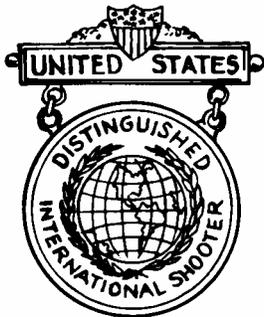


A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DISTINGUISHED SHOOTER PROGRAM



by

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Forward

The one immutable truth about historical research is that few things are certain. Even in the most meticulously kept records there is always some “I” left undotted and some “T” left uncrossed that casts a cloud of doubt on the ‘facts’ at hand. Despite its military beginning, and there is no institution more conscious of scrupulous record keeping than the armed forces, there is missing information. As a result there are holes in the historical documents and records that tell the Distinguished program’s story. In light of the nature of an imperfect record the reader must be aware that all numbers of Distinguished shooters and “firsts” listed in this work are used with this *caveat* and, as such, are subject to change as more detailed information becomes available.

There are gaps in the story of the Distinguished program. Those little gaps make it impossible to write a complete and accurate story, and perhaps it is better that way. There is nothing like a little cloud of uncertainty in a historical tale to make it more interesting and to enhance its legends and traditions.

The following document is an attempt to meld the many aspects of the Distinguished Program into a short historical synopsis. I owe debts of gratitude to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, USA Shooting, the National Rifle Association, Mrs. Nancy Pool; Army EIC Records Custodian, The Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association, United States Navy Shooting Team, the Military Marksmanship Association, The Association of Marksmen in the National Guard, Steve Baines, Charlie Adams, fellow Distinguished shooters Bob Aylward, Shawn Carpenter, Sallie Carroll, Ray Carter, John Feamster, Ed Jensen, Neil Jensen, Laurence “Red” Mosely, Jim Perkins, Steve Rocketto, George Starkweather, Bob Steinberg, “Walt’ Walters, and Jack Writer. To these people go all of the credit, but none of the blame, for this work.

In the interest of historical accuracy the author solicits insights, corrections and updates that are supported by appropriate documentation to 18 Stenton Avenue, Westerly, RI 02891.

Dedication

This monograph is for my Connecticut National Guard Rifle Team mates who traveled together with me the length of the bumpy, but never dull, road to Distinguished; , Murray Bennett, Ed Biatowas, Dave Colt, Bill Lange, Mark Lasrich, Al Maloney, Sharon Tessman Sekellick, Greg Tomsen and, in particular, Dick Scheller and Roger McQuiggan, who successfully guided we pilgrims along to our goal as well as General John “Fritz” Freund, General William Meagher, and Chief Warrant Officer Four Billy Mulligan who made it all possible.

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A Short History of the Distinguished Shooter Program

The ultimate achievement for a service rifle or pistol shooter is to earn Distinguished designation. The Distinguished Rifleman, Distinguished Marksman, and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badges are awarded to members of the Armed Forces, or civilians, in recognition of “a preeminent degree of achievement in target practice with the service rifle or pistol.”¹ The United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge awarded for excellence in international competition with the rifle, pistol, and shotgun is the ultimate recognition of success for the shooter who toils in the world wide arena.

In order to boost marksmanship training, and give extra prestige to those who excelled at musketry, War Department General Orders Number 12 was promulgated on February 20, 1884 directing that “...whenever any marksman has been three times a member of a department team or has won any of the three authorized prize medals, he will be announced in general orders from these headquarters as belonging to a distinguished class...”.² Since then an untold number have started out on a path that only a relative few have completed. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army, General Philip Sheridan, feared that the Army’s crack shots would enjoy a long and successful career, to the detriment of upcoming marksman. He directed that any soldier who had been three times a member of a department team or won any of three of the Army’s major marksmanship awards would be no longer eligible to compete for those awards.

To honor the skill of these men they were raised to a “distinguished class” of marksman and no longer eligible to compete in Army shooting matches. Denied the shooting competition in which they so heartily desired to participate, the Distinguished soldiers successfully petitioned the Army for a special match to be contested among themselves in the alternating years between the Army matches. The first class of Distinguished Marksman was announced in General Orders Number 24 on March 28, 1884; first among the original 15 was Sergeant Cyrus Clark of Troop B, First United States Cavalry.³ Clark’s domination of the Army matches during 1883 is thought to have provided the reason Sheridan decided to create Distinguished shooters for he thought that the “splendid rifleman...will continue indefinitely to...carry off all prizes offered. This is disheartening to others scarcely inferior in skill...”.⁴ For the next eighty years, membership in the elite world of U.S. Army Distinguished shooters would remain a completely male bastion until Staff Sergeant Barbara Hile collected the last of the required 30 points and earned the Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1964.

¹ Department of the Army, *United States Army Regulation 672-5-1 Decorations and Awards*, Washington, 1990, pages 32-33.

² Sandusky, Sue Ann, *America’s Distinguished Marksmen*, The American Rifleman Magazine, National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, May 1991. page 38.

³ Emerson, William, *Marksmanship in the U.S. Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 2004, pages 162-163.

⁴Sandusky, page 38.

The Distinguished Marksman Badge itself was approved by the Secretary of War in General Orders Number 1 dated January 3, 1887 with the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge being authorized in General Orders Number 65, dated April 29, 1903.

Since 1884 the targets and courses of fire have changed many times, just as has the service rifle and pistol. The bolt action rifle has long since disappeared as the service arm while the time limits for the rapid fire stages have been increased and rules for clothing and shooting mats have been expanded. Through the years the landscape on the road to Distinguished has changed, but never the uphill climb. In the early days, when one had to win three prizes at division, department, or Army level matches, it could be done using the rifle, carbine, revolver, or a combination of all three. Some believe that the three prize regulation may be the origin of the term “leg”, used to describe either a match that awards points or the points themselves. Late 19th century America was still an agrarian culture and the three legged milk stool was a common enough sight. A milk stool needs all three legs to be of any value and the same could be said of the legs needed to earn Distinguished.⁵ Others say it is because trophies were often displayed on a tripod stand and in order to take possession one had to take all three legs.⁶ Today one must accumulate the 30 leg points needed to earn the badge through participation in Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) matches sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and the various military services. This can take as little as three matches for the gifted and fortunate or a lifetime for the most persistent. For most it is somewhere in between

Over the nearly century and a quarter that shooters have pursued Distinguished there has been an inevitable transformation. No longer is there a 1,000 yard stage for the rifle badge. A “leg” at the National Matches is no longer required. Points towards Distinguished are no longer awarded to both shooters and non-firing coaches alike on teams that place in the National Trophy Team (NTT) Match. The one thing that has not changed is the esteem in which Distinguished designation is held.

The passing of the Dick Act in 1903 changed various state militias into the National Guard while the Army Reserve came into existence via the National Defense Acts of 1916 and 1920. However, even before the Army’s reserve components became officially recognized, rifleman from these organizations went about earning Distinguished. Newton Way was the first National Guardsman to go on record as Distinguished in 1891 but it wasn’t until 1931 that John Cooper became the first Army Reservist recognized. This is not to say they were the first, they probably were not, for it seemed that the general policy of the day was that if you wore the Army uniform that is how you were classified. An untold number of early Guard and Reserve Distinguished shooters are certainly

⁵ Culver, Dick, *In Distinguished Company*, www.jouster.com/EIC/distinguished_company.htm

⁶ Department of the Army, *United States Army Regulation 650-66, Army-wide Small Arms Competitive Marksmanship*, Washington, 2003, page 9.

hidden in the Army list, but these two men were the first to be singled out specifically by component.

