



# MMA TIMES

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

March 2016

Issue Number LXXXIV

## What's Inside

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

CMP Privileges  
.....Page 2

Electronic Issues  
.....Page 2

USAMU Commander's Report  
.....Page 3

Taps, Present Arms  
.....Page 3

60th Reunion  
.....Page 3

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

www.militarymarksmanship.org

## MMA Names 2015 NCO, Soldier of the Year



SGT Ryan Franks (middle left) and SFC Michael McPhail (middle right) were selected as the 2015 USAMU Soldier and NCO of the Year, respectively, by the Military Marksmanship Association. They are flanked by USAMU Commander LTC Bret Tecklenburg and USAMU CSM Isaac Ragusa.

### USAMU PAO

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** The Military Marksmanship Association (MMA) selected two Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) as the top noncommissioned officer (NCO) and Soldier of the year during its annual meeting at the Benning Club Dec. 14, 2015.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael McPhail, a 2012 Olympian, who has been assigned to USAMU's International Rifle Team since 2005, was named the MMA's 2015 NCO of the Year. Sgt. Ryan Franks, USAMU Service Pistol Team, was selected as the MMA's 2015 Soldier of the Year.

McPhail, from Darlington, Wisconsin, is currently ranked No. 1 in the world for men's prone rifle by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and was nominated for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Shooting Team in September. He won three gold medals in 2015 ISSF events and a silver medal at the 2015 Pan American Games.

"I was very happy about it," McPhail said of becoming the MMA's NCO of the Year, noting that those casting the votes had a difficult job of choosing the winners from many talented athletes. "It's hard to say this person had a better year than someone else when they shoot in different events. I was happy I won, but what I did shouldn't diminish what anyone else did."

Of his accomplishments in 2015, McPhail said there was one professional event that really stood out.

"Making the Olympic team—that's a big deal," he said. "It's a hard

## MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings fellow MMA members! The MMA Executive Board is hard at work making plans for the USAMU 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion, working closely with the USAMU staff. We have set dates for the reunion: Friday and Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. The reunion will include presentation of the USAMU Hall of Fame honorees, MMA Soldier

of the Year presentations for 2016, and a reception on Friday evening. Open house, shooting demonstrations, and time to visit with fellow members are on the agenda as well. We will mail out the agenda, registration packet, and Hall of Fame ballots on June 24<sup>th</sup>. As soon as we have the agenda set we will also post it on the MMA website at

[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org). Current members of the MMA vote in the Hall of Fame induction. We have A LOT of recently expired members. The executive board is in the process of reaching out to expired members to ensure maximum distribution of the registration packet and Hall of Fame ballot. We could use your help in asking friends to ensure that their membership is current. Again, a quick way is to simply e-mail me at

[president@militarymarksmanship.org](mailto:president@militarymarksmanship.org) to see what your current membership status is. On a related note, we have an effort underway to gather e-mail addresses for our members. We currently have an e-mail address for about half of our members. In order for our electronic communication to be effective, we need to have your current e-mail address on file. If you have recently changed your e-mail address or if you just want to ensure that we have your e-mail address correctly on file, you can e-mail me at [president@militarymarksmanship.org](mailto:president@militarymarksmanship.org) or send us a brief note to MMA, PO Box 52025, Fort Benning, GA, 31995-2025.

For those that could not attend the December 2015 annual meeting, we presented the Soldier of the Year awards for the shooting year that ran January through December 2015. Two new awards made their debut in 2015, the "New Soldier of the Year" and the "Support" awards. The overall Soldier of the Year award went to Sergeant First Class Michael McPhail.

Mike distinguished himself by winning three Gold Medals in Men's Prone in World Cup Competition and earning a birth on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team. Mike is currently the number one ranked shooter in the world in Men's Prone. Sergeant Ryan Franks took the New Soldier category. He WON the President's Pistol Match at Camp Perry last summer, earned his Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, and earned Commandant's List at the Warrior Leader's Course. The inaugural support award went to Captain Jay Whittaker for his work in getting the USAMU Marksmanship Master Training Course into the Army course management system. Congratulations to all of the nominees.

All ready on the firing line.

### Did you know?

The MMA is a Civilian Marksmanship Association (CMP) affiliated club. Your membership in the MMA gives you privileges associated with CMP membership, including purchase of surplus military firearms. For more information on the CMP, visit their website at [www.thecmp.org](http://www.thecmp.org).



# CMP

Civilian Marksmanship Program

### ATTENTION!

The MMA Executive Board intends to publish the MMA Times in an "electronic-only" format beginning with the June 2016 issue. We are going paperless! Let us know what you think by e-mailing the president at [president@militarymarksmanship.org](mailto:president@militarymarksmanship.org). We want your feedback on this important change.

## USAMU Commander's Report

LTC Bret A. Tecklenburg



The summer season is coming soon. We are already seeing warmer weather and all of our teams are honed in on their training. The frequency of competitions is picking up for many of our teams. Our international teams are focused on the upcoming selection matches which occur in April for small bore, in May for shotgun, and in

June for air rifle and air pistol. We already have two Soldiers on the 2016 Olympic Team for shooting and we expect several more upon completion of the selection matches.

