



MMA TIMES

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

March 2018

Issue Number LXXXIX

What's Inside

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

USAMU Commander's Report
.....Page 2

MMA Fall Gathering
.....Page 2

CMP 1911 Sales
.....Page 4

Taps, Present Arms
.....Page 5

New USAMU HQ
.....Page 6

Saved Rounds and Alibis
.....Page 7

New Members
.....Page 8

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MMA Soldier of Year Awards



Bob Hoidahl (Left) presented awards to (L to R) SFC Adam Sokolowski, SFC Brandon Green, SSG Derek Haldeman (accepting for SPC Christian Elliot), SFC Daniel Sugimoto, and SSG John Joss (accepting for SGT Kevin Nguyen).

USAMU PAO

Since 1994 the MMA has annually recognized achievement by the Soldiers and civilians of the AMU. The winner of the Shooter of the Year award has stood out from among their peers and is truly a champion of champions. The MMA recently presented the award as well as recognizing an "Outstanding New Shooter of the Year" and an "Outstanding Support" team member from the USAMU . Beginning with the 2016 shooting season, the MMA began recognizing support team members in conjunction with the Shooter of the Year awards. The intent of this award is to acknowledge outstanding achievement, behind the scenes effort from the support team that puts champions on the podium in competition. This category is open to assigned Soldiers and civilians in non-shooting positions including the Custom Firearms Shop, staff sections, supply room, loading room, and NCOICs. The 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Support Award is Mr. Gene Clark from the Custom Firearms Shop. Mr. Clark supervised the rebuild of the rifles that helped the service rifle team dominate the 2017 interservice and national matches and set five new national records. Mr. Clark worked closely with Geissele Automatics to develop the new scope mount that is now being used in service rifle competition. Gene redid the layout of the gunsmithing trailer this year, facilitating support while the team was on the road. He is retiring this year after 27 years of service to the AMU and 32 total years of government service.

See **SOLDIER**, Page 3

MMA President's Report

Rob Harbison



Greetings from the Executive Board of the Military Marksmanship Association. This issue of the MMA Times includes a report from our recent awards during the USAMU Shooter of the Year ceremony. The ceremony was held in conjunction with our annual meeting, but for those of you that missed it, the report hits the highlights.

Also inside you'll find exciting news from Bob Aylward about the progress that the unit is making toward a new headquarters building. Additionally, there is a report from the Civilian Marksmanship Program regarding the status of sales of M1911 pistols. Recent congressional legislation has paved the way to offer M1911s and M1911A1s in the same way that the CMP sells M1 Garands and other rifles.

Please also take note of the "Save the Date" announcement for our fall MMA member get together. This will be a "reunion-lite", featuring some good bar-b-que and a chance to reconnect with old shooting buddies. I hope to see you there. Please note the farewell from Lieutenant Colonel Jim Barrows in his Commander's Column. This will be his final entry in the MMA Times prior to his change of command. Jim-thanks for your leadership, good luck and may God bless you in your future endeavors. Lastly I hope that you'll enjoy Hap Rocketto's post in the "Saved Rounds and Alibis" section as much as I did.

Save the Date!

September 29th, 2018 1100-1700

MMA Membership Fall Get Together

Hook Range (Shotgun) Pavilion
Fort Benning

Agenda

- BBQ served from 1100
- MMA Membership Meeting 1400

No reservation necessary, come as you are

USAMU Commander's Report

LTC James R. Barrows



I continue to be amazed at how quickly my time with the USAMU is flying by. On 10 January 2018, CSM Joseph Tinker relinquished responsibility to our new CSM, Jason Levy. CSM Tinker is now the Brigade Operations Sergeant Major for the 2nd Security Forces Assistance Brigade at Fort Bragg. We wish him the best and thank

him for his hard work with the great family at the USAMU. At the same time, we welcome CSM Levy. He is a New Jersey native and comes to us from the Sergeant Major Academy with a wealth of experience and an incredible desire to help make the USAMU an even better and more successful organization.