Pistol competition came into its own in 1889 but a specific Distinguished designation with the side arm did not become a reality until 1903. The Army awarded the first Pistol Shot badges to Captain Farrand Sayer and Sergeant Brent Howe of the 8th Cavalry. Both men had already earned the rifle designation and therefore became the first Double Distinguished shooters in history. Some years later an inspection of records by the Army determined that Corporal Horace W. Bevins, a trooper with the 10th Cavalry-the famed 'Buffalo Soldiers'-had won three medals prior to Sayer and Brent and therefore was retroactively awarded the first Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge.⁷

Not until the 1960s did women enter the military competitive shooting world. The forerunners for the many successful female shooters were Staff Sergeant Barbara Hile and Major Sallie Carroll. Both were fixtures on the national and international scene and had earned International badges at the 1970 World Championships in Phoenix, Carroll with the air pistol and Hile with the sport pistol. Carroll, a pistol specialist, picked up the last of her 30 points in 1971-making her the first women soldier to earn the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. She 'went out' at an April EIC Match at Fort Ord, California while she was in transit to Viet Nam. Hile would finish up at Camp Perry later that summer. Having earned her rifle Badge in 1964 and the International Badge in 1970, Hile became the Army's first female Double and Triple Distinguished shooter.⁸ Thirty six years would pass until the next woman, Army Reserve Major Rhonda Barush Bright, would duplicate her feat in 2006.

The second highest ranking military man in United States history, after George Washington, General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, earned his Badge in 1891 as a young second lieutenant. He stood second in pistol marksmanship in the California and Arizona divisions of the Cavalry and 22nd in rifle marksmanship in the Army in 1889. Two years later, Pershing placed second in pistol and fifth in rifle marksmanship, garnering his third medal and earning his Distinguished Badge with both the pistol and rifle, not an uncommon occurrence in the days before the pistol badge had been established.⁹

According to Mrs. Nancy Pool, Custodian of the Army's Excellence in Competition awards, 362 Army marksmen have earned both the rifle and pistol badge. As of February 6, 2006 the rifle badge has been awarded to 3,220 Soldiers. Regular Army shooters have earned 2254 rifle badges but, as noted earlier, some Reservists and Guardsman are carried on the Regular Army rolls. Army Reserve soldiers have earned 359 and Guardsmen 607 rifle Badges. The Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge has been awarded to 1,689 with Army personnel

⁷ Emerson, page 168.

⁸ Carroll, Sallie, Letter to Author, March 2006.

⁹ Emerson, page 166.

earning 971-with the same *caveat* as rifle, Reservists 243, while the Guard accounts for 475 badges.¹⁰

Of the 607 National Guard Distinguished Rifleman Badges, the Kerin family of Pennsylvania accounts for an amazing four of these Badges. Family patriarch Anthony, sons David and Mark, and daughter Toni are all Distinguished, earning their awards between 1981 and 1989. Even in a sport where fathers and sons, as well as brothers are often Distinguished it is rare to find a family so fully involved in the pursuit of excellence. David went Double Distinguished in 1997 when he added a Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge to the family's long list of shooting accomplishments. Toni became the first woman in the National Guard to earn Distinguished with the rifle in 1989, two years after the first Guard woman pistol shooter, Lynn Baltrusch, received her Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge for her skill with the service sidearm.

While the Kerins may have the largest number of Distinguished Badges in one family, the Mumma clan probably holds the record for span of generations and variety of services. Colonel Morton C. Mumma, a member of the United States Military Academy Class of 1900, was the first of this line of Distinguished marksmen. The colonel went Distinguished in 1904 with the rifle and with the pistol in 1909. He won the Cavalry Cup, then awarded to the high scoring cavalryman in the President's Match, in 1912. During World War I he was commandant of the Small Arms Firing School at Camp Perry.¹¹

His son, Morton C. Mumma, Junior graduated from the United States Naval Academy and earned Distinguished in 1927. He later commissioned USS *Sailfish*, formerly *USS Squalus* which had been salvaged and renamed the after it sunk during a test dive in May of 1939. At the outbreak of World War II he took the ship out on its first patrol in the Pacific. He later transferred to PT boats and eventually retired as a rear admiral.¹²

The third generation rifleman, Morton C. Mumma III, graduated from West Point in 1948 but elected the United States Air Force, as was his right in the days before the Air Force Academy had been established, serving as a fighter pilot. Like his grandfather before him he won his service's highest trophy, The Vandenberg Trophy-then awarded to the high Air Force competitor at the National Matches, in 1957.

When the Marine Corps entered into the competitive marksmanship arena seriously in 1901, it quickly recognized the value of the Distinguished Badge to inspire and reward Marine marksman. Under the leadership of Marine shooting legends Charles H. Lauchheimer and William Harlee, the Marine competitive shooting program was born. Their influence was felt at the highest of levels,

¹⁰ Pool, Nancy, Letter to Author, March 2006.

¹¹ Bovia, Anna and Wirzylo, Gary, *Camp Perry 1906-1991*, Hubbard, Defiance, Ohio, 1992, page 31.

¹² LoVo, Carl, *Back From the Deep*, United States Naval Institute, Annapolis, 1998.

leading Brigadier General Commandant George F. Elliott to institute the Marine Distinguished Marksman award on June 30, 1908. To be able to pin on the Distinguished Badge, a Marine needed to win three medals in division, Marine Corps, or the National Matches, in which he had to be a firing member. Marines John McP. Ketcham, Henry Baptist, Ollie M. Schriver, and James Markey had already earned the required medals and they were retroactively designated, becoming the first Marine Distinguished Marksman.¹³

In 1920 Second Lieutenant William Whaling and Gunnery Sergeant John M. Thomas tore up the pistol ranges. Both qualified as Distinguished Pistol Shots at the same match, sharing the honor of primacy. Thomas had served as an enlisted man in the United States Cavalry before World War I. During the Great War Thomas had been temporarily commissioned from the ranks, but, during the rapid demobilization process that followed the Armistice, he reverted to his prewar enlisted status. Rather than serve under many who were once his junior he left the Army after 18 years and enlisted in the Marines.¹⁴

Whaling, a Navy Cross recipient, would enjoy a stellar career in both shooting and the Corps, winning national trophies, surviving the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, combat on Guadalcanal and Okinawa, and eventually retiring as a major general. His real claim to fame, however, came in 1921 when he legged out with the rifle and became the first Marine to become double Distinguished.¹⁵ The first woman to earn a Marine Rifle Distinguished Marksman Badge was Ann Joseph in 1981. Roxane Conrad, the first woman in the Marines to earn a Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge accomplished that historic milestone in 1988.

Earning his badge as a young second lieutenant in 1908, the first year it was issued, the 17th Marine Commandant, General Thomas Holcomb was one of the earliest Marines to be designated a Distinguished Marksman. A member of many Marine teams as well as the Palma Team; he was also the first Marine to pin on the four stars of a general.

General David M. Shoup, 22nd Commandant of the Marines, became a Distinguished Pistol shot in 1946. Shoup and Major General Merrit Edson are the only two men authorized to wear both the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, and the highest award for service firearm excellence, the Distinguished badge. In all, almost 1400 Marines, active and reserve, wear the rifle badge, 900 the pistol badge, over 400 are Double Distinguished. The Marines hold the highest percentage of Triple Distinguished shooters of all of the services by a razor thin margin over the Army.

United States diplomatic policy between the World Wars often called for armed naval landing parties to be quickly inserted into situations to project United States

¹³ Barde, Robert, Marine Corps Competitive Marksmanship, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, DC, 1961, page 31.

¹⁴ Ibid, page 99.

¹⁵ Ibid, page 101

influence. Gunboat Diplomacy sent sailors splashing ashore from the Caribbean to China's Yangtze River to protect the lives and property of US citizens. Perhaps the most vivid and well known images of this era are scenes from Richard McKenna's semi-autobiographical novel *The Sand Pebbles*. The protagonist, Machinist Mate First Class Jake Holman, and his shipmates showed an easy familiarity with the Lewis gun, the Browning Automatic Rifle, the 1911 Colt, and the Springfield 1903. In those far-off days Navy boot camp included instruction and live firing with rifle and pistol as marksmanship was one of the many military skills required of a bluejacket.

