



A Distinguished Journey

Sgt. 1st Class John Hawes shares his marksmanship experience.

by Sgt. 1st Class John Hawes

Many of us are inspired to military service by heroes that we look up to; ones we may aspire to be like or simply respect because of the amazing accomplishments they have achieved. I was no different and I was inspired largely by the generation of military members that served in the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War was the first large-scale modern conflict that many military members returned home from and wrote books about their experiences in. As a young boy I eagerly read many of these books, particularly the ones discussing snipers and specialty units like SOG, LRRP's, and Marine Recon. Snipers appealed the most to me and many of my biggest heroes are legendary snipers of the Vietnam War such as Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock, Major Jim Land, Sergeant "Chuck" Mawhinney, and Staff Sergeant Adelbert Waldron III.

While learning about the snipers of the Vietnam War, one thing that stood out to me was how when the US Marine Corps stood up their sniper program in Vietnam, they pulled from their ranks accomplished competition shooters to serve as a foundation for some of their earliest snipers. Many of these snipers had competitive shooting backgrounds with accomplishments such as the Distinguished Rifleman badge. It would be years till I knew the details of what earning the Distinguished Rifleman badge entailed, but it sounded prestigious and it was an award that a few of the snipers I aspired to be like had earned, and as a young teenager the seed was planted for me to one day want to earn the Distinguished Rifleman badge as well.

The Distinguished Rifleman program began in 1884 with guidance issued by General Sheridan of the US Army and it soon spread to the other services and to civilians by the 1920's. A person who has earned the Distinguished Rifleman badge has set themselves apart from their peers by being recognized as a consistently top competitor in rifle competition. Under the Distinguished Rifleman program, competitors fire in special designated Excellence in Competition (EIC) matches as well as some large champi-



onship and trophy matches. The top 10% of non-distinguished competitors in these matches are awarded points, sometimes called "legs", depending upon their placement in the top 10% of non-distinguished competitors. The points range from 4 to 10 points, in increments of two and are based off the size (number of competitors) and type of match. Though each service's rules are slightly different, the requirement to become distinguished whether military or civilian, requires earning 30 total points. For an Army shooter, when you earn your first points you are awarded the Bronze Excellence in Competition badge, a permanent award. Once you accumulate 20 points, you are awarded

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Above: Meeting Maj. Land at Interservice.

the Silver Excellence in Competition badge. At 30 points, you earn the gold Distinguished Rifleman badge, the highest marksmanship award you can attain. Although extremely rare, you can earn all 30 points in a single year to go Distinguished but for most shooters it takes many years, sometimes decades to accomplish.

As a Soldier, you can earn points towards your distinguished rating in two different formats of shooting; combat match shooting and National Match Course shooting. The combat match course of fire requires the use of standard issue/rack grade military firearms such as the M4/M16 and are fired on paper silhouette targets with elongated scoring rings in the chest area. You use standard ball ammunition and fire in “kit” to include your helmet in various positions under time from 400yds to 25m. These matches are only fired in the military, the largest match being at the All Army Shooting Championship, held once a year at Fort Benning, GA and are not open to civilians.

More common though is earning points through a National Match course of fire, and all civilian EIC events follow this format to include a few of the military services. The National Match Course uses rifles that have the outward appearance of a service rifle, but internally are highly accurized to include match-grade barrels and triggers, free-floating forearms, and more precise sighting systems. Match-grade and hand-loaded ammunition is commonly used as well. The course of fire consists of shooting at a standard bullseye target at 200yds from the standing and



Above: SFC Hawes and Daughters at CMP NE Cup.

sitting positions and from the prone position at 300yds and 600yds, all with no sighter or practice shots.

My formal journey towards going distinguished began in 2011, when I had the chance to attend my first EIC match while shooting service rifle as a hobby. At the time I was an Army Reservist and fulltime college student. I had previously done eight years of Active Duty where I had made good on my dream of becoming a sniper like my Vietnam heroes but had not had the chance or know how to get seriously involved in National Match course service rifle shooting. I became great friends with a retired Army Major who was pursuing competitive shooting with a dream of becoming distinguished as well, and I tagged along with him for my first EIC match. The day of the match my rifle's trigger failed to make the minimum weight of 4.5 pounds and a match official hastily removed my trigger and bent the springs with pliers to increase the pull weight and I was able to fire the match. But my lack of practice, experience, and now heavy and inconsistent trigger pull kept me from getting close to the top 10% of competitors and earning any points.

