



# **A Short History Of The National Trophy Team Rifle Match**

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## Forward

As was written in the forward the *A Short History of the Distinguished Program*, 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, casting a cloud of doubt on the ‘facts’ at hand.

Because match conditions sometimes change between the printings of a program and the actual firing of the match, and those changes are made official by Match Director’s bulletins there are some holes in the historical documents and records that tell the story of the National Trophy Team Match.

In light of the nature of an imperfect record the reader must be aware that “facts’ in this work are used with this *caveat* and, as such, are subject to change should more documented information become available.

The following document is an attempt to bring the many aspects of the National Trophy Team Match into a short historical synopsis. There are gaps in the documentation of the National Trophy Team Match. 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 mystery in historical events to make them more interesting and enhance their legends and traditions.

I owe debts of gratitude to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, the National Rifle Association, Dick Culver, Robert Barde, William Emerson, Karen Davey, Charlie Adams, Shawn Carpenter, and Steve Rocketto. To these people go all of the credit, but none of the blame, for this work.

This history is part of an ongoing series focusing on the six National Trophy Matches; The National Trophy Rifle Team Match, The National Infantry Trophy Rifle Team Match, The National Trophy Individual Rifle Match, The National Trophy Pistol Team Match, The National Trophy Pistol Individual Match, and the Presidents Hundred as well as the Distinguished Program. To date only The National Trophy Team Pistol Match and the National Trophy Individual Rifle and Pistol Matches have not been covered.

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

A Short History of The National Trophy Rifle Team Match  
By  
Hap Rocketto

A few column inches on page eight of the August 13, 1903 edition of the Washington Times reported that, "Two weeks from today the members of the Brigade Rifle Team of the District militia will have their first practice...on the rifle range at Sea Girt, N.J."<sup>1</sup> While it is unremarkable that a newspaper of that era and place might comment on an upcoming rifle match what is remarkable, in the present era of snail paced governmental action, is that the legislation that created the match in question had been passed on March 2, 1903, a mere 5 ½ months earlier.

President Theodore Roosevelt was, in his own words, a "respectable shot."<sup>2</sup> He knew good marksmanship when he saw it and having seen precious little of it displayed by American forces during the Spanish-American War he moved Congress to do something about the sorry state of preparedness. "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904" was incorporated into the 1904 Army Appropriations Act (32 Stat. 941), of March 2, 1903 which authorized the creation of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice(NBPRP).

Secretary of War Elihu Root, himself a strong advocate of civilian marksmanship training, wasted no time and by April 27, 1903, War Department General Order 61 had been written. This document laid down the framework of the new body's structure, 21 members of which eight would represent the National Rifle Association, nine members selected at large, and five remaining from the War Department, The US Army, the US Navy, and The US Marine Corps.<sup>3</sup>

The Board got right down to business to establish conditions for National Trophy competition, the importance of the National Trophy Team Match (NTT) course of fire cannot be overstated for it is the fountainhead from which springs the course of fire for the National Trophy Individual Match and from there all Excellence In Competition Matches.

They also considered trophies and awards, other annual marksmanship awards, and the promotion of civilian marksmanship. Congress appropriated \$2,500 for the National Trophy, quite a sum in a nation where the median family income was \$703, as well as medals and \$500 dollars for the winning team.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Washington Times*, Washington DC, August 13, 1902, page 8.

<sup>2</sup> Roosevelt, Theodore, *Theodore Roosevelt, an Autobiography*, Da Capo Press, Cambridge, MA 1985, page 19.

<sup>3</sup> National Rifle Association, *The National Matches: 1903-2003 The First 100 Years*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 2010, page 17.

<sup>4</sup> Barde, Robert E., *The History of Marine Corps Marksmanship*, USMC, Washington, DC, 1961, page 14.