To help promote its marksmanship program the Navy followed the Army and Marines and began awarding its first Distinguished Badges in 1925. On the first of September of that year, Ensign Armand Morgan and Chief Gunner Frank Stemmer were designated Distinguished with the rifle, while Ensign Bradford Bartlett was awarded the pistol badge. Three years later Chief Boatswain Mate Enos P. Amy, who was the first enlisted man to qualify as Distinguished with the pistol in 1927, legged out with the rifle to become the Navy's first Double Distinguished.¹⁶

The Navy's first woman Distinguished Marksman with the rifle, Petty Officer Second Class Mary Jo Feeney, received her badge in 1975, building on her earlier success as the 1974 Woman's High Power Champion. Feeney, like most Navy shooters of the time used an M1 Garand. Thirty years after Feeney pinned on her rifle badge Lieutenant Commander Barbara Ann Gies earned her final points to give her Distinguished designation with the service pistol; the first woman to do so in the Navy. Approximately 300 full and part time sailors are Distinguished with the rifle and pistol, and 111 of them are Double Distinguished.¹⁷ Surprisingly, considering its low-key marksmanship training program, the Navy holds the distinction of having the greatest percentage of Double Distinguished shooters, at 18 percent, and also the service with the greatest percentage of United States International Shooter Badges.

At one time the Navy actually had two levels of leg medals, the "Fleet" and "Navy". The difference was that the Fleet badges were awarded for legs at the Fleet level and lower level EIC matches while the Navy badge was awarded for legs earned at the higher level All-Navy, Interservice, and the National Matches even though they both counted the same. Bob Steinberg, then a Navy Lieutenant Commander, was involved with the administration of the Navy's Distinguished program in 1987 and at that time the service had been out of Distinguished badges since at least 1975. He was charged with procuring new Badges, which were gold plated, and reports that Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dave Feihtner was issued the last gold Distinguished Marksman badge in 1975.¹⁸

¹⁶ Walters, Howard, *Team History*, www.usnst.org, 2006.

¹⁷ Steinberg, Robert, *U.S. Navy Distinguished Shooters*, unpublished manuscript, Washington, DC, 1993.

¹⁸ Steinberg, Robert, Letter to Author, May 7, 2006.

The United States Coast Guard is the United States oldest maritime agency. Known by many names during its two centuries of existence, the Revenue Cutter Service, the Lighthouse Service, the Steamboat Inspection Service, the Bureau of Navigation, and the Lifesaving Service; it came into its own in as the Coast Guard in 1915. From frozen Arctic waters, where it enforced marine and fishery law to the lengthy eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast, where it battled rum runners, a Coast Guardsman's skill with rifle and pistol was imperative. Recognizing small arms importance the Coast Guard managed to squeeze some funds from its Depression strangled budget and entered the National Matches for the first time in 1928. Until then Coast Guardsman had financed their shooting out of their own pockets or by passing the hat, relying on the generosity and team spirit of shipmates.¹⁹

Urged on by Commander Russell R. Waesche, the Coast Guard Chief of Ordnance, who had a keen interest in small arms training, the Coast Guard's Distinguished program was established in 1929 during the watch of Commandant Rear Admiral Frederick C. Billard. In recognition of the importance of these two men in the history of Coast Guard marksmanship, the service established two trophies for service wide team competition in their honor in 1958, the Billard Trophy for pistol and the Waesche Trophy for rifle.²⁰

Just one year after their first foray into competitive shooting, Walter Morrison, Stanley Lindholm, and Harley Grogan completed requirements for the rifle badge. Lindholm went on to earn the pistol badge in 1931, becoming the first Coast Guard Double Distinguished. Janine Bowman earned her spot in Coast Guard shooting history when she 'went out' in 1999 with the pistol, making her the first female Distinguished shooter in the Coast Guard. The honor of doing so with a rifle is still open. Some 70 rifle badges, all earned by men, and 69 pistol badges have been issued by the Coast Guard to its active duty and reserve components with about 20 wearing both.

Ironically one of the earliest graduates of the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut was William H. Rupertus who would decline his Coast Guard commission in favor of one as an officer of Marines. As a company grade officer he earned Distinguished with the rifle in 1915, wrote *My Rifle: The Creed of a US Marine*, and rose to the rank of Major General.²¹

The National Security Act of 1947 created the Department of the Air Force and the newest service quickly hopped on the competitive marksmanship bandwagon. Cigar-chomping General Curtis Lemay, commander of the Strategic Air Command, directed that a shooting team be formed in 1951 to insure that the 1952 United States Olympic Shooting Team would have one or more Air Force

¹⁹ Wells II, William, R., *Shots That Hit A Study of U.S. Coast Guard Marksmanship 1790-1985*, United States Coast Guard Historian's Office, Washington DC, 1993. Page 47.

²⁰ Ibid. page 87. Waesche would eventually rise to three and four star rank, the first to do so, on his way to the office of Commandant, having the longest tenure in that post of any incumbent.

²¹ Rocketto, Hap, *Major General William Rupertus, USMC*, Precision Shooting Magazine, Manchester, CT 2000.

personnel. His subordinates organized a fledgling rifle team around several active duty Air Force officers with excellent shooting credentials. He ordered three officers on active duty at the time, Olympic Gold Medalist Art Cook, Olympian and World Champion Art Jackson, and noted smallbore rifleman and coach Richard Hanson to Selfridge Field to train for the 1952 Olympics. Lemay's foresight would pay off when Jackson won the bronze medal in the prone smallbore match but, oddly enough, not one of this triumvirate of bolt gun riflemen would earn the service Distinguished badge.²² The honor of being the first Air Force Distinguished Marksman would go to Morton C. Mumma III, scion of one of the nation's premier shooting families of the era.²³

Colonel Thomas Kelly, who was assigned the task of organizing the first Air Force pistol team by Lemay, had the honor of accepting the first pistol badge while Gail Liberty, a pistol shooter of international reputation, was the first woman to go Distinguished in the Air Force with badge number 132. Leland Taylor earned both the 13th rifle and the 13th pistol Air Force badges and so, despite that inauspicious omen, had the good fortune to become the first Air Force Double Distinguished. As a bit of trivia, the Air Force is the only service to officially serial number the badge for their 300 plus rifleman, 370 pistol shots, and 29 double Distinguished shooters of the active, reserve, and Air Guard components.²⁴ Like the Coast Guard, a woman has yet to earn the Air Force rifle badge.

Until the early 1920s Distinguished was strictly a military award, but beginning in 1923 former servicemen who had earned points were allowed to participate in leg matches. By 1925, the program, administered by the Department of the Army, was opened to all civilians. Eventually the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP) delegated to the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) the authority to award Distinguished designation to civilians. The Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice & Firearms Safety, Inc. (CPRPFS) assumed administration and promotion of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) from the NBPRP in 1996 and continues supervision of the civilian Distinguished program.

Beginning with rifle, in 1982, and pistol, in 1983, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Smith, AUS, the long time Deputy Director of Civilian Marksmanship, began to serial number civilian badges, the first number for both being around 400, Serial numbers do not always follow chronologically because match bulletins were not always sent in promptly; this situation results in some shooters having higher serial numbers than those who "went out" after them. Smith also issued a handsome certificate upon which he personally entered the recipient's particulars in hand wrought calligraphy. Today, they are treasured possessions of a time when only a few civilian Distinguished Badges were awarded each year.

²² Rocketto, Hap, *The Art of Shooting*, The 1996 Precision Shooting Annual, Manchester, CT, 1996.

²³ United States Air Force Competitive Shooting, <http://www.airforceshooting.org>, 2006

²⁴ Ibid.

