



MMA TIMES

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

March 2014

Issue Number LXXVIII

What's Inside

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

Coats Brown Legacy
.....Page 3

Welcome New Members
.....Page 3

New Membership Dues
.....Page 4

DSC Citation
.....Page 5

Duo Wins Competition
.....Page 5

Taps, Present Arms
.....Page 6

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

www.militarymarksmanship.org

SSG Brandon Green named MMA 2013 SOY

USAMU PAO



The MMA named SSG Brandon Green their 2013 Soldier of the Year during the association's annual meeting Feb. 7 at the Pool International Shooting Complex. Pictured are (l-r): LTC Don King, Jr. USAMU commander; SPC Reuben Anderson; SSG Glenn Eller; Green; SSG Michael McPhail; SSG Patrick Franks; and COL (Ret) Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr. Not pictured were nominees SSG Daniel Horner and SGT Curtis Yetman.

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Military Marksmanship Association named Staff Sgt. Brandon Green their 2013 Soldier of the Year during the association's annual meeting Feb. 7 at the Pool International Shooting Complex.

"I'm very proud to be a member of this unit ... and proud to be the Soldier of the Year," said Green, a member of the Service Rifle Section. "I really appreciate this opportunity ... to train and work here."

Green, a native of Covington, La., won the National Rifle Association's 2013 National Highpower Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. It was his first national championship after several second and third place finishes throughout his career. Winning there is winning against the best in the country, said (Ret.) Col. Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr.

Green also won the 2013 Interservice Individual Championship for the fourth time and was a member of the team that swept all team matches on their way to the overall team title. He aided his team to shatter records and gain victories in team matches at Camp Perry and during the Interservice Team Championships.

The MMA supports the goals and objectives of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and provides a link to the history of the unit while hosting ceremonies and social events. The organization has more than 500 members, made up

See **SOY**, Page 4

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings Soldiers, shooters, and friends of the MMA! For those of you who were not able to attend the annual meeting, I'll use this report to share the highlights from the meeting. Retired Colonel Robert I. "Bob" Hoidahl, Jr., former USAMU commander and past president of the MMA, presided over the

annual meeting. Thank you sir! Another hearty "Thank you" goes out to the Soldiers and civilians of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit for hosting the annual MMA meeting. Pool Range is a world-class venue and we greatly appreciate the hospitality of the unit.

Once again it was a pleasure for the MMA Executive Board to review an outstanding slate of nominations for the USAMU Soldier of the Year. Representing the Service Rifle Team, this year's winner of the Soldier of the Year award went to Staff Sergeant Brandon Green. SSG Green won the Inter-Service Individual Championship and the NRA High Power Rifle Championship among other accolades. As always, the slate of Soldiers nominated to represent their teams for the Soldier of the Year nomination humbles the MMA Executive Board, and it is a challenge to identify a standout among the nominees. This year was no exception. Representing the Instructor Training Group was Sergeant Curtis Yetman. SGT Yetman trained hundreds of Soldiers in close quarters and long range marksmanship, and had success as he began competing in USPSA matches. Sergeant John Joss represented the Paralympics section well in 2013 by winning two World Cup medals (gold and bronze), and winning a national championship in the SH1 category. Staff Sergeant Daniel Horner from the Action Shooting team had another outstanding year of shooting accomplishments in 2013, winning the International Sniper competition again and winning the USPSA Multi-Gun Nationals. Specialist Reubun Anderson represented the Custom Firearms Shop this year. He rebuilt or repaired many of the rifles used to dominate the 2013 Inter-service Rifle Matches at Quantico, Virginia and the National Matches at

Camp Perry, Ohio. He also won the 2nd Quarter 2013, U.S. Army Accessions Brigade Soldier of the Quarter title. Staff Sergeant Franks again represented the Pistol Team with his victories at the President's Match and Canton, Ohio, Regional as well as all of the team matches at Camp Perry. Staff Sergeant Glenn Eller represented the Shotgun Team this year, winning a world championship and setting a new world record in Men's Double Trap. Staff Sergeant Michael McPhail from International Rifle rounded out the nominees this year. He won a NRA National Smallbore Rifle Prone Championship at Camp Perry among numerous other victories, and maintained a world ranking of 7th at the end of 2013.

Other business that was conducted at the annual meeting: COL Hoidahl introduced the new Vice President, Mr. Michael J. Behnke, and thanked him for volunteering to fill the position vacated by Mr. Richard Hawkins who assumed the duties of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Shooting Coach.

