



United States Army Marksmanship Unit Overview

• Room 208, Building 7031 Bills Street, Fort Benning, Ga. 31905 • Voice (706) 545-5436 • Fax (706) 545-6704

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Ga., was formed in March of 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise overall marksmanship proficiency within the Army. USAMU was also tasked to train expert marksmen to compete and win in interservice, national, Olympic and international shooting competition.

President Eisenhower's concerns are as true today as they were then. At the very heart of any army is the necessity to effectively use small arms. USAMU's mission is to show everyone within the Department of Defense, America and the world that the U.S. military has the world's greatest small arms capabilities. Where we prove that is the competition field. Thus today the unit continues to select and develop the Army's top marksmen to compete on the U.S. Army shooting teams.

USAMU is composed of seven competitive shooting sections, a custom gun shop and a unit support staff. Service Pistol, Service Rifle, International Rifle, International Pistol, Action Shooting, Shotgun and Running Target comprise the shooting sections with International Rifle, International Pistol, Shotgun and Running Target being Olympic sports. Support is provided to these soldier-athletes through the Custom Firearms Shop and the support branches of supply, operations and administration.

USAMU provides technical and advisory assistance in the development of military and match-type small arms, equipment and ammunition. The unit makes or customizes its own small arms and much of its own ammunition. The unit's Custom Firearms Shop builds top-quality competitive-grade rifles and pistols for the USAMU teams.

This is the only organization of its kind in the Army today. It represents America's finest competitive shooters and the Army's greatest marksmen. It is an organization dedicated to promoting marksmanship throughout the Army and has gained worldwide respect for the high standards of conduct, professional ethics and good sportsmanship its members manifest in each and every phase of competition.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has been a part of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command since October 1999. The world-class soldier-athletes of the USAMU promote the Army and assist recruiters in attracting young Americans to enlist in the Army. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>)

Since 1956, members of USAMU have won hundreds of individual and team national titles with more than 40 world championships and 20 Olympic medals. Such accomplishments are why the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is called the "Home of Champions."



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Action Shooting

Action Shooting is the fastest growing shooting sport in the world and has its roots right here in the United States. Back in the in the 1970s, law enforcement and security personnel wanted a competition that focused on practicality with their designated duty pistols. In 1976, the Columbia Conference in Columbia, Mo., set up the rules and parameters for the International Practical Shooting Confederation, the international governing body for action shooting. Since then, the sport has grown from the local club level to the world level with more 60 countries participating. The U.S. Practical Shooting Association is the national governing body for action shooting and runs the IPSC matches in the United States.

Action Shooting involves shooting multiple steel and paper targets from various positions with multiple shots. Courses of fire incorporate drawing the gun from the holster, making magazine changes and requiring the shooter to manage a variety of props in a safe manner. The time it takes shooters to manipulate a course of fire or stage is recorded along with their scored hits. The time is then divided into the hits scored. The fastest, most accurate shooter wins.

The Action Shooting Team competes in state, regional, national, continental and world championship competitions. The team's most important matches are the U.S. Practical Shooting Association's Limited Nationals and Open Nationals every autumn, the National Rifle Association Bianchi Cup every May in Columbia, Mo., the World Speed Shooting Championships in Valencia, Calif., in August, and the International Practical Shooting Confederation World Championships and World Action Pistol Championships (also known as the World Bianchi Championships), which are conducted every three years.

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a. **The Guns.** Action shooters use stock or production pistols and unlimited or open pistols; open pistols are entirely custom built with additions such as scopes and compensators.

b. **Course of Fire.** Any given competition consists of four to 30 stages with each stage varying in course design. The competitors are required to negotiate each stage as quickly and accurately as possible.

c. **Clothing, Equipment, Accessories.** Shooters wear athletic shoes or cleats, depending on the terrain on which the stage is set. Mandatory eye and ear protection are enforced. Unique to action shooting, competitors are required to draw the pistol from a holster and make magazine changes from “mag” pouches attached to a sturdy belt. Clothing is the shooter’s preference, however, camouflage is prohibited.

Bianchi Cup

The annual Bianchi Cup is a National Rifle Association Championship. Marksmen shoot in four events, 480 points total in each event for a total of 1,920 points. The events’ scores are combined for an aggregate score from which winners are named. The events are Practical, Barricade, Mover and Plates. Competitors shoot from distances up to 50 yards at a center X ring of 2 inches in diameter. In addition, the World Action Shooting Championships are held every three years and follow the same rules and course of fire.

a. **Practical.** Divided into four stages, three strings and 12 shots per string, 48 shots total. At 10 yards, 1 shot each target within 3 seconds, 2 shots each target within 4 seconds, 3 shots each target within 8 seconds. At 15 yards, 2 shot each target within 4 seconds, 2 shots each target within 5 seconds, 3 shots each target within 6 seconds. At 25 yards, 1 shot each target within 5 seconds, 2 shots each target within 10 seconds, 3 shots each target in 7 seconds. At 50 yards, 1 shot each target within 7 seconds, 2 shots each target 10 seconds, 3 shots each target 15 seconds.

b. **Barricade.** Divided into four stages, all shot from behind a barricade to one side then the other. Shooter must shoot one of each string at each distance from each hand. Shooter shoots left-handed when shooting to right of barricade, and right-handed from the left side of the barricade. The shooter holds the pistol against the barricade with the free, outside hand for

increased stability: Two strings of 6 shots at 10 yards in 5 seconds each string; two strings of 6 shots at 15 yards in 6 seconds each string; two strings of 6 shots at 25 yards in 7 seconds each string; two strings of 6 shots at 35 yards in 8 seconds each string.

c. **Mover.** Divided into four stages of fire. The competitor shoots at a moving target that appears for 6 seconds. Shooters engage the target with 6 shots as the target moves right and 6 shots as it moves left at the 10- and 15-yard lines. From the 20- and 25-yard lines, the shooter engages the target with three rounds at each passes from the right and left for a total of four strings from each of these yard lines.

d. **Plates.** Divided into four stages; targets are 8 inch round metal plates: Two strings of 6 shots at 10 yards in 6 seconds each string; two strings of 6 shots at 15 yards in 7 seconds each string; two strings of 6 shots at 20 yards in 8 seconds each string; two strings of 6 shots at 25 yards in 9 seconds each string.

International Practical Shooting Confederation

IPSC was formed in 1976 to represent the sport of practical shooting competition. It is the governing body for practical shooting worldwide and currently has more than 50 member nations. The United States Practical Shooting Association represents and administers IPSC competition in the United States.