The National Trophy was, and is, an imposing bronze bas-relief plaque about 4 feet by two feet. In the upper right hand corner is raised upper case letters proclaiming, "National Trophy Presented by the Congress of the United States for Excellence in Team Marksmanship." Along the left hand side is the Great Seal of the United States with four bars suspended below carrying the words, "Army", "Navy," "Marine Corps", and "National Guard." The center is filled with the image of an ancient warrior, naked save for his helmet. In his hands he clutches the leashes of four dogs. The presence of the dogs; perhaps reinforced by Marcus Antonius words in Act 3, Scene 1, of Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, "Cry 'Havoc!', and let slip the dogs of war," gives the National Trophy its sobriquet.

The bronze medals presented to members of the winning team and the top 15% of teams were a duplicate of the shield suspended from a metal bar, and later a red white, and blue ribbon, with "The National Trophy Match Team" in raised uppercase letters.<sup>5</sup>

In order to increase the prestige of the newly established NTT the NRA donated a pair of its most prestigious trophies for award. The Hilton Trophy was presented to the NRA by the Honorable Henry Hilton of New York in 1878. The silver-plated bronze plaque depicts an Indian buffalo hunt. The plaque is further decorated with figures of eagles, oak boughs, and war trophies. It was presented to the second place team.<sup>6</sup>

The Soldier of Marathon Trophy had been in shooting competitions since 1875 when the NRA presented it. This, the oldest of the NBPRP trophies, is a bronze figure of the runner, *Pheidippides*, who though exhausted and fallen to a reclining position, still holds high the torch he is carrying to announce the Greek victory at Marathon. It was awarded to the third place team.<sup>7</sup>

As a result of this whirlwind of activity just six months and six days after the enabling legislation had been set in place the first rounds were being chambered in US M1898 Krag-Jørgensen rifles for the first NTT at Sea Girt. Major James F. Guilfoyle,<sup>8</sup> a cavalryman and member of the NBPRP, was appointed to be the executive officer and he worked closely with the NRA to insure the inaugural event would be a success.

The first NTT began under a cloud, literally, not figuratively, as "The first day's contest began at 9:30AM, September 8, under very unfavorable conditions, very cloudy with a slight drizzle of rain."<sup>9</sup> Fifteen teams, of 12 men each, lined up in front of fifteen targets to shoot ten shots standing, and the ten shot strings prone at 500, 600, 800, 900, and 1,000 yards. Even without a lunch break, the poor weather and paucity of targets conspired to make it a long first day with firing completed at 6:15PM. It eventually took three days to complete the entire match.

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<sup>5</sup> Emerson, William, K., *Marksmanship in the U.S. Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training*, University of Oklahoma Press, 2004, page 205-208.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.odcmp.com/NM/Trophies/RT\\_Hilton.htm](http://www.odcmp.com/NM/Trophies/RT_Hilton.htm)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.odcmp.com/NM/Trophies/RT\\_Soldier\\_of\\_Marathon.htm](http://www.odcmp.com/NM/Trophies/RT_Soldier_of_Marathon.htm)

<sup>8</sup> National Matches, page 18.

<sup>9</sup> State of Connecticut, Adjutant General's Report: National Rifle Match at Sea Girt, N.J. September 8-9, 1903.

When the scores had been tallied the first five places were taken by National Guard teams, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, The District of Columbia, and Ohio, a rather embarrassing situation for the regulars. The Marines finished sixth, the regulars' best finish. The Infantry was seventh followed by the Connecticut Guard, the Cavalry and the National Guard teams from Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Georgia. Unlucky 13 was the Navy with Vermont and Michigan National Guards closing out the field.

The Army hosted the 1904 National Trophy Matches without the concurrent NRA matches at Fort Riley, Kansas in the third week of August. It was hoped that a geographically central location and a more plentiful number of firing points would attract more teams. Unfortunately that advantage was offset by the otherwise poor range facilities-the 1,000 yard firing line, for example, was atop a 30 foot high mound,<sup>10</sup> as well as high winds and horrifying mirage.

The National Matches were just two years old and there were already major changes. The National Individual Rifle and the National Individual Pistol Matches were introduced and the winner of the President's Match, which had been fired since 1884, would now receive a personal note from the President of the United States.