Our membership stands at 450 members of which 137 (30%) are life members. As reported earlier in the MMA Times, in 2013 the MMA Executive Board voted to raise membership dues. A review of historical income and expenses revealed that expenses average \$20 per member per year while annual income averages \$18 per member per year. Our recurring costs include membership liability insurance, fidelity bond for MMA Officers handling money, website hosting fees, quarterly MMA Times and annual Membership Directory printing and postage, US Post Office box rental fee, and audit of the Treasurer's records. We have not raised dues since 1994 when the association was formed; however, the cost of operating has increased significantly over the past several years.

As a result, the MMA Executive Board voted during the December 2013 monthly meeting to increase the initial and annual dues by five dollars (\$20 initial and \$15 renewal) which have been incorporated into the revised Constitution and Bylaws approved by the Office of the Judge Advocate General (OJAG). Our December 31, 2013 year-end balance was \$41,378, but in order to cover the obligated costs of our life members (who no longer pay dues annually) the MMA Executive Board is fencing \$34,250 to service the 137 current life members. The purpose of the dues increase is to keep the MMA financially solvent while continuing to support USAMU activities, life

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 1957, the M-1 (Garand) service rifle created frequent problems for shooters throughout the military. The M-1 rifle would shoot extremely well and suddenly develop grouping problems. Wide shots would appear during slow fire strings and/or rapid fire strings. Everyone on the All Army team wanted the best shooting rifle possible and their Head Coach was determined to make that happen. CWO Herbert Atkins, the shop OIC and CWO Coats Brown, the Head Coach, had discussed the problem many times and had consulted people with expertise in the gun industry. The operating rod was too soft and would bend enough to touch while moving to the rear to extract the expended round and/or moving forward to chamber another round. Touching another part of the rifle caused fliers and expanded shot groups. Coats experimented with a number of lubricants and solvents placed on the operating rod to minimize the problem. For awhile, he had a select group of shooters use Bardahl on the operating rods of their rifles. Coats became known as Bardahl Brown. Coats visited Rock Island Arsenal to ensure he had the very best barrels on the All Army rifles. He took Slim Williams with him. M/Sgt Williams was an accomplished shooter and an Ordnance Sergeant and knew how to make a rifle shoot well. They spent several days' air gauging match grade barrels for the M-1 rifle. They culled out hundreds of barrels and selected 200 of the best barrels for the All Army rifles. While at Rock Island, they and the Arsenal Engineers discussed the need for a variety of sizes of rear peep sight for the M-1 rifle and the need for ½ minute angles of adjustment for elevation for the sight. CWO Brown, M/Sgt Glen Baker and Sergeant Maskew of the USAAMU Shop were also trying to develop rear sights capable of ½ minute angles of adjustment for windage.

Major Ray Orton did not like Noah "Beetle" Bailey when he was a summer pickup on the National Trophy Group and was going to send him back to his parent unit. Beetle came to Coach Brown and asked for his help in staying with the team. Coats liked Beetle and perceived him to be well liked by his teammates and having a positive effect on the team.

Coats kept Beetle for the summer and arranged for his assignment to USAAMU. Kenner "Cracker" Ravencraft told a humorous story from Fort Niagara 1957. Mr. Brown had found a piece of leather sling cutoff and discarded. At his regularly scheduled critique of the days shooting that afternoon, Mr. Brown cautioned the team about waste and how another soldier might later need a sling, and if it had been cut off, it might not fit. Someone decided to give Mr. Brown the raspberry and went looking for an old BAR sling. He cut some pieces from the old leather sling and the following day placed the leather sling pieces where the head coach would find them. Mr. Brown was suspicious that something was up but followed through with a very strong caution not to waste good leather slings at his next critique. Someone later came up to Coats on the range and admitted to planting the cutup sling in order to get a laugh. The story was shared with the team at the next critique and everyone had a laugh, the team and Mr. Brown. Coats remembers the event and thought it might have been Thorsen or LaCau or a conspiracy between the two. Larry LaCau does not remember the story. Jake Svela, a very senior NCO was a stickler for regulations, not one to laugh, play or kid around. Story has it that Howard Stevens, a skydiver/shooter assigned to USAMU from the 82nd Airborne Division pulled a fast one on Jake. He switched bunk name tags between his and Jakes bunk after Jake fell asleep. He then went to town and Jake was reported as missing bedcheck. Two other old shooters, Thorsen and Hankins disliked Spaldin's pet coon in their tent. They gave the coon some Feenament laxative prior to departing for Camp Perry. When Spradlin arrived at Camp Perry, his car was a mess.