IPSC competitions vary. Each match is unique. Scenes and situations in which the shooters find themselves are limited only by the imagination. IPSC shooters can find themselves in everything from kitchen scenes wearing aprons that cover their pistols to sitting at desks with their pistols in the desk drawer.

a. **Course of fire.** Shooters can only shoot within a 180-degree arc in front of themselves and must shoot while within designated shooting areas. White targets are “No Shoots;” if they are hit, 10 points are deducted from the shooter’s score. Shooters must fire twice each at tan target and repeatedly at steel targets until the steel targets fall. Targets may be shot in any order and the event is timed for speed. Targets have four zones from A to D. Hits in the A zone are worth 5 points, in B and C zones are 4 points and in D zone are 2 points.

b. **Score stage.** All points are then The shooter's points on all of the targets on a given stage are divided by the time it took the shooter to engage the course of fire. This number is called a "hit factor" and the shooter with the highest hit factor is given the maximum points available for the given compiled for each of the stages and added for a total score determining the match winner.

c. **Area Championships.** For the USPSA/ IPSC styles of shooting, the United States is divided into eight different shooting areas. These regions hold area championships in which the competitors shoot for not only placement in that particular match, but also for slots to the national championships. These matches involve shooting on the move, from various positions, through doorways and windows and whatever the devious mind of the course designer can devise.

d. **Open Nationals.** Only open or unlimited pistols may be used. In the Open Division, pistols can be modified to include scopes, optics, compensators, extended magazines, etc.; these type guns are known as "race" guns. The competition is shot using IPSC and USPSA rules.

e. **Limited Nationals.** Only stock or limited pistols may be used. Standard guns with iron sights and no compensators are used. Round capacity is limited by magazine length so that all competitors are on somewhat equal footing. The competition is shot using IPSC and USPSA rules.

World Speed Shooting Championships

The World Speed Shooting Championships (also known as the Steel Challenge) are held once a year. Unlike USPSA/IPSC style shooting, this match is a fixed course of fire of seven stages where shooters engage steel targets at varying distances up to 40 yards. The main focus is speed and the shooter fires each stage five times with the best four runs taken for score. Times are added for all the stages and the shooter with the lowest time wins the event.



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Service Pistol

The Service Pistol Team competes in Conseil International du Sport Militaire -- known as CISM and the Military World Games -- interservice and the National Championships, as well as conducting the Small Arms Firing School at the National Championships for the Department of Defense. The team competes in monthly pistol tournaments, state and regional matches, competes for positions on the Mayleigh Cup Team at the National Matches. The team's most important matches are the Interservice Championships at Fort Benning, Ga., the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, every summer, and CISM.

a. **The guns.** Service Pistol shooters fire .22-Caliber, Center Fire, .45-Caliber and Service Pistol (M-9) pistols.

b. **Course of fire.** Shooters participate in Slow-Fire (at 50 yards), Timed-Fire and Rapid-Fire matches (both at 25 yards), which make up the National Match Course and aggregate competitions. They shoot both individual and team matches. Nondistinguished shooters also shoot the Excellence in Competition (Leg) Match; the highest 10 percent of competitors receive credit toward becoming distinguished and receiving the Distinguished Pistol Badge. Also, the top 10 percent of nondistinguished shooters in the National Trophy Individual (Leg) Pistol Match at Camp Perry every summer receive medals.

c. **Scores.** Possible scores are 900 points with 90 X's (an X is a bull's eye used in tie breaking), with a 2,700-point with 270 Xs NRA individual GrandAggregate (.22- & .45-Caliber and Center Fire) and a 3,600-360X Overall TeamAggregate Score.



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900 Aggregate

50-Yard Slow-Fire Match

- a. **The guns.** Either .22-caliber, center fire or .45-caliber pistols
- b. **Match.** 20 shots total — two series of 10 shots in 10 minutes.
- c. **Scores.** Perfect score — 200 points with 20Xs.
- d. **Target.** X ring — 1.695 inches.
- e. **Uniform/equipment.** Battle Dress Uniform (BDUs), shooting glasses and hearing protection.

National Match Course

- a. **The guns.** Either .22-caliber, center fire or .45-caliber pistols.
- b. **Course of fire.** Fire 30 shots — 10 slow fire, 10 timed fire and 10 rapid fire. Slow fire: 10 shots in 10 minutes at 50 yards; Timed fire: two series of 5 shots in 20 seconds at 25 yards; and Rapid fire: two series of 5 shots in 10 seconds at 25 yards.
- c. **Scores.** Perfect score — 300 points with 30Xs.
- d. **Target.** Slow-Fire, Timed-Fire and Rapid-Fire targets' X ring — 1.695 inches.
- e. **Uniform/equipment.** BDUs, shooting glasses and hearing protection.

25-Yard Timed-Fire Match

- a. **The guns.** Either .22-caliber, center fire or .45-caliber pistols
- b. **Course of fire.** Two times two series of 5 shots; each of four series is 20 seconds.
- c. **Firing rules.** Targets face away from shooter. Shooter raises gun into firing position. Time starts when target faces shooter and ends when target turns from shooter. Points scored after 10 shots, then target face is replaced.
- d. **Scores.** Perfect score — 200 points with 20Xs.
- e. **Target.** X ring — 1.695 inches.
- f. **Uniform/equipment.** BDUs, shooting glasses and hearing protection.

25-Yard Rapid-Fire Match

- a. **The guns.** Either .22-caliber, center fire or .45-caliber pistols
- b. **Course of fire.** Two times two series of 5 shots; each series is 10 seconds.

c. **Firing rules.** Targets face away from shooter. Shooter raises gun into firing position. Time starts when target faces shooter and ends when target turns from shooter. Points scored after 10 shots, then target face is replaced.

d. **Scores.** Perfect score — 200 points with 20Xs.

Aggregate Competitions

Scores a total of 2,700 points — 900 from .22-caliber events, 900 from center fire events and 900 from .45-caliber events. Each 900 point aggregate (shot with .22-caliber, center fire and .45-caliber pistols): Slow Fire Match -- 200 points; National Match Course -- 300 points; Timed Fire Match -- 200 points; Rapid Fire Match -- 200 points. Within each match there is a winner, there is a winner for each 900-point aggregate, and there is a winner for the 2,700-point aggregate.

President's Pistol Match

The President's Pistol Match is held every summer at Camp Perry in which the top 100 shooters are awarded the President's Hundred Tab. The match consists of 20 shots slow fire, 10 shots timed fire and 10 shots rapid fire. A perfect score is 400.