In March, we hosted the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship that we commonly refer to as All Army. Not only did we have great participation this year but we had more active duty teams participate than we have seen in many years. This is great and we are working to continue growing this trend. We also successfully partnered with MWR. MWR helps promote the event, provides a prize table and food vendors. We are confident that MWR's contributions have and will continue to make All Army better.

Many of our experts are making significant impacts on the Army. The Custom Firearms Shop continues to apply their expertise to help DOD, the Army and special operations with a variety of research and development efforts for both guns and ammunition. Our Instructor Training Group continues to make a difference with the Marksmanship Master Trainer Course (MMTC) and they conduct the first TRA-DOC pilot course for MMTC in April and May. Our experts have also invested hundreds of hours to improve the Army's Rifle training doctrine.

We are also coming into the season for leadership changes. The Maneuver Center of Excellence will see some leaders change out. At AMU in May, our CSM, CSM Isaac Ragusa, will change out with CSM Joseph Tinker. CSM Ragusa has contributed greatly to our efforts and helped make us better. We thank him for his service and contributions. We also welcome CSM Tinker. In June, I will depart and am followed by LTC Jim Barrows who is a great leader and

has served in AMU previously. The tremendous talent across AMU will continue with the great success that they routinely achieve.

## TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

**MSG (Ret.) Martin Edmonson** passed away on December 3, 2015.

See CMP article here:

<http://www.odcmp.org/0306/Edmondson.asp>

See obituary with memorial info here:

<http://www.nelsonfuneral.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=684278#/obituaryInfo>

**LTC(Ret.) William (Bill) Pullum** passed away on October 13, 2015 at the age of 95. See full article on USA Shooting website: <http://www.usashooting.org/news/2015/10/20/733-usa-shooting-mourns-passing-of-hall-of-fame-rifle-coach-william-bill-pullum>

**COL Ret.) Rodney I. Baker** aka. Rod (the Colonel), passed away on February 15, 2015. See full article here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/clarionledger/obituary.aspx?pid=174167161>

## Save the Date!

USAMU 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
&  
USAMU Hall of Fame  
Induction Ceremony

October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Fort Benning, Georgia

Registration forms and HoF ballots will be mailed to active MMA members on

June 24, 2016.

2015 / From Page 1

thing to do and, typically if you can make an Olympic Team for the U.S., you have a legitimate chance at winning the Olympics.”

McPhail began competing in shooting sports in 1996 while attending Darlington High School where he graduated in 2000. He continued competing on the shooting team at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh before joining the Army in 2004.

The 2015 Soldier of the Year, Franks, is one of the newest members of the USAMU Service Pistol Team. Since joining the unit in January 2015, Franks has won the Interservice Excellence in Competition Match and the Coast Guard trophy for high scoring, non-distinguished pistol shooters, both during the 56th Annual Interservice Pistol Matches in June 2015.

During the 2015 Civilian Marksmanship Program National Trophy Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, in July, he won the President’s Pistol Match, and his score was only two points away from setting a new national record for the event. Franks was also a member of the USAMU Service Pistol Team that won the National Trophy Pistol Team Match, and he earned his Distinguished Service Pistol Badge.

Franks said he was “blown away” to win MMA Soldier of the Year after 11 months on the team.

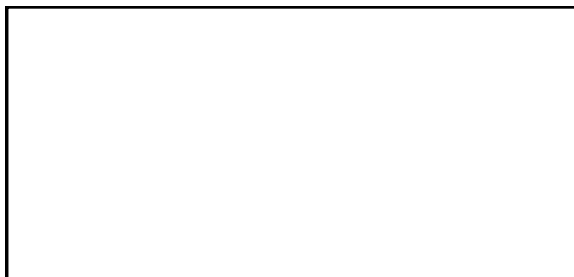
“I didn’t have any of that in mind when I was training or competing,” he said. “I was keeping up my end of the deal with the Service Pistol Team as the new shooter. I was trying to do the best I could to play catch up with all of these other great shooters.”

He was equally surprised to have won the President’s Pistol Match.

“I have never shot a perfect 100 score on a slow-fire target,” he said. “On the first string of slow fire I shot 100, but I didn’t score my shots or look at them until I was done shooting. A lot of guys there told me it was the best shooting they have seen.”

Franks calls Las Vegas home. The Soldier graduated from Santa Fe Unit School, Santa Fe, Tennessee, in 2006 and attended the emergency medical technician (EMT) program at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee, and the Tennessee Fire Code and Enforcement Academy in Bellbuckle, Tennessee. Franks was a firefighter and EMT for four years before enlisting in the Army where he completed Infantry One Station Unit Training in February 2012 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Franks then attended Airborne School at Fort Benning and was then assigned to 1st Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, from July 2012 to January 2015.



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

