



MMA TIMES

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USAMU provides combat training for 19th Engineers

Accessions Command



USAMU Instructor Training Group non-commissioned officer in charge, SFC Jeramy Smith (left) listens to a 19th Engineer Battalion Soldier discuss Squad Designated Marksmanship during a break in training at Fort Knox, Ky.

SFC Jeramy Smith watched the rounds hit the targets 600 yards away and smiled. His students were improving with each shot and that meant the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's (USAMU) two-week mission had hit its mark.

Smith led a team of USAMU instructors to train 19th Engineer Battalion Soldiers in Squad Designated Marksmanship training at Fort Knox, Ky. The program teaches Soldiers how to engage targets at distances up to 600 meters.

"The development is phenomenal, to watch the Soldiers listen and learn and see how quickly their marksmanship skills improve," Smith said. "You are seeing combat support Soldiers -- construction engineers getting real marksmanship experience. These are men and women whose job is to support the war fighter."

Squad designated marksmanship develops distance shooting capability at the Army squad level. Today's program was developed from 12 years of hard lessons-learned by many of America's war fighters. Army experts from the 75th Ranger Regiment to the Special Forces helped design the program.

The training is a mix of classroom instruction and homework topped off by the range experience, according to Smith. Smith and his cadre coached 40 Soldiers in both day and night-fire training.

Face red from days of Kentucky windburn, Smith sat with his second group of Soldiers at Scott Mountain Range and provided an update on the day's training.

"We are in the evaluation phase. We start at 600 meters and pull and mark the targets

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MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



It is hard to believe the summer is coming to a close. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer and that you've been able to take time for vacations, travel, a bit of shooting, or whatever break from the routine you can find. As I write this our nation is remembering the events of September 11, 2001 when terrorists attacked our homeland. Those horrific acts gal-

vanized the free world against those who would seek to do us harm and reminded us all too clearly that there is indeed evil in the world. In many ways the citizens of our country responded to the call for action and vigilance, and the Soldiers and civilians of the USAMU were front and center in that response. As the unit has in the past, it provided valuable help to an Army at war by providing both materiel support in the form of accurized small arms and also marksmanship expertise. Thousands of Soldiers have been positively impacted by the response of the USAMU, and that number continues to grow as the unit provides expertise wherever needed.

By all accounts the USAMU has had another successful competitive shooting season garnering numerous victories on the field of competition. The USAMU Service Pistol Blue team won its eighth consecutive inter-service championship, while Sergeant First Class James Henderson won the overall individual title – an honor he has captured eight times-with a fine score of 3541-170X. Staff Sergeant Brandon Green shot a 992-56X during the service rifle inter-service individual match. Staff Sgt. Ty Cooper won the match rifle long-range championship and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Peters won the service rifle long-range championship. Peters also set a new service rifle 1,000-yd record with a score of 200-11x. Sgt. Augustus Dunfey won the prestigious Lt. Col. C.A. Reynolds Memorial Trophy for high score in the 10-man team match with an outstanding 499-22x. The Reynolds trophy recognizes the individual who performed the best in a team competition—a notable accolade that in my humble opinion is one of the highest achievements in the sport of competitive shooting. The USAMU teams swept all major team matches this summer as they continue to dominate national competitions.

Smallbore shooters should note that this year's NRA National Smallbore Rifle Championships will mark the end of an era while the smallbore championships move to

Bristol, Indiana for 2014 and 2015 to enable the NRA to make preparations for and host the World Palma Rifle Championships at Camp Perry in 2015.

Members will notice in this edition of the Times a first-in-series, *"Where Are They Now?"* designed to provide members an update on individual members. This month we highlight what Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Boyd Goldsby has been doing with his time since leaving the USAMU. Thanks Boyd for helping us kick off this segment which I hope will be a highlight for the members. We are interested in hearing from everyone, so if you would like to share what you have been doing since you left the unit, please feel free to contact myself or Red Moseley. Boyd's article contains much of his whitt that we remember well. You might consider this an opportunity to tell us the "real story" behind an enjoyable moment from your shooting days. We'll see if there aren't some rebuttals to tell during the next reunion!

All ready on the firing line!

Where Are They Now? - Boyd Goldsby

I talked to Rob Harbison the other day and he asked me to jot down what's been going on since I retired. I told him that that may be pretty hard to do since, at the age of sixty-seven, I can hardly remember how to get back home when I go somewhere or why I left in the first place.