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Running Target

The Running Target Team competes in interservice, national, international and Olympic competitions, as well as conducting the Running Target Interservice Championships for the Department of Defense. The team's most important matches include the U.S. Team Selection Matches in the fall and spring, the National Championships in the summer, World Cups, World Championships, Pan-American Games and the Olympics.

Only male shooters can compete at World Cups and at the Olympics. Men shoot 10-Meter 30+30 and 10-Meter Mixed Run Courses and women shoot 10-Meter 20+20 and 10-Meter Mixed Run Courses using .177-caliber air rifles with scopes. Shooters use .22-caliber rifles for 50-Meter 30+30 and 50-Meter Mixed Run Courses. All courses are fired while the target is moving.

a. **Targets.** In indoor 10-meter events, shooters fire at electronically scored targets moving across a track 10 meters away. The target has a bull's eye with two aiming dots on each side spaced approximately 6 inches apart. The 10-ring in the bull's eye is 5.5 mm wide, which is approximately the size of a pencil eraser.

b. **Standard position.** While standing, the shooter loads rifle, holds rifle 2 centimeters above hip bone, raises rifle when target appears, tracks target across opening and fires, lowers rifle; repeats process for each shot. The shooter must engage a target every 24 seconds.

c. **Scoring.** The event is 60 shots for men plus a 10-shot final.



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Olympic Events

Men's 10-Meter 30+30

The event is 10-Meter 30+30 Running Target. Running Deer and Running Game Target, 100- and 50-meter versions of this sport, were part of the Olympics at different times between 1900 and 1988. Today's 10-meter event replaced Running Game Target on the Olympic program in 1992.

Athletes stand and shoot at paper targets moving across a track 10 meters away. The target has a bull's eye with two aiming dots on each side spaced approximately 6 inches apart. The 10-ring in the bull's eye is 5.5 mm wide, which is approximately the size of a pencil eraser. All courses are fired while the target is moving.

a. **The guns.** Shooters fire .177 caliber rifles that use air or gas to propel lead pellets downrange. This is the only shooting event in which competitors are permitted to use telescopic sights-4x magnification or less.

b. **Course of fire.** The match consists of 60 shots divided into 30 slow runs and 30 fast runs. In slow run, athletes have 5 seconds to track, aim and fire at the moving target. In fast run, the target is exposed for 2.5 seconds. Shooters start with their rifles at hip level and can only mount their rifles when the target is exposed.

c. **Perfect match score.** 600 is perfect, 575 is world-class.

d. **Finals.** The top six competitors advance to a 10-shot fast-run final. Finals are scored in 10ths of a point and added to match scores to determine winners. A perfect final score is 109.

e. **Perfect aggregate (match plus final) score.** 709 points.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** The United States has not won a medal in the 10-Meter 30+30 event. John Boles won the Gold Medal in Running Deer at the 1924 Games in Paris.

Non-Olympic Events

Women's 10-Meter 20+20

- a. **Guns:** Shoot .177-caliber air rifles with telescopic sights not exceeding four-power

- b. **Course of fire.** Fire 40 shots -- 20 slow runs and 20 fast runs. Slow runs -- 5 seconds to track, aim and fire; fast runs -- 2.5 seconds to track, aim and fire at a target moving across a 2-meter opening.

- c. **Finals.** Top 6 advance; 10 shot fast run scored in 10ths of a point.

- d. **Scores.** Perfect score--709 (including final).

- e. **Target.** Shoot at paper targets moving across a track 10 meters away. The target has a bull's eye with two aiming dots on each side spaced approximately 6 inches apart. The 10-ring on each bull's eye is 5 mm wide, which is approximately the size of a pencil eraser.

- f. **Uniform/equipment.** 4X rifle scopes may be used

10-Meter Mixed Run Course

- a. **The guns:** Shooters fire .177 caliber rifles that use air or gas to propel lead pellets downrange.

- b. **Course of fire.** Fire 40 shots -- 20 slow runs and 20 fast runs. Runs are mixed so that shooter cannot foresee if the next run will be fast or slow.

- c. **Perfect match score.** A perfect score is 400 points.

- d. **Target.** Shoot at paper targets moving across a track 10 meters away. The target has a bull's eye with two aiming dots on each side spaced approximately 6 inches apart. The 10-ring in the bull's eye is 5.5 mm wide, which is approximately the size of a pencil eraser.

e. **Uniform/equipment.** 4X rifle scopes may be used.

50-Meter 30+30

a. **The guns.** Any .22-caliber (5.6 mm) rifle not weighing more than 5.5 kilograms

b. **Course of fire.** Fire 60 shots -- 30 slow runs and 30 fast runs. Slow runs -- 5 seconds to track, aim and fire. Fast runs -- 2.5 seconds to track, aim and fire at a target moving across a 10-meter opening.

c. **Scores.** A perfect score is 600 points.

d. **Target.** Paper with a lithograph of a boar on which a target is superimposed -- 2.3 inches (60 mm) 10-ring. Target first moves to the left, then to the right.

e. **Uniform/equipment.** Telescopic sights are allowed

50-Meter Mixed Run Course

a. **The guns.** Any .22-caliber (5.6 mm) rifle not weighing more than 5.5 kilograms

b. **Course of fire.** Fire 40 shots -- 20 slow runs and 20 fast runs. Runs are mixed so that shooter cannot foresee if the next run will be fast or slow.

c. **Scores.** A perfect score is 400 points

d. **Target.** Paper with a lithograph of a boar on which a target is superimposed -- 2.3 inches (60 mm) 10-ring. Target first moves to the left, then to the right.

e. **Uniform/equipment.** Telescopic sights are allowed

f. **Clothing, equipment, and accessories.** Competitors wear leather or canvas jackets that are tighter than those

worn by other international rifle shooters. The jackets inhibit upper-body movement, forcing more lower-body movement when tracking targets. Flat-soled shooting boots are commonly worn for balance and stability.



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International Shotgun

All international shotgun events are Olympic events. They are men's and women's trap, double trap and skeet, in which shooters aim for targets moving up to 65 mph using 12-gauge shotguns. The targets, which are 4¼-inch clay disks, originate from target houses and are released at the shooter's call of "Pull!"

Trap

In trap, shooters move through a series of five adjacent shooting stations. At each station, competitors mount their shotguns, call for the target and fire up to two shots per target. The targets are instantly released at the shooter's call; they are thrown from an underground bunker a minimum distance of 76 meters and are randomly thrown at varying angles.