In the first 60 years of civilian participation, about 500 rifle and 600 pistol awards were made. The ensuing 20 years have seen an almost geometric growth as more than 1200 rifle badges and 800 pistol badges were earned in that time period: almost twice as many Badges in a third of the time. Several reasons seem to have caused the explosive increase in civilian Distinguished Rifleman. A lower age limit of 16 always allowed juniors to shoot but the big bruising 30 caliber wooden rifles of the post war years, the M1 and the M14, were often hard for someone of smaller stature to handle. The advent of the more user friendly, physically smaller, and softer recoiling M16 opened the doors for talented juniors and women. In the past competitors in EIC matches were required to use ammunition which was issued on the line. Rules now allow for hand loaded cartridges, which is an advantage in establishing sight settings and tuning the ammunition for a particular firearm. Additionally, the Distinguished program now enjoys a much higher profile, and a greater number of EIC matches are now being held. The pistols, 1911 series and M9, may be considered about equal, so most of the growth in this area is probably due to greater visibility and hand loading. Of the nearly 1400 pistol and 1700 rifle badges about 250 are worn in pairs.

The first class of civilian Distinguished Marksman James Brown, Einar Bruce, Kellog Kennon Venerable Casey, George Clark, Frank Cunnunham, Charles Duce, Loren Felt, Cyrus Gettys, and Alvin Leavitt were designated in 1923. In the same year Carl Christofferson, Cyrus Gettys, Malcolm Partridge, Eugene Reising, William Spencer and Lloyd Wilson all completed the requirements to become the first civilian pistol badge recipients. Gettys nailed down the first civilian Double Distinguished honor. Alice Bull, 1961, and Gertrude Backstrom, 1958, became the first woman to earn rifle and pistol honors respectively. After having been given an age waiver, based on her experience and skill level, West Virginia's Hanne Bratner went Distinguished in 1985 at the tender age of 15 ½, becoming the youngest person to have ever earned the Badge.²⁵

The Distinguished Marksman Badge was awarded by all services until 1956 when the Army and the Air Force, along with their reserve components, changed the title to Rifleman. They concluded that the use of the term marksman, which was also used in regular annual qualification, was not sufficiently dignified. This change could only be pulled off by a man who combined both high rank and impeccable shooting credentials, and Army Chief of Staff General Lyman Lemnitzer was just that man, having earned his Distinguished Badge as a young company grade officer in 1924. The more traditional sea services, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard, have retained the original title. Since its inception the pistol award has always been called the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge.

The rules for earning Distinguished designation are very similar but vary slightly from service-to-service and for civilians. No one may enter more than four EIC matches per year, one of which must be the National Trophy Individual (NTI)

²⁵ Sandusky, page 39.

Match. Non-Distinguished shooters may not shoot in an EIC for practice. Generally speaking military shooters are not permitted to earn more than ten of the required 30 points at civilian EIC matches. The specifics are outlined in the current regulations of the various armed services and the CMP Rule Book (See Appendix A).

The Distinguished Badge is awarded when a competitor accumulates 30 'points' earned in EIC matches. Points are awarded on the basis of an individual's placement among the top 10% of non-distinguished competitors in the match. The first one sixth are awarded ten points, the next one third get eight points and the remaining competitors earn six points. Points accumulate throughout a competitor's lifetime until Distinguished status is attained, so that points earned as a member of the Armed Forces in bull's-eye competition will transfer toward designation as a civilian, and vice versa. It is also required that one must earn at least an eight or ten-point "hard" leg by placing in the top 50% of competitors in the top ten percent.²⁶ Rules for earning legs have changed over time. Three medal winning finishes were required from 1884 until 1902. Congress instituted the NTI for rifle in 1903 and the pistol NTI came a year later, at the behest of the NBPRP, ushering in the familiar top ten percent format. One was required to leg at the National Matches until after World War II. In the mid 1920s, not only did one have to place in the top ten percent to earn a leg but also had to score at least 85% of the possible score in rifle and 75% in pistol.

The pistol National Match Course (NMC) is used in the EIC match and consists of 30 record shots in three stages. Slow fire is first with ten shots fired in ten minutes at 50 yards, The second stage is timed fire: ten shots, in two five shot strings, with a 20 second per string time limit followed by rapid fire. Rapid fire, the final stage, is two five shot strings, with a ten second per string time limit. The service pistol or its commercial equivalent, .45 M1911, M1911A1, or the 9mm M9, is required. No sighting shots are allowed.²⁷

The course of fire for a rifle EIC Match is the 50 shot National Match Course. Slow fire standing begins the match with a ten shot string in ten minutes at 200 yards. This is followed by a ten shot rapid fire sitting stage in 60 seconds at the same yard line. The shooters then "move back" to the 300 yard line where a ten shot string is fired prone in 70 seconds. In both rapid fire stages a magazine change, two and then eight rounds, is required to level the playing field between those using the eight round clip fed M1 Garand and the 20 round box magazine equipped M14 or M16. The final stage is 20 shots slow fire prone, in 20 minutes at 600 yards. As in pistol, the service arm, 30 or 308 caliber M1, 7.62mm caliber M14, or the 5.56mm caliber M16 rifle or commercial equivalent, is required and sighting shots are not allowed.²⁸

²⁶ Civilian Marksmanship Program, *CMP Competition Rules 10th Edition*, Port Clinton, OH 2006 page 43.

²⁷ *CMP Competition Rules 10th Edition*, page 27.

²⁸ *Ibid*, page 31.

Those above cutoff at the National Matches are presented with a General Custer Trophy Medal for pistol and a Daniel Boone Medal for rifle, with the color of the pendant indicating a gold, silver, or bronze position finish.²⁹ Competitors who place in the top three at a regional EIC match conducted by the CMP also receive a special medal, even if they are Distinguished, in addition to any points. While no actual trophy or medal is presented, there is an unofficial honorary award, drolly known as “first wood” or “first leather,” for the competitor who places first after cut-off. The terms are an ironic comment on the value of the place just below the cut off score when compared to gold, silver, and bronze legs earned by those above cut off.

In the 1870s General Edward Otho Cresap Ord, commander of the Department of California, excused from guard or fatigue duties the best shot in weekly marksmanship practice; while the worst was awarded a green leather medal, giving reason to believe that this is the origin of the term.³⁰ During the 1920s the Marines actually had a home made Leather Medal, issued on the spot, for the team member who made a blunder worthy of note in practice or competition. It was required to be worn on the back of the shooting jacket, in plain view, until passed on to the next shooter who slipped up.³¹ It is, perhaps from these traditions that the present day terms have evolved.

In order to level the playing field, or shooting range in this case, all civilians who shoot a score above the cutoff score at the National Matches are awarded ten points. This compensates for the fact that military shooters receive training time, equipment, and financial support from their services. Because of this anomaly in the rules, a civilian shooter can become Distinguished without technically earning a hard leg. If the shooter were to place three times in the bottom 50% of the top 10% of non-Distinguished shooters at the National Matches, they would be awarded 30 points without ever having earned a hard leg. This is known as ‘bronzing out’-a reference to the bronze medal awarded to those above cut off at the National Matches.

Local EIC and military matches can be particularly difficult matches at which to earn leg points as the combination of a low number of entries and highly skilled shooters can easily push the scores to the upward limits. A minimum of ten non-Distinguished shooters must compete in a match for it to be approved and legs are distributed on the basis of ten and the next largest fraction of ten. For example, a match with 24 entries awards two legs while one with 25 awards three. Perhaps the best place to earn leg points is at the National Matches where the CMP conducts two leg matches.

Conducted under special rules the first is the M16 EIC Rifle Match, started in 2004 in conjunction with the Small Arms Firing School. Colloquially it is known as a ‘virgin’ leg match because it is open only to those who have not yet earned

²⁹ Ibid, pages 27 & 35.

³⁰ Sandusky, page 37.

³¹ Barde, page 165.

any EIC points. It is a 40 shot event fired entirely at 200 yards with issued ammunition and randomly assigned rack grade M16s. The course of fire roughly follows a regular EIC format. Five sighting shots, to enable the competitor to both get familiar with the particular rifle and obtain a basic sight setting are fired slow fire prone followed by ten shots slow fire prone, ten shots rapid fire prone from standing, ten shots kneeling or sitting from standing and a final ten shots slow fire standing complete the match. The top ten percent are awarded four leg points and may earn no further points in this type of match.