Welcome!

New MMA Members

William B. Allensworth, Jr.
Jacob Armstrong
Stephen H. Christopher
William E. Dennis
Richard E. Grant
Grant M. Grimes
Mark J. Staffen
Hayden Stewart

PRESIDENT / From Page 2

members, and annual operations.

Throughout 2013, the MMA Executive Board has had ongoing conversations about the MMA Times. Due to the high printing and rising postage costs of publishing and mailing the MMA Times Newsletter--each mailing cost approximately \$480--the MMA Executive Board is considering several options to reduce these costs. For example, publishing three issues per year rather than four issues and publishing the MMA Times in an electronic format. However, no decision to modify the four annual mailings has been made to date.

In order for the MMA to function on Fort Benning as a private organization, we must have approval of the commanding general. In addition to complying with Army and post regulations, the MMA must also submit monthly Minutes of the Meeting and Treasurer Reports to the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR) for review. Additionally, every two years, the MMA must renew its permit to operate on post which includes an audit of our financial records. In 2013 our Treasurer's records were audited by a private auditor, and for the two year audit period, no discrepancies were found. Hooah, to our Treasurer, Sam Hunter! The MMA was also required to revise our Constitution and Bylaws to incorporate any amendments made to the Constitution and Bylaws and make name changes that occurred as a result of the installation name change from U.S. Army Infantry Center to Maneuver Center of Excellence as well as the membership dues increase were added to the Bylaws. The revised MMA Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and approved by the OJAG as noted above. During the annual meeting COL Hoidahl called for the membership to approve the new Constitution and Bylaws. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by voice vote to approve the new Constitution and Bylaws of the MMA effective February 7, 2014.

Finally I'd like to thank Smith & Wesson Corporation for their donation of the Soldier of the Year trophy pistol and for Shooters of Columbus for their support and handling the firearms transfer.

Looking forward, the USAMU informs me that the 58th USAMU Anniversary Reunion has been scheduled for October 18 and 19, 2014 at the USAMU facilities on Fort Benning.

All ready on the firing line!

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES: ARTICLE III-MMA Bylaws
Section 1. Annual Membership – Initial annual dues for all active members will be \$20.00. Subsequent annual dues will be \$15.00. Members may elect to pay dues in advance for multiple years at the current dues rate. When the annual membership of a member has expired and the member does not renew their annual membership dues by the following month then their membership will have lapsed. A member whose membership has lapsed must renew their membership at the initial annual dues rate of \$20.00.

SOY / From Page 1

mostly of USAMU alum.

As it is for most years, Hoidahl, former USAMU commander and president of the MMA, said that it was extremely hard picking a winner among the finalists for the award.



SSG Brandon Green is flanked by LTC Don King, Jr., USAMU commander, and COL (Ret) Robert I. Hoidahl, Jr. of MMA. The USAMU Service Rifle shooter/instructor won both the National High-power championship and

The MMA 2013 Soldier of the Year nominees were: Staff Sgt. Patrick Franks, Cross Functional Team-Pistol; Staff Sgt. Daniel Horner, Action Shooting Section; Staff Sgt. Michael McPhail, International Rifle Section; Spc. Reuben Anderson, Custom Firearm Shop; Staff Sgt. Glenn Eller, Shotgun Team member; Sgt. John Joss, Paralympics Team member, and Sgt. Curtis Yetman, Instructor Training Group.

The members of the unit are extremely competitive, Green said. "You have all of these outstanding shooters and anytime they pick up anything it becomes a competition," he continued. "Whether we're training on a different range or a different discipline, it's that world-level competition that drives us to be as good as we are."

USAMU is part of the U.S. Army Accessions Brigade, Army Marketing and Research Group and is tasked with enhancing the Army's recruiting effort, raising the standard of Army marksmanship and furthering small arms research and development to enhance the Army's overall combat readiness.

