



MMA TIMES

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USAMU concludes "summer of domination"



The USAMU Service Rifle Team at Quantico, Virginia for the Interservice Rifle Championships

USAMU PAO

Summer is typically a time for relaxed days off with backyard cookouts and lounging by the pool. Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit have faced the complete opposite. Their summer has been filled with long hours of travel, hard work, and determination resulting in championship titles, coveted awards and new marksmanship records.

Each shooting team has lived up to USAMU's "home of champions" moniker this summer, continuing their reign of domination by adding more triumphs to the unit's already long list of accomplishments.

International Rifle

As summer kicked off, Soldiers from the USAMU International Team turned up the heat by sweeping the Men's Prone Rifle podium at the USA Shooting National Championships at Fort Benning, Georgia, June 25 - July 2. Two-time Olympian, Sgt. 1st Class Michael McPhail from Darlington, Wisconsin, snatched the Gold with an impressive nine-point win. Spc. Patrick Sunderman from Farmington, Minnesota beat out fellow teammate, two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Eric Uptagrafft from Spokane, Washington, by one point to earn the Silver.

In the Men's Smallbore 3-Position, Staff Sgt. George Norton from Salinas, Kansas, won Silver while McPhail won Bronze with scores of 2342 and 2338 respectively that qualified them both for spots on the USA Shooting National Team.

At the same time, USAMU's Staff Sgt. Kevin Nguyen from Westminster, California, took the Gold in the Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1 Match in the World Shooting Para Sport Event, which was held in conjunction with the National Championships.

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MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings shooters! We hope that you enjoy this issue of the MMA Times.

In addition to our regular columns, please find some excellent reading within this issue. The USAMU Public Affairs Officer has an excellent summary of the many accomplishments of the active shooters, gunsmiths and support personnel in the unit during the recent shooting season. Jack

Writer has an interesting article on the current state of the USAMU loading room. Many of you have benefited from the handloading done by the Custom Firearms Shop, and I'm sure you'll find the current capabilities of the loading room fascinating and impressive. There is quite a bit going on in the shooting world, and the Civilian Marksmanship Program has a brief report on their plans to add smallbore matches to the schedule at Camp Perry following the National Rifle Association's moving smallbore to Indiana. Once again Hap Rocketto has a wonderful reflection in our "Saved Rounds and Alibis" column. It brought back fond memories of breakfast at the Camp Perry mess hall.

I want to draw your attention to the announcement of our annual meeting, which will be held at the Pool Range Finals Hall on Fort Benning on Wednesday, November 29 at 1:00 PM. Hope to see everyone there. We will be presenting the Shooter of the Year awards in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Announcement

In accordance with Article VIII of the MMA Constitution, an annual meeting will be held on

**Wednesday November 29, 2017
at 1300 hours at the Pool Range Finals Hall**

This is a **General Membership Meeting** and all members are welcome to attend.

The MMA Executive Board will present the

2017 Soldier of the Year awards

in conjunction with the meeting

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC James R. Barrows



This summer proved to be a tremendously successful one across the board for the AMU. The Service Rifle and Service Pistol Teams dominated the individual and team events at both the Interservice and the National Matches. Four team records were broken between the two teams. The International Team had a "clean sweep" of both the USA Shooting Nationals and the NRA Nationals. Shotgun

earned gold and bronze in Trap and silver in Skeet at the USA Shooting Nationals and the Action Shooting team won multiple national and regional events.

The Instructor Training Group continues to give back to the Army and improve marksmanship at every opportunity. ITG provided training for Cadet Command's Marksmanship Committee this past May. This committee was responsible for marksmanship training for all ROTC cadets that traveled to Fort Knox this summer. Over 8,000 cadets from across the country benefited from ITG's training methodology. Additionally, ITG's calendar stays full with requests for marksmanship training from across the Army. These missions provide immediate impacts to units and help improve their combat readiness.

The support from the Custom Firearms Shop continues to set all of our teams up for success. Undoubtedly, the individual and team wins from this summer's success are due in large part to the hard work and meticulous attention to detail from our gunsmiths. Every day I visit the shop I learn something new and am always amazed by new projects and our capabilities.

This continues to be an amazing place to work and I feel incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by some of the best Soldiers and civilians in the Army. The results of their commitment and dedication speak for themselves, but I want to personally congratulate all of the teams on their tremendous success this summer. Thanks for what you do every day.

Thank You!!!

Rock Soike donated \$100 to the MMA in memory of **Mike Cleary** and **Dan Bearbower**. Thank you Rock for honoring their memory and supporting the mission of the MMA!

