

# USAMU Soldier, West Point cadet make Olympic Team

*By Mary Beth Vorwerk  
USA Shooting*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - The five-person 2008 U.S. Olympic Airgun Team was chosen March 3 at the Olympic Training Center and a West Point cadet and Fort Benning, Ga., Soldier made the cut.

U.S. Military Academy Cadet Stephen Scherer of Billerica, Mass., and Sgt. 1st Class Jason A. Parker of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning qualified for the 2008 Olympic Team in Men's Air Rifle. This will be Parker's third Olympics.

2004 Olympian Emily Caruso of Fairfield, Conn., qualified for the team in Women's Air Rifle. Three-time Olympian Rebecca "Beki" Snyder of Grand Junction, Colo., and 2004 Olympian Jason Turner of Rochester, N.Y., both qualified in Air Pistol.

There are five slots on the U.S. Olympic Airgun Team - two slots for Men's Air Rifle and one slot each for Women's Air Rifle, Men's Air Pistol and Women's Air Pistol.

Scherer, 19, earned an Olympic berth in Men's Air Rifle by finishing the competition with a total score of 1994.1 points. Parker, a 2000 and 2004 Olympian from Omaha, Neb., earned a spot on his third Olympic team by taking second place with a final score of 1,990.8.

Matthew Rawlings of Wharton, Texas, finished in third place with 1,989.8. 2004 Olympic Gold Medalist Matthew Emmons of Browns Mills, N.J., was fourth with 1,986.1. Emmons has already secured two spots on the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team in Men's Prone Rifle and Men's Three Position Rifle.



Sgt. 1st Class Jason A. Parker of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning qualified for the 2008 Olympic Team in Men's Air Rifle. This will be Parker's third Olympics.

In Women's Air Rifle, Caruso qualified for her second Olympic team taking the top spot with a total score of 1,397.6 points.

"I am very excited and happy that all my hard work and training has paid off," said Caruso. "This competition was difficult with so many girls shooting such high scores, but I stayed focused and accomplished my goal."

Scherer's younger sister Sarah Scherer finished in second place in Women's Air Rifle with a total score of 1,393.3, while Jamie Beyerle of Lebanon, Pa., was third with 1391.7.

Snyder earned a berth to her fourth consecutive Olympic team by finishing the competition in first place in Women's Air Pistol with a total score of 1,332.9. Brenda Shinn of Riverside, Calif., took second place with 1,316.1 and 2000 Olympian Christina Cassidy of Colorado Springs finished in third with 1,314.1.

In Men's Air Pistol, Turner qualified for the U.S. Olympic team after finishing with a total score of 1,935.4. Brian Beaman of Selby, S.D., took second with 1930.4 and two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski of the Army Marksmanship Unit finished right behind Beaman in third place with a score of 1,930.1.

The U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Shooting is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Shooting and was conducted at the Olympic Training Center March 1 to 3. Airgun athletes were selected to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team on the final day of competition by a combination of the match scores from all three days of competition, plus each athlete's top two finals scores. The USOC has final approval of all U.S. Olympic Team members.

Complete 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Shooting (Airgun) results can be found by visiting [www.usashooting.org](http://www.usashooting.org).

*(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 the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, [Paula.Randall@usaac.army.mil](mailto:Paula.Randall@usaac.army.mil) or [www.USAMU.com](http://www.USAMU.com). USA Shooting is recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Shooting Sport Federation as the national governing body for the Olympic and international shooting sports in the United States. For more information on USA Shooting, contact Public Relations Manager Mary Beth Vorwerk at (719) 866-4896, [MaryBeth.Vorwerk@USAShooting.org](mailto:MaryBeth.Vorwerk@USAShooting.org) or <http://www.USAShooting.com>.)*