To honor the NBPRP's mission of marksmanship training it was decided that seven of the 12 shooters on a team must be replaced each year. The "new shooter" rule insures a flow of fresh shooters, keeps team officials always searching for new talent, and prevents teams from becoming "Old Boy" clubs. The rule has continued in effect, with some modifications, to this day.

Most importantly was the introduction of a new course of fire for the team match: ten shot strings slow fire at 200, 600, 800, and 1,000 with additional rapid fire strings at 200 and 500 yards. The Skirmish Run, a precursor to the National Trophy Infantry Team Match, was also added. The changes didn't seem to bother the New York Guard who held on to the title and the Dogs of War Trophy that they had won the previous year. The Navy made a great improvement, jumping from 13<sup>th</sup> to possession of the Hilton Trophy, symbolic of second place.

The National Matches returned to an expanded range facility at Sea Girt in 1905. By using the National Individual Matches as a warm up it was hoped to save time by eliminating the practice session. However, the growing popularity of the National Matches, which now saw over 600 individuals and 37 teams in attendance, negated the expansion while poor weather contributed delays that caused the matches to run over. The less than ideal conditions, however, did not keep the New York Guard from winning its third consecutive Dogs of War Trophy.

Sea Girt would again host the National Matches in 1906, but it would be the last time. The fabled shooting grounds proved to be too small for the rapidly increasing National Match attendance. The Infantry Team broke the three year strangle hold that the New

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<sup>10</sup> Barde, page 19.

York National Guard held on the Dogs of War Trophy when it became the first active duty organization to win. The Infantry win also marked the beginning of what would become a 71 year NTT drought for the National Guard.

When the riflemen of the United States arrived at the new Ohio National Guard range, located just to the west of Port Clinton, Ohio, to contest the 1907 National Matches on August 19, 1907 they moved onto a facility that was little more than a swamp just three short months earlier. Where once there were no roads, cattails, briars, and brush there were now 160 target frames out to 1,000 yards, a modern clubhouse, and a sprawling electric light lit tent city to greet the competitors. Yes, there were still rutted roads, some remaining swamp areas, and a general unfinished look to the fully operational range complex but all recognized that it was a work in progress with great promise, even to the casual eye.

Named in honor of the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, United States Navy, the 400 acre facility would become, for all intents and purposes, the permanent home of the National Matches.

As if to mark the historic nature of the opening of the ranges an epic achievement, still unmatched, was accomplished by Naval Academy Midshipman Willis Augustus Lee, Jr. The 19 year old won, on the same day, both the National Individual Rifle and Pistol matches. Lee would go on to win five gold medals and two other lesser ones at the 1920 Olympics, the most anyone had ever received in a single games to that date. Dealing with bigger guns in 1942 Lee, now an admiral flying his flag on *USS Washington*, was aboard as the *Washington* destroyed the IJN *Kirishima*, becoming the only United States battleship to sink an enemy battleship in a single ship one-on-one gun duel during World War II. It is, most certainly, the last time the world would witness such a battle of leviathans.<sup>11</sup>

The theme of naval victories by the shores of Lake Erie, started by Perry in 1813, was continued in 1907 by Lee's outstanding performance, followed by Midshipman Harold Travis Smith's winning of the President's Match, and the Navy Rifle Team's victory in the National Trophy Team Match.

The 1908 National Matches marked a watershed as the Krag was replaced by the "US Magazine Rifle, Caliber .30, Model of 1903" as the mandatory rifle for National Match competition. A shortage of '03s would give the Krag a short respite; but only for civilian and National Guard competitors. The regular service teams were amply supplied with the new rifle.

A controversial change in eligibility rules raised the hackles of the teams when officers, above company grade level, were barred from competing.

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<sup>11</sup> Rocketto, Hap, *Vice Admiral Willis Augustus Lee, Junior, USN: The 'Gun Club's' Big Gun*, *Precision Shooting magazine*, Manchester, CT

The reign of the state teams was over: the top four teams in the 1908 NTT field of 50 were from the regular services. The infantry regained its lost title by defeating the Navy, which claimed the Hilton Trophy, while the Soldier of Marathon was awarded to the Cavalry. The Marines were fourth.