The M9 Pistol EIC Match was introduced during the 2006 National Matches for the same reasons as the rifle event: to provide “safety and marksmanship instruction as well as range firing practice under the tutelage of military marksmanship unit coaches” and to “encourage the many new shooters who attend these outstanding schools to become active in service pistol and service rifle competition and to embark on a quest to earn a prestigious Distinguished Badge.”³² The course of fire simulates the pistol NMC with all firing done at 25 yards on the standard 25 yard pistol target. Competitors may use either a two-handed or one handed firing position. The match consists of five sighting shots followed by ten shots slow fire, ten shots timed fire in two 20 second strings, and ends with ten shots rapid fire in two five-shot strings of 10 seconds each. Like the rifle event; firearms are randomly distributed and ammunition is issued on the line.

The NTI is the largest leg match of the year in several ways. With as many as 1200 non-Distinguished entries and possibly 120 legs up for grabs in rifle and 500 or so pistol competitors, giving a possible 50 legs, the NTI is the biggest EIC match of the year. Because of the large number of entries there is a greater opportunity to earn points, and for civilians any leg is worth ten points. Secondly, it is big because the NTI and the NTT are the national service firearm championships and the trophies, many are masterpieces in bronze by renowned artisans, and medals awarded are some of the most venerable and revered in the shooting sports.

When a competitor “legs” for the first time, whether it is for four, six, eight, or ten points, they are awarded a bronze EIC badge, in addition to any other award they might have earned. When 20 points are accumulated a silver leg badge is presented. Leg badges are separate and distinct from the medals presented at a regional or the National Matches for placing in the top three or above cut-off. When thirty points have been earned, the shooter is awarded the Distinguished Badge. The Badge is engraved with the competitor’s name, year earned, and, in the case of civilians and members of the Air Force, the badge’s serial number. In the services it is traditional in some commands to have the Badge presented by a general officer or other high ranking official. The CMP follows the practice of having an eminent member of the shooting community present the Badge to new recipients at the National Match Awards Ceremony, thereby adding additional dignity and prestige to a milestone that few shooters will ever forget.

³² Anderson, Gary, *The First Shot*, *CMP Online Magazine*, <http://www.odcmp.org>, April, 2006.

All Distinguished badges follow the same general pattern of the United States Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge which is a 2 43/64 inches in height overall and consists of a bar and pendant. The bar is 9/16 inch in height and 1 13/16 inches in width, upon which is superimposed a shield of stars and stripes with the letters "U.S. ARMY" thereon. Civilian badges have a larger shield with an embossed US while the other services' badges display the words US Marine Corps, US Air Force, US Navy, or US Coast Guard on a plain bar. The Army's Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge is similar to the rifle badge in design, but smaller, at 2 43/64 inches in overall height. The bar is 15/32 inch in height and 1 1/2 inches in width marked in the same manner as the rifle badge. All top bars have small gold spheres attached to the ends.

The rifle badge pendant is a shield 1 1/2 inches in height and 1 13/32 inches in width, in the center of which is an enameled target between the words "DISTINGUISHED" arcing over and "RIFLEMAN" in a straight line underneath. Sea service badges, and earlier Army and civilian badges, display the word "MARKSMAN." The pistol pendant is a gold shield shape 1 1/4 inches in height and 1 3/64 inches in width, in the center is an enameled target between the words "DISTINGUISHED" arching over and "PISTOL SHOT" in a straight line underneath.³³

The Distinguished Badge has always been gold; the use of the precious metal did much to enhance the beauty and importance of the award. When first struck and issued a Badge contained 0.8 ounces of gold and was valued at \$20, no small amount for a private soldier of the time who earned only a dollar more a month. Dick Culver, himself a Distinguished Marksman, writes that during a short time in the 1950s Marine Corps Badges were fabricated of 18 karat gold instead of the traditional 14 karats. During the latter stages of the real gold Army Distinguished Badge, in the early 1980s, the pendants were manufactured of 10 karat gold while the suspension bar and links were made of 0.900 fine "coining" gold.³⁴ The only way to tell the gold content was the small stamping on the back of the pendant at the point on the bottom which indicated 18, 14, or 10 karats³⁵ When the supply of these gold badges ran out they were replaced with a badge of the same familiar and handsome design, but made of red brass or gilding metal with a gold plated finish.

The intrinsic value of the gold Badges is such that the Code of Federal Regulations states that winners of Distinguished designation badges may not part with them without authority of the Secretary of the Army and have to hold them subject to inspection at any time, a restriction not applied to any other award-even the Medal of Honor.³⁶

³³ Department of the Army, www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/badges/DistinguishedPistolShotRiflemanBadges.htm

³⁴ Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards, MIL-DTL-3628/36E, *Badge, Qualification, Distinguished Pistol Shot, Marine Corps*, 2001.

³⁵ Culver, Dick, *In Distinguished Company*.

³⁶ Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Chapter 5, Part 578, Section 62, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2002, pages 432-435.

Gold badges are easily identified by the large safety type pin affixed to the back for attaching it to the clothing while the newer plated badges have clutch fasteners. As mentioned above, real gold badges also carry the small stamping to indicate the quality of the gold. Small hat pins of a design identical to the pendant are available for display on hats, to be used as a lapel pin, or a tie tack.

The larger rifle badge is senior to the pistol badge and worn to the far left, from the viewer's prospective, of the left hand uniform pocket flap. If a United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge (USDISB) has been awarded it takes the senior position with rifle and pistol following. Many military Distinguished shooters do not wear the regular silver small arms qualification badges, feeling, perhaps rightly so, that the gold acorn shaped badge says all that need be said about its wearer's skill with small arms.

When, in 1962, the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP), the predecessor of today's Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), proposed new measures directed at regaining America's lost international marksmanship prestige they created the United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge (USISB). The goal was to stimulate United States shooters not only to "participate in international shooting" at home, but to strive to win medals in international championships abroad. Accordingly, the Board approved a medal design and criterion for awarding the Badge.

The United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge consists of a gold top bar, 1.8 inches long, inscribed with the words, "United States." A shield of stars and stripes flanked by oak leaves is superimposed on the top bar. The pendant is a gold circle 1.5 inches in diameter, with a relief of the Western Hemisphere in the center. Laurel leaves inscribed with the words "Distinguished International Shooter" surround the globe.

Gary Anderson, the reigning Olympic and World Champion in 300 meter rifle shooting at the time of the USISB's inception, received the first USISB, badge serial number one, from President John F. Kennedy at the White House. Each badge carries a serial number that reflects when the award was issued, not when it was won, as the NBPRP authorized a retroactive award to any U. S. shooter who had won medaled in team or individual medal in Olympic, World Championship or Pan American Games competitions prior to 1962.

Fifty-five years before the International Badge was created the Paine brothers, John and Sumner, were the first to meet the requirements when they medaled at the first of the modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1898. John won a gold medal with the military rifle while Sumner took gold in the any revolver match and silver in the military revolver event. Catherine P. 'Kay' Woodring, wife of three time United States National Smallbore Prone champion Bill Woodring, and an excellent shooter in her own right, became the first woman to earn the USDISB by virtue of her medal winning performance in the prone rifle events at the 1937 World Championships in Helsinki. A young Marine corporal by the name of Calvin Lloyd went Distinguished with the rifle in 1911, earned the International

Badge in 1912, and legged out with the pistol in 1921 becoming the first person to become triple Distinguished

When the CMP came into being as a federally-chartered corporation authorized to promote “practice and safety in the use of firearms” through the conduct of matches and competitions and “the award to competitors of trophies, prizes, badges and other insignia.” it also assumed the responsibility of administering the service rifle, service pistol, and International Distinguished Badge programs. International Badge regulations were then modified by the CMP to establish a point system similar to the service arms requirements. Shooters are now required to earn 30 points in major international competitions to receive the USDISB. Prior to that one had to medal, or place in the top 20% in the Olympics, as an individual or on a team in a world class event to receive the Badge. (See Appendix B)

In the 125 years since Sergeant Cyrus Clark and his 14 comrades set the standard for excellence in marksmanship more than 7,000 rifle and 5,000 pistol have followed in their path. This clearly shows that while the value of gold content of the Distinguished Badge may have decreased over the years the true worth of the award has only increased.