The Holidays provided a great break for everyone, but our teams are now back to training and competing. This year, the International Team hosted the largest U.S. Army Junior Air Rifle match we've ever had and All Army is just two weeks away. After All Army, the teams really hit the road hard with competitions and we won't slow down until the Fall. Inter-service, Nationals, World Cups will all quickly be on the horizon and our shooters will continue to win at all levels.

The Instructor Training Group continues to receive almost daily requests for marksmanship training throughout the Army. Their expertise and passion for making Soldiers better cannot be understated. As with all of our teams, the reputation that precedes them on every trip enables them to make an immediate and positive impact on the readiness of our Army.

My time at the USAMU (and in the Army) is quickly coming to an end. My Change of Command and Retirement will take place towards the end of June. The incoming Commander, LTC Trey Lawrence, has a tremendous background and will undoubtedly continue to move this awesome group of Soldiers and Civilians to new heights. I cannot think of a better place to end my career than with the incredible people at the USAMU. Thank you all for making this the most rewarding job I have ever had in the Army!

SOLDIER, From Page 1

The Outstanding New Shooter award acknowledges the performances of newly assigned Soldiers whose accomplishments might otherwise be overshadowed by more senior members of the shooting teams. This category is open to Soldiers who have been with the unit for less than 2 years. Criteria is job performance, professionalism, and displaying the Army values. The winner of the 2017 New Shooter of the Year award is Specialist Elliott from the Shotgun Team. SPC Elliott was a member of the 2017 World Championship Skeet Team. He won a silver medal at the world cup in Italy and a silver medal at the spring selection match. He is a member of the US national team.

Nominees for the overall "Shooter of the Year" award have stood out from among their peers in job performance, professionalism, and displaying the Army values. These Soldiers are the best of the best from their respective teams. The 2017 Shooter of the year is Sergeant First Class Adam Sokolowski from the Service Pistol Team. Sergeant Sokolowski won a



gold medal at the metallic sight national championship Bianchi Cup, setting a national record of 1914 with 143 Xs. This eclipsed the previous national record by four points, set in 2005. He fired a perfect 1920 in the multi-gun Bianchi Cup match, setting a national record and winning gold. He was a firing member of the winning national team championship and won a silver medal individually at Camp Perry. Other worthy nominees this year for the Shooter of the Year award included Sergeant First Class Brandon Green from Service Rifle, Staff Sergeant Derek Haldeman from Shotgun, Staff Sergeant Kevin Nguyen from International Rifle, and Staff Sergeant

Daniel Sugimoto from the Instructor Training Group. Sergeant Green won the National Trophy Individual (NTI) Match with a record setting score of 499-30X. He won the interservice individual championship with a record setting score of 998- 52X. He set a record and won the Mountain Man Trophy, which is an aggregate of the Presidents Match, the NTI, and the National Trophy Team (NTT) Match scores at Camp Perry. He was the high shooter on the winning and record setting ten man team at interservice with a score of 499-30x and he was the high shooter on the winning NTT match with a 497-23X.

Staff Sergeant Haldeman placed 5th at the world championships and won the USA Shooting trap national championship. He also teamed up with a female shooter to win bronze in the mixed trap event at the world championships, and he is a member of the US National Team.

Staff Sergeant Sugimoto was the primary instructor during the three week mission to Fort Knox, Kentucky. As the primary instructor, he was responsible for planning and executing training for 56 NCOs from cadet command. Those 56 NCOs later trained over twelve thousand cadets during their summer training. For these 12,000 future officers, their first experience in marksmanship training was taught using USAMU methodology. Sergeant Sugimoto also earned an excellence in competition bronze badge in pistol at the 2017 All Army Small Arms Championships.

Staff Sergeant Nguyen won a gold medal in R6 mixed prone rifle at the world para sport grand prix, and a silver in R3 10M mixed prone. He fired a minimum qualifying score making him eligible to compete in the 2020 Paralympic Games. Sergeant Nguyen qualified for the 2018 world Paralympic championships and he also volunteered working with local Fort Benning wounded warriors on his own time.

Thank You!!!

Ken Hamill donated \$100 to the MMA in memory of **Charlie Davis**. Thank you Ken for honoring his memory and supporting the mission of the MMA!

