



**TROOP
TOPICS**



Photograph by National Rifle Association

AIRMY MARKSMANSHIP

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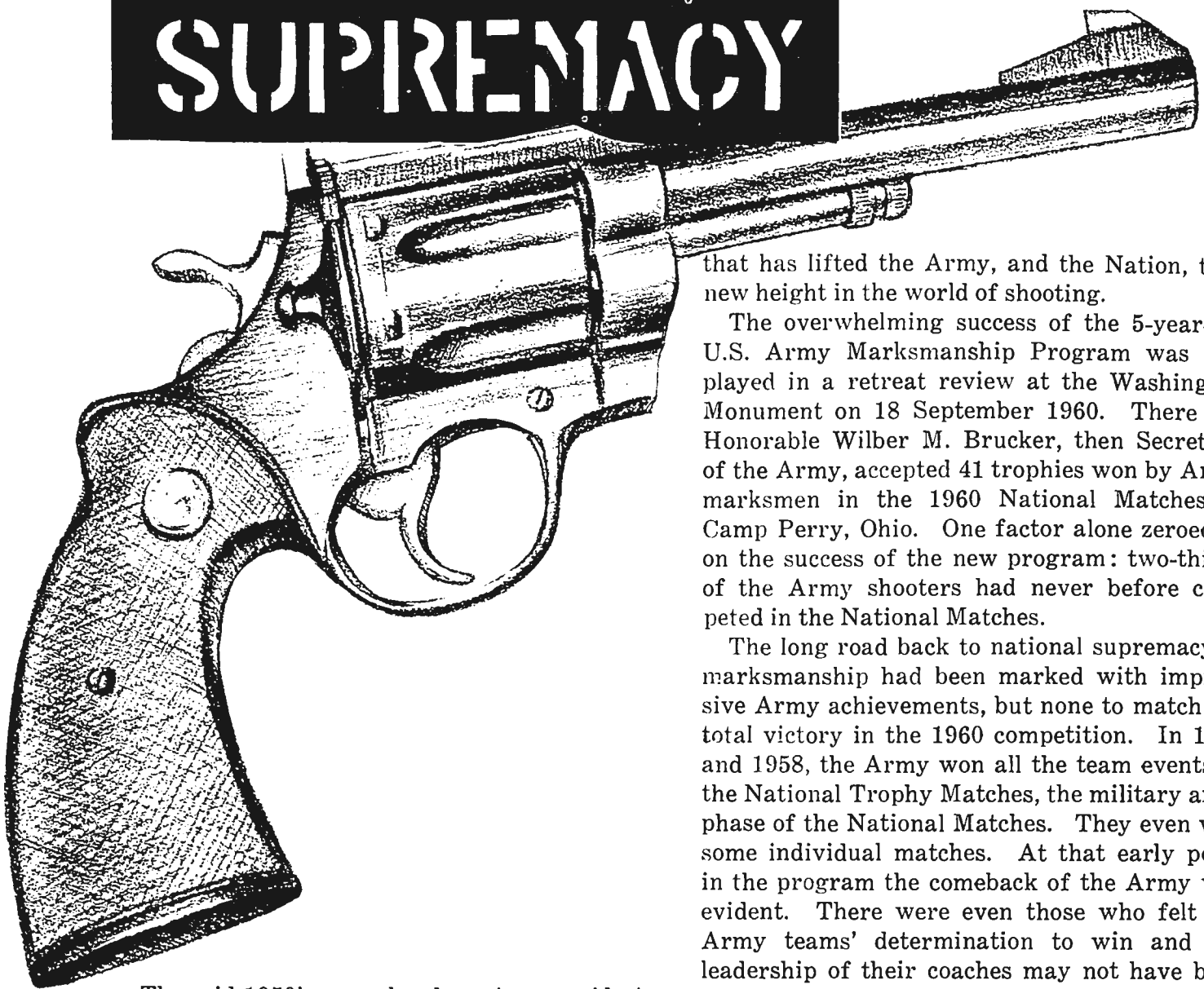
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THE GOAL:

SUPREMACY



The mid-1950's were hard on Army pride in its long tradition of marksmanship. Official studies had revealed that a large number of combat soldiers in World War II and Korea didn't fire in battle, and those that did often failed to hit an enemy. No less a blow was the unconvincing showing of the Army's sharpshooters in the National Matches. The Matches, hailed as the ultimate test of U.S. shooters, indicated that Army marksmanship had dropped to a seriously low state.

What had happened to the Army sharpshooters—the likes of Sergeant York and the regulars of Washington's time? A lot of Americans wanted to know, and the Army wasn't long in giving its response. The answer came in the form of bullseyes and trophies and a program

that has lifted the Army, and the Nation, to a new height in the world of shooting.

The overwhelming success of the 5-year-old U.S. Army Marksmanship Program was displayed in a retreat review at the Washington Monument on 18 September 1960. There the Honorable Wilber M. Brucker, then Secretary of the Army, accepted 41 trophies won by Army marksmen in the 1960 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. One factor alone zeroed in on the success of the new program: two-thirds of the Army shooters had never before competed in the National Matches.

The long road back to national supremacy in marksmanship had been marked with impressive Army achievements, but none to match the total victory in the 1960 competition. In 1957 and 1958, the Army won all the team events of the National Trophy Matches, the military arms phase of the National Matches. They even won some individual matches. At that early point in the program the comeback of the Army was evident. There were even those who felt the Army teams' determination to win and the leadership of their coaches may not have been surpassed in the history of the National Matches.