Trap has been a men's Olympic event since 1900, with the exception of two Games (1988 and 1992) during which it was open to both men and women. It became an Olympic event for women in 2000.

a. **The guns.** Since trap is shot over longer distances than the other Olympic shotgun events, the trap guns have a tighter "choke," meaning the barrel narrows at the muzzle end to prevent shot pellets from scattering before they're within striking distance of the target.

b. **Course of fire.** Men shoot 125 targets in five rounds of 25 over two days. Three rounds are fired on day one;



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two rounds plus the final of 25 targets are shot on day two. Women shoot 75 targets and 25 targets in the final in one day.

c. **Perfect match score.** For men, 125 is perfect, 121 is world class. For women, 75 is perfect and 70 is world class.

d. **Finals.** After the 125-target match, the top six competitors advance to a 25-target final round. Medals are awarded based on aggregate (match plus final) scores.

e. **Perfect aggregate score.** 150 for men and 100 for women.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** Josh Lakatos won the Silver Medal and Lance Bade the Bronze Medal in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga.

Double Trap

The men's and women's double trap events were added to the Olympic program in 1996. Competitors fire their shotguns from each of five adjacent shooting stations. At each station, two targets are thrown simultaneously from an underground bunker at speeds up to 50 mph at set angles and height. Competitors get one shot per target.

a. **Course of fire.** Men fire three rounds at three settings of 50 for a total of 150 targets; women shoot three rounds at three settings of 40 for a 120-target total.

b. **Perfect match score.** For men, 150 is perfect and 135 is world class; for women, 120 is perfect and 100 is world-class.

c. **Finals.** In both events, the top six competitors advance to a final of 50 targets for men and 40 for women. Medals are awarded base on aggregate (match plus final) scores.

d. **Perfect aggregate score.** 200 for men, 160 for women.

e. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** Kim Rhode won the Women's Bronze Medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Skeet

In skeet, shooters move through a semicircular range featuring eight shooting stations. At each station, targets are thrown at least 65 meters from the high (10 feet) or low (3 feet) house on either side of the range at 55 mph; the targets are thrown with a variable delay of up to 3 seconds. Competitors hold their 12-gauge shotguns at hip level until the target appears, which can be anywhere from 0 to 3 seconds after their call, and can fire one shot per target. Skeet has been a men's Olympic event since 1968, with the exception of the 1988 and 1992 Olympics, during which it was open to both men and women. It became a women's Olympic event in 2000.

a. **The guns.** Skeet guns have open chokes, which spread shot pellets at a wider radius. The barrels measure 26 to 30 inches in length.

b. **Course of fire.** Men shoot 125 targets in five rounds of 25 over two days. Three rounds are fired on day one; two rounds plus the final are shot on day two. Women shoot 75 targets plus the final in one day.

c. **Perfect match score.** For men, 125 is perfect, 121 is world-class. For women, 75 is perfect, 70 is world class.

d. **Finals.** After the 125-target match, the top six competitors advance to a 25-target final round. Medals are awarded based on aggregate (match plus final) scores.

e. **Perfect aggregate score.** 150 targets for men and 100 for women.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Sgt. 1st Class James "Todd" Graves won the Bronze Medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

g. **Clothing, equipment, accessories.** Shotgun shooters wear vests with ammunition pouches and extra padding where the gun is shouldered. Glasses are used for safety and to enhance target-tracking ability. Competitors have various colored lenses for different weather conditions -- bronze lens for sunny weather, yellow or light orange lens for overcast skies. Some competitors affix blinders to the sides of their shooting glasses to keep wind out of their eyes and prevent distraction from side motion.



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International Rifle

The International Rifle Team competes in interservice, national, international, world-level and Olympic competitions and conducts the international portion of the Small Arms Marksmanship Clinics during the National Matches at Camp Perry. The team's most important matches include the National Matches at Camp Perry and Conseil International du Sport Militaire -- known as CISM and the Military World Games -- every summer, World Cups, the Olympics and the World Championships.

International Rifle male shooters compete in the following Olympic events: Air Rifle (.177 caliber), Three-Position (Prone, Standing and Kneeling) Free Rifle (.22 caliber) at 50 meters and Smallbore Free Rifle (.22 caliber) Prone. Non-Olympic events for men include 300-Meter Center Fire and Standard Rifle.

Female shooters compete in Olympic Air Rifle and Three-Position Sport Rifle and non-Olympic Sport Rifle Prone and 300-Meter Center Fire Sport Rifle. These shooters aim at targets smaller than a dime from 50 meters away or at bull's eyes the size of a period from 10 meters.

Olympic Events

Air Rifle

With separate events for men and women, air rifle shooting joined the Olympic program in 1984. Competitors stand and shoot lead pellets from .177 caliber guns at targets 10 meters away. The 10 ring is 1/2 millimeter wide, the size of the period at the end of this sentence.



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- a. **The guns.** Air rifles can be either air- or carbon-dioxide-powered and weigh up to 12 pounds by international regulation.
- b. **Course of fire.** Men take 60 shots in one hour and 45 minutes, while women have one hour and 15 minutes for 40 shots.
- c. **Perfect match score.** For men, 600 is perfect and 590 is world-class. For women, 400 is perfect and 393 is world-class.
- d. **Finals.** The top eight competitors advance to a 10-shot final round, with 75 seconds allowed per shot. The final is calculated in 10ths of a point and added to the match score to determine winners. A perfect final score is 109.
- e. **Perfect aggregate (match +final) score.** 709 for men, 509 for women.
- f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** Nancy Johnson, wife of 2000 Olympic Air Rifle competitor USAMU Staff Sgt. Kenneth A. Johnson, won the women's Gold Medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. U.S. men have not won a medal in this event.