A little background so maybe some of you will remember instead of everyone saying "Who is this guy?" I came into the Army in 1968 and retired in 1998 and had tours at the unit from November 1971 to June 1975 and June 1990 to sometime in 1992 shooting Service Rifle, International Rifle and serving as Chief of Competitions during the second tour.

Joanne Stawski (service rifle) and I were married after she got out of the Army in 1975. The whole unit came to the wedding at Ft. Benning and the guests threw .22 brass instead of rice. We have one daughter, Shannon, born in 1979. She is married to Adam Pumphrey and they now have an eight month old daughter, Claire. I had a break in service starting in 1975, attended nursing school and worked for VA a short while before returning to active duty.

We retired in 1998 and moved back to my family home in Arkansas, buying my cousins' old farm house out in the country about ten miles from the nearest town.

Joanne seems to like it out here. She can keep all the animals she wants. We have eight and one-half acres with a bayou in back of the house that has pretty good duck hunting at times.

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 1954, 1955 and 1956, according to Frank Conway, a provisional Army Rifle and Pistol Team was formed at Fort Benning. A group of key people such as supply, gunsmiths and headquarters personnel were assigned. The All Army Rifle and Pistol teams picked up the majority of their shooters and coaches following the All Army matches of 1954, 1955 and 1956. Approximately 100 shooters and coaches shot on the All Army Rifle Team. They practiced at Fort Benning on McAndrew and Easley ranges. They also used Fiske range for 1000 yard practice. They attended matches in Tennessee, Oklahoma, Texas and other places. An important match was the Regional fired at Quantico where the big Marine team was located. A humorous story concerning rifle training in the summer of 1956 was very well circulated. It seems that LTC Palmer wanted to teach standing position wind shooting to the team. He borrowed a wind machine from the airborne school. This engine driven device with a propeller taller than an average man was normally used to teach paratroopers how to recover when they and their chute was being dragged by the wind. This training didn't last long. Some of the old shooters convinced their OIC that the dust storm, sand in their rifles and grit in their eyes was not conducive to good training.

Bob Haig, the first budget director for USAMU had once been assigned to a Battalion of the 4th Infantry Regiment at Fort George Wright, Spokane, Washington during his enlisted career. Bob informed Personnel Sergeant Ray Burton, that when he retired as a Master Sergeant in 1956 from building 35, Fort Benning, he was allowed to take his desk along to his new place of work at the Army Marksmanship Unit.

Warrant Officer Brown returned from Germany in the Spring of 1956. He had a permanent change of station to Fort Benning with a TDY enroute to Fort Bragg. Psychological Operations at Bragg had a printing press that was out of alignment. Not many people could fix the old web presses. Coats had learned web presses very well in Germany and was tasked to fix the Bragg press. Coats rented a furnished apartment in Fayetteville and the Brown family took up temporary residence there. It took approximately one month to trouble shoot, acquire the parts and fix the old web printing press. A Major Walker had formed a Fort Bragg Rifle Team and came to the PSYOPS area to get WO Brown's help for the team. General Adams of Fort Bragg held WO Brown at Fort Bragg for the purpose of training their team in preparation for the Third Army Rifle Matches. Fort Bragg won the

Third Army Rifle Matches. In the fall of 1956 Coats was assigned as service rifle coach of the newly formed U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. It had been rumored that President Eisenhower wanted an U.S. Army Team formed in order to compete with the Russians. Coats believed that Colonel Tom Sharpe had arranged his assignment. Coats incorporated much of what he had learned in the 1930's from the Infantry Team, in training this new and special team that represented the entire Army. Hundreds of All Army shooters under Coats Browns tutelage went on to coach or teach rifle shooting. The new unit and Coats experienced great success winning matches and state championships all over the country including the National Trophy Team Match at Camp Perry. Warrant Officer Coats Brown ran into an old friend in the Columbus bus station during this period. M/SGT Troy Berrian had shot on the Infantry Team with Coats in the 1930's. They hooted, hugged and clapped each other on the back, happy to learn that each had made it through the war. Coats remembers getting hard looks from whites and blacks present in the bus station. M/SGT Berrian was a member of the 24th Infantry Regiment and black. Columbus, Georgia was definitely part of the segregated south those days. Two other fine NCOs and shooters from the Infantry Team who were members of All Black Regiments were Sgt Allen of the 24th at Fort Benning and Sgt Seaward of Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Welcome!