The next year I volunteered for a mobilization as a weapons instructor at Fort Dix, NJ and the master trainer for my unit was a highly accomplished member of the Army Reserve Shooting Team and former member of the Army Marksmanship Unit. He took me and several others under his wing and taught us the finer points of competitive shooting, in particular combat style shooting. We formed



Above: SFC Hawes firing standing at CMP NE Cup.

a team and were able to go on orders to the 2012 All Army Shooting Championship. We practiced frequently at work and on our own for weeks prior to All Army. When it came time for the Combat EIC match I was calm and confident with my M16A4. I fired a few points higher than my practice average and my hard work paid off as I placed 11th of 303 non-distinguished shooters and earned 8 leg points (my first points) and my Bronze EIC badge.

Another requirement of earning your Distinguished badge, is that of the 30 points you must attain, at least one “leg” of them must occur at a level 1 ranked match, i.e., a National level event. The All Army Shooting Championship is a level 1 event and with my very first points I satisfied that requirement of the badge.

Sadly, my mobilization as a weapons instructor came to an end later in 2012 as the Army went through a draw-down and my unit was disbanded. It would be another five years before I would get the chance to compete in an EIC event again and it turned out to be a case of luck by being in the right place at the right time. By that time, I was a Sergeant First Class and working as an Observer Controller/Trainer in the Army Reserve. My unit was scheduled to do a month of Annual Training for a training exercise at Camp Atterbury, IN. Just prior to annual training I saw through a post on Facebook by a friend I had mobilized in 2012 with, that the Army Reserve was planning to hold its own Army Reserve Midwest Small Arms Championship at Camp Atterbury at the same time I would be there. By luck, the dates lined up with the beginning of our train-



Above: SFC Hawes shooting at Interservice 2019.

ing when we had a bit of down-time and set-up before the actual training exercise began. I asked my command for permission to represent the unit and attend the Small Arms Championship occurring on the other side of the base since I would already be on orders there and I could draw a weapon on-site. It would cost the unit nothing extra and they would not have to supply me with anything, lodging and weapons for the competitors were already provided if you needed them. My command agreed and I was able to register for the event.

In preparation for the event, I asked my best friend at the time, a fellow Army Reservist but in a different unit, to try and get orders to go with me. We had met in trade school for gunsmithing which we were both attending at the time. He had a desire to get into competitive shooting and just like had happened with me before, I took him under my wing and taught him the finer points of combat style shooting as well. He got orders to go at the last minute and we reported together for the Army Reserve Midwest Small Arms Championship in April of 2017. The event was ran by the Army Reserve Shooting Team. We both drew weapons on-site and zeroed them on the first day of the event during a block of time they allotted for zeroing. On the day of the EIC combat match, I gave my friend a few pointers and reminded him to trust what I had taught him, and then I proceeded to just have fun and shoot the match with really no expectation of how I would do. I was shocked to learn that I had taken 1st place in the EIC out of over 50 competitors, and my friend took 2nd place. I earned 10 more leg points, putting me at 18 total, and my friend earned 8 points and his Bronze EIC badge.

My performance caught the eye of the Army Reserve Shooting Team and they approached me at the end of the championship to see if I would be interested in joining the team as a gunsmith and shooter, to which I gladly said

yes. Later that summer I attended the National Championships at Camp Perry, OH as a member of the Army Reserve Shooting Team. I was there primarily in a support role for the first year but was able to borrow an accurized service rifle and shoot in a few events, including the National Trophy Individual (NTI) match, the largest EIC match in the country. Though I did not make the top 10% cut of non-distinguished and earn any points, it was an amazing learning experience that showed me what I needed to do to become successful shooting the National Match course of fire for EIC's.

The next year I was issued some equipment from the shooting team from the team and I eagerly got to practicing as much as I could. I was motivated to earn more leg points and finish going Distinguished by shooting the National Match course instead of combat shooting, just for the challenge of being able to show I could master and be competitive in the two very different shooting disciplines.

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My first EIC of 2018 took place while shooting in my first Interservice Shooting Championship at Quantico, VA. The Marines host this rifle match annually for the various service teams to shoot against each other and it has the reputation of being the hardest leg match in the country, competing among a small group of the military's top shooters. I placed 13th of 32 non-distinguished shooters, not good enough to leg, but I was happy to be the Army Reserve's top shooter in the match.