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Nguyen also won Silver in the Mixed 10m Air Rifle Prone SH1 Match, as well as a spot on the National Paralympic Team.

A few weeks later, the International Team was in trophy winning form at the National Rifle Association's National Smallbore Rifle Championships in Bristol, Indiana, July 6 - 19.

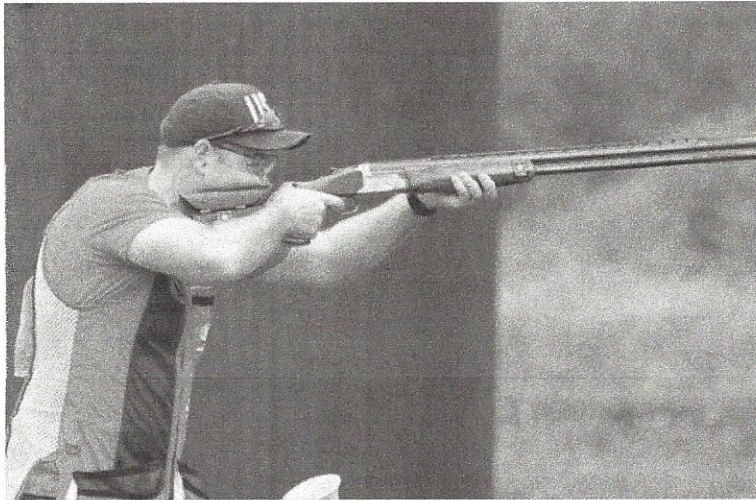
In the Conventional Prone Aggregate, Sgt. 1st Class Hank Gray from Belgrade, Montana, came out on top of 85 other shooters with a 4799-419X, which edged out McPhail's impressive 4797-438X. Teammates Norton and Uptagrafft were not far behind with their own lofty scores of 4797-397X and 4796-399X, earning them third and fourth place finishes, respectively.

In the Conventional 3-Position Aggregate, Sunderman claimed the championship title over 70 other competitors with a 2391-167X while McPhail followed close in second with a 2390-168X. Norton earned third with a 2388-169X.

In the Metric 3-Position Aggregate, McPhail took first place with a 2317-105X, edging out 52 other competitors. Norton finished second with a 2316-89X while Sgt. Erin McNeil from Fort Wayne, Indiana, placed third with a 2299-93X. Sunderman placed fourth with a 2294-92X.

At the end of the 11-day competition, McPhail earned the prestigious Iron Man Trophy with a score of 9504-711X. Norton, who was the first Iron Man Trophy winner, followed closely behind in second with a 9501-655X, while Sunderman, who was the 2016 Iron Man Trophy winner, placed third with a 9478-640X. Trailing closely in fourth, was McNeil with a 9460-574X.

International Rifle's summer streak carried over internationally as well. In August, at the 2017 Bisley Meeting in England, Uptagrafft won the two main individual aggregates and tied the record score for the 4-Day Aggregate. A comment often heard at the results boards was, "Are the Americans going to let us win any of our own trophies?" The answer was a resounding "no." In all, AMU Soldiers brought home all eight British trophies. Action at the Bisley Meeting culminated with the squad of 10 American riflemen also winning the Roberts Team Match over the British team by 11 points with AMU shooters, Uptagrafft and Gray, firing the two highest scores for either team.

Shotgun Team

SSG Derek Haldeman placed 5th in the ISSF World Championships in Trap in Moscow, Russia in September.

Tennessee, and Spc. Christian Elliott from Greenwood, Indiana, earned seats on the U.S. World Championship Skeet Team in Colorado Springs. Stewart shot an impressive perfect score of 75 during the match finals while Elliott was close behind with a 72. In the Men's Open Final, Stewart claimed his seat and the Gold with a total of 493, three clays ahead of teammate Elliot who fired a 490. Meanwhile, Elliott earned the Gold in the Junior Nationals and Stewart earned a Silver in Men's Open.

Later, Elliott prepared himself even further for the upcoming World Championship by winning Silver at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy, with a 55, trailing the Gold by just two clays.

Action Shooting

While the Shotgun and International Team Soldiers were traveling the globe, Action Shooting Team Soldiers were battling it out in the states. At the peak of the summer heat, Spc. Jacob Hetherington from Prescott, Arizona, claimed a key

While the International Team was claiming trophies, the USAMU Shotgun Team was on the road at numerous competitions and training events to earn seats at the International Shooting Sports Federation's World Championships in Moscow, Russia, August 30 - September 11.