Distinguished Service Cross: McHugh

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Infantry) John J. McHugh (ASN: 0-5331478), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Detachment B-22, Company B, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces. First Lieutenant McHugh distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 30 January 1968 while serving with the Special Forces. A large force of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers had taken control of the Qui Nhon radio station complex, and he was making a reconnaissance of their activity. While moving to an advantageous position for observation, he was wounded by fragments from an enemy hand grenade. Refusing to seek medical treatment, he recruited a small force of Vietnamese soldiers from the streets and led an attack through a hail of bullets over a wall into the radio station compound and gained control of one of the buildings. Intense enemy fire wounded him again and, realizing that his troops could not hold their positions much longer, he withdrew to rally reinforcements. After gathering another small force, Lieutenant McHugh launched a second attack on the enemy-held complex. Despite being wounded a third time, he continued leading his gallant assault and seized the ground floor of the radio station. He then returned through savage hostile fire to the streets to solicit more assistance in routing the insurgents. While performing this task, he was intercepted by a medical recovery team and evacuated. First Lieutenant McHugh's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 697 (February 15, 1968)



Editor's Note: Bruce Meredith submitted this citation as a follow-up to last issue's article on LT McHugh, a former USAMU member.

USAMU duo wins competition

USAMU PAO

FORT BENNING, Ga. - After walking 28 miles in freezing temperatures over two-and-a-half days carrying all of their gear, Staff Sgt. Daniel Horner and Sgt. Tyler Payne from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) came out on top at the 4th Annual Mammoth Sniper Challenge held at Rockcastle Shooting Center in Park City, Ky. (Soldiers) in the USAMU are winners and won't let anything stand in the way of that," Horner said. "(In extreme weather like this), the main issues are keeping your optics clear and your hands warm enough to operate your equipment."

The competition is broken down into two matches, open and tough man. Tough man is then separated into two divisions: tough man and extreme tough man. Horner and Payne competed in the extreme tough man division along with 38 other two-man teams representing U.S. Special Forces, 75th Ranger Regiment, U.S. Special Operations Command, Federal Bureau of Investigation, numerous police departments, and corporate-sponsored civilian teams. USAMU teammates Sgt. 1st Class William Pace and Staff Sgt. Joel Tuner also competed, finishing in ninth place.

The tough man division rules state that teams must walk the entire match, covering distances of 1.5-3.5 miles between the eight firing stages within a pre-determined amount of time while carrying all of their equipment. The biggest difference between tough man and extreme tough man was that tough man participants returned to their hotel at the conclusion of the day's events, but extreme division competitors were not permitted to return until the end of the match, having to stay outside in tents for two nights in single digit temperatures.

"We had to carry all of the food and water we had for three days. All of the ammo--roughly 300 rounds--spotting scopes, our weapon, everything," Pace said. "That was tough. There were a lot of hills to climb. Bad memories of Ranger School during the winter came back."

The stages were designed to be very difficult: most targets were .5 to 2.5 minutes of angle in size at distances from 100 to 1,100 yards, Pace said. Some of the stages had them shooting from inside of vehicles, on swinging bridges, behind barrels and from ropes.

"The shots at Mammoth are very difficult due to the size and the fact that you are almost never prone," Horner said. "Also, since you have to carry everything for 28 miles, trying to figure out how much food and what equipment you need is very critical. Bringing too much gear exhausts you, but not having a tool might leave you

Taps, Present Arms

SFC Hector "Andy" Andujar, 80, Service Rifle competitor, and a resident of Columbus, Georgia, passed away February 15, 2014.

SPC Michael W. Brandt, Service Pistol and Running Target competitor, and a resident of Etna, New York, passed away October 16, 2013.

MSG William E. "Bill" Krilling, 86, Service Rifle competitor and International Rifle coach, and a resident of Columbus, Georgia, passed away February 22, 2014.

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

DUO / From Page 5

unable to complete a task."

As members of the Action Shooting team, Horner and Payne compete primarily in Multi-Gun matches across the country if they aren't conducting close quarters marksmanship training courses for Soldiers across the force. Those matches consist of employing rifles, pistols and shotguns at distances no longer than 300 yards, making a sniper match a unique scenario for the pair.

Horner said they trained for the match by practicing barricades and alternate positions, as well as intense conditioning -running with heavy loads - to ensure the competition scenarios were second nature during the stress of the event. Though pitted against each other during their full-time jobs, the USAMU duo has a cohesion and familiarity with each other that has been nearly impossible to stop in recent sniper competitions.

"We work together all the time and can communicate very well and very quickly," Horner said. "We practice the basics and just use simple solutions to succeed at all the simple tasks that make up a complex problem. If we think first and have all of our equipment squared away we can get through whatever task we are faced with quickly and efficiently."



MMA, Inc.
P.O. Box 52025
Fort Benning, GA 31995-2025