A few months later, while in route to attend the National Championships I stopped at a small local club in Pennsylvania to shoot in a EIC event they were hosting. I placed 7th of 32 shooters, missing the cut of earning a leg by 5 points at my sixth ever EIC match. At the National Matches a week later, I was confident in legging at the NTI after all the practice and matches I had fired in preparation of the event. Nerves got ahold of me the day of NTI though and I focused too much early on over the outcome of the match and not on the actual process of shooting, I wanted to leg and earn those points bad. My standing score at 200yds suffered from the mental lapse but I shot well the rest of the match. On my very final shot of the

twenty total you fire at 600yds, I thought about how well I was doing, being only down 1 point for the yard line after shooting seventeen consecutive 10's and X's, before my final shot. I felt my body tense up with the thought of doing well and finishing the yard line with a possible 199 out of 200. The mental distraction broke my focus and I felt a surge of adrenaline that I tried to get my body to calm down from. I took a short break, loaded my final round and fired a wide 7 ring shot to my dismay right towards the top of the target, dropping 3 total points on my final shot. I finished with a score I was mildly content with and that I knew was high enough to leg at Camp Perry based off historical scores and knowing the usual top 10% cut of previous years. I was shocked though as the scores were tallied and out of nearly 700 non-distinguished competitors, the top 70 competitors earned leg points, and I placed 73rd. I missed the cut by 2 points, that final shot haunting my memory with the 3 total points I lost on it after doing so well. The cut was the highest it had ever been due to a combination of great shooting conditions and an uptick in scores from optics being allowed for sights, a rule that began the year prior.

Upset with my performance and lack of concentration on the shot process when I needed it the most, I hung up my service rifle until the next spring, during which time I accepted an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) position in Pennsylvania. My first EIC of the year came in May of 2019 when I took a week of leave from work and competed in the Navy's Atlantic Fleet & All Navy Competition in Quantico, VA. The match came highly recommended to me by many other shooters and drew a large crowd because despite being a military run match, the Navy uses the National Match course of fire and allows other services and civilians to compete in it. The EIC match had some shifty wind conditions to contend with but I ended up placing 8th of 100 competitors and earned 6 leg points, my first with the National Match course of fire. This also put me at 24 total points and earned me my Silver EIC badge. For me, the race was one and I committed myself to attaining the Distinguished badge by the end of the year.

My next EIC match for the year took place at the National Championships during the NTI match once again. I did not want a repeat performance of the prior year, but needing only 6 more points to go Distinguished, I unnecessarily put the pressure on myself to perform well and struggled once again with my standing at 200yds from the adrenaline surge and pressure. I finished with a score that was 3 points shy of me getting to leg out. Disappointed after all the work and practice I had put in to get to that point, I took a month and a half long break from any shooting. My next opportunity would come in September of 2019 when in conjunction with a planned family vacation I registered to shoot in the service rifle portion of the Civilian Marksman-

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ship Program's (CMP) New England Cup & Games match in Jericho, VT which included an EIC match.

With no recent practice and an open mind, I showed up and simply enjoyed shooting the first two days of service rifle matches in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont to knock the rust off and get good zeroes for the following days EIC match. The weather was pleasant, much cooler than the mid-summer temperatures of Quantico and Camp Perry that I had been used to for EIC matches. On the day of the EIC I started off focused on my shot process and fired my best standing score in a EIC match ever. Knowing I was off to a great start and that I normally drop very few points for the remainder of the positions and yard lines I got a little too excited and confident and dropped a few points I would not normally do during the rapid-fire stages. I had relaxed my nerves by the time I made it back to the 600yd line for my final twenty shots. My family had arrived by that time and I was encouraged by seeing my two young daughters there, the oldest of them only two years old at the time and she was cheering me on and shouting encouragement to me. Her presence calmed me and made me smile and I mentally buckled down and fired my last stage of fire on the last firing order of the day. The result was a new personal best for me in a EIC match and I placed 2nd of 57 non-distinguished competitors and earned 8 leg points, putting me at 32 total points and earning me my Distinguished Rifleman badge. The realization of my score being good enough to leg as I embraced my daughters on the firing line at the completion of the match brought a happy tear to my eye as I accomplished a goal I had set roughly twenty years prior.

The orders and badge were mailed directly to me the next month with my name, rank and year engraved on the back of the badge by the United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU). The USAMU is the governing body and custodian of records for Soldiers who are involved in competing in the EIC process and they publish all the orders and mail the badges to deserving Soldiers as they are

earned. If a Soldier fails to accumulate all 30 points while in the Service, the CMP governs the process for civilians and separated Soldiers and works in conjunction with the USAMU and recognizes the points earned in the military and allows you to credit them towards earning the civilian Distinguished Rifleman badge.