The road to Russia included a three-part Selection Match Series and over 500 targets in action that started back in the fall of 2016. Staff Sgt. Derek Haldeman from Sunbury, Ohio, secured his ticket to Russia in the USA Shooting National Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 6 - 17. Haldeman earned a spot on the U.S. World Championship Trap Team with a score of 565, which was two targets over Roe Reynolds and Sevin Layer. Haldeman and USAMU teammate, 2008 Double Trap Gold Medalist Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Eller from Katy, Texas, also had a great showing at the USA Shooting National Championship, claiming Gold for Haldeman and Bronze for Eller.

In addition, Sgt. Hayden Stewart from Columbia,

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win in Grand Island, Nebraska, in August. With a score of 1929.8910, Hetherington earned the title of the U.S. Practical Shooting Association's title, Area 3 National Production Champion. His first place score in the quick-moving competition was 47.762 points over and 14.45 seconds faster than the second place competitor, showing that USAMU Soldiers were at the top of their game.

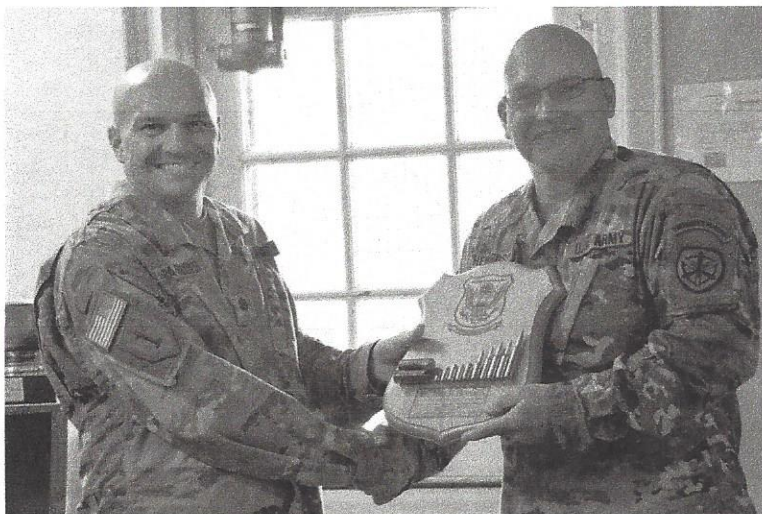


USAMU's Action Shooting Team at the 2017 Rocky Mountain 3-Gun World Championships at the Whittington Range in Raton, New Mexico from Aug. 10-13. Left to right are SSG Joel Turner, SFC Daniel Horner, SFC Kyle McMaster, and SSG Tyler Payne.

Hetherington wasn't the only Action Shooting Team Soldier on a streak though. Others were showcasing the USAMU expertise as well. At the 3-Gun Nation Regional in Clinton, South Carolina, June 1 - 4, nine-time USPSA Tactical Optics Multi-Gun Champion, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Horner from Suffolk, Virginia, took first in the Practical Division while Staff Sgt. Joel Turner from Belton, South Carolina, took first in the Unlimited Division. At the Western PA Championships, in Clairton, Pennsylvania, July 14 - 15, Staff Sgt. John Browning from Jackson, Georgia, placed first in the Limited Division while Hetherington placed first in the Production Division. At the Peacemaker National Training Center's Precision Rifle Series Designated Marksman Rifle Challenge in Gerrardstown, West Virginia, July 28 - 31, Staff Sgt. Tyler Payne from Princeton, Minnesota, claimed the first place title. At the Rocky Mountain 3-Gun Championships in Raton, New Mexico, August 10-13, Payne earned first place in the Heavy Scope Division while Turner also earned first place in the Open Division.

Service Pistol

USAMU's Service Pistol Team extended USAMU's summer success to their side of the range and proved to be a powerful force at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's National Pistol Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio, June 30 - July 2.



SFC James Henderson receiving a bullet plaque from LTC Jim Barrows on 9 August in recognition of his 32 years of service to the Army.

Starting off with the Service Pistol Excellence in Competition Match, USAMU Service Pistol Team Soldiers claimed the top three wins. Staff Sgt. Ryan Franks from Las Vegas, Nevada, defeated 278 other competitors with a 289-7X, while Staff Sgt. Greg Markowski, a native of Poland, was at his heels earning second with a 288-13X. Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Cleveland from Tacoma, Washington, finished a close third with a 287-10X.

Cleveland quickly took up first place in the .22 Excellence in Competition Match over 274 other competitors with a 291-9X with Markowski just one X behind him with a 291-8X, earning another second-place finish.

Taking top honors in the prestigious National Trophy Individual Match was Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Franks from Las Vegas, Nevada, with a score of 289-10X. In a tough battle for second place, Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson won by just one X over Markowski's third place score of 287-9X. A total of 311 competitive shooters competed in the historic match.