Three Position Smallbore Rifle

In three position, athletes fire .22-caliber smallbore rifles from the prone, standing and kneeling positions at targets 50 meters downrange. The 10-ring is 10.4 millimeters in diameter, smaller than a dime. Though today there are separate events for men and women, from 1952 to 1980 men and women competed head-to-head.

a. **The guns.** Men and women use different types of smallbore rifles. Women fire sport rifles, which weigh up to 12 pounds. Men shoot free rifles (up to 17.6 pounds), which can be customized with special accessories or alterations that fit the shooter's needs and comforts. Both men's and women's guns have metallic sights.

b. **Course of fire.** Men fire 40 rounds per position for a total of 120 shots -- 45 minutes for prone, 1 hour and 15

minutes for standing and one hour for kneeling. Women shoot 20 rounds per position for a total of 60 shots and have a total of 2 hours and 15 minutes for all three positions.

c. **Perfect match score.** For men, 1,200 is perfect and 1,165 is world-class. For women, 600 is perfect and 580 is world-class.

d. **Finals.** For men and women, the top eight performers advance to a 10-shot final round, fired entirely from the standing position with 75 seconds allotted per shot. The final is calculated in 10ths of a point and added to the match point total to determine winners. A perfect final score is 109.

e. **Perfect aggregate score.** 1,309 for men, 709 for women.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medals.** Launi Meili won the women's Gold Medal and Bob Foth won the men's Silver Medal at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, Spain.

Free Rifle Prone

This men's event has been on the Olympic program since 1908. Athletes lie on their stomachs and shoot .22-caliber rifles at targets 50 meters downrange. The target's center is 10.4 millimeters wide -- much smaller than a dime.

a. **The guns.** Athletes use free rifles, which weigh up to 17.6 pounds, that have metallic sights and can be customized with special accessories or alterations to fit the shooter's needs and comforts.

b. **Course of fire.** 60 shots in 1 hour and 15 minutes.

c. **Perfect match score.** 600 is a perfect score, 597 is world-class.

d. **Finals.** The top eight shooters advance to a 10-shot final, with a 45-second time limit per shot. The final is scored in 10ths of a point and added to the match score to determine winners. A perfect final score is 109.

Non-Olympic Events

300-Meter Rifle

These men's events are the same as Olympic Smallbore Rifle Events except they are shot from 300 meters with center fire rifles not exceeding 8mm. Competitions include three-position and prone events and there are no finals.

300-Meter Prone (Men)

- a. **The guns.** Most popular caliber is the .308; .223 and .243 are also popular.
- b. **Course of fire.** Fire 60 shots in 1 hour 30 minutes.
- c. **Scores.** A perfect score is 600 points; world-class scores are 598 and above.
- d. **Target.** The 10 ring is 10 cm.

300-Meter Three-Position Free Rifle (Men)

- a. **The guns.** .308, .243, .223 and 22.250 caliber.
- b. **Course of fire.** 40 shots in each position for total of 120; 1 hour prone, 1 hour 30 minutes standing, 1 hour 15 minutes kneeling.
- c. **Scores.** A perfect score is 1,200 points.
- d. **Target.** The 10 ring is 10 cm.

300-Meter Three-Position Standard Rifle (Men) and Sport Rifle (Women)

a. **Course of fire.** 20 shots in each position (prone, kneeling and standing) for a total of 60 shots; 2 hours 15 minutes total for all three positions.

b. **Scores.** A perfect score is 600 points; top scores are in the mid-580s.

c. **Target.** The 10 ring is 10 cm.

Women's Sport Rifle Prone

This women's event is the same as the men's free rifle prone event except women use sport rifles, which weigh up to 12 pounds and there are no finals.

a. **Course of fire.** Fire 60 shots in 1 hour 30 minutes.

b. **Scores.** A perfect score is 600; top scores are 590 to 595.

c. **Target.** The 10 ring is 10.4 mm wide -- smaller than a dime.

d. **Clothing, equipment, accessories.** All rifle clothing and accessories are governed by strict rules for thickness and stiffness. Shooters start with sweatshirts and tights, then put on jackets and pants made of leather or canvas. This ensemble improves physical stability and helps muffle the pulse during these lengthy contests. Flat-soled leather boots aid the rifle shooter's stability from the standing and kneeling positions. Leather gloves with rubber-padded palms helps minimize the discomfort of the heavy rifle and leather shoulder sling. Athletes use a leather sling (extending from the triceps to the front of the rifle stock) and a floor mat for support when shooting from the prone or kneeling positions. In the standing portion of the men's three-position match, athletes may use palm rests for extra comfort and gun elevation. Between shots, competitors rest their rifles on a shooting stand and use spotting scopes to view their targets. Shooting glasses, ear and eye protection are other accessories.



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International Pistol

The International Pistol Team competes in interservice, national, international, world-level and Olympic competitions, as well as conducting Conseil International du Sport Militaire -- known as CISM and the Military World Games -- Interservice and National Team Selection Matches. The team's most important matches include the National Team Selection Matches and CISM every summer, and the Olympics.

International Pistol male shooters compete in the following Olympic events: Free Pistol matches firing .22-caliber pistols at 50 meters; Rapid Fire Pistol matches using .22-caliber pistols at 25 meters; and Air Pistol matches firing .177-caliber pistols at 10 meters. Men also shoot Center Fire, Standard Pistol and Military Rapid Fire non-Olympic events.

Female international pistol shooters compete in Olympic Sport Pistol events, in which they shoot rapid fire and precision using .22-caliber pistols at 25 meters, and Olympic Air Pistol. Women also shoot military rapid-fire non-Olympic events.

Olympic Events

Air Pistol

With separate events for men and women, air pistol shooting joined the Olympic program in 1988. Competitors use .177-caliber pistols to fire lead pellets at targets 10 meters away. The 10-ring (the innermost ring of the target) is 11.5 mm wide.



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a. **The guns.** World-class air pistols are air- or carbon-dioxide-powered guns. Trigger weight can be no lighter than 500 grams; the width of the grip and length of the barrel are also limited.

b. **Course of fire.** Men take 60 shots in one hour and 45 minutes, while women have one hour and 15 minutes for 40 shots.

c. **Perfect match score.** For men, 600 is perfect and 585 is world-class. For women, 400 is perfect and 385 is world-class.

d. **Finals.** The top eight competitors advance to a 10-shot final round, with 75 seconds allotted for each shot. The final is scored in 10ths of a point and added to the match score to determine medalists. A perfect final score is 109.

e. **Perfect aggregate (match + final) score.** 709 for men, 509 for women.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** Sgt. 1st Class Erich Buljung of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit won the men's Silver Medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea. U.S. women have not won a medal in this event.