CMP M-1911 Sales Update

January 29, 2018

The CMP has been authorized to receive 8,000 1911 type pistols from the United States Army. The 1911s have been received by the CMP. A complete inventory will be conducted over the course of this week. The pistols will then be securely stored until the Army-approved 1911 building and armory infrastructure is completed. That completion is anticipated to be approximately 60 days from now. Once the 1911 armory is completed, inspection, grading, repair, and ultimately test firing of the pistols will begin. (Please be aware that the CMP was led to believe that we were ready to move forward, but three weeks ago facility requirements were changed, and we are now fulfilling those requirements.)

The CMP 1911 order packet will be posted 90 days prior to the order acceptance date and opening sales date. No orders will be accepted prior to that date. Please visit www.thecmp.org, click on the Sales icon then 1911 Information, for the latest. CMP customer service has been inundated with calls and emails concerning the 1911s and no further information is available at this time.

The CMP will keep everyone posted as we move through this process.

December 19, 2017

The CMP Board of Directors has discussed at length how the sales of 1911s would be handled, if the CMP were to ever receive them from the United States Army.

Some decisions further clarified updated 12/19/2017:

1. CMP will have an all-new 1911 order form, 1911 purchasing instructions, a 1911 page on our web site, a dedicated 1911 FFL fax number and email address for the FFL holder to send their FFL with customer's name attached. The customer will have to send in a complete new order packet with all new qualifying criteria included. Everyone will be a new customer, everyone starts with no advantage or disadvantage. CMP 1911 is an FFL governed operation and is a separate entity from CMP and has to have its own record keeping operation with no ties to the old CMP records.
2. Decisions concerning the grade and pricing of the 1911s will not be made until inspection has occurred of a substantial quantity which will take an estimated 150 days post receipt. CMP will price at fair market value in accordance with CMP's enabling legislation.
3. Potential purchasers will have to provide to CMP a new set of documents exhibiting: 1) proof of U.S. Citizenship, 2) proof of membership in a CMP affiliated club, 3) proof of participation in a marksmanship activity, 4) a new form 2A with notary, 5) a signed copy of the 01, or 02, or 07 Federal Firearms License in which the 1911 will be transferred to.
4. A NICS background check will be performed by CMP on the customer to assure the customer is eligible to purchase prior to shipment to the FFL licensed dealer. The customer must receive a "proceed" from NICS prior to shipment of the pistol to the FFL licensed dealer.
5. The CMP customer will be required to complete a form 4473 in person at the FFL dealers place of business, successfully passing a NICS check, in which the information is provided by the FFL holder to NICS, before the pistol can be transferred. This is a second NICS check performed on the customer.
6. Qualified CMP customer will only be allowed to purchase one 1911 per calendar year.
7. No 1911s available in the CMP stores, or on line, only mail order sales. All 1911 orders will come in via USPS, UPS, Fed EX, etc.
8. CMP will set the date in which it will accept orders for the 1911s. The date will be posted to the world.
9. Orders will only be accepted via mail order delivery, USPS, UPS, Fed Ex, etc.
10. Orders will only be accepted post marked on the date or after, no early orders.
11. Once CMP receives 10,000 orders, customer names will be loaded into the Random Number Generator.
12. The Random Number Generator will provide a list of names in sequence order through a random picking process to CMP.
13. Customers will be contacted in the sequence provided by the Random Number Generator.
14. When the customer is contacted a list of 1911 grades and pricing options that are available will be offered for selection of one 1911 type pistol.
15. As CMP proceeds down the sequenced list less grades and pricing options will be available.

Reasons for the two NICS checks:

First Reason: The first NICS check makes sure the customer can legally possess the 1911 type pistol prior to shipping it to the local 01, or 02, or 07 FFL dealer. The CMP, Congress, and the United States Army do not want the 1911 to have to be shipped back to CMP 1911 if the purchaser is not legal to possess. The more in transit the pistol is, the more likely it could be lost or stolen. The second NICS check is performed by the local 01, or 02, or 07 FFL in accordance with their standard transfer procedures

Second Reason: CMP's enabling legislation mandated by Congress specifies that the purchaser "successfully pass a thorough and complete background check", i.e. NICS. CMP cannot turn any firearm over to the purchaser until it receives a "proceed" from NICS, the local FFL can turn the pistol over after 72 business hours have elapsed if they

have not heard back from NICS. Turning the pistol over after 72 hours and not getting a “proceed” does not satisfy CMP’s enabling legislation mandated by Congress. This leaves CMP no choice but to have a NICS check done and get a “proceed” to satisfy its enabling legislation, before shipping to the local 01, or 02, or 07 FFL.