In 1959, the Army pistol teams did not do quite as well as in 1958, but the Army rifle teams made an even better showing. Depth and experience were becoming more and more apparent. Army teams captured the first four places in the National Trophy Rifle Team Match. In the Infantry Trophy Team Match, the Army team raised its own record by 107 points.

The U.S. Army Pistol Team shot its way back in 1960, winning 14 of the 19 individual championships and the Center-fire and National Trophy Pistol Team Matches. In every event the Army shooters nailed down the majority of the top places. In the 1960 highpower rifle

phase of the National Matches, the Army won 16 of the 19 matches including the National Trophy Individual Rifle Match, and 7 out of 7 team matches, 5 of them with new national records.

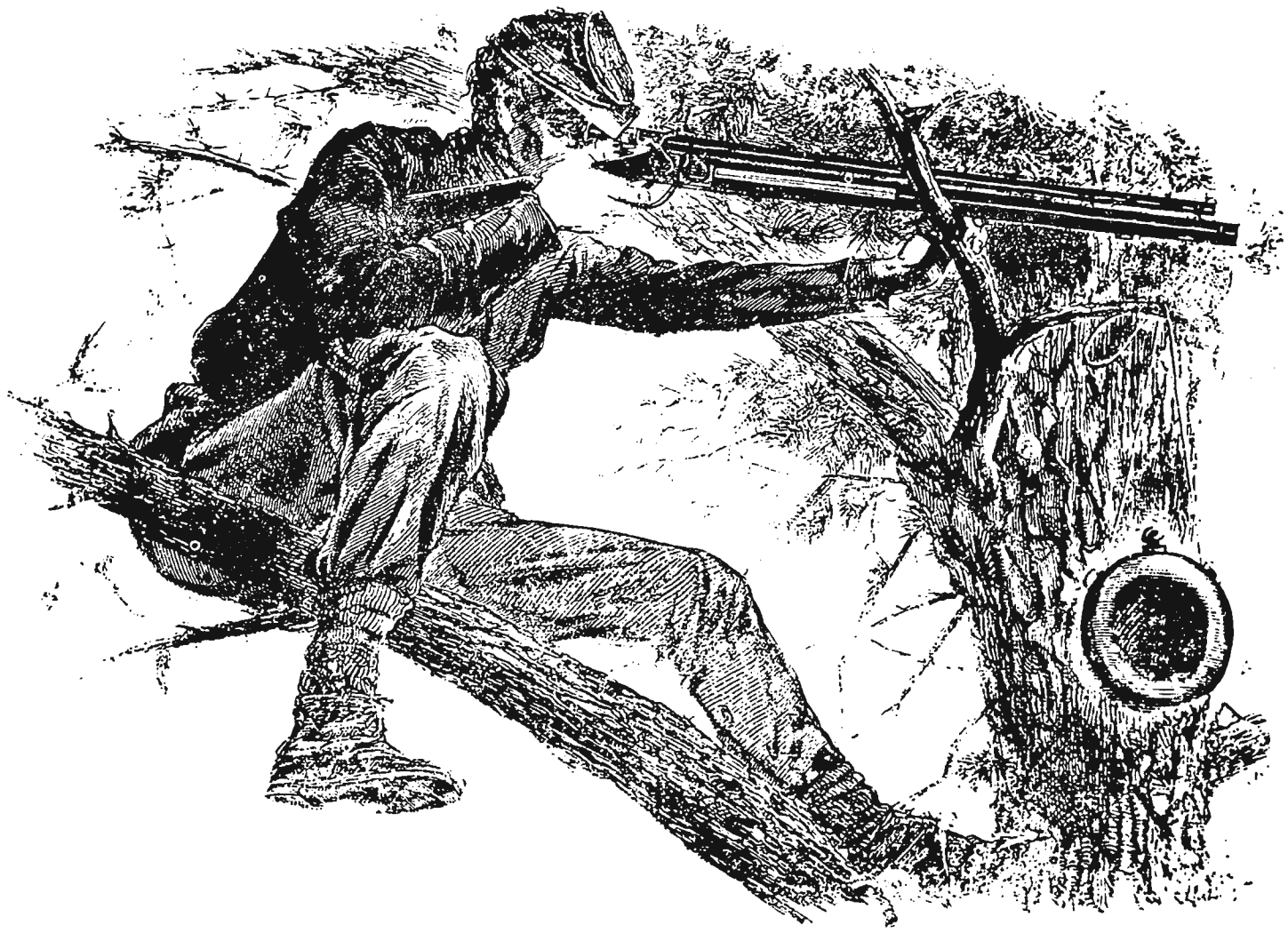
At the 1961 National Matches, Army shooters won a total of 34 major trophies—nearly matching their 1960 sweep in spite of stiffer competition from both civilian and military marksmen.

The Army pistol teams did even better than in 1960, winning the first three places in the National Trophy Pistol Team Match and sweeping the National Rifle Association national team championships with a new National Match record in each event. An Army marksman tied for the high score in the National Trophy Individual Pistol Match, but lost by virtue of his lower military rank. Army sharpshooters took seven of the twelve individual matches sponsored by the National Rifle Association and the first three places of the NRA's National Pistol Individual Championship.