Rapid Fire Pistol

Rapid Fire Pistol has been an Olympic event since the first modern Games in 1896; only men are allowed to compete. Shot with a .22-caliber pistol from 25 meters, men have eight, six or four seconds to fire once at each of five adjacent targets. As an added difficulty, pistols must be held downward at a 45-degree angle until a green light flashes on. The 10-ring on this target is 100 mm wide.

a. **The guns.** Rapid fire pistols shoot .22-caliber short cartridges (ammunition) from a five-shot magazine. Ported barrels reduce recoil, and the gun's grip completely envelops the shooter's hand for additional stability.

b. **Course of fire.** Two five-shot series in eight seconds, two series in six seconds and two series in four seconds comprise a half course, fired in one day. The following day, the same course is repeated.

c. **Perfect match score.** 600 is a perfect score, with 585 being world-class. Finals: After 60 shots, the top eight shooters fire a final consisting of two five shot series at four seconds. The final is scored in tenths of a point and added to the match score to determine medal winners. A perfect final score is 109.

d. **Perfect aggregate score.** 709 points.

e. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** U.S. Marine Corps Capt. William W. McMillan won the Gold Medal at the 1960 Games in Rome, Italy.

Sport Pistol

Sport pistol has been a women's Olympic event since 1984. Athletes use .22-caliber Standard Pistols to shoot precision and rapid fire competition from a distance of 25 meters. The precision target has a two-inch 10-ring, while the rapid-fire target has a 50 mm center.

a. **The guns.** Sport pistols shoot .22-caliber ammunition from a five-shot magazine without the advantage of ported barrels or wrap-around grips, as in rapid-fire.

b. **Course of fire.** The 60-shot match is divided into 30 shots precision and 30 shots rapid fire. The precision, or slow-fire stage, is fired in six series of five shots, and competitors have five minutes per series. In the 30-shot rapid fire stage, competitors shoot strings of five shots. Three seconds are allotted for each shot, followed by seven seconds of rest.

c. **Perfect match score.** 600 is a perfect score, with 583 being world-class.

d. **Finals.** The top eight competitors advance to a final, which consists of 10 shots fired one at a time in a time limit of 75 seconds. Targets are scored in 10ths after each shot and added to the match score to determine medalists. A perfect final score is 109.

e. **Perfect aggregate score.** 709 points.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** U.S. Army Reservist Staff Sgt. Ruby Fox won the Silver Medal at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, Calif.

Free Pistol

Free pistol, a precision men's event, has been part of the Olympics since 1896. Competitors shoot .22-caliber pistols from 50 meters at bull's eye targets with an approximate 50 mm center.

a. **The guns.** A free pistol is a .22-caliber pistol relatively free of restrictions. It is easily identified by its grip, which completely envelops and stabilizes the shooter's hand. Regulations require only that it fires .22-caliber long cartridges and has metallic sights. The gun's barrel is longer than that of other pistols, providing greater accuracy at this longer shooting distance.

b. **Course of fire.** Competitors fire 60 shots in two hours.

c. **Perfect match score.** 600 is a perfect score, and 560 is world-class.

d. **Finals.** The top eight competitors advance to a 10-shot final round, with 75 seconds allotted for each shot. The final is scored in 10ths of a point and added to the match score to determine winners. A perfect final score is 109.

e. **Perfect aggregate score.** 709 points.

f. **Last U.S. Olympic Medal.** Franklin Green, of the U.S. Air Force, won the Silver Medal at the 1964 Games in Tokyo, Japan.

Non-Olympic Events

Standard Pistol

a. **The guns.** 22 cal.

b. **Course of fire.** Men fire 60 shots: 20 slow, 20 timed, and 20 rapid at 25 meters. Slow fire -- 2.5-minute time limit for 4 strings of 5 shots each; Timed fire -- 20-second time limit; for 4 strings of 5 shots each, Rapid fire -- 10-second time limit for 4 strings of 5 shots each.

c. **Scores.** A perfect score is 600 points.

d. **Target.** Approximate 2-inch center.

Center Fire

Men shoot Center Fire at the National Championships, CISM, World Championships and Pan-American Games. The 60-shot match is divided into 30 shots precision and 30 shots rapid fire. The precision or slow-fire stage is fired in six series of five shots and competitors have five minutes per series. In the 30-shot rapid fire stage, competitors shoot strings of five shots. Three seconds are allotted for each shot, followed by seven seconds of rest. Women shoot same course of fire at CISM.

a. **The guns.** Men shoot .32-caliber pistols and women shoot .22-caliber pistols.

b. **Perfect Match Score.** 600 is a perfect score and 583 is world-class.

Military Rapid Fire

At CISM, competitors shoot 25-meter Military Rapid Fire, four five-shot series in 10 seconds, four series in eight seconds and four series in six seconds.

a. **The guns.** Men shoot .32-caliber pistols and women shoot .22-caliber pistols.

b. **Perfect match score.** 600 is a perfect score and 583 is world-class.

c. **Clothing, equipment, accessories.** Pistol shooters compete without the benefit of special clothing, gloves or boots. Most athletes wear flat-soled shoes for increased stability, but footwear must not extend above the shooter's ankle. Competitors frequently wear blinders over their "non-shooting" eye to prevent squinting. Spotting scopes allow athletes to view their targets in 25- and 50-meter competition. In all events, special caps designed to limit the athlete's field of vision are common; ear and eye protection are required.



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Service Rifle

Besides competing in interservice and national competitions, the Service Rifle Team conducts the National Small Arms Firing School for the Department of Defense. The team competes in open team matches and individual championships and state service rifle and highpower championships.

The team's most important matches are: The Infantry Trophy Match, Marine Corps Combat Development Command Six-Man Team Match, the 1,000-Yard Match, the Interservice Rifle Team Championship Match (also known as the 10-Man Team Match), the Reynolds Trophy Match and the Interservice Individual Rifle Match at the Interservice Championships at Quantico, Va.; and the National Trophy Team Match, the National Infantry Trophy Team Match, the National Service Rifle Championship and the President's Hundred Individual Rifle Match at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, every summer.

a. **The guns.** Shooters compete with the modified M-16A2 rifle and 300 Winchester Magnums with scopes.

b. **Course of fire.** Shooters participate in slow-fire and rapid-fire matches at 200, 300, 600 and 1,000 yards. They shoot both individual and team matches. Nondistinguished shooters also shoot the Excellence in Competition (Leg) Match; the highest 10 percent of competitors receive credit toward becoming distinguished and receiving the Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

c. **Standard uniform/equipment.** Leather shooting jackets for stability. Leather slings to aid in gun support. Shooting glove on nonfiring hand for comfort and to support gun barrel. Spotting scopes to view target and follow changing wind conditions.

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d. **Standard targets** 200 yards: X ring (an X is a bull's eye used in tie breaking) --3 inches; 300 yards: X ring--3 inches; 600 yards: X ring--6 inches.