The process to become a Distinguished Rifleman is challenging yet rewarding and I highly encourage all Soldiers to compete and try to attain it. The skills required will make you a better Soldier, particularly a more combat effective rifleman for those in the profession of combat arms. Bring friends and fellow Soldiers with you, to learn, have fun, and provide good hearted competition to push you to be a better shot. Shooting is one of the few sports that doesn't lend itself to being dominated by one sex or body type or just the young and fit. Anyone whether short or tall, male or female, thin or thick, young or old, can learn to master the shot process and distinguish themselves. **ARM**

Major General William James Sutton

USAR Equal Opportunity, Retention, and Marksmanship Pioneer.

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

Major General William James Sutton Chief served as the Chief, Army Reserve from September 1963 to May 1971. Nominated by the president on 23 April 1968, the 60th anniversary of the Army Reserve, and then confirmed by the Senate on 17 May 1968, the incumbent chief of the Army Reserve, Major General William J. Sutton, served as the first “statutory” chief of the Army Reserve. The new law called for the chief of the Army Reserve to function as an advisor on Army Reserve affairs to the Army chief of staff, and required that the chief be an Army Reserve officer with at least ten years commissioned service in the Army Reserve. The president appointed the chief to a four-year term, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The position called for an officer in the rank of major general, and eligible to succeed himself.

Sutton began his service by enlisting in the Texas National Guard in 1926 and attended the basic course of the Firing School at the US School of Arms in 1928. He received a commission as a first lieutenant in the Texas National Guard on 14 April 1929. On 23 July 1931, the guard promoted him to captain. He belonged to and coached the Texas

National Guard Rifle Team for several years before World War II, earning a Distinguished Rifleman badge along with numerous awards for shooting as an individual and team member.

From 1933 to 1940, Sutton served as the commandant of cadets and professor of military science and tactics at Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth. Under Sutton’s guidance, the ROTC program developed from one with minimal participation to one that had a waiting list for membership. While at Polytechnic High School, Sutton taught five classes daily in basic and advanced military subjects and coached the ROTC rifle team. He supervised various sports programs and the band. He completed the Infantry Basic Course in 1933 and the Infantry Advance Officer Course in January 1940. Sutton’s unit engaged in activities to disorient the opposition forces, including disconnecting the telephone main junctions and switching road and directional signs. Soldiers found a countryside overgrown and swampy. It was easy for soldiers to get lost. One tank column of opposition forces came upon one of



Sutton's switched signs at the junction of a very restrictive road. The tank commander led his element down the road, only to discover a dead end with no room to turn around. Sutton's soldiers identified this commander leading the tanks as Brigadier General George S. Patton of the 2nd Armored Division.

Sutton assumed duties as the S-2 (intelligence) and then the S-3 (operations) officer of the 144th Infantry Regiment in January 1941. The Army promoted him to Lieutenant Colonel in 1941, after which he was assigned to the 144th Infantry Regiment and deployed as part of the primary defense for the Pacific coast under the Western Defense Command as Japanese submarines were known to be operating off the coast.

After attending the Command and General Staff School in 1942, Sutton was put in charge of a battalion combat team with a detachment of light infantry tanks and then joined a small group of 18 field grade officers who flew into France as reinforcements during the Battle of the Bulge. Sutton took command of a unit under the 84th Infantry Division, leading an Infantry regiment as commander, serving in combat in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany until he sustained serious wounds in action after personally leading an attack upon a built-up position. He was evacuated to a hospital in Britain and then back to the United States where he was initially diagnosed as not being able to walk again but successfully rehabilitated his injuries. For his bravery and actions as a leader, Sutton received the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

After the war, Sutton commanded several Reserve units before receiving his first star in 1956. In his civilian life, Sutton became the director of field operations for the Armed Forces Mutual Life Insurance Company in San Antonio, Texas where he directed insurance activities, reviewed contracts covering insurance risks, and supervised records maintenance relating to insurance coverage. He also directed the training program for employees. Sutton completed the United States Air Force Air-Ground Operations School in 1957 and then assumed duties as the mobilization designee deputy commanding general for reserve forces, Headquarters, United States Continental Army Command. After promotion, Major General Sutton took office as the Chief, Army Reserve on 1 September 1963.

During Sutton's tenure as CAR, very few women served in the Army or Army Reserve. Sutton directed that Army Reserve recruiters work to increase the number of women in the Army Reserve during the Vietnam War. He helped implement the Junior W.A.C. (Women's Army Corps) Program. The program allowed female college juniors to enlist in the Army Reserve at the rank of specialist four (E-4). Following their junior year, they completed four weeks of

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basic training, and they underwent a twelve-week period of officer training at Fort McClellan. After successful completion of the program, the Army commissioned the women as second lieutenants.