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The esteemed President's Hundred Match championship title was snatched up by Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson from Pasadena, California, with a score of 392-16X, which was just one point and one X away from his own 2009 record-setting score of 393-17X. This was Henderson's 10th time winning the President's Hundred during his 32-year career in the Army and was the perfect finale before he retired later in the summer. Other Service Pistol Team Soldiers earned six of the remaining nine spots in the top 10 for the match with Markowski, Cleveland, and Staff Sgt. Franks coming in second, third and fourth respectively. Overall, 338 competitors vied for this prestigious honor.

As a team, the Service Pistol Team outshot nine other competitive teams to take the National Trophy Team Championship title with a score of 1112-26X. This coveted title has remained with the USAMU Service Pistol Team now for 11 consecutive years. Members of the winning team included Henderson, Cleveland, Markowski, and Staff Sgt. Joshua Kingery from Honolulu, Hawaii. The team coach was Sgt. 1st Class Franks.

While at Camp Perry, Service Pistol Team Soldiers reigned supreme in all possible key matches during the 2017 NRA Championships. As a team, USAMU Soldiers claimed the championship titles in both the four-man and two-man team

categories for the Center Fire Match, .45 Caliber Match and the National Team Champion Match.

Individually, Henderson claimed top honors in the .22 Caliber Individual Match. Sgt. 1st Class Adam Sokolowski from Yeagertown, Pennsylvania earned first place in the .45 Caliber Individual Match as well as the title of Regular Service Champion.

For the ultimate match title as 2017 NRA Pistol Champion, two USAMU Soldiers shot their way to the top in a very tight race. Sokolowski claimed the Silver with a total score of 2636-124X while Markowski grabbed the Bronze with a 2633-130X. The champion, Jonathan Shue, was just two points and two Xs away with a 2638-126X.

Service Rifle

While the other USAMU teams excelled, the Service Rifle Team found its own competitive spirit and broke a number of records.

At the inaugural CMP Cup Series at Camp Perry, Ohio, from June 24 - July 6, Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Green from Covington, Louisiana took the overall title with a 2368-97X. In addition, 2016 Olympian Spc. Dan Lowe from Olympia, Washington, grabbed second with a 2355-89X. Six other Service Rifle Team Soldiers filled up the remaining eight top-ten spots from the total of 108 competitors. Lowe, who moved over from the International Team, also earned first place in the 800 Aggregate Match with a 794-34X on day one of the competition while Green earned first on day two with a 797-42X. Another key win at the Cup was USAMU's Team Craig beating out 16 other teams for the CMP Cup 4-Man Team Match with a score of 1954-63X, which was 20 points higher than the second place team.

At the NRA National High Power Rifle Championships at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, July 7 - 13, the Service Rifle Team Soldiers outperformed other marksmen, claiming 11 individual first place titles and one second place title. The national champion titles included the McCann Trophy, Venderberg Cup, Army Cup, Navy Cup, Cavalry Cup and Marine Corps Cup. For the National Match Rifle Champion title, Sgt. Ben Cleland from Sylvania, Ohio, took second place with a 1987-116X, which was just two points behind but over 23Xs above the first place score of 1989-93X. For the National Service Rifle Champion title, three USAMU Soldiers took the top three honors out of 125 other competitors. Those Soldiers were Sgt. 1st Class Shane Barnhart from Ashley, Ohio, Lowe, and Staff Sgt. Amanda Elsenboss from Woodbury, Connecticut.

As a team, two USAMU service rifle teams, Team Craig and Team Hess, won the top two spots in the historic Enlisted Men's Trophy Team Match, which dates back to 1911.

At the CMP National Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio from July 14 - 21, Service Rifle Team Soldiers claimed first place trophies in nine individual matches that included the revered Rattlesnake Trophy, Oliver Hazzard Perry Trophy and Pershing Trophy. Out of nine wins, the Soldiers broke six records, four by Green himself. In one of his record-breaking matches, Green shot a 499-30X that extinguished the old record of 497-21X that was set in 2000 by former USAMU Service Rifle Team Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Grant Singley.

As a team, the Service Rifle Team Soldiers claimed the championship titles in the Hearst Doubles Match, National Infantry Trophy Match and the National Trophy Rifle Team Match.

At the 56th Interservice Rifle Championships in Quantico, Virginia July 25 – August 2, the Service Rifle Team burned the Army name into the record books.