Glossary

Bronzing Out

This term describes the almost unheard of feat of earning all 30 points for Distinguished at the National Matches, while never being in the top 50% of the top 10%, thereby never earning a required Hard Leg. This unusual manner is open to civilians only because all civilian legs at the National Matches are worth ten points. It is so called because the color of the pendent on the rifle Daniel Boone or pistol Custer Medal, emblematic of being in the top 10% at the National Matches, is bronze to indicate the lower 50% of shooters above cut off. Those of higher merit display a silver or gold pendent. It is not known if anyone has ever gone out under these conditions.

Bull's-Eye Competition

Marksmanship competition conducted using a traditional round target with concentric scoring rings as opposed to combat competition, which uses a silhouette target.

Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety (CPRPFS).

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) promotes firearm safety training and rifle practice for all qualified U.S. citizens with special emphasis on youth. The CMP operates through a network of affiliated shooting clubs and associations that covers every state in the U.S. The clubs and associations offer firearms safety training and marksmanship courses as well as the opportunity for continued practice and competition. The U.S. Congress created the CMP. The original purpose was to provide civilians an opportunity to learn and practice marksmanship skills so they would be skilled marksmen if later called on to serve the U.S. military. Over the years the emphasis of the program shifted to focus on youth development through marksmanship. From 1916 until 1996 the U.S. Army administered the CMP. In 1996 Congress created the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety (CPRPFS) to take over administration and promotion of the CMP.

Combat Competition

Marksmanship competition conducted using a human silhouette target with internal scoring rings as opposed to bull's eye competition which uses a traditional round target with concentric scoring rings. Some services use this format for EIC matches. However, points earned in combat EIC matches are not transferable, for Distinguished purposes, if the shooter leaves the service and continues the quest as a civilian.

Cut Off

The cut off score is the lowest score in an EIC match that earns points.

Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM)

An individual appointed by the Board of Directors, CPRPFS who is responsible for the daily operations of the CPRPFS and the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The same title was used by the executive in charge of The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice.

Distinguished Designation

Award of the Distinguished Pistol Shot, Distinguished Marksman/Rifleman Badge, or the United States International Distinguished Shooter Badge. The first two awards are presented to individuals who have earned 30 credit points while firing a service rifle or a service pistol in Excellence in Competition matches. The United States International Distinguished Shooter Badge is awarded to individuals who have earned 30 credit points in world class international competition in the various rifle, pistol, and moving target disciplines.

Distinguished Competitor

Competitors in an EIC match who have earned the Distinguished designation. The entry and score posted by such a competitor does not count in the total needed to determine the number of legs awarded or the cut off score for the match. Distinguished competitors are most often found shooting in the NTI because it is the National Individual Service Rifle or Pistol Championship and various military EIC matches because it is usually part of the aggregate.

Double Distinguished

The term used to describe the rare Distinguished shooter who has earned two of the three Distinguished badges.

Excellence in Competition (EIC) Badge

When non-Distinguished shooters earn their first Leg points they are presented with a bronze badge. When the shooter accumulates 20 points a silver badge is issued. The award is more informally known as a leg medal.

Excellence in Competition (EIC) Match

An EIC match is one in which a competitor may earn credit toward the Distinguished Designation. It is also often referred to as a Leg match.

First Leather

The tongue in cheek term used to indicate the shooter whose score places just below cut off in an EIC match

First Wood

See First Leather

Going Out/Went Out

A term that describes earning the last EIC points needed to be designated Distinguished, also known as "Legging Out".

Handloads

The expression used to describe cartridges that are manufactured on non industrial equipment in small lots specifically to improve accuracy. To make such ammunition is called hand loading, reloading, or, more colloquially, "rolling your own"- a reference to making a cigarette out of "the makings" rather than purchasing commercial, or "tailor made", smokes.

Hard Leg

An eight or ten point leg, at least one of which is a requirement toward earning the 30 points needed for Distinguished designation with the service rifle and pistol.

Leg

A term derived from the stand or legs upon which a trophy cup is placed or perhaps the three legs of a milking stool. In order to take permanent possession of certain trophies in the past, the trophy had to be won three times and the winner took possession of one leg of the stand with each victory until three had been collected. Previous regulations required that Army competitors win Excellence in Competition Badges in specific matches, coined Leg matches, prior to being awarded a Distinguished Designation Badge. The present system is based on a credit point system. Total credit points earned in any one match constitute a leg.

Leg Day

That day in the National Match, major military match, regional, or state championship schedule when the EIC, or Leg Match, is fired.

Leg Day Crazyies

The sometimes bizarre and unusual things a normally rational and skilled rifle shooter will do to drop enough points to insure that EIC points are not earned on Leg Day. Such incidents include, but are not limited to, failing to put on elevation, scoping the wrong target, cross firing an entire string, reporting to the wrong firing point, losing or forgetting to sign the score card, bringing the wrong rifle, and a host of other disasters not yet even imagined that are waiting in the wings to occur. Rare is the shooter who has avoided this malady.

Leg Match

See Excellence in Competition Match.

Leg Medal

See Excellence in Competition Badge

Leg Monkey

The pistol equivalent of the rifle shooter's Leg Day Crazyies i.e. "The Leg Monkey was on my back and he pushed my arm so I cross fired."

Legging Out/Legged Out

See Going Out

Match Ammunition

See National Match Ammunition

Match Grade

A service rifle or pistol, or its commercial equivalent, that conforms to external dimension specifications but features modified sights and has internal modifications to improve functioning and accuracy such as a special match barrel, fitted parts, and/or synthetic bedding material.

Move Back/Moving Back

The term describes the act of rifle shooters moving from one yard line to another, 200 to 300 and 300 to 600, in the course of shooting the NMC. Shooters move in rifle competition because there is, usually, only one target butt or pit. Pistol shooters usually do not move back because they have two sets of target frames, one at 25 yards and the other at 50 yards.

Military EIC Matches

EIC matches which are conducted by the various uniformed services under their specific rules and regulations. Civilians are restricted to entering one of these per year and only as range capacity dictates.

National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice

The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP) is the predecessor organization to the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety from 1916 until 1993. Created by section 113 of the national Defense Act of 1916 it was charged, through the Secretary of the Army, with providing military type individual small arms training to able bodied civilians.

National Matches

The National Trophy Matches were established by an act of Congress in 1903 and are conducted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. They include the National Trophy Matches, the Small Arms Firing Schools, the CMP Games, The NRA National Rifle and Pistol Matches, and ceremonies. The National Trophy Matches are The President's Pistol Match (P-100), The National Trophy Individual Pistol Match (NTI), The National Trophy Pistol Team Match (NTT), The President's Rifle Match (P-100), The National Trophy Individual Rifle Match (NTI), The National Trophy Rifle Team Match (NTT), and The National Trophy Infantry Team Match (NTIT). They are conducted in conjunction with the NRA and the uniformed services annually, during July and August at Camp Perry, Ohio. The CMP provides logistics and facilities support, the NRA provides the personnel to run the match, the Ohio National Guard provides the facilities and the other uniformed services and their reserve components support schools, clinics, personnel, equipment and supplies.