As reported in the article "New W.A.C. Recruiting Program Announced" published in the September 1970 issue of Army Reserve Magazine, "Major General W.J. Sutton, Chief Army Reserve, has announced a national campaign to recruit women for service in Army Reserve units. Targeted for implementation this fall, the recruiting campaign is expected to contribute significantly to the Army Reserve program. Although there are women assigned to Army Reserve units at the present time, their numbers are insignificant when compared with the number of male Reserve personnel or with the percentage of women in the Active Army."

Sutton also promoted the increase of minorities in the Army Reserve and pushed for the promotion of senior black officers to the general officer ranks. Reported in "Minority Recruiting" in the November 1972 issue of Army Reserve Magazine, "The problem of recruiting is once again becoming a paramount concern for the Army Reserve commander. Those of us who were involved in the program following the end of WW II and until draft pressures created USAR Center waiting lists will regard this as nothing new. To commanders who came of age in the period of our Vietnam involvement, this threat ens to be a traumatic experience. Lacking a centralized source of manpower, it is incumbent upon the local unit commander to fill ranks primarily through his own resources. Coincident with the broad issue of recruiting comes a requirement for greater involvement of minorities — ethnic groups and females — in the program, not only as a matter of extending equality of opportunities, but to make it more apparent that each citizen and each group has an obligation toward the defense of our country. Neither recruiting of itself nor minority recruiting can be successful without intensive command interest to insure that we utilize and encourage the use of a 'people resource' that can no longer be ignored."

Sutton also helped foretell the future of ARCD over concerns of Reserve units not able to retain personnel in his article, "The U.S. Army Reserve: Our Past and Future" in

the April 1971 issue of Army Reserve Magazine.

“Looking in retrospect at our component, considerable progress has been made since 1946. For the foreseeable future, the Army Reserve is faced with a problem for which there is no easy cure: The instability of manning strength.

“We have made substantial progress in recruiting by expanding the sales force, training our recruiters, providing motivational training for troops, improving administrative procedures, instituting truly productive advertising and publicity campaigns, and providing modern logistical support. CONARC and the CONUS Armies are providing energetic support and implementation for all these efforts. But as my staff and I distill the experiences of the past several months, one central fact emerges - in too many instances our total effort is being seriously compromised by complacency, lack of a sense of urgency, and even indifference on the part of some people within our units and organizations. The Army Reserve is currently paying far too high a price for the lethargy or inability of some Reservists to come to grips with the REAL WORLD as it applies to the Army Reserve in 1972. Imagination, innovation, and renewed determination must take the place of the conditioned response. Old answers and old procedures will no longer suffice.”

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Sutton's interest in recruiting more minorities and women along with a call for a better approach to retention was highlighted in “The Guard and Reserve in the Total Force: A Bibliographic Survey of the Guard and Reserve” a 1974 paper published by the United States Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Sutton stood dedicated to his goals for the Army Reserve. Colonel Wil Ebel, his assistant executive officer, recalled an evening ritual of going to Sutton's home, having

dinner, and then resuming work. Sutton often called Army Reserve generals in the evening. He kept them aware of national defense issues through regular mailings to the field. He spent many weekends visiting reserve units in the field and speaking to groups, like the Reserve Officers Association. As a leader, he possessed persuasive skills, with both colleagues, members of Congress, and subordinates. Sutton led by example, demanding and rewarding hard work from his subordinates. Ebel recalled Sutton as fiercely loyal to his subordinates.

In 1970, Sutton received the annual award of the Civil Affairs Association for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Civil Affairs. He retired from the Army on 31 May 1971. He remained active in the Reserve Officers Association, the Association of the United States Army, the Military Order of World Wars, and the American Legion. The Reserve Officers Association inducted him into its Minuteman Hall of Fame for his implementation of the successful regional organizational structure. Sutton completed two terms as the president of the Alamo Chapter of the Association of the United States Army. He served as the president of the Fourth Region and as the national vice president of the association. He officiated as vice president of the San Antonio Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association. He commanded American Legion Post No. 46 in Washington, DC, and sat on the National Board of Directors of the Military Order of World Wars. Sutton served on the Board of Directors of the Army Aviation Association and the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association. He had a longtime interest in marksmanship training, and he believed that soldiers should know how to shoot. In 2001, the Senior Army Reserve Commanders Association inducted Sutton into its Hall of Fame. ^{ARM}

Public Affairs Move

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

I have been fulfilling the role of Public Affairs for the Marksmanship Program in an unpaid, unassigned, voluntary role. Despite AR 140-1 officially directing this a Regulation requirement, neither USARC, OCAR, the Marksmanship Program, nor the Team fund managers are willing or able to support this.