Note: 1911 type pistols purchased from CMP cannot be transferred to 03 FFL (curio and relic) license. BATF and the United States Army prefer the second background check be performed by an FFL dealer. Each customer purchasing a 1911 type pistol from CMP will be subjected to two NICS background checks, one the information provided by CMP to NICS and the second the information will be provided to NICS by the FFL dealer in which the pistol is shipped. Ordering Information: CMP will have an all-new 1911 order form, 1911 purchasing instructions, a 1911 page on our web site, a dedicated 1911 FFL fax number and email address for the FFL holder to send their FFL with customer name attached. The customer will have to send in a complete new order packet with all new qualifying criteria included. Everyone will be a new customer, everyone starts with no advantage or disadvantage. CMP 1911 is an FFL governed operation and is a separate entity from CMP and has to have its own record keeping operation with no ties to the old CMP records.

Concerning sale price of the 1911s: CMP has been selling M1 Garands, M1 Carbines, 1903s, .22s, etc. for 21+ years and we have never taken advantage of anyone. CMP is not going to start price gouging people now with the 1911s. The 1911s will be priced at fair market value just like our M1 Garands. The CMP’s enabling legislation directs sales of items at fair market value.

Mark Johnson
Chief Operating Officer
Civilian Marksmanship Program

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TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

It is with sad hearts that we inform you of the passing of:

SFC (Ret) Dustin Brede. His wife, Nicole Al-laire Brede, is on active duty with the USAMU. His obituary can be read here: <http://www.eernissefuneralhome.com/obituaries/SFC-Dustin-W-Brede?obId=2584988#/obituaryInfo>

Merriweather Lewis passed away in Albany, OR 21 Oct 2017. His obituary can be read here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesmanjournal/obituary.aspx?pid=187053570>

LTC (Ret) Lones Wigger passed away 12 Dec 2017 at his home in Colorado Springs, CO of complications from pancreatic cancer. He was 80 years old. USA Shooting posted the following tribute: <https://www.teamusa.org/News/2017/December/15/Worlds-Most-Decorated-Shooter-Lones-Wigger-Dies-At-80>

Aubrey Smith passed away on 3 Jan 2018 in Locust Grave, GA. His obituary can be read here: <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Aubrey-Smith&lc=9507&pid=187731659&uuiid=321d89ec-2caf-47c0-a8b7-3720cd998fe4>

MSG (Ret) Charlie Davis passed away in Jan 2018

James H. McNally passed away 12 Jan 2018

MSG (Ret) William R. Lee passed away in Jan 2018

LTC (Ret) Jack Horner passed away in Columbus, GA in Feb 2018

New USAMU Headquarters Building

Bob Aylward

In 1973 COL McKenzie worked a deal with Ft. Benning to move USAMU from the “temporary” WWII buildings on Edwards Street to our current headquarters, 7031 Bills St, Sharpe Hall. One of my first jobs at USAMU (as well as all the other International Rifle team members) was to help MAJ Foster remove planks of wood from the old HQ’s and pull the nails, in order to have materials to construct an “office” at Parks Range. We accomplished that mission so well that we were then given the mission of moving the soda machine from the second floor of the old HQ onto a truck to be moved to the new HQ. I can report that the soda machine died a valiant death as it plunged down the stairs. It’s funny now, but back then the chain of command didn’t see much humor in it. Heck, we wanted to shoot. I digress; Our current Headquarters has served the USAMU well for the past 44 years and will continue to do so until we move into a new building, but honestly is too small, needs constant repairs just to keep our heads above water and Command and Control needs to be on site at the Ranges in order to continue to serve the mission in the 21st century.

