

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit  
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## USAMU Soldier wins Army Small Arms Championship

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**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – A Soldier of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit triumphed over 123 competitors to take the overall prize in the All-Army Small Arms Championship March 20.

Spc. Sean P. Watson, a USAMU Service Pistol Team member, won the U.S. Army Small Arms Overall Individual Championship, which was an aggregate of the U.S. Army Service Rifle Individual Championship and the U.S. Army Service Pistol Individual Championship. Spc. Craig S. Nelson, a USAMU gunsmith, took second place and Sgt. Robert S. Park II, a USAMU service pistol shooter, came in third.

Staff Sgt. John M. Buol was the winner in the Novice Division, followed by Staff Sgt. Russell V. Gerhardt in second place; both Soldiers are Reservists in the Small Arms Readiness Group. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin W. Bittenbender of the Pennsylvania National Guard took third place.

The Army Service Rifle Championship was an aggregate of four matches that were fired March 14 to 17 – the Secretary of the Army Rifle Match, Chief of Staff of the Army Rifle Match, Commanding General U.S. Infantry Trophy Match and the All-Army Excellence in Competition Rifle Match. The Army Service Pistol Championship was an aggregate of three matches that were fired March 18 and 19 – the Secretary of the Army Pistol Match, Chief of Staff of the Army Pistol Match and the All-Army Excellence in Competition Pistol Match.

The Secretary of the Army Match was an aggregate of the Secretary of the Army Rifle Match and the Secretary of the Army Pistol Match. The winners were Watson, Park and Nelson in first through third. Buol won the

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Novice Division; in second place was Sgt. Christopher D. McGuire of the Wyoming National Guard and in third was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jason E. Keohler of Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Chief of Staff of the Army Match was an aggregate of the Chief of Staff of the Army Rifle Match and the Chief of Staff of the Army Pistol Match. The winner was Nelson, followed by Park then Watson. Buol took the Novice Division, with Gerhardt in second place and Sgt. Richard F. Hartley of the Army Reserve 321<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion in third.

Watson won the Army Service Pistol Championship, followed by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Joel P. Kaczorowski of Fort Bragg in second place, Park in third place and Nelson in fourth. The Novice Division winner was Capt. James R. Barrows of Fort Sill, Okla.; Buol took second place and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andrew C. Fegley of the New York National Guard finished third.

Watson also won the Excellence in Competition Pistol Match, followed by Kaczorowski in second place and Nelson in third. Master Sgt. Roger A. Thompson of Fort Lewis, Wash., was the Novice Division winner, with Fegley in second place and Barrows in third.

A Sniper Platoon Soldier of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, blew away the competition to take the U.S. Army Service Rifle Individual Championship. Staff Sgt. Jared N. van Aalst beat 147 Soldiers to win the Service Rifle Championship by 28 points more than the second place finisher. Army National Guardsman 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rodney W. Richmond, the assistant state marksmanship coordinator for the New York National Guard, took second place and Maj. Rhonda L. Bright of the Army Reserve Small Arms Readiness Group finished third. Sgt. Joel S. Micholick of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, was the winner in the Novice Category followed by Hartley and Spc. Henry L. Gray of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

Kaczorowski was the winner in the Secretary of the Army Pistol Match, in which Watson was second and Park was third. Fegley took the Novice Division with Barrows in second place and Buol in third.

Army Reservist Staff Sgt. Keith N. Sanderson of the Small Arms Readiness Group won the Chief of Staff of the Army Pistol Match; Park was second and Nelson was third. Buol was the Novice Division winner; Lt. Col.

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Edward J. Stawowczyk of TSM-Close Combat Missile System took second place and Barrows was third.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffrey D. Stehling of the Texas National Guard won the Infantry Trophy Rifle Match, Maj. Ross N. Finley of the Nebraska National Guard was second and van Aalst was third. In the Novice Category, Gerhardt was the winner, Sgt. Morgan E. Jenkins of the Wyoming National Guard took second place and Thompson finished third.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mark A. Benson of the Pennsylvania National Guard won the Excellence in Competition Rifle Match, followed by van Aalst in second place and Sgt. Thomas J. Scott of the New York National Guard in third.

The Small Arms Readiness Group Army Reserve Team of Buol, Gerhardt, Staff Sgt. Leslie D. Lewis and Sgt. John F. Arcularius Jr. won the Army Rifle Team Championship, which was an aggregate of the Infantry Trophy Team and the Sergeant Major of the Army Team matches. The team from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, of van Aalst, Micholick, Staff Sgt. Robby D. Johnson and Spc. Michael G. Kase took second place. The New York National Guard Team of Scott, Richmond, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Randy Knowlton and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Evans finished third.

The New York National Guard Team won the Commanding General Infantry Trophy Rifle Team Match; team members were Scott, Richmond, Knowlton and Evans. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Greg S. Coker, Staff Sgt. Lowell B. Bindschatel, Sgt. David M. Tatone and Sgt. Eric D. Radford from Fort Campbell, Ky., took second place; the Small Arms Readiness Group Army Reserve Team finished third.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Team won the Sergeant Major of the Army Rifle Team Match; van Aalst also had the highest individual score in the match of 231 points out of a possible 250 out of the 120 competitors. In second place was the Small Arms Readiness Group Army Reservists Team. The Pennsylvania National Guard Team took third place; team members were Maj. Michael J. Levitsky, Capt. John A. Younger, Bittenbender and Benson.

Richmond, who won day one of the All-Army Small Arms Championship, also took the championship on day two. Richmond beat 147 other Soldiers to win the Chief of Staff of the Army Rifle Match; he also won the

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Secretary of the Army Rifle Match. In the Chief of Staff of the Army Rifle Match, Lewis took second place and van Aalst came in third; in the Novice Category, the winner was by Micholick, followed in second place by Hartley and Bittenbender in third.

Van Aalst also took second place, only one point behind Richmond, in Secretary of the Army Rifle Match, in which Bright finished third in the Open Category and was the highest female finisher. The Novice winner was Pfc. Lee L. Vampola of Company B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. Micholick took second place and Sgt. Christopher D. McGuire of the Wyoming National Guard came in third.

The USAMU Team of Watson, Nelson, Park and Cpl. Walter E. Craig Jr. won the General Patton Pistol Match, which included a timed two-mile run. The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Team took second place and the Army Reserve Team finished third.

The USAMU Team won the Sergeant Major of the Army Pistol Team Match; the Army Reserve Team finished second and the Pennsylvania National Guard team took third. The USAMU Team also won the Combat Assault Pistol Match, in which the New York National Guard took second place and the Fort Campbell Team finished third.

- The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is hosting the All-Army Small Arms Championships in conjunction with the U.S. Army Infantry Center through March 23.

For more information on the All-Army Small Arms Championships contact Michael J. Behnke, USAMU chief of competitions, at (706) 545-7841 or [michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil](mailto:michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil). A copy of the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship program/schedule is available on the USAMU website at [www.usamu.com](http://www.usamu.com).

*(Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of Fort Knox, Ky. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, [paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil](mailto:paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil) or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>.)*