AR 360-1 (Paragraph 2-4 and 8-3) now requires OPSEC Level II training. Because I am fulfilling this officially directed position with no support, I am not able to attend this in-residence course, and am now “unqualified” to continue meeting the requirement even as a volunteer.

Going forward, all Marksmanship Program Public Affairs are now hosted at:

<https://armyreservemarksman.info>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/USARvideo>

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Fundamentals

Reflections on the Menaced Invasion; And the Means of Protecting the Capital

- Lord George Hanger, 4th Baron Coleraine,
London, 1804

"Some remarks respecting the training of a raw countryman, or a mechanic from Birmingham, perfectly awkward and generally very ignorant. He is consigned to the superintendence of the drill serjeant. He is first taught to walk, next to march, and hold himself tolerably erect.

"Then a firelock is placed in his hands, which he handles at first as awkwardly as a bear would a plumb cake. When he is taught the manual exercise and fit to do regimental duty, they then take him to fire powder. Whilst the drill serjeant is teaching him to fire either by files or by platoons, the serjeant says to him, laying his cane along the barrels of the firelocks, 'Lower the muzzles of your pieces, my lads, otherwise when you come into action, you will fire over the enemy.'

"After this the recruit is taken to fire ball at a target. How is he taught? Thus he is spoken to: 'Take steady aim, my lad, at the bull's eye of the target; hold your piece fast to the shoulder that it may not hurt you in the recoil; when you get your sight, pull smartly.' This is the general way in which I believe they are taught, and in the name of truth and common sense permit me to ask you how a drill serjeant who is no marksman himself can teach an ignorant countryman or a low order of a mechanic to be a good marksman. In my humble opinion, excellent in their way as they are to discipline the soldier and form him for parade and actual service in the line, the serjeant is just as capable of teaching him how to solve one of Sir Isaac Newton's problems as to teach him to be a marksman."

- Col. Hanger
70th (Surrey) Regiment of Foot
British Army

Just in case you thought this was a new problem...

Wisdom from Dan Wilcox:
"What is a fundamental?"

We went through all the ADPs and ADRPs and FMs and TCs at one point during the great quest for a new .9 and the IWTS, in the midst of the great Benning word wars, and pulled out all the lists of "fundamentals" and "principles"

"Fundamentals" were verbs, most of the time. "Principles" were adjectives and adverbs, most of the time.

Some manuals mention "principle fundamentals" and some "fundamental principle" but there's manuals with both those phrases in them, if I recall correctly. If there's a 'fundamental principle' are there then principles that are not fundamental? If there are 'principle fundamentals' then are there fundamentals that aren't principles? I don't think the people who wrote those phrases put much thought in to them.

Why do we need checklists and to pigeonhole things so much? MOST of the time, in an Army book, it is due to Taylorism. It is possible, and I'd argue preferable, in a small Army of volunteers, called upon to do complex things, to have true understanding rather than the Taylorist ability to quote things but not really understand them.

So, when does a checklist make sense? Well there's a couple places where it makes sense; one of these is the shot process because we know that the brain can only focus on one thing at a time. I can't argue with an Olympian who says "I use a shot process to keep my focus where it needs to be during a competition". I can't argue with a sports performance dude who says to have a mental checklist for performance under stress. Another place where a checklist makes sense is on a pilot's kneeboard, or an emergency room. But those are lists of checks and procedures, not 'fundamentals.'

I can argue with that same Olympian when he says HIS shot process from HIS sport should be THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ALL MARKSMANSHIP FOR THE ENTIRE US ARMY AT ALL TIMES UNDER ALL CONDITIONS, which is sort of what one is doing when one codifies THE FUNDAMENTALS OF MARKSMANSHIP in an Army manual.

I can argue with a doctrine writer who's idea of "Army Marksmanship" is only what is codified in some path to qualification somewhere when said path to qualification does not include all the other shooting the Army does that is NOT part of the path to qualification. This is how we got "breathing" as a fundamental.