In the individual categories, USAMU Soldiers claimed eleven different trophies. Out of those eleven, two standing records were met in the Interservice Marine Corps Match (300-Yard/Rapid-Fire/Prone) and the 600-Yard Match (Open Division) by Spc. Lane Ichord from Modesto, California and Cleland, respectively. Also, out of those 11 wins, the Service Rifle Team Soldiers broke five other records. For the Interservice Individual Champion title, Green won with a 998-52X, which broke the 1994 record of 995-50X that was set by U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. Don Heuman. Poetically,

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Heuman, who served as the USAMU Service Rifle coach from 2002 to 2012, presented Green with his award.

In the team categories, the Service Rifle Team Soldiers seized all five possible team trophies: Interservice 1000-Yard Team Match (Service Rifle Division), Interservice 1000-Yard Team Match (Open Division), Marine Corps Combat Development Command Match, Interservice 10-Man Rifle Team Match and Marine Corps Infantry Trophy Team Match.

Out of those five wins, the Soldiers also broke three interservice records. USAMU's Team Craig snatched up first place in the 1000-Yard Team Match (Service Rifle Division) with a score of 1176-49X, which blasted the 2012 record of 1154-33X set by USAMU's former Team Mangione. USAMU's Team Barnhart clutched first place in the 1000-Yard Team Match (Open Division) with a score of 1198-78X, which topped the 2012 record of 1197-68X set by USAMU's former Team Praslick. And the full Service Rifle Team banded together for the ultimate victory in the Interservice 10-Man Rifle Team Match with a score of 4942-231X, which smashed the 1999 record of 4933-206X set by another former USAMU team.

Instructor Training Group

Ultimately, all this winning and record breaking directly benefits the rest of the Army Team. Over the years, competitive shooting Soldiers from the USAMU have relied upon their successful experiences to create a number of lesson plans for the force.

Earlier this year, the Instructor Training Group Soldiers took their combined knowledge to Fort Knox, Kentucky May 1 - 19. In a train-the-trainer style event, USAMU ITG Soldiers provided hands-on training and feedback to over 50 noncommissioned officers assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Those NCOs then led marksmanship training for the Cadet Summer Training Program that trained over 13,000 cadets.

The ITG Soldiers spent the remainder of the summer providing training to other Soldiers serving worldwide as infantrymen, military police and drill sergeants, which required them to travel to places ranging from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to Vilseck, Germany.

Training events such as these imprint USAMU successes onto Soldiers of all ranks and skills and help increase the lethality and excellence of tomorrow's Army. With the dominating summer behind them, USAMU plans to continue sharing and expanding their 'home of champions' knowledge for generations to come.

**CMP Smallbore Championships:
16 – 22 July, 2018**

After being approached to organize a set of programs for the smallbore community, the CMP is proud to announce the course of events scheduled to be introduced at the 2018 National Matches. Keeping to the tradition of offering a multitude of shooting events for enthusi-

asts at Camp Perry, smallbore matches added to the National Match lineup include:

Two days of full course 3x40, featuring kneeling, prone and standing positions

Four days of conventional style prone

The CMP will also be utilizing its electronic targets on Petrarca Range for potential finals opportunities. Smallbore events will be open to all ages and skill levels.

Stay tuned for more information regarding dates and registration for the 2018 National Matches.

Lones Wigger Endowment and Legacy Project

USA Shooting recently renamed the interior of its headquarters building and upper range in honor of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Lones Wigger. The facility now bears the name Lones Wigger Legacy Hall & Range. Parts of the range and office complex at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center have been enhanced with graphics and updated signage honoring Wigger. The ceremony was held on August 25, 2017, honoring Wigger in conjunction with an ongoing fundraising effort called the Lones Wigger Endowment & Legacy Project. The effort will provide additional funding opportunities for USA Shooting to help grow youth programs and enhance grassroots development. At the dedication ceremony USA Shooting presented a check to the endowment for \$201,111, and Wigger pledged an additional \$5,000. Contributions can still be made. If you send a check, make it payable to USA Shooting. In the check Memo Line: Write in Lones Wigger Endowment. Send payment to USA Shooting, Attn: Amber Aragon, 1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs CO 80909. Donations by credit card can also be made at this website: <https://www.usashooting.org/donate-20141126072420/loneswigger#Donations>

The August 25, 2017 Ceremony was held in conjunction with the US International Shooting Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on August 26, 2017. Inducted were Ed Etzel, David Kimes, Don Haldeman, and Martin Gunnarsson, all former Army shooters.

Saved Rounds and Alibis

An Army Breakfast is no Mess to Haul Hap Rocketto

In my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I did a cruise in the Navy and a hitch in the Army. The one consistent element, other than the fact that no uniform ever tailored could make me look any more lean, mean, and warlike than a sack of Maine potatoes, was the quality and quantity of breakfast. In those days the military nutritional pyramid was based upon four food groups; starch, fat, sugar, and caffeine.