Although the Army riflemen did not equal their triumph in the 1960 Matches, there was no question of their domination. Army teams took the first seven places in the National Trophy Rifle Team Match, the first three places

in the Infantry Trophy Team Match, and four of the five National Rifle Association team matches. In addition, Army marksmen won eight of the first ten places in the National Trophy Individual Match and the first seven places in the NRA's Service Rifle Championship Aggregate. In the smallbore rifle phase of the Matches, an Army team won the Four Position Metallic Sight Team Match and Army shooters captured seven of the first ten places in the National Smallbore Rifle Position Championship Aggregate.

Army shooters have again entrenched themselves at the peak of American competition, but it is believed that the Army's tremendous resources have still not been fully tapped. Nor has the Army's goal been realized of leading the United States to international shooting pre-eminence. In the 1960 Olympics, Army marksmen helped the United States make its most impressive showing ever. But it was not a victory, and now the Army shooting teams are pointing toward the 1962 World Championships in Cairo, Egypt. The Army will not be truly satisfied with the level of its marksmanship until it produces the world's undisputed champions.



THE NEW EMPHASIS ON MARKSMANSHIP

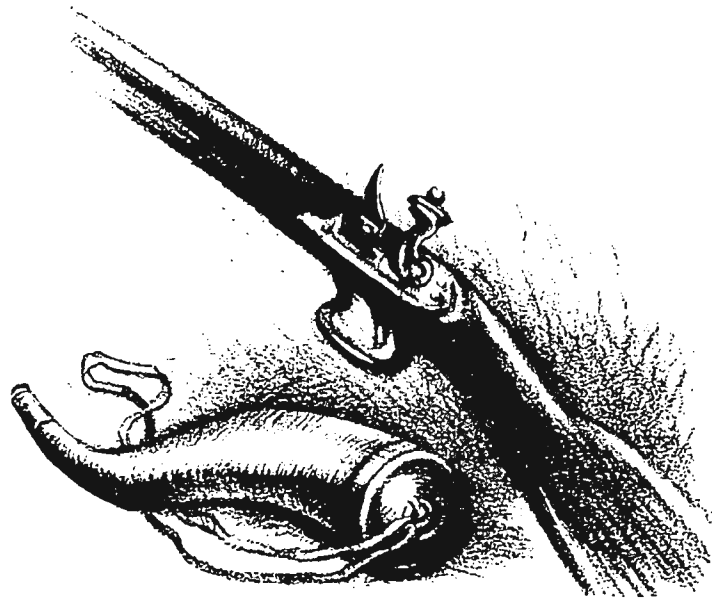
Heritage of Marksmanship

Why so much emphasis on competitive marksmanship? Part of the answer lies in America's tradition of sharpshooting—and the pride which the Army takes in its contribution to this heritage. The United States has long been credited with being "a Nation of riflemen." Born of necessity, with large numbers of Americans living on the frontier of our Nation's continental expansion, this skill was a provider and a defense. It was long a part of our military potential, and the history of the Army is filled with the heroic accomplishments of American riflemen.

In the Revolutionary War, most of our troops were armed with smoothbore muskets, which were comparatively inaccurate even at short range. Nevertheless, a small number of riflemen made major contributions through their excellence in marksmanship. An example of their early reputation appeared in a letter from a colonist published by the *London Chronicle* in August 1775:

"This province has raised 1,000 riflemen, the worst of whom will put a ball into a man's head at a distance of 150 to 200 yards; therefore advise your officers who shall hereafter come out to America to settle their affairs in England before their departure."

A few years later, the men of colonial patriot Daniel Morgan lay in ambush watching a British force maneuvering just beyond musket range at Stillwater, N.Y. Noticing the British commander hovering in front of his troops, Colonel Morgan ordered Tim Murphy, one of his best shots, to come forward. From a range of 300 yards, Murphy fired two shots in close succession, and the British officer toppled from his horse, dead. Taking advantage of the disorder and confusion following this blow, Colonel Morgan attacked and drove the demoralized British back to Saratoga. There, a few days later, the British were defeated in one of the decisive battles of the Revolutionary War.



In 1780, John Sevier led his small band of Tennessee volunteers against the British at the Battle of King's Mountain. This group of 500 backwoodsmen, armed mainly with the Kentucky long rifle, killed 400 British regulars and Tory militiamen, and captured more than 4,000. Only 20 of the enemy escaped.

At the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson's Army defeated a British force almost three times as large—again through marksmanship. Jackson's force, the majority of them American frontier riflemen, were on the defense and firing from covered positions. The riflemen poured their fire into the British ranks. When the battle ended, there were 3,000 British casualties, and 13 American.

Prior to the Civil War there was a tendency in the Army to consider proficiency in marksmanship an inherited trait. In reality, this proficiency was not inherited; it came after years of intensive training. The average backwoodsman or frontiersman was taught to shoot at an early age and shooting competitions were frequent.

American colonists and later their frontier counterpart put meat on their tables with the rifle. For years there was no large domestic animal industry to provide this need. Even while in his fields, the early American had his rifle close by his plow to replenish his storehouse with game. The hostility of the wilderness, with its wild animals and marauding Indians, also made a rifle a necessary companion for those intent on living out their three score

and ten. In this environment, marksmanship was the mark of a man, but the encroachment of organized society drove off the game and hostile Indians and established new standards of manhood.