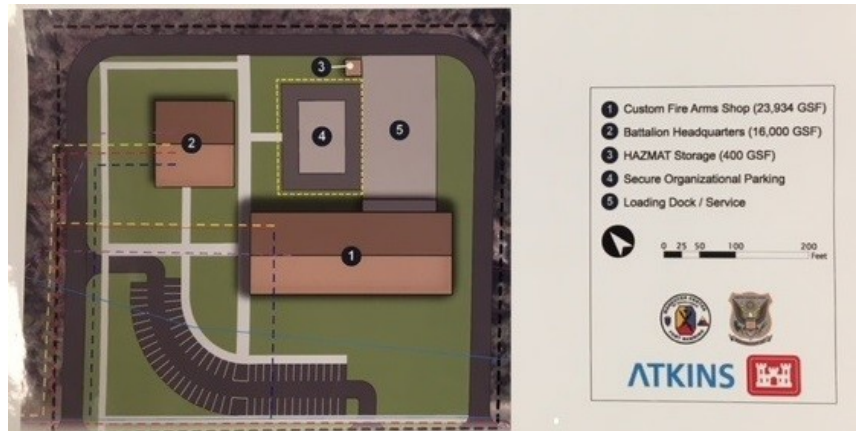
I returned to USAMU in August 1991 as the XO and during my in brief with the Commander, was directed to improve the infrastructure of USAMU. This included all the ranges AND a new headquarters and shop. Twenty-seven years later I still haven’t constructed a new Headquarters, but... The headquarters has finally been approved for military construction in 2020 and occupation in 2021. Major short range milestones are: The initial design meeting for the new HQ will be held with the Corp of Engineers in January 2018. In July 18 if all goes well a 35% design will be complete with cost estimate, which will then be forward to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) to be included in the President’s Budget. Not IF but WHEN that happens we will start work with an anticipated suspense of July 2019 to have a 100% design completed and our construction project will ready to advertise. So... Slowly but surely.

The HQ will be constructed on Alamo Road, adjacent to Hook Shotgun range (See photo on Page 8). The trees have been cleared for the past few years to insure there are no possible issues with forestry concerning removing of the trees just prior to the first spade of dirt being turned. The current proposal of the complex (and I say complex because we don’t know if this will be one, two or three buildings within the footprint) is 40,000 square feet. As a reference the current HQ is approximately 27,000 sq ft. The command and administrative area will have offices for the Command group and the staff as well as

a state-of-the-art conference room and classrooms. The shop portion of the building will house the Custom Firearms Shop (that will have actual space and lighting to properly work in) the arms room, shop supply as well as the S4 offices and supply room. We will include a Hall-of-Fame and historic display area as you walk in the facility. This has been sorely needed for years. So, just as a warning order, when the project is complete, I’ll probably be hitting many of you up for certain items to be included in this display.

We have taken the liberty of preparing a draft plan of the buildings so we don’t go into the initial design meeting with a blank sheet of paper. Dozens of MMA members have contributed their thoughts, ideas and design suggestions to me over the years. Every time Marvin Aldrich would see me he’d have a new idea and for the past 27 years has asked me “when do we get a new shop”? Over the past year Kevin McMahon has taken my stack of submitted suggestions and his firsthand knowledge of shop requirements and has constructed a shop, arms room and logistics design that satisfies the USAMU mission requirements for years to come. Your input and Kevin’s design is what we will present to the Corp of Engineers in January 2018 as our initial shot-across-the-bow.

Now that the construction has “almost” become a reality, I will try to keep all of the MMA informed as to the progress and hopefully report to COL Vowell in 2021 that we finally accomplished the tasking he gave us in 1991.



Saved Rounds and Alibis

A cease fire that was out of the ordinary

Shooting range safety is serious stuff. All good ranges have safety procedures and mechanisms in place to prevent interlopers from crossing the firing line when the range is hot. In some places it is a simple hinged sign that drops down to warn all that there is shooting taking place, as if the rattle of gun fire isn't enough warning. Other ranges place a red flag down range to signal that the line is closed for target changes. Flashing lights and intermittent klaxons are also a favored safety measure. There are clubs where a range officer must be present anytime shooting is taking place.

