



Photos by Brenda Donnell

Sgt. Walter Craig, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit service rifle instructor, assists Pvt. Michael Ramirez, a Soldier with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 54th Infantry Regiment, as he fires at Easley Range March 27. Soldiers and their drill sergeants are participating in a test that is combining Asymmetrical Warfare Group combat marksmanship and U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit traditional marksmanship.

OSUT Soldiers participate in marksmanship test

THE BAYONET
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The 198th Infantry Brigade is partnering with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit in a test designed to give Soldiers a better marksmanship program.

“In their second day of marksmanship training, they are hitting the target with more accuracy than usual,” said Capt. Jeff Marshburn, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 54th Infantry Regiment commander about his one station unit training Soldiers, who were firing from 300 meters at Easley Range Thursday.

The Soldiers and their drill sergeants, in week four of 14, are participating in a test that is combining combat marksmanship and traditional, known-distance marksmanship, said Lt. Col. Christopher S. Forbes.

Drill sergeants learned a different approach to teaching marksmanship from September to December from Asymmetrical Warfare Group instructors.

Now, they are combining that with instruction from four USAMU marksmanship instructors who are being assisted by six Civilian Marksmanship Program instructors. CMP is government-chartered and focuses on youth development through marksmanship.

“What we’re doing now is taking the best of AWG



Steve Satern, Civilian Marksmanship Program instructor, talks to a Soldier Thursday about his shooting technique.

and the best of USAMU and coming up with a combined program that teaches Soldiers not only what’s the best way to apply marksmanship fundamentals, but also how to handle weapons and apply it to a combat environment,” Forbes said.

Sgt. Walter Craig, USAMU service rifle instructor, said there were several advantages of the test training, such as a smaller number of students per instructor and a greater number of rounds going downrange.

The most important advantage for the Soldiers was the immediate feedback about light, temperature and wind — the real world environment, he said.

“I was able to show a student how the impacts were changing on the target as the wind shifted. As we watch them shoot, we are identifying problems before bad habits form,” he said. “When they graduate, this group will have the best 300-meter group in

the Army, which are distances Soldiers are encountering in (combat zones).”

Forbes said there are multiple layers of the test. Not only are they testing a new marksmanship program for relevance in a combat environment, they hope the Soldiers will learn more quickly. The cadre is also learning better teaching and training techniques.

The new system incorporates firing from behind barriers and from different combat positions and multiple exposures, he said.

Some targets must be hit multiple times just as some enemy combatants may not fall because they have been shot, he said.

“This is very realistic,” Forbes said. “There are ample stories from Iraq and Afghanistan, where the round will pass right through the enemy, and he’ll continue to fight until you hit a vital organ and kill him.”