. Case

Donald Palms, Jr.

PRESIDENT / From Page 2

Championship. For those of you that haven't shot that match, it was 640 shots (back then) not counting team matches. Thirty-two times strapping on a twelve pound rifle, and thirty-two trips downrange to hang targets. No small feat with one leg. Josh cleaned his final target...after two weeks of competitive shooting experience! Later during the award ceremony, Josh was the presenter for the high service member award. When he was called to the stage, George Harris gave a very brief introduction. He really didn't need one, because everyone in the audience could see the sacrifice that this great American had made for his country. Josh received a well deserved standing ovation and without saying a word, exemplified to the American public the Warrior Ethos: I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will never quit, and I will never leave a fallen comrade. Hooah Josh. Job well done.

On a lighter note, the 56th USAMU reunion is rapidly approaching. The dates are 18-20 October 2012. You should have received a reunion packet in the mail, but if you didn't, registration information is available on the MMA website.

There is no cost or registration fee for active MMA members (the registration fee for non-members, spouses, and guests is \$15.00 per person) to attend the reunion, *BUT you must pre-register to take advantage of this membership perk!* Said another way, as an active member you get two meals and beverages for the cost of a first class stamp to mail back your registration form. However, your registration form must be received at Fort Benning *not later than Monday, October 8, 2012*. Members who do not pre-register are subject to being charged the full \$15.00 registration fee.

Keep checking the website for schedules and other updates as we get closer to the reunion.

I urge you to start getting the word out to those you know who are not association members and get them to join the MMA, and come be a part of this event. Remember, there is no cost for active members to attend this reunion, *BUT you must pre-register to take advantage of this membership perk!* Your Registration Form must be received at Fort Benning not later than Monday, October 8, 2012. Members who do not pre-register will be charged the full \$15.00 registration fee.

See you at the 56th Anniversary Reunion!
All ready on the firing line.

CHAMPION / From Page 3

Tuesday morning should have broke and the one he missed on Monday "just kind of jumped on him a little bit."

"As soon as he pulled the trigger, the wind got it and it jumped up a little bit," Graves said. "Just bad luck. It happens to all of us."

Hancock missed only one clay pigeon in 75 shots on Monday and another in 75 shots on Tuesday despite windy conditions the first day and shooting the final in constant rain.

"I'll take any kind of weather," he said.

"Surprisingly, people shot well in this. Usually, when it's raining and kind of windy, people are going to drop a few targets. But I knew that I wanted to build my lead, not try to protect it when I came out this morning. I just put everything I had into every round and it's a good thing because people didn't miss very many targets."

Graves was not concerned about the conditions.

"It doesn't affect him a bit," Graves said. "Wind, rain, it doesn't matter. The nastier the dad-gum weather probably the better."

"Hopefully, I'll build my legacy enough that my kids and the future generations of this sport know me and I can pass on my knowledge to them," Hancock said. Hancock will leave the Army in November and open a shooting academy with his father to teach youngsters how to shoot.

"We're trying to introduce people to this sport that I love so much. It's given me my life that I have and the family that I know."

Likewise, Hancock tipped his cap to the U.S. Army for its support.

"The Army has given me a sense of dedication to myself, to my country and to my servicemen that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else," he said.

"They've given me the opportunity to perform at this high level. There are so many things they've given me that I can't explain it all because I don't know how to put it in words.

"They have made me into the man that I am today."

56th USAMU Reunion

October 18-20, 2012

Fort Benning, Georgia

Taps, Present Arms

SFC John P. "Rusty" Kingeter, 79, USAMU International Rifle, Service Rifle, and Moving Target shooter and resident of Sarasota, Florida, died June 9, 2012.

LTC Michael "Mike" Tipa, 90, USAMU International OIC; Director, NRA International Shooting; and Director, ISSF Technical Committee and a resident of Colonial Heights, Virginia, and former longtime resident of Alexandria, Virginia, died June 11, 2012.

SFC Peter A. Bohnak, Jr., 74, Service Pistol shooter and resident of Columbus, Georgia, died June 21, 2012.

LTC David J. Cramer, USAMU and USAR International Rifle Shooter and a resident of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, died August 30, 2012.

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