I never had a bad meal in the Navy but I can't say as much for the Army. However, nothing can beat an Army breakfast and the demise of the Camp Perry Mess Hall has pretty much left that gustatory delight a memory for me. Mornings when I knew I wasn't going to have to shoot rapid fire sitting, I side stepped through the chow line and smiled as a heap of cottage fried potatoes were plopped onto my plate and watched with delight as an aluminum ladle full of bisque colored sausage gravy or creamed beef burst over a fresh baked biscuit like a tsunami surging ashore on an Indian Ocean seafront. Next came the jewel in the crown: eggs to order.

The Army must have had a mold at Cook and Baker School, for it seemed that every young mess cook manning the line from Fort Benning, Georgia to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii looked exactly alike. The Army must have turned them out by the thousands. No matter the color each stood about five feet ten inches tall. They were lanky, had rubber like arms, and a scrawny neck with a prominent Adam's apple. Their early morning patter was punctuated by a bobbing toothpick parked in the corner of their mouths. The only stain on their immaculate white dress was a delicate gray ornamental tracery of sweat decorating the edge of the paper barracks covers pulled tight over their foreheads.

Most amazing was that all spoke with the same jocular southern accent and patois. As you approached you were inevitably greeted with a smile and a cheery, "How yo' lak yo' aigs? Fried o'scrambode?"

I was dreamily thinking about those mess cooks and a belly full of carbohydrates as I sat with grumbling stomach in the dark pre dawn pits at Quantico one warm and humid July morning. The Interservice Rifle Championship was underway and I was hoping that both my pit mate, a fellow Guardsman named Mike Delk from Maryland, and the catering truck would soon show up. If not, I would pull targets all morning alone and with an empty belly to boot.

Each day after the cessation of firing Delk, a hail fellow well met, would head north to Baltimore where he would pick up his girl friend. They would then cavort, gambol, and frolic with youthful abandon in the fleshpots of "The Charm City" until even the frenetic Delk was exhausted. Repairing to his girl's apartment he would grab an hour of sleep change into one of several fresh uniforms he had cached there in anticipation of a quick turn around and motored south to Quantico and his early morning rendezvous with me in the pit. He would cat nap throughout day and, as soon as we secured the pits, be off like a shot, for another night of debauchery.

This morning Mike shuffled into the pits, dropped down onto the bench behind our target, pulled his hat over his eyes and started to nap. Dealing with Mike was a bit like house training a lovable puppy that had a hard time learning to use the paper. Mike was a hard guy not to like and, because of that, it was easy to take pity on him and excuse his behavior.

The catering truck pulled up and honked its horn to attract our attention. I sauntered over to Mike and lifted up the bill of his cap to get his attention. His eyes would have done Rand McNally proud. The irises were dark circles a magenta sea and radiating out from their centers was a cobweb of jagged red and blue lines. They were veritable road maps of his decadent behavior. I was quickly reminded of Oscar Wilde's short story, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

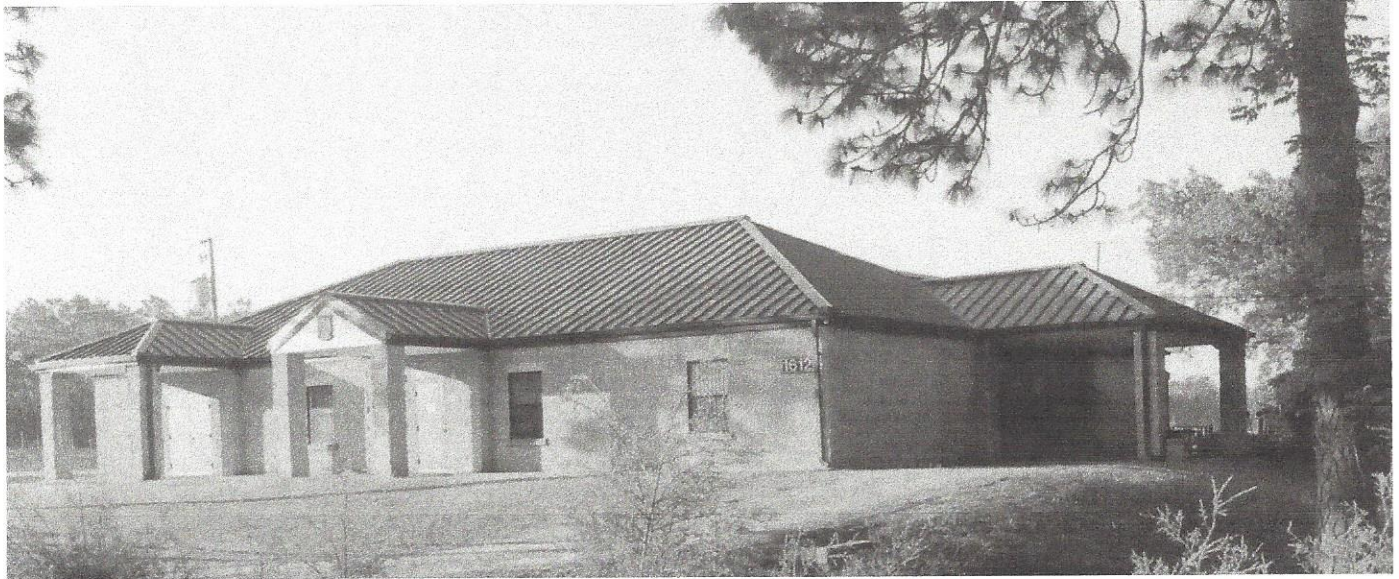
I wasn't going to get my Army breakfast on this muggy July morning and would have to settle for a ham and egg sandwich and a container of orange juice from the truck. Experience had taught me that Mike would need a bit of food and drink to get him through the long hot day to come.