National Match Course

50 shots total -- 10 shots at 200 yards, standing, slow fire, 10- minute time limit; 10 shots at 200 yards, sitting, rapid fire, 1-minute time limit; 10 shots at 300 yards, prone, rapid fire, 70-second time limit; 20 shots at 600 yards, prone, slow fire, 20-minute time limit. For National Match Team Course, four shooters' scores are added for a possible total of 2,000 points; this event is coached. A perfect score is 500; a good score is 490 or above.

800 Aggregate Match (Men only)

80 shots total -- 20 shots at 200 yards, standing, slow fire, 20-minute time limit; two strings of 10 shots at 200 yards, sitting, rapid fire, 1 minute per string; two strings of 10 shots at 300 yards, prone, rapid fire, 70 seconds per string; 20 shots at 600 yards, prone, slow fire, 20-minute time limit. A perfect score is 800; a good score is 790 or above.

President's Rifle Match

The President's Rifle Match is held every summer at Camp Perry in which the top 100 shooters are awarded the President's Hundred Tab. The match consists of 10 shots at 200 yards, slow fire, standing, 10 shots at 300 yards rapid fire prone from standing, and 10 shots at 600 yards slow fire prone. A perfect score is 300.

Interservice Team Match.

Interservice Team Match

Ten 10 soldiers shoot the 500 aggregate (National Match Course); their scores are added together for the team score. Two coaches are allowed.

1,000-Yard Matches

Modified M-16A2 rifle without scopes and 300 Winchester Magnums with scopes or Iron sights are used to hit a 10-inch X-ring target from the prone.

800-, 900- and 1,000-Yard Matches

Modified M-16A2 rifle and 300 Winchester Magnums with scopes are used to hit a 10-inch X-ring target from the prone, kneeling or sitting position.

Infantry Trophy Match

Six shooters engage eight targets from 600 yards, which are exposed for 50 seconds. The two competitors on the end are called swing shooters who engage the extra targets; everyone else shoots straightaway. The same thing takes place at the 500-yard line. Firing is done from the prone position at the 500- and 600-yard lines. Shooters then advance to the 300-yard line, where the targets are smaller and are engaged from the sitting or kneeling position; the targets are still exposed for 50 seconds. There is no perfect score; a good score is anything above 1,400 points.



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U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit
Public Affairs Office
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For immediate release

46 years of service to US

Marksmanship Unit -- an elite Army organization

By Paula J. Randall Pagán
U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is the only organization of its kind in the Army today. Formed March 1, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to improve the marksmanship skills of the U.S. military, the Army Marksmanship Unit produces America's finest competitive shooters and the Army's greatest custom gunsmiths.

The Marksmanship Unit trains its soldier-athletes to win in more than 200 competitions a year. The unit also promotes the Army, assists in the Army's recruiting effort and enhances the combat readiness of the United States through research and development of weapons and ammunition. Additionally, USAMU shooters provide marksmanship clinics for a variety of programs such as high school JROTC, college ROTC, NCAA competitive shooting teams, Boy Scouts and law enforcement agencies.

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“The Marksmanship Unit shooters and gunsmiths are ambassadors of goodwill for the Army and contribute directly to enhancing Army combat readiness,” USAMU Commander Col. Robert I. Hoidahl Jr. said. “The marksmen exemplify proficiency in the most basic skills common to all soldiers. They are fit, sharp, professional soldiers who are world-class athletes...all members of the dominant small arms marksmanship team in the world. “The unit’s winning tradition, public appearances and media publicity have a positive effect in the Army recruitment effort and the unit’s research and development accomplishments in the field of ammunition improvement and weapons accurization contribute directly to enhancing Army combat readiness,” he continued.

The soldiers of the Army Marksmanship Unit have won hundreds of individual and team national shooting titles with more than 40 world championships and 20 Olympic medals; the unit usually makes up about one-half of the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team. USAMU soldiers continue to bring home medals for the United States in numerous international matches including the Olympics, Pan-American Games, World Championships, the Championship of the Americas, World Cups and Conseil International du Sport Militaire – the World Military Olympics known as CISM.

“The Marksmanship Unit has gained worldwide recognition and respect for its shooting accomplishments,” said Robert Aylward, USAMU deputy commander. “These accomplishments are why the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is called the Home of Champions.”

The unit of 127 soldiers and civilians is composed of a support staff, a Custom Firearms Shop, and seven competitive shooting sections -- Service Rifle, Service Pistol, Action Shooting, International

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Rifle, International Pistol, Shotgun and Running Target. USAMU facilities cover more than 200 acres with seven world-class indoor and outdoor ranges and 18 buildings at Fort Benning, Ga., which is about 100 miles southwest of Atlanta.

Service Rifle

Besides competing in interservice and national competitions, the Service Rifle Team conducts the National Small Arms Firing School at the National Rifle Matches. Nearly 800 civilians attend the two-day class held every August at Camp Perry, Ohio. The team competes in open team matches and individual championships, state service rifle championships and state highpower championships. Shooters compete with the modified M-16A2 rifle and 300 Winchester Magnums with scopes and shoot at targets up to 1,000 yards away.

The Service Rifle shooters also conduct basic rifle marksmanship clinics for small arms proponents, the U.S. Army Infantry School, law enforcement agencies and other service marksmanship training units to translate competitive marksmanship skills into combat marksmanship proficiency.

Service Pistol

The Service Pistol Team competes in CISM, interservice and national championships, as well as conducting the National Small Arms Firing School at the National Pistol Matches at Camp Perry every July. Service Pistol Team members compete in monthly pistol tournaments, state and regional matches

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and vie for positions on the U.S. Mayleigh Cup Team at the National Matches. Shooters compete with 22-caliber, center-fire and .45-caliber pistols as well as the modified M-9 in slow-fire, timed-fire and rapid-fire matches.

The shooters also conduct pistol marksmanship clinics as the rifle shooters do, training more than 200 soldiers and police officers each year.

Action Shooting

The Action Shooting Team competes in state, area, national, international and at world championship competitions. The team's most important matches are the U.S. Practical Shooting Association's Limited Nationals and Open Nationals every summer, the National Rifle Association Bianchi Cup every May in Columbia, Mo., and the International Practical Shooting Confederation World Championships, which are conducted every three years and hosted by one of the 52 member nations.

Action shooters use stock or production pistols and unlimited or open pistols, which are entirely custom built with additions such as scopes and compensators. Any given competition consists of eight to 30 stages with each stage varying in course design. The competitors are required to negotiate each stage as quickly and accurately as possible.