The Army's Marksmanship Responsibilities

A misconception that Americans were natural marksmen was effectively destroyed during the Civil War. The growth of the large northern cities and the decline of frontier society had severely lessened the number of home-trained marksmen. Some commanders complained bitterly of taking men into battle who had never fired a rifle.

The most noted marksmen of the Civil War, the pickets, did not learn their skills in the Army; they came from the ranks of the frontiersmen and the shooting clubs. These sharpshooter regiments were used on picket duty and introduced to the world of arms the polished art of frontline sniping. Union General Hiram Berdan had one command, containing two regiments, in which membership was restricted to soldiers able to place ten consecutive bullets in a 10-inch circle at 200 yards.

In the decade after the War, the Army took the first steps toward building a permanent program of marksmanship training. This development was an outgrowth of the experiences of the Civil War, and was spurred on by public opinion, for interest in marksmanship remained high following the war. As a result of their war service, veterans were particularly interested. A group made up largely of former Civil War officers founded the National Rifle Association in 1871. Our western movies and television shows are some indication of the importance of good shooting in the West following the Civil War. In the East, the shooting clubs flourished, and throughout the country the state militias added an emphasis of their own to the development of accurate long-range shooting.

The Civil War was the turning point in the development of marksmanship. It became apparent that national defense could no longer depend on a broad base of home-trained sharpshooters. The Army along with public-spirited groups and officials recognized the need for a new approach to maintain a Nation of riflemen. Since then the history of American marksmanship





ship has been marked by the efforts of these groups to encourage small arms proficiency and to develop ever better equipment and techniques.

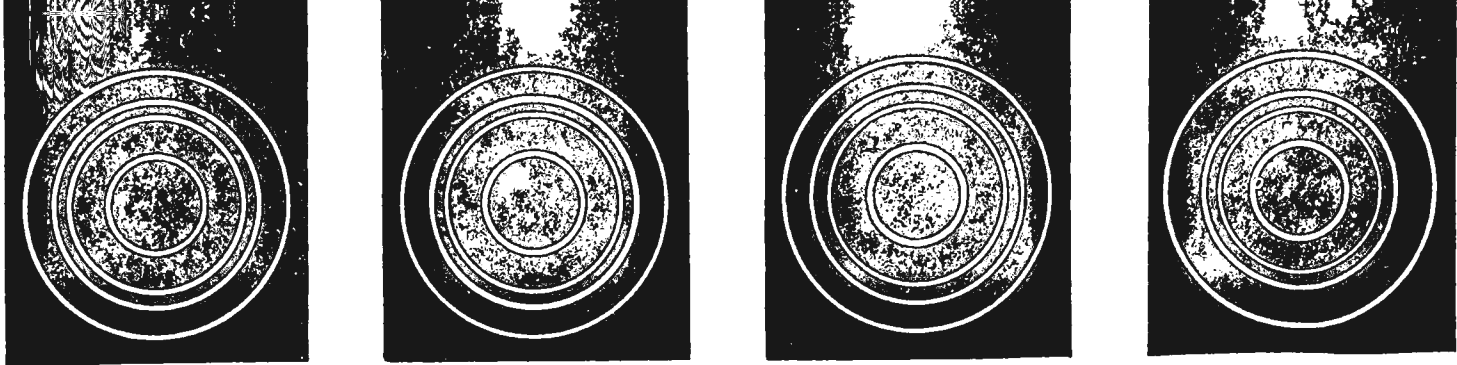
The Army's first training manual on rifle marksmanship was published in 1883. In 1901, Congress directed the Secretary of War to establish the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice. This board remains active today in promoting rifle practice among civilians as well as the military services. With war raging in Europe, Congress passed the National Defense Act of 1916 extending broadened powers to the board. Commanders were authorized to furnish arms, ammunition, and range material to certain civilian organizations, and to make ranges, details, instructors, and facilities available to civilian clubs. This action was initiated too late to be fully effective in the mobilization for World War I, and most of the marksmanship training had to be provided by the Army.

General Pershing, the great World War I commander, was a strong advocate of marksmanship training. One of the famous requests attributed to him was "Send me some men who can shoot and salute." Because of the lack of time, weapons, and ammunition, however, many replacements and units entered combat in World War I with insufficient training in the loading and firing of individual weapons. At the insistence of General Pershing, the Army established a school at Camp Perry, Ohio, to train officers as rifle instructors. This was another milestone of progress in marksmanship training and the revisions of Army shooting manuals after the war reflected the concepts and methods of this school group.

During the rapid expansion for World War II and the Korean War, the capable marksmanship instructors were spread too thin to be entirely effective, but the men going into combat had far better training than in previous wars. Much of the training was based on methods developed in peacetime marksmanship programs.

The Measure of Good Soldiers

Another reason for the Army's renewed emphasis on marksmanship is its important prestige value for the Army and the Nation. Marksmanship, like any element of weaponry, is part of the military art, and represents a funda-



mental measure of good soldiers. It follows from this that the Army has an interest in not only developing good marksmen, but also in preparing them to win the finest competition available. As the Nation's largest military service and the major ground force, the Army is expected to set the standard of excellence in using small arms. On the national level, the Army must constantly meet the test against teams from the other services, the National Guard, the Army Reserve, and civilian groups. In these matches, the finest marksmen in the country compete, and it takes superior skill to win.