National Match Ammunition

Until about mid 1993 competitors in EIC Matches were required to use ammunition issued on the line. This special ammunition was manufactured at selected government ammunition plants and capable of a high degree of accuracy for use at the National Matches and other authorized competitions and activities. It carried a unique head stamp-NM or MATCH, the plant's initials, and year of manufacture. It is prized by reloaders because the primers were not staked, allowing the brass to be reloaded easier, and the brass is of unusually high quality and consistency. Frankford Arsenal (FA) and Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LC) were the primary sources of this ammunition. For many years the testing results were published in *The American Rifleman Magazine* and competitors eagerly awaited the report. Also known as Match Ammo.

National Match Course (NMC) of Fire

The standard course of fire shot in the National Trophy Individual and Team Matches.

The pistol NMC is a 30 shot match, ten shots slow fire in ten minutes, ten shots timed fire in two five shot strings of 20 seconds each and ten shots rapid fire in two five shot strings of ten seconds each all at 50 yards. Sighting shots are not allowed.

The rifle NMC requires 50 record shots, ten of which are fired slow fire standing in ten minutes at 200 yards, ten shots rapid fire sitting from standing in 60 seconds at 200 yards, ten shots rapid fire prone from standing in 70 seconds at 300 yards, and 20 shots slow fire prone in 20 minutes at 600 yards. In rifle rapid fire, a reload is required and sighting shots are not allowed.

National Rifle Association

The National Rifle Association was founded in 1871 by a group of New York National Guardsmen who were concerned about the poor state of military marksmanship training and its effect upon national defense. It has evolved into a national organization that promotes firearms safety, education, law enforcement training, and legislative activities to protect rights guaranteed to citizens under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

National Trophies

A collection of donated trophies consisting of valuable works of art, of an interesting and historical nature, awarded to individuals and teams who win one of the National Matches.

Non-Distinguished competitor

An individual who has not earned 30 credit points for the firearm being used in an Excellence in Competition match or a world class international event is a non-Distinguished competitor.

Rack Grade

An as issued service rifle or pistol that is not modified in any way.

State, Regional, and Special EIC matches

EIC matches approved by the Board of Directors, CPRPFS, and conducted in conjunction with civilian-sponsored Regional or State championships are other approved EIC matches. They are open to civilians who may enter as many as three in a year. Military shooters may participate as service regulations allow.

Service Pistol

The service pistols are the U.S Pistol, caliber .45 M1911 or M1911A1 and the U.S. Pistol, 9mm, M9 or a commercial pistol of the same type and caliber. Some internal modifications may be performed on these firearms to improve accuracy.

Service Rifle

The service rifles are U.S. Rifle, caliber .30 M1; U.S. Rifle caliber 7.62mm, M14; and U.S. Rifle, caliber 5.56mm, M16 as issued by the U.S. Armed Forces or a commercial rifle of the same type and caliber. Some internal modifications may be performed on these firearms to improve accuracy.

Triple Distinguished

The term used to describe the very rare Distinguished shooter who has earned all three of the Distinguished badges.

Appendix A

Table 3-1 ³⁷ Participation eligibility for Excellence in Competition Leg matches								
Competitive event of which Leg match is a part	ARMY	USAR ARNG	USN USNR	USMC USMCR	USAF USAR ANG	SVC Academy ROTC Cadets	USCG	CIV
U.S. Army install/div USAR (RSC and GOCOM) and NG state championship	(1,3)	(1,3)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(1,8)	(2)	(2)
Major command/continental U.S. Army championships	(3)	(3)	(4,5)	(2)	(5,6)	(7,8)	(3,5,9)	(3)
U.S. Army small arms championships	(3,16)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2,6)	(3)	(2)	(2)
Armed forces (interservice) Championships	(3,5)	(3, 5)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(2)
Approved EIC matches (NRA regional and state championships)	(9,5)	(9,5)	(10,16)	(15,16)	(9,16)	(7,10,11)	(9,16)	(12)
Major Command championships of other Services	(9)	(9)	(4,5,13,16)	(2,16)	(9,16)	(7)	(13,16)	(13)
National Trophy Matches	(3)	(3)	(3,16)	(3,16)	(3,16)	(3)	(3,16)	(3)
NG championships (Wilson, NG Region and CNGB)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(2)

¹Limited to Army, USAR, ARNG, ANG, USMA, and Army ROTC personnel who have not earned a Bronze Excellence in Competition Badge.

²Entry not authorized.

³One per calendar year.

⁴USN instruction to be furnished.

⁵Entry authorized only when circumstances preclude participation in parent service major command championship or equivalent. In addition, entry by Army personnel is authorized only after completion date of the substituted service match.

⁶ANG participation authorized.

⁷Parent service restriction applies.

⁸USMA and Army ROTC cadets only as range capacity permits.

⁹Entry limited to two approved EIC matches or two major command championships of other Service per calendar year (see note 5 above). Personnel of all components of the Army can earn a maximum of 20 credit points in approved EIC matches. USAF personnel require written authority of HQ USAF. US Coast Guard personnel require written authority from commanding officer. Entry authorized for ARMY, USAR, ARNG only when circumstances prevent participation in the following events: MACON Championships, Continental U.S. Army Championships, U.S. Army Small Arms Championships, Armed Forces (interservice) Championships (see note 5 above).

¹⁰USN personnel may compete in not more than one approved EIC rifle and/or pistol match in NRA Regional Championship per calendar year if 20 or more credit points have not been earned in either NRE regional or other service command championship.

¹¹ROTC cadets compete in the civilian category.

¹²Two matches per calendar year unless there has been no participation MACOM competitions. If there has been no participation in MACOM competitions then three matches are authorized.

¹³Entry limited to one service sponsored major command championship per year.

¹⁴Participation in the annual Winston P. Wilson, NG Region, and CNGB Championships will be allowed for rifle and pistol matches only up to range capacity.

¹⁵Personel of the USMC and USMCR are authorized to participate in another Leg matches that are fired in Regional and State Championships only until they accumulated 10 points from such matches. After accumulating 10 points, they are no longer authorized to compete in such matches. Marines may compete in not more than four Leg matches per year, all of which may be approved EIC Leg matches.

¹⁶Personnel from other Services should refer top their internal regulations for determining participation eligibility.

³⁷ Department of the Army, Army Regulation 350-66 *Army Wide Small-Arms Competitive Marksmanship*, Washington, DC, 2003, page 4.

Appendix B

Championship	1 st Place Individual	2 nd Place Individual	3 rd Place Individual	4 th -8 th Place Individual	1 st Place Team	2 nd Place Team	3 rd Place Team
Olympic Games	30	30	30	20	0	0	0
World Championship	30	30	30	15	20	15	10
World Clay Target Champ	30	20	20	10	15	10	5
World Cups	20	10	10	0			
Pan American Games	20	10	5	0	10	5	5
Championship of the Americas	20	10	5	0	10	5	5
World Junior Championships	10	5	5	0	5	5	5
Americas Junior Championships	5	5	5	0	5	0	0

³⁸ CMP Competition Rules 10th Edition, page 44.