In a soft voice so as not to jangle, what I thought must be, a terrible headache I quietly said, "Mike, I am going over to the 'roach coach' to get something to eat. You look like you could use a bite." Then in my best mess cook imitation I drawled out, "How yo' lak yo' aig sangwidge? Yo' wan' some juice?"

He popped up like a jack in the box and with a mischievous grin on his face he laughed back "Thanks for asking but, heck no Rocketman! I don't want none of that health food. Get me a Moon Pie and an RC!"

At that moment I knew Baltimore was in for yet another raucous night.

Evolution of the USAMU Loading Section



Parks Range Loading and Testing Facility, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Jack Writer

The USAMU Custom Firearms Shop - Loading and Testing Section is located on Parks Range. Troy Lawton is the Section Leader. John Writer and John Feamster man the loading room while Lyman Grover operates the testing facility.

Since the formation of the USAMU, quality handloads have been a necessary requirement for success on the firing line. Our competitors need outstanding firearms and top quality ammunition to win. Over the years, the variety of competitions have changed and expanded. In the early years, handloads were produced primarily for long range Match Rifle competitions and International 300 Meter events. For many years, the 300 H&H Magnum was the long range cartridge used on the 1000 yard line. In the mid-1960's, the .30-338 took over this role. The .308 Winchester was loaded for 300 Meters. Later, as the International tryouts moved to Phoenix, the .30-'06 became popular because of its superior wind-bucking capabilities.

Over the years, the selection of calibers continued to expand. Quality bullets with high Ballistic Coefficients (BCs) became available in .223, 6mm, 6.5mm and 7mm calibers. New cartridges and a huge variety of powders were developed. As a result, load development and testing became an expanded and never ending requirement in order to continue to produce winning loads for our competitors.

Today, the Loading Section develops handgun loads

and short range rifle loads for commercial contract production for our teams. All of our long range ammunition for 600 and 1000 yards are loaded in our Parks Range facility. This typically amounts to an annual output of 60,000 to 70,000 rounds. Most of this production supports our Service Rifle team in High Power competitions. We have also developed rounds and loads for our highly successful 3-Gun and Sniper Teams. Precision Rifle Shooting (PRS) has emerged as a highly popular new competition. Last year we loaded over 20,000 rounds in support of our PRS competitors. Ranges in these events can reach out to 1 mile.

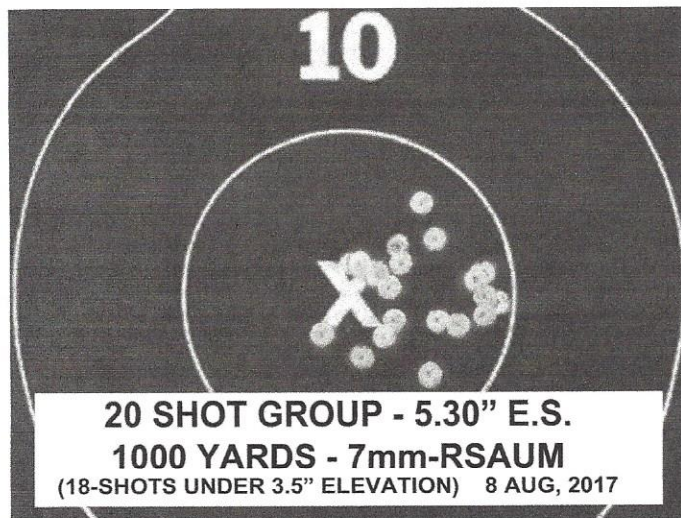
In recent years, we have loaded the following calibers: 5.56mm, 6 BR, 6 AR, 6x47, 6mmx250, 6 XC, 6mm Creedmoor, 264 USA, 260 Rem., 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5x284, 277 USA, 7mm RSAUM, .308 Win, .30-06, 30 Action, 300 WSM, 300 Win Mag, 300 Norma, 338 Norma and 338 Lapua.