Foremost in United States competition are the National Matches which have been held each year since 1903 except for the period of World War I and for 10 years during and following World War II. In the first National Matches, held at Sea Girt, N.J., the New York National Guard won first place and the New Jersey National Guard finished second. Out of 15 entries, the Marines, Army, and Navy finished 6th, 7th, and 13th, respectively. The regular services began seeking help from the National Guardsmen and improvement came rapidly. Soon the regulars were winning the National Matches. This was an early example, incidentally, of the One Army approach to marksmanship that prevails today. Only now the Active Army has taken the lead and assists the reserve components as part of its overall marksmanship program.

The International Aspects

The Army is also emphasizing marksmanship more than ever before in order to strengthen the showing of the United States in international competition. This goal has a dual aspect. First, patriotic endeavor colors every activity of the Army. Naturally it is interested in the United States making a good showing in the Olympics and other competitions among nations. Further the Army more than any

other organization has the means to contribute to United States shooting efforts. It even has a responsibility based on Congressional action. For when Congress directed the Army to establish the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, it placed the Army in charge of developing American riflemen. In taking the lead in assuring a good representation of the United States, the Army is making a contribution to the honor of the Nation.

Secondly, the Army has its own stake in international competition. People of other countries view international shooting competition as an indication of a nation's military ability. Consequently the Army must consider marksmanship as a not to be neglected part of its international relations.

The recent efforts of the Army in international competition have been fruitful. In the short span of 4 years, the Army led the United States from the bottom to a keen contender for all international shooting honors—the equivalent of building a cellar-dwelling team into a strong pennant contender in baseball.

In the 1960 Olympics, six of the ten members of the United States shooting team were from the Army. While the team did not win any gold medals, it did place much higher than any American team since 1928. Also, it added important points to the overall United States Olympic Team score.

While preparing for the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, the Army helped the United States win new laurels at home and abroad. During a spring tour, the Army International Rifle and Pistol Teams competed against some of the world's most powerful teams from Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Norway, and Italy. The Army shooters won 13 individual and 13 team matches of the 27 competitions. They posted 21 scores that surpassed world records. During the previous summer, the United States Shooting Team completely dominated the Pan American Games in Chica-

go. Of the 22 members on the team, 19 were from the Army.

Weeks after the 1960 Olympics, an all-Army U.S. team scored the first American victory in the annual meet of the *Counseil Internationale du Sports Militaire* (known generally as CISM) at Athens, Greece. The meet is a modified Olympic Game containing, among other competitions, a number of military rifle and pistol matches over courses of fire similar to the Olympic Game events. A year later, the Army competed in the 1961 CISM meet at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and won every individual and team event.

The rapid resurgence of the Army and the United States in international competition is particularly impressive in view of the stiff challenges it presents to both men and equipment. This type of shooting is the most precise in the field of marksmanship and the shooters must be virtual machine rests in the prone, kneeling, and standing positions. Rifles must not weigh more than 17.6 pounds, and most of them push the weight limit. To shoot 40 shots standing, it takes strength and stamina. The shooter must be nearly nerveless and it requires a great deal of competition to gain experience. This has been one of the big hurdles for the U.S. competitors. The United States rarely participates in international or Olympic matches more than once every year or so. European teams meet in this type match several times each year, and most of them use the same course of fire in their national matches.

While building a strong international shooting team, the Army has worked with American weapons and ammunition manufacturers to build the most accurate rifles and handguns in the world. They have rifles, caliber 7.62-mm. NATO, that can consistently fire shots within a 2-inch circle at 300 meters (330 yards). The

ammunition is hand assembled with tolerances of each component held to one-tenth of a grain, and there are 437.5 grains to an ounce.

The Larger Mission

Actually the prestige side of the Army's marksmanship program is secondary. Its main purpose is to contribute to the development of soldiers skilled in the use of small arms. For the Army, the advent of nuclear weapons and the development of highly technical machines have not diminished the need for ground forces highly trained in the use of individual weapons. It might even be said that the need is now greater than ever before in view of the increased danger of highly mobile, limited warfare.

Any future war is likely to require the wide dispersement of units. With units widely separated, new importance will attach to the protection against sudden small-unit raids by enemy forces. In limited or total warfare the control of the enemy and his territory is still the principal objective, and it is the infantryman with his basic weapon, the rifle, who performs this fundamental task.

Obviously, however, each individual is not inherently a rifleman. But a normal man with average vision (even vision corrected with glasses) can be molded into a superior combat soldier when properly linked with an Army rifle. The rifle is probably unsurpassed in accuracy, reliability, ruggedness, and effective killing power within its range. The secret of its effectiveness is the proper training of its user. Effective instruction in marksmanship must be conducted by capable coaches, with individual instruction for each man while he is on the firing line. No short cuts, no "quickie" substitutes have been found which would produce the necessary results.

**THE
ARMY
COMPETITIVE
MARKSMANSHIP
PROGRAM**





The Groundwork

The present Army Competitive Marksmanship Program had its beginning late in 1955. At that time a CONARC staff study pointed up the poor showing by the Army in all fields of marksmanship. In addition to the Army's poor showing in interservice competition, the Army was not in a position to improve the unflattering record of the United States in international competition. Earlier there had been the startling revelations about the poor shooting performance of American soldiers in the Korean War and World War II.