New Life Members

Wesley E. Vaughn
Ivan W. Flowers, Jr.
Stephen A. Sciarabba
Dallas L. Krapf

New MMA Members

Willie C. Stamper, Jr.
Richard L. Fagan
Ronald R. Schneider
Philip D. Forsberg
Pamela L. Berg

ENGINEERS / From Page 1

to allow the Soldiers to adjust their fire. At this point we are allowing the students to take the lead. They have had two weeks of training about how to read the wind and adjust their firing technique."

The range stretches the ability of the Soldiers and their weapons. Most Soldiers are trained to engage targets at 300 meters. Their weapons are a mix of M16A2s, M16A3s and M4s. The distance of 600 meters is actually at the maximum range for these individual weapons, Smith said. Their focus is a 25 meter human silhouette target with five concentric circles leading to center mass. Under the cover of a concrete pit hundreds of yards away, a detail of 19th Engineer Soldiers mark where rounds hit the paper targets.

As Smith and the 19th Engineer Soldiers moved to a firing position 500 yards away, a gust of wind whipped the range flags that tracked the wind at 15-20 miles-per-hour as it bounced around the Scott Mountain terrain.

"It's a switch wind coming in different directions," Smith explained. "The firers have to watch all flags on the range. It can be deceiving."

The shots are slow as firers concentrate and apply lessons learned.

"You don't realize the physical toll it takes to lay in a prone position all day -- the eye strain, the muscle strain," Smith added. "The Soldiers are shooting throughout the day. By the time they push back here, they are tired and worn out."

SPC Angelina McCune waits her turn to fire. The 19th Engineer Soldier from Pennsylvania said she had learned to adjust her stance and trust her weapon.

"I never thought I could shoot this far in my life," she said. "It's fun. It is beyond normal training, the instructors take the time to ensure you understand it."

It's a new level of marksmanship knowledge for these combat support troops

SPC Thomas Stewart, a carpentry and masonry specialist from Tuscaloosa, Ala., had moved through an earlier firing order.

"We learned a lot of different positions and purposes," Stewart said. "I had never fired at this distance before but I've got practice now. It shows the impact the wind has coming off different angles of the terrain."

The ballistics -- how the round travels from barrel to target -- are the same on the battlefield as at an Olympic competition, Smith said. The key to success is finding and refining the technique that works when a Soldier is strapped down with combat protective gear and fighting on a team.

"It's the ability to take that award-winning technique and place it in the warfighter's mind," Smith said.

The first lesson is resilience, Smith said. "You will not hit every shot. It's about mental preparedness, about being able to move and get ready for the next stage.



USAMU's SFC Jeramy Smith coaches 19th Engineer Battalion Soldier SPC Angelina McCune as she fires at targets at Scott Mountain Range at Fort Knox, Ky.

"There's a Soldier over there whose zero is off. He is hitting off to the right of the target. To anybody else that would be disastrous. But he's adjusted his point of aim to make his shot group center mass. That's talent."

The experience level among the Army Marksmanship Unit cadre is humbling to most Soldiers -- many are wounded warriors with Purple Hearts as well as champion shooters with an ingrained knowledge of both competition and combat.

The cadre members belong to the instructor training group -- an USAMU branch developed to train the war fighter. It is a mission that dates back to 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the unit to raise the level of marksmanship proficiency across the Army. That capability expands this year with the addition of a core of Wounded Warriors. The added Soldiers will compete in paralympic competition and train Soldiers across the Army.

Everything the AMU does benefits the war fighter, according to Smith, who said that lessons learned at shooting competitions translate to effective training on ranges like Scott Mountain.

"It's the best of both worlds, being able to relate the competition mindset to tactical training," Smith said.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is part of the U.S. Army Accessions Support Brigade, Army Marketing and Research Group. Commander Mark A. Rado said that marksmanship training remains an important part of the brigade's mission.

"These Soldiers deploy across the Army to help raise marksmanship proficiency," Rado said.

"They are the best in the Army at what they do. The lessons they share with Soldiers are invaluable in an Army where every Soldier must remain combat ready."

Taps, Present Arms

MSG Glenn T. Adkison, 83, a Service Rifle competitor and a resident of Phenix City, Alabama, passed away April 20, 2013.