Producing the highest quality, most accurate ammunition has always been the goal of the USAMU. Today, we are fortunate to have available the technology and equipment needed to maintain this tradition. Every load produced is weighed to an accuracy of .1 grain. The electronic balances we use are accurate

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to .02 grains. They dampen the measured load in only one second. This makes it possible for an experienced loader to accurately weigh over 300 charges per hour. We have six progressive presses which are used to produce our ammunition. Typically, we size and prime our brass on the press, measure the powder charges and then return to the press for seating the bullets. No powder is thrown by the progressive presses. One of our presses is powered and can produce over 600 rounds per hour. We have developed a procedure which allows us to integrate our precision powder measuring with this machine.

All of our 1,000 yard Bolt Rifle bullets are measured and sorted by over-all length. (Usually to .003"). When needed, cases are weight sorted. This helps insure winning accuracy. Average five shot group accuracy at 1,000 yards usually runs six inches or less. Our best five shot group measures 1.32". (An example of this type of accuracy can be seen in the attached photograph of a recently fired 20 Round, 1,000 yard group.)



To keep pace with our loading operation, our test facility has been outfitted with top of the line equipment. We have an extremely accurate and versatile test fixture which was designed and built by our shop. Not only is it used on Parks range, but it can be quickly set up on Easley or Maertens Ranges for 600 and 1,000 yard testing. This fixture can be configured to test any of the variety of firearms we evaluate. At Parks Range, our chronograph registers velocity at the firing line and down-range at our 300 yard electronic target. Information collected is saved in a computer where shot placement, group size and analysis from the electronic target are saved and integrated with the chronograph data. As a supplement, we also have a portable radar chronograph which can be used at other range facilities. This allows us to acquire velocity data as the groups are produced at 600 and 1,000 yards. In addition to the chronograph equipment, we have a high speed camera which we use to study timing and function issues with a variety of firearms.

In recent years, the USAMU has been increasingly involved in research and development with other Army organizations. As part of this effort, Troy Lawton has designed and developed the new 264 USA Intermediate Caliber cartridge. The first several thousand cases were formed and loaded at Parks Range. Subsequently, loaded rounds and cases have been commercially produced as this project moves forward. Because of the quality of our ranges and test facilities, other Army agencies routinely use the USAMU to develop and test components in their programs. Our areas of expertise have been increasingly recognized. This has expanded our opportunity to give back to the Army and the Soldier in the field. The USAMU Custom Firearms Shop is a highly professional and always interesting place to work. All of us feel fortunate to be a member of the USAMU and part of this operation. As someone who first fired on Parks Range in 1961... It's great to be home.

Welcome New Members

Jon Robertson	Jeremy Glenn	Ryan Murphy
James Doherty	Rick Howell	Ron Norton
James Parent	Christopher Kelly	Gaines

Taps, Present Arms

With deep sympathy, we announce the passing of:

Shelva Smith <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Shelva-Smith&lc=4590&pid=186400611&mid=7525032>

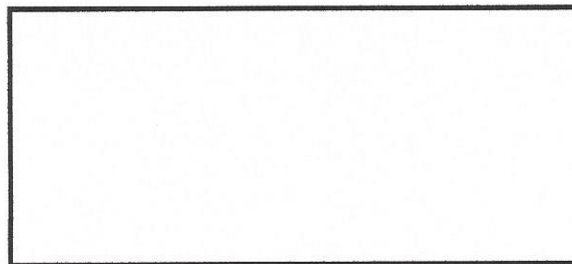
Paul Kunde, http://www.klinefuneralhome.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=4053333&fh_id=13117

John Roka <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/northjersey/obituary.aspx?pid=184427423>
Richard (Dick) Rebidue <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/richard-rebidue-obituary?pid=1000000184783922>

Jasper Kleinjan

Jim Schatz http://www.tributes.com/show/104587645?active_tab=obituary **Winston A. Dahl** <http://www.mcmullenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Ltc-Ret-Winston-Dahl/#!/Obituary>

Marcus Hayes <http://obituaries.valdostadailytimes.com/story/marcus-hayes-1932-2017-918998831>



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