A twofold approach was taken to improve Army marksmanship. One aspect was the introduction of the Trainfire System of marksmanship training. Developed by a group of Army experts, this system provides marksmanship training as closely as possible to combat conditions. Soldiers are taught the most effective firing positions and the importance of firing without first arranging the sights for a specific target. Nevertheless marksmanship

remains a highly important element of effective combat firing and it is to the development of this end that the present Army Competitive Marksmanship Program was directed.

Recognizing that Army-wide competition would stimulate good marksmanship on a broad base, a system has been set up to encourage and develop competitive marksmanship down to the company level. The program also has as its goal the encouragement of the continuing development of marksmanship skills. After a soldier receives his basic marksmanship training and goes to his unit assignment he can easily neglect his shooting in favor of his everyday duties. But the expert use of small arms is characteristic of any good soldier, whether he is an infantryman, technician, cook, or administrator. The Competitive Marksmanship Program attempts to encourage all men to develop their existing skill and to keep before them the Army's intense interest in marksmanship.



The Advanced Marksmanship Unit

At the core of the Army Competitive Marksmanship Program is the United States Army Advanced Marksmanship Unit (USAAMU). Its many-sided mission covers the range of Army marksmanship from developing coaches and stimulating Army-wide competition to the invention of advanced types of competitive small arms.

Formed in 1956 at the beginning of the new competitive marksmanship program, the unit has an authorized strength of 178. Selection of personnel for the USAAMU is based on competitive performance and outstanding soldierly traits. Each year after the National Matches the most outstanding Army shooters are selected to fill vacancies in the USAAMU. Members of the unit serve a 3-year tour. The idea is to feed the Army's top shooters through the unit and return them to the field thoroughly polished as marksmen and instructors. There they can impart their training to other soldiers and prepare the most skillful for later service

with Army teams. The program, although already producing great dividends, is still several years from maturity. Only recently the first cycle was completed. Most of the first group to finish a 3-year tour took up coaching assignments in Europe where a large part of the Army's strength is stationed. One graduate of the USAAMU was sent to Alaska to prepare soldiers for the U. S. Biathlon Team. The Biathlon is a fairly new International Olympic event combining the skills of skiing and marksmanship. For ski troopers the competition becomes an important incentive for excellence in their military mission.

For new members as well as old, membership in the USAAMU means long and arduous training. Even these top shooters continually review the fundamental principles of marksmanship. They repeat trigger squeezing exercises almost to the point of instinctive reaction. They practice dry firing and go to the range time after time under the supervision of top notch coaches. To acquire the coolness under pressure that comes only from extensive competition, they fire as often as possible in military and nonmilitary matches.

The unit is divided into Pistol and Rifle Groups for shooters in each of those specialties. Members of the Rifle Group have served as instructors at The Infantry School at Fort Benning for the course in advanced marksmanship coaching. Both the Rifle Group and Pistol Group provide instructors to army areas for conducting small arms firing schools. Another mission is to furnish coaches, training assistance, and logistical support for regional and major command teams.

The most adaptable members of the unit form the Army's international shooting team. They receive special training with the type weapons used in international competition and represent the Army in matches against foreign teams. The international competitors also make tours to foster good will and share their marksmanship training with friendly countries.

The unit's facilities at Fort Benning are the finest available. It is axiomatic that if you assemble the finest and most dedicated shooters in the Army, provide them with the finest training and facilities, the end result will be top marksmen. But what is best in marksmanship lies always beyond its pursuers. What wins

today most certainly won't be the best tomorrow. Records are set only to be broken, and at the top rung of competitive marksmanship the difference of only one bullseye, the use of only a slightly better weapon spell the difference between the champions and the field.