Blue Trail Range, Connecticut's largest commercial shooting facility, has probably the most elaborate system I have ever seen. The entire range is surrounded by a tall wire mesh fence while a second interior fence encloses the actual shooting grounds. After checking in at the main office one is issued a magnetic swipe card in order to pass through the firing line gate, held shut by a magnet so powerful as to threaten to pull the fillings right out of your teeth and to make it a danger to your wristwatch as you pass through. Once inside there are range officers patrolling on foot while another sits in a glass walled shanty where he supervises his subordinates while he scans a bank of television monitors hooked up to strategically placed surveillance cameras. Target changes are announced by both public address system announcements and horn blasts as clear instructions are issued by the range staff for going down range. In addition there are towering berms behind the target butts as well as baffles to prevent muzzles from being raised high enough to aim over the berms. I have shot at a lot of places, from sandpit to Perry, and it is one of the tightest controlled ranges on which I have ever competed.

That being said, as well controlled as a range may be, anyone who has shot for any appreciable length of time has been subjected to cessations of fire for any number of reasons involving someone or thing down range. If a fellow member absentmindedly wanders down range during a Saturday morning plinking session at the club he will be well rounded upon by his compatriots for not being aware of his surroundings and inconveniencing his fellow club members. At a serious match the reaction of the line and officials may be a little less charitable.

Having more than a few years of shooting under my ample belt, I have been subjected to more than one unusual cessation of fire. Boats in the impact area at Camp Perry are annoying and they may be the most common source of cessation of fire there, right ahead of the vicious thunder and lightning storms that whip through Ottawa County in the summer, or the occasional eagle nesting and feeding down range. I am not much worried about hitting a boater but the United States Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act scares me. An eagle, dead at your hands, can cost you a \$100,000 and a year in the slammer. With my luck it would be one of my errant foulers, pun intended, that they would pull out of the carcass and my days on the range would be a memory. I'll stop shooting for an eagle because they don't know better. However, boaters and jet skis are a different matter all together.

What I am talking about is really unusual reason to cease fire. Like the time an old gent dropped dead next to me at a highpower match-which led to no end of grumbling from the impatient pit crew who were miffed at being stuck in the pits doing nothing and had no idea of the drama that was happening 200 yards away, or when the beer delivery guy swung open a downrange door in the basement of a local rifle range in the middle of a match and proceeded to roll in a keg right in front of the targets because that is where he always delivered the suds, or even the railway cars transiting the range at O'Hare's in Maplewood, New Jersey that required the belly shooters to stop shooting.

Perhaps the most unusual cessation might be caused by an Army pilot who elected to do touch and go landings at Camp Perry in the late summer of 1924. That, in itself, was no problem as Camp Perry was listed as an auxiliary airfield on the air navigation charts of the day. The real problem was that he elected to do it was right in the middle of the 600 yard stage of the National Trophy Rifle Team Match for the "Dogs of War" trophy.

The line was filled by teams of pair firing competitors shooting for the premier service rifle team trophy. A large gallery had crowded in behind the firing line and was treated to more than they expected, an unscheduled air show. The gusty six o'clock wind was not much of an impediment to the rifleman but it meant that the aviator had to crab into the wind as he made his final approach and then straighten out just as he touched down to avoid ground looping. As a matter of fact a little cross wind practice on a large forgiving sod field might have been just what he was after.

The riflemen were methodically shooting as he touched down on one end of the line, and the cry of "Cease Fire!" quickly burst from sundry lips. The plane rolled out, took off and made two more touch and goes, causing a long cessation, much to the disgust of the shooters. This was in the days before aircraft radios so there was no way to contact the endangered pilot. Reports in the *American Rifleman* stated that this was the fifth consecutive year that the match was delayed by the Air Service's close attention to the chart and lack of respect for .30-06 rifle fire. Ignorance certainly was bliss.

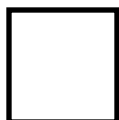
NEW MEMBERS

Robert Stephenson	Bart Peterson
Thomas Bishop	Christopher Carr
James Masella	Evan Tatum
Craig Dougherty	Azad Ahmadi
Devin DeCoursey	Niel Smith
Michael Irely	Darby Hodges
James Slusher	Robert Buker

Thank you for your commitment
to the organization!



Future home of the new USAMU HQ building complex on Alamo Road



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