Dudes had one job: Get Joe through qualification in basic training on an M16 with iron sights. If they had said "we want Joe to pause his breath while aiming and pressing the trigger during the path to qual" it would not have been a big deal, but instead they published a manual that decreed "breathing" as a "FUNDAMENTAL OF MARKSMANSHIP"

The more training, engagements and experiences we looked at, the more things didn't fit the dictionary definition of a "fundamental" and/or were not always true, all of

the time. The more we read everyone's preferred checklist of 'fundamentals' the easier it became to find combat engagements that did not include, or where not adequately summarized by someone else's checklist.

When a bullet goes to the right place, there is always some kind of stability. The barrel of the weapon was oriented correctly in space at the instant the bullet left, so it was aimed. Someone, somehow, was exhibiting some sort of control for that weapon. I'm still not 100% convinced on 'movement' but whatever...I'll go read it again.

I remember writing things, then moving to another job...then coming back to the .9 and asking where all my things went. They were deleted because someone who was temporarily in charge did not like them, or understand them... or had no vision of how things could be. Some of the people doing the deleting knew almost nothing about shooting. Some of them could not write, at all. Yet, there they were, writers in charge of the US Army small arms doctrine. **ARM**

Call For Articles

All articles, and ideas helpful to improving small arms training, qualification, and competition for Army Reserve Soldiers are welcome. Submit anything you'd like included in Army Reserve Marksman Contact: <http://ArmyReserveMarksman.info/public-affairs>

Army Reserve Postal Matches

All units are eligible to be a part of the World-wide Chief, Army Reserve Postal Matches and all Soldiers and encouraged to participate. Host during the conduct of routine qualification at no expense to the unit or to Soldiers.

Learn more at

<https://www.usar.army.mil/ARM>

<http://ArmyReserveMarksman.info/postal-match>

How To Join

All members of the U.S. Army Reserve are eligible to try out for and earn slots with the USAR Marksmanship Training and Competitive Program regardless of their current unit assignments. These slots are open to the best shooters in the entire Army Reserve.

Joining the US Army Reserve Marksmanship Training and Competitive Program

“I am interested in competitive shooting. How can I get slot in a military marksmanship program?”

When first learning about military-sponsored shooting teams many troops will ask how they can get a slot. Right now, check for updates to this site and visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/USARCOMP>

<https://armyreservemarksman.info>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/USARvideo>

Host a Postal Match!

Our Team emphasis is training Soldiers and Postal Matches are designed to teach and validate skills necessary to succeed in current Army qualifications. These can be held using simulators, during qualification, or at civilian ranges.

Every Soldier and unit in the Army Reserve is eligible to host and participate in the USAR Postal Match program. Host a local match, for your unit or otherwise, to begin. This can be done on a civilian range if your unit or command won't support you. Make an event happen!

Go shoot!

Your next step in earning a slot on a shooting team is to start in bigger competitive shooting. The best way to start in competitive shooting is to go find events, be it military or civilian, on your own, and start attending.

Consider a player vying for a position on a pro sports team. If he doesn't already have years of solid background with high school and/or college teams, forget it! A couch potato who was never formally participated in that type of event is not going to be offered a tryout. Why bother?

Yet, you'd be amazed how many troops with zero competition shooting experience complain that they can't get

started because no team will give them equipment or fund their travel to a match. For every 100+ troops with no previous relevant competition and instructor experience, maybe one of them is worth a look. Even if/when you earn a slot, you'll still have to shoot and train on your own so already having places and venues to do so will help long term as well.

Find out what ranges are in your area and look into attending organized civilian events. Where To Shoot (<http://wheretoshoot.org>) is a great resource. Nearly every team shooter has a civilian shooting background and the best way to get started is to simply jump in. If you approach a team having already participated in matches and earning higher-level classifications on your own, any coach will want you to try out.

Military Sponsored Events

For military sponsored events, find a National Guard sponsored event in your state. Even if you're not the Guard, you can shoot the EIC (Excellence In Competition) events. The Arkansas Guard, at Camp Robinson, is the national headquarters for the National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit

<https://ngmtc.wordpress.com/>

<http://usamu.com/>

<https://www.usar.army.mil/ARM/>

All Army is hosted by the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning every year in the spring and is open to all Active, Reserve and Guard Army personnel. Even if you're not on a team you can register in advance on your own and be able to borrow guns and get a free place to stay on post. The event is HIGHLY recommended!

Service Rifle and Pistol

Two of the USAR CMP's primary disciplines (Service Rifle and Service Pistol) are shot as civilian conventional competitions recognized by the National Rifle Association and Civilian Marksmanship Program. Precision Rifle/National Rifle, <http://HunterShooter.com>,

<http://funshoot.com>, <https://firearmusernetwork.com> are other suitable outlets.