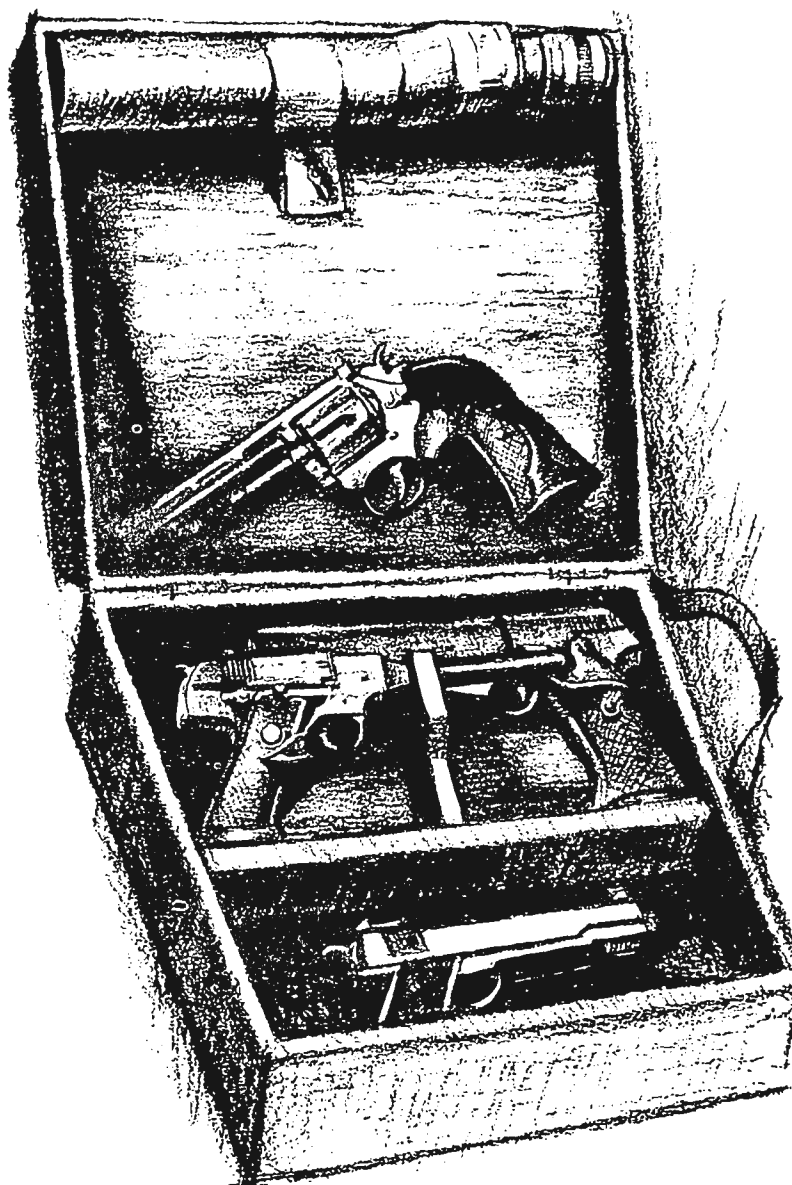
Much of the unit's effort is directed toward the pursuit of the ever elusive goal of perfection. The USAAMU's shop operation is typical. Staffed by highly skilled gunsmiths, armorers, and machinists, the shop is responsible for repairing, modifying, and developing competitive small arms. The widely diversified shop equipment allows the staff to test and improve the accuracy of almost any type match weapon.

The technical advances made by the USAAMU experts have been considerable. Although the Springfield Armory is charged with the general development of small arms for the Army, USAAMU technical research has led to several significant improvements in match weapons which have been accepted by the Springfield Armory. Among the modifications developed by the USAAMU for the M-1 rifle are improved sights, more uniform operating rods, new stock assembly features, and the glass bedding of the receiver into the stock. For the new 7.62 NATO weapons, the unit developed an extremely accurate boat-tail bullet cartridge which will probably be adopted as standard. For international competition the unit has worked with arms manufacturers to develop new types of ammunition and the first Olympic free rifle of American manufacture. Other developments include an electromagnetic trigger which moves only 1/1000 of an inch and can be set off by the touch of a feather.

The USAAMU range facilities are also in keeping with the general excellence of the staff and equipment. For the development of its international competitors, the USAAMU has the only permanent international range in the United States, an international running deer range, a 6-bay international rapid fire pistol range, an international clay pigeon shooting range, and an international skeet range. Other range facilities include a 7-point indoor pistol range and a 6-point indoor smallbore rifle range.

The Competitive Ladder

The Active Army Competitive Marksmanship Program is a competitive ladder reaching from company level to the National Matches. Beyond



that the most outstanding shooters can gain assignment with the USAAMU. Twenty members of the USAAMU prepare for international shooting competition and a chance at representing the United States in the Olympic Games and other contests among nations.

Companies and independent units field a rifle and pistol team to compete at battalion level. Battalions and battle groups in turn form a rifle and pistol team for matches to determine a first and second team for both rifle and pistol at the next higher level. These teams then compete at the post or division level for positions on the three teams that go forward to compete in the rifle and pistol matches at army areas or major commands. At this level, teams are selected to participate at the Annual U.S. Army Rifle and Pistol Championships. There the top marksmen from throughout the Army are selected to train with the USAAMU and become

candidates for one of the all-Army teams for the National Matches.

Other Army teams for the National Matches are selected on a regional basis. These teams are designated from U.S. Army Eastern Region (First, Second and Third Armies; U.S. Army Caribbean; and the Military District of Washington); U.S. Army Western Region (Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Armies; and U.S. Army Alaska); U.S. Army Pacific; U.S. Army Europe; and U.S. Army Air Defense Command.

The National Matches afford two broad avenues of competition, the National Trophy Matches and the National Rifle Association's National Championship Matches—the Army competes in each. Through the National Trophy Matches the Secretary of the Army helps fulfill his statutory obligation of promoting skill in the use of military-type small arms among the able-bodied citizens of the United States. This phase of the National Matches is administered by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice on behalf of the

Secretary. Only military-type weapons are used, the caliber .45 automatic pistol and the M-1 rifle.

The events include the National Trophy Individual Pistol Match, the National Trophy Individual Rifle Match, the National Trophy Pistol Team Match, the National Trophy Rifle Team Match, and the Infantry Trophy Match. Through the interest of individuals and groups, a total of 23 trophies are presented to the winners of these matches and the highest ranking competitors in such categories as National Guard, civilian, USAR, ROTC, Infantry, or Military Police.

The National Championship Matches of the NRA are the other important part of the National Matches. Without the strictly military character of the National Trophy Matches, these events are for the type of weapons ordinarily used in law enforcement and civilian competition.