The Action Pistol Team also travels around the country with the Army Shooting Adventure Package. The ASAP is a 28-foot long mobile action shooting arcade used primarily at multi-media events. The USAMU shooters give demonstrations and allow the general public to test their own skills by shooting at targets using specially modified air pistols.

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International Rifle

The International Rifle Team competes in interservice, national, international, world-level and Olympic competitions and conducts the international portion of the Small Arms Marksmanship Clinics during the National Matches at Camp Perry every summer.

Male shooters compete in air rifle (.177 caliber), three-position (prone, standing and kneeling), free rifle (.22 caliber) at 50 meters, smallbore free rifle (.22 caliber) prone, 300-meter (.308, .223 or .243 caliber) prone and 300-meter three-position free and standard rifle (.308, .223, 243 or 22.250 caliber) events.

Female shooters compete in air rifle, standard rifle three-position and prone events.

International Pistol

The International Pistol Team competes in interservice, national, international, world-level and Olympic competitions, as well as conducting CISM, interservice and national team selection matches.

Male shooters compete in: free pistol matches firing .22-caliber pistols at 50 meters; standard pistol matches in which they shoot slow fire, timed fire and rapid fire with time limits; rapid fire pistol matches using .22-caliber pistols at 25 meters; and air pistol matches firing .177-caliber pistols at 10 meters. Female shooters compete in air and sport pistol events, in which they shoot rapid fire and precision using .22-caliber pistols at 25 meters.

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Shotgun

The world's top skeet, trap and double trap shooters make up the USAMU Shotgun Team.

The Shotgun Team competes in interservice, national, international and Olympic competitions. Shooters track, aim and shoot at 5-inch clay targets moving up to 70 mph using 12-gauge shotguns.

Each year, thousands of people all over the country attend numerous shooting clinics and demonstrations conducted by the USAMU shotgunners. One of the team's shotgun demonstrations, which has been broadcast on national television, is a trick-shooting exhibition by Sgt. 1st Class James "Todd" Graves, the 2000 Olympic Skeet Bronze Medalist.

Running Target

The Running Target Team competes in interservice, national, international and Olympic competitions, as well as conducting the Running Target Interservice Championships for the Department of Defense. Only male shooters can compete at World Cups and at the Olympics.

Men shoot 10-meter, 30+30 and Mixed Run Courses and women shoot 20+20, 30+30 and Mixed Run Courses using .22 caliber rifles for 50-meter events and .177 caliber air rifles with scopes for 10-meter events. All courses are fired while the target is moving.

Custom Firearms Shop

The Custom Firearms Shop produces top-quality, match-grade rifles, pistols and shotguns, as well as much of the match-grade competition ammunition for the Army Marksmanship Unit. The Firearms Shop has a long history of research and development, including developing and testing the M-21

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and M-24 Sniper Systems and Special Reaction Teams Rifles, and testing and maintaining the Barrett 50-caliber Sniper Rifle.

The shop's gunsmiths, machinists and ammunition technicians also accurized the M-16A2 Rifle and the M-9 Pistol, transforming the reliable combat weapons into match-winning equipment. The most recent accomplishment is the modification of the M-4 carbine, in which the accuracy and longevity of the weapon was improved for use by the military's Special Forces.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit has been a part of the U. S. Army Recruiting Command since October 1999. The world-class soldier-athletes of the USAMU promote the Army and assist recruiters in attracting young Americans to enlist in the Army. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil or [http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/.](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/))



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U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit
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For immediate release

USAMU has many Army missions

Army shooters do more than just win medals

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Public Affairs Office

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit was formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army. Nearly 45 years later, the unit still produces America’s best competitive shooters and the Army’s greatest custom gunsmiths – but winning Gold Medals isn’t the unit’s only mission.

The Army Marksmanship Unit’s main mission is to train its soldier-athletes to win competitions; USAMU shooters have won hundreds of national titles, more than 40 World Championships and 20 Olympic Medals. But the USAMU also has two other missions of promoting the Army and enhancing combat readiness through conducting marksmanship clinics and research and development of weapons and ammunition.

Although the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is located at Fort Benning, the USAMU is a tenant unit of the post and is actually a part of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky. The USAMU became a part of USAREC’s Recruiting Support Brigade in October 1999, and when it did, it picked up an additional mission – recruiting.

“One of our most important tasks at the AMU is to assist Army recruiters in attracting great Americans to the service of our country through an Army enlistment,” said USAMU Commander Col. Robert I. Hoidahl Jr.

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“Our world class soldier-shooters tell the Army story all over the country. Our soldiers bring recruiters a wide range of recruiting tools targeted to their specific needs to help them encourage young Americans into boots.”

“We are here to serve Army recruiters and assist them in making their mission,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steven V. Pullins, USAMU USAREC liaison. “Through USAMU recruiting-assistance events, we help recruiters expand their market and reinforce the contacts they have already made.”

USAMU recruiting support usually consists of two to five soldiers who visit high schools, speak to groups and Delayed Entry Program members or present static displays at multimedia events, including air shows, county fairs and major sporting events. They also conduct marksmanship clinics for a variety of programs such as JROTC, ROTC, NCAA competitive shooting teams, Boy Scouts and law enforcement agencies at all levels. Clinics give the local recruiters a “foot in the door” to schools and markets that may have been difficult to penetrate in the past, according to Pullins.

The Army Shooting Adventure Package is USAMU’s premier recruiting tool and is used primarily at multimedia events, Pullins said. Designed to draw public attention, the ASAP is a 28-foot-long, fifth-wheel trailer, pulled by a commercial dual rear-wheel-driven pickup truck, both of which are adorned with “eye-catching” Army graphics. Although the ASAP showcases the Army’s best shooters, members of the general public can also test their own skills by shooting at targets using specially modified air pistols.

“The effect of the ASAP is to have an interactive, safe arcade, which provides an avenue for USAMU shooters and prospects to interact one-on-one in a fun environment,” Pullins said.

The USAMU also has three freestanding static displays and a Noptel, which are used during recruiting missions. The Noptel system is a laser marksmanship-training computer, which AMU soldiers use as a training tool for competition and have incorporated in their school presentations by attaching it to an air pistol or air rifle. This system has been very popular at high schools, state fairs and sporting expositions, according to Pullins.

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The USAMU has helped Army recruiters generate thousands of leads, which have lead to young civilians across the country taking the oath of enlistment in the U.S. Army.

For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, paula.pagan@usarec.army.mil or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu>.