Combat/Service Conditions

Service Conditions (Combat) are NATO and Commonwealth events that don't currently have a civilian equivalent in the United States, however, there are civilian Service Conditions matches held around the world, sometimes jointly with military-hosted events, such as in Canada under the auspices of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, in South Africa with the South Africa Combat Rifle Association, and in New Zealand with the New Zealand Service Rifle Association, among others. MilitaryMarksman.org is an American service conditions event open to everyone.

Action/Practical

In addition to Service Rifle, Pistol, and Conditions events, action/practical competition such as PPC (Police Pistol Combat/Precision Pistol Competition) or 1500 shooting, NRA Action Pistol (Bianchi Cup) or 1920 shooting, IDPA, USPSA Handgun and Multigun, 3 Gun, and SensibleShooter are other competition disciplines. These are also the style events you'll find as a component of AFSAM (Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting), All Army, and National Guard hosted events.

The bottom line is, if you want to be on a military-sponsored shooting team you need to be a competition shooter. You become a competition shooter by being a competition shooter. Shoot events on your own whenever and wherever you can, attend events like All Army, and earn Classifications in the formal shooting events listed above first. You must begin by doing this on your own before applying for a slot. Stay in contact with the USAR Marksmanship Program through this site and you'll eventually be able to earn a slot. [AFM](#)

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Table 4 Concept of Operation



Target Points

Problem:

Inefficient Group and Zero execution by units.

Impact:

Commanders experience a reduction in available range time; insufficient time for all Soldiers to properly complete Table IV. Commanders unable to meet IWQ readiness requirements given available resources.

Solution:

Streamline conduct of TABLE IV during Rifle Group and Zero Fire, while adhering to weapon safety statuses, firearms safety rules and applicable AR 385-63, Pam 385-63, and local installation regulations CR Reg 350-1 and CSLO Reg 350-1.



Firing Points

Table 4 Concept of Operation



Target Points

STEP 1 - Upon completion of firing individual 5-rd groups:

1. **While remaining in the prone position**, each Firer ensures a Weapon Safety Status (WSS) of GREEN. **Then** loads 5 loose rounds of 5.56mm ammunition into a magazine, secures the loaded magazine into a pouch or pocket, and awaits Lane Safety inspection.
2. Lane Safeties inspect and confirm WSS GREEN of each weapon, and that each Soldier has a secured magazine loaded with 5 rounds.
3. Upon Lane Safety confirmation, each Soldier **THEN** independently stands up and steps back from the firing position, WSS GREEN with weapon at Safe Hang or Collapsed Low Ready. **(Ref. TC 3-22.9)**
4. With WSS GREEN, weapon at Safe Hang or Low Ready, firers always follow the four firearms safety rules, and remain alert for further commands.



Firing Points

Table 4 Concept of Operation

STEP 2 - Upon all firers standing & alert:



Target Points

Grouping:

1. Line Officer: ***“Weapon Status Green. The Firing Line is Cold. Move.”*** With WSS Green, weapon at SAFE HANG or COLLAPSED LOW READY Firers quickly walk downrange, mark your targets, and return to your assigned firing point.

Zeroing:

1. Line Officer: ***“Weapon Status Green. The Firing Line is Cold. Move.”*** With WSS Green, weapon at SAFE HANG or COLLAPSED LOW READY Firers quickly walk downrange, mark your targets and apply sight changes.
2. At the target, firers determine necessary adjustment and immediately apply sight changes, while always adhering to the four firearms safety rules.



Firing Points

NOTE: All lane safeties remain at their areas of responsibility at the firing points.

Table 4 Concept of Operation



Target Points



STEP 3 - Upon each Firer completing task:

1. With WSS GREEN, upon completion of marking targets or applying sight changes, the individual firer always maintains weapon at Safe Hang or Collapsed Low Ready, follows the four firearms safety rules, and quickly walks to the rear of their assigned firing point remaining alert for commands.
2. This is an individual movement.

Firing Points

NOTE: All lane safeties have remained in place ready to receive Firers, enforcing safety at the firing line.

Table 4 Concept of Operation



Target Points

STEP 4 - Upon all Firers standing at the rear of Firing Points and no one is downrange:

1. Line Officer: ***“The Firing Line Is Hot. Weapon Safety Status Red. Engage when ready.”***
2. Firers assume the prone firing position, retrieve their 5 round magazine, load it into the weapon, and immediately place well aimed fire on their assigned target.
3. Return to STEP 1.



Firing Points