In the NRA's pistol competition, the top individual award is the National Pistol Cham-





pionship. The championship is based on the shooters' total scores in the competitions for the .22 caliber, center fire, and .45 caliber pistols. The competition for each of these weapons consists of a series of matches in four categories: slow fire, timed fire, rapid fire, and the National Match Course. A champion is also determined in each of these categories—a total of 12. Pistol Teams compete over the National Match Course for honors in the .22 caliber, center fire, and .45 caliber categories.

In the NRA rifle competition, winners are chosen in the Smallbore Rifle Matches and the High Power Rifle Matches. For smallbore rifles, individual matches are held for metallic and any sight weapons and in the prone and four position categories. In the four position matches a shooter fires a certain number of shots in each of four positions: prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling. The prone matches include those at 50 yards, 50 meters, and 100 yards. Team matches are held in the four position and metallic sight and any sight categories.

The NRA's High Power Rifle Matches are held for the service rifle and the bolt action rifle. In these categories, 13 individual and 7 team matches are held.

As in the National Trophy Matches, competitors in the NRA phase of the meet may win more than one trophy in a particular match through the generosity and interest of various groups and depending on the service or component they represent.

For competitors who reach the army area or major command level and don't qualify for higher teams, further opportunities for competition are also made available. Each army area or major command may send teams to the National Rifle Association's Regional and State Matches as well as the NRA portion of the National Matches. Here they meet civilian and other military teams including several from the USAAMU who compete for training and experience.

One Army Marksmanship

The scope of the Army's marksmanship program is based on the One Army Concept. Ordinarily, the new soldier receives his initial marksmanship experience in basic training. Through the Competitive Marksmanship Pro-

gram he is exposed to advanced coaching and competition throughout his career in the Active Army or one of the reserve components. The Army, through the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, gives parallel aid to civilians in cooperation with the National Rifle Association. In this way it reaches beyond the One Army Concept to make a broad contribution to our entire national defense effort.

A similar program of competition tests the marksmen of the USAR and the National Guard of each state. Through competitive selection, the National Guard of each state designates a team to represent it in the National Matches. Each army area or major command may send one USAR rifle team and one USAR pistol team directly to the National Matches. In addition, two combined pistol and rifle teams are selected to represent the entire USAR on the basis of competition at the Army area or major command level. Other Army competitors enter the National Matches as representatives of the ROTC and the United States Military Academy.

Awards

The Army Competitive Marksmanship Program is not without its tangible honors. Distinctive trophies of high quality are awarded at the major command matches and at the U.S. Army Championships at Fort Benning, Ga. Others are offered at the state, regional, and national levels of competition, and small trophies and medals are normally provided at lesser levels. More than 100 trophies are presented at the National Matches each year. At the top are the trophies and plaques awarded to those who place in each event. Also awarded are class awards of silver tableware for those competitors whose performance in each event is within the categories of master and expert, sharpshooter and marksman, and unclassified.

The highest marksmanship award in the United States is a Distinguished Designation Badge, first issued in 1884. The uniqueness of these awards is indicated by the fact that they have been awarded fewer times than the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Badge is



awarded in two categories, Distinguished Pistol Shot, and Distinguished Marksman for riflemen. To receive one of these coveted honors, a soldier must first gain three Army Excellence in Competition Badges, called "legs on Distinguished." One leg must be gained in the National Trophy Matches or in the U.S. Army Championship Matches. Among the more noted soldiers who have won a Distinguished Designation Badge are General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; General of the Armies John J. Pershing, and General Courtney H. Hodges who commanded the First Army in Europe during World War II.

Army shooters also vie for a place on the "President's Hundred," a designation applied to the 100 top competitors in the President's Match at the National Matches. Of the men selected to wear the President's Hundred Brassard in 1960, 69 were Active Army, 4 were National Guardsmen, and 1 was a Cadet from the United States Military Academy.

Teaching in Depth

The Advanced Marksmanship Unit contributes its expert know how to the competitive marksmanship program by conducting small arms schools in the major command areas during the fall months. All new shooters who are to compete in a major command match must attend a small arms firing school conducted by the post, division, or army. Another small arms firing school is conducted as part of the National Matches. At this school the instruction is provided to civilians and members of the various

reserve components not reached through active military service programs. The experienced marksmen who conduct these schools spend long hours developing and rehearsing their presentations and gear them to the appropriate student level.

For several years, the USAAMU assisted The Infantry School conduct advanced marksmanship coaching courses for personnel of both the Active Army and the reserve components. A 1-week course, its goal was to prepare officers and enlisted men to conduct an effective unit marksmanship program. The course of study included external ballistics, optical instruments, coaching techniques, and instructional and record firing with national match grade M-1 rifles.

Through such courses the USAAMU not only improves marksmanship, but also prepares coaches to carry its efforts and techniques to lower levels throughout the Active Army and the reserve components. Hundreds of pistol and rifle shooters receive coaching from, or become part of, an Army team each year. In time, these men return to their units to instruct new shooters. In this way the Army Competitive Marksmanship Program best meets its underlying objective. This objective is to get as many trained coaches as possible in each unit in the Army and to utilize these trained coaches in the conduct of unit marksmanship and qualification programs. As a self-generating program it assures the Army of a continually expanding group of new shooters to fill the ranks of Army teams as well as a growing reserve of highly qualified marksmen.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

G. H. DECKER,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

J. C. LAMBERT,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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USAR: None.

For explanation of abbreviations used, see AR 320-50.



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