LTC Michael J. Berg, 72, a Service Rifle competitor and coach, and a resident of Madison, Wisconsin, died January 6, 2011

SFC Patrick J. Boyle, 75, a Service Rifle, International Rifle, and Running Target competitor, and a resident of La Luz, New Mexico, died February 7, 2013.

LTG William B. Caldwell III, 87, a Shotgun shooter and a resident of Midland, Georgia, died March 17, 2013.

MAJ Tommy R. Mueller, 76, a Service Rifle competitor and a resident of Midland, Georgia, passed away September 1, 2013.

MSG George B. Norris, Jr., 79, a Service Rifle and Service Pistol competitor, and a resident of Elk Grove, California, died December 15, 2012.

LTC John H. Sanguinetti, 95, a Service Pistol competitor and a resident of Tacoma, Washington, died March 10, 2012.

PSG Roman R. Wojciechowski, 82, a Service Pistol competitor, former MMA Membership Chairman (1994-2000), and a resident of Columbus, Georgia died May 1, 2013.

Anna M. Hyder, wife of MSG Jack D. Hyder, Service Rifle, died January 20, 2013 in Columbus, Georgia.

Betty Lee Andujar, wife of SFC Hector A. Andujar, Service Rifle, died April 12, 2013 in Columbus, Georgia.

Lillian Garcia Tharp, wife of SFC Harry C. Tharp (Deceased), Service Rifle, died July 10, 2013 in Columbus, Georgia.

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

LTC Francis Conway Monument

MMA

A monument recognizing the contribution of LTC Frank Conway was installed adjacent to the flag pole on the General Purpose Range within the Butterfield Trail Public Shooting Range, Las Cruces, NM.

A big "Thank You" goes to Mark and Bud Hettinga of Highland Construction who donated the material and installed the monument. Also, a big "Thanks" goes to LTC (Ret) Harry A. Lucker (1960 era USAMU Pistol Shooter and later the OIC of Running Target) for taking the lead and getting this project completed.

Lucker and the Hettinga crew installing the monument had to dig through 20 inches of hard caliche by hand (dry desert caliche is like cement--not an easy task). It was, however, a labor of respect for all the work Frank had done at the range.

The bronze plaque on the monument reads:

In Memory of
Lt. Col. Francis Conway
1919-2011
Designer of the Butterfield Trail
Public Shooting Range
Frank's vision for a premier shooting facility
has remained the standard for all
that has been accomplished in the years past
and will continue as the range grows.



LTC (Ret) Harry A Lucker stands behind the installed monument.

GOLDSBY / From Page 2 _____

I worked as a registered nurse for a number of years after getting out of the Army, but quit for the last time in 2005. Civilian nursing just wasn't organized enough. I had told someone that the best job I ever had was retirement, but, thinking about it, the time at the USAMU was by far the best.

I've tried to continue to shoot competitively both long range prone and small bore prone, but haven't been able to shoot for the past couple of years due to a back injury I received falling down some stairs. It's been over fifty years since I first shot at Camp Perry. It doesn't seem possible. Hope to shoot again.

Still love to quail and pheasant hunt and return to Ft. Benning once a year to hunt with Burl Branham, Marvin Warren, and Oliver Williams. Marvin passed away this year. I'll really miss him. I have one English Setter left, two year old Maggie. She's my best friend. I started on my "bucket list" a month or so ago. I bought a used Porsche Cayman S. Some of you will remember the Porsche 911 I had forty-two years ago.

Rob wanted me to tell a couple of stories from times at

the Unit. I wish I could remember one. Actually there are hundreds. When I got to the Unit the second time, it was like coming home. I was assigned to International Rifle and went to the range the first day to meet the team. Tom Tamas (Retired Army and International Rifle Coach) said, "It's really going to be strange shooting with someone who shot with my Dad." It made me feel really old. All I could say was, "Don't let that old man beat you, son." Most of the stories are too long to tell here, but another short one happened when I was out of the Unit. I had made the 1977 Championship of the Americas to be shot in Mexico City. Since I hadn't been able to train much, I came to Benning a week early. The first day I shot an 1168 and the second day, an 1169. (The World Record back then was 1166). Maj. Wigger and I were the only two left in the building. I said, "Hey, I had a 68 yesterday and a 69 today." He replied, "So?". I hit him so hard in the shoulder that it knocked him into the wall locker. Then I said, "You could say something nice, you sarcastic so and so." He said "Nice shooting." We're still the best of friends.

Come see us in Arkansas.