Appendix C

Distinguished General and Flag Officers

General of the Armies John J. Pershing, USA	Distinguished Marksman
General* Thomas Holcomb, USMC	Distinguished Marksman
General Lyman Lemnitzer, USA	Distinguished Marksman
General David M. Shoup, USMC^	Distinguished Pistol Shot
General* Merrill B. Twining, USMC	Distinguished Pistol Shot
MG Roderick Random Allen, USA	Distinguished Marksman
MG John K. Boles, Junior, USA	Distinguished Marksman
MG Beaumont Buck, USA	Distinguished Marksman
MG Hugh J. Casey, USA	Distinguished Marksman & Distinguished Pistol Shot
MG Merritt Edson, USMC^	Distinguished Marksman
MG Paul Newgarden, USA	Distinguished Pistol Shot
MG William Sutton, USA	Distinguished Marksman
MG Ralph S. Keyser, USMC	Distinguished Marksman
VADM Willis Augustus Lee, Junior, USN	International Distinguished
MG Joseph O. Mauborgne, USA	Distinguished Marksman
MG James F. Phillips, USMC	Distinguished Marksman
MG William H. Rupertus, USMC	Distinguished Marksman
MG Holger Nelson Toftoy, USA	Distinguished Pistol Shot
MG William Whaling, USMC	Distinguished Marksman & Distinguished Pistol Shot
BG Claudius Easley, USA	Distinguished Marksman
BG* Jay Paul Hopkins, USA	Distinguished Pistol Shot
BG Lewis Cheatham Hudson, USMCR	Distinguished Marksman
BG Sidney Hinds, Senior, USA	Distinguished Marksman, Distinguished Pistol Shot, & International Distinguished
BG* Walter S. McIlhenny, USMCR	Distinguished Marksman
RADM Morton C. Mumma, Junior, USN	Distinguished Marksman
BG George A. Rehm, USA	Distinguished Marksman, Distinguished Pistol Shot & International Distinguished
BG William A. Stiles, USMC	Distinguished Marksman

The men all had distinguished military careers: Pershing, Holcomb, Lemnitzer, and Shoup all lead their services. Casey was MacArthur's chief engineer, Lee commanded the Pacific battleship force, Mauborgne was Army Chief of Signals, and Edson and Rupertus lead divisions in combat.

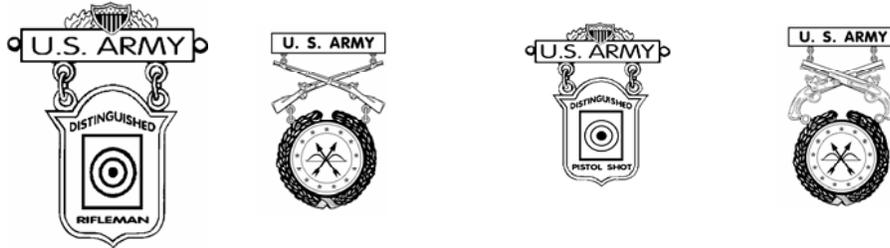
*indicates that the officer was promoted to the rank indicated, on the retired list, by virtue of federal statute that allowed for one increase in rank upon retirement for officers cited for gallantry. They are informally referred to as "Tombstone" promotions and carry no retirement benefits other than the title.

^indicates that the officer has been awarded the Medal of Honor

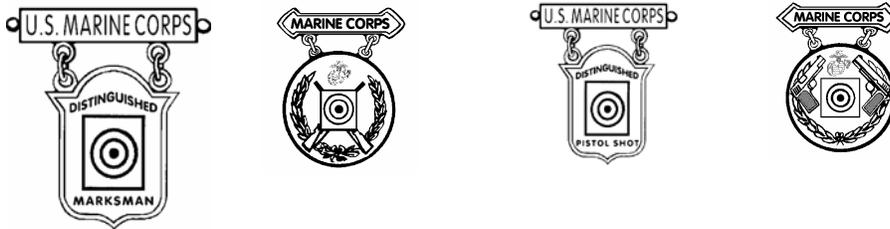
Distinguished and Excellence-in-Competition Badges



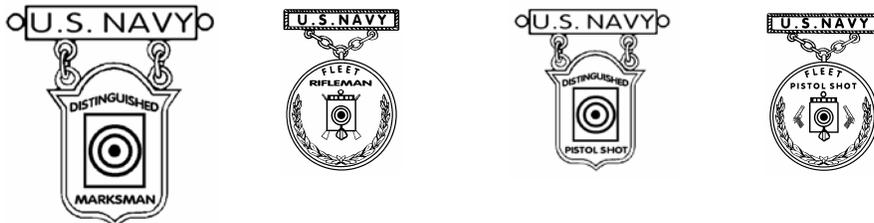
United States International Distinguished Shooter Badge



United States Army



United States Marine Corps



United States Navy



Civilian Awards



United States Coast Guard



United States Air Force

Appendix E

National Trophy Individual Match Awards



Daniel Boone Trophy Medal



General Custer Trophy Medal

These awards are presented to those who place in the top 10% of the entries in the National Trophy Individual Match. The Boone Trophy is awarded for rifle and the Custer Trophy for pistol. The color of the medal's pendant indicates a gold, silver, or bronze place. A medal is issued to all who place in the top 10% regardless of Distinguished status.

Regional Excellence In Competition Medal



The Regional Excellence In Completion Medal is awarded to the top three places in a regional EIC match, regardless of the shooters Distinguished status. Thee pendant's color, gold, silver, or bronze indicates the order of finish.

Appendix F

Distinguished Shooter Distribution by Affiliation

as of
May 1, 2006

Affiliation	Rifle	Pistol	International	Double	Triple
Civilian	1748	1367	254	134	0
US Army¹	3220	1689	203	499	16
----- <i>Army National Guard</i>	607	475	18	101	1
----- <i>Active Army</i>	2254	971	149	362	12
----- <i>Army Reserve</i>	359	243	36	36	3
US Marine Corps²	1380	844	31	398	10
US Navy²	298	291	14	111	3
US Coast Guard²	79	69	0	20	0
US Air Force²	311	368	40	29	2
Totals	7036	4208	542	1191	31

¹=total includes all Army listings, which are broken down by component

²=total includes all reserve components, reserve component breakdown not available.

Note: The accuracy of these figures is dependent upon the nature of the data bases from which they are drawn. There is an inherent inaccuracy in the original lists which are created by, among other things:

1. Simple clerical and typographic errors
2. Shooters using different forms of their names i.e. John Jones when shooting rifle vice Jack Jones when shooting pistol on entry cards
3. Shooters changing affiliation from service to civilian, civilian to service, or even services.
4. Names which are not gender specific i.e. Leslie, Shannon, Kay and etc.
5. Missing records

Given the possibility of error, nothing is 100% correct, extrapolation from the smaller files leads to the belief that these numbers are 95% accurate for Rifle, Pistol, and Double Distinguished and 99.9% accurate for the International and Triple Distinguished awards.

Appendix G

A Roster Of Triple Distinguished Shooters

SHOOTER	AFFILIATION	RIFLE	PISTOL	INTERNATIONAL
Calvin Lloyd	USMC	1911	1912	1921
Morris Fisher	USMC	1916	1923	1920
Sidney Hinds, Senior	USA	1923	1922	1924
George A. Rehm	USA	1923	1922	1924
Henry M. Bailey	USMC	1929	1921	1924
Emmet O. Swanson	USAR	1940	1931	1930
Walter Walsh	USMC	1935	1935	1952
T.R. Mitchell	USMC	1938	1939	1954
William A. Blankenship, Junior	USA	1954	1955	1962
William W. McMillian	USMC	1954	1950	1962
James Carter	USA/USAR	1960	1962	1959
William Mellon	USAF	1960	1956	1963
Frederick P. Dean	USA	1961	1962	1966
Barbara J. Hile	USA	1964	1971	1970
Herbert B. DeLong III	USN	1970	1964	1971
Hezekiah L. Clark, Junior	USA	1970	1967	1971
Arnold Vitarbo	USMC/USAF	1972	1961	1967
Witherell, Joseph J	USN	1970	1963	1975
Darius Young	CIVILIAN	1964	1964	1977
Rhody Nornburg	USAF	1977	1967	1967
David I Boyd II	USMC	1970	1978	1963
Webster Wright Junior	USN	1964	1982	1977
Mark J. Willis	USMC	1982	1981	1974
Bruce Meredith	USA/USAR	1965	1983	1967
James Hill	USMC	1956	1986	1962
Kenneth Buster	ARNG	1988	1970	1977
Steve Goff	USA/ARNG	1983	1992	1990
Randy Stewart	USA	1980	1993	1981
Artie Osborne	USMC	1983	1993	1985
Mel Makin	USAR	1996	1974	1975
Carl Guenther	USA/CIV	1964	1997	1975
Lance Dement	USA	1991	1995	1997
Michael E. Johnston	ARNG/CIV	1989	2001	1994
Rhonda Barush Bright	USA/USAR	1996	2006	1997

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