To increase interest in the NTT the teams competing in 1909 were placed in three classes, A, B, and C, based upon their 1908 finish. Class A and B would each contain 15 teams with the balance assigned to Class C. The new team classification system also realigned the trophies. The National Trophy could be won by any team, only teams in Classes B and C were eligible for the Hilton Trophy, and the Soldier of Marathon Trophy was only available for Class C teams. The new classification system was accompanied by the much welcomed order rescinding the previous year's eligibility dictum which reopened the 1909 match to all officers.<sup>12</sup>

The combination of a new rifle and increasing marksmanship skill levels resulted in Ordnance Sergeant William D. F. Leushner, of the New York National Guard, shooting the first perfect score at 1,000 yards in the NTT. It may not have been that big a surprise as Leushner had won a gold medal as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team the previous summer when he posted the highest individual score in the military rifle team competition. Earlier that week he won the NRA Members Trophy for the third time, being the first to win it when it was introduced in 1901. Leushner would go onto compete in two more Olympics.

In their continuing see-saw battle with the Infantry for the NTT the Navy reclaimed the trophy. Leushner's efforts helped the New York Guard capture the Hilton Trophy, leaving the Hilton to the Texas Guard.

The NTT course of fire was altered in 1910 in an effort to save some time during the three week long National Match schedule. Even though the number of targets at camp Perry had been increased to 210, it was decided to eliminate the 800 yard stage. The Infantry snatched back the Dogs of War from the Navy, again. The Navy was not left out in the cold as the Naval Academy Team won the Hilton Trophy. The Kansas Guard took possession of the Soldier of Marathon Trophy.<sup>13</sup>

Over a three day period, which started on the first day with a drizzle and included a rain delay that suspended shooting for a few hours, the teams battled back and forth for the Dogs of War in 1911. The Infantry led through the first day and held on to it for one more day. On the third day the weather cleared and all that was left for the 42 teams was the skirmish run. A sterling performance gave the Marines their first NTT win.<sup>14</sup> The Marines would hold onto the trophy for two years, not because of their shooting prowess-which had become considerable, but because Army maneuvers and problems along the Mexican border strained the War Department's to the point that the 1912 matches were cancelled.

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<sup>12</sup> National Matches 1903-2003

<sup>13</sup> *ibid*

<sup>14</sup> Barde 46-48



Over the next few years the National Matches would continue sporadically so the NTT was an on-again off-again contest. Camp Perry was the venue in 1913 where “surprise fire,” shooting at a target that was exposed for only three seconds at a time from any position, replaced the 200 yard standing and rapid fire stages.

Divisional Matches were held in 1914 and Jacksonville hosted the 1915 and 1916 matches. Pancho Villa had been harassing US citizens on both sides of the Rio Grande for some time, culminating in a raid on Columbus, New Mexico on March 9, 1916. The Army and Navy were dispatched to the border and surrounding waters to protect United States interests and were unable to support teams. This left the National Matches and the NTT to the Marines and, for the first time, civilians. In a close run race the Marines won on the strength of their short range performance.<sup>15</sup>

Involvement in World War I cancelled the 1917 event. When the matches returned to Camp Perry in 1918, the 1,000 yard stage was temporarily dropped from the course of fire.

The Navy hosted the 1919 National Matches at its Caldwell, NJ range complex. The course of fire was again adjusted. This time it was to be three ten shot strings of rapid fire. Two would be fired kneeling, from standing followed by ten shots in kneeling, sitting, or squatting from standing at 200 yards with 60 seconds allowed for each string. The squatting position, advanced by the Navy, was both unusual and controversial; it would only appear again in 1921.<sup>16</sup> Twenty shots would be fired slow fire at 500 yards, ten shots prone and five each in the kneeling and sitting positions. The final stage would be 20 shots at 1,000 yards slow fire. The Marines retained the title they won in 1918.

Lieutenant Colonel Morton C. Mumma wrote in the 1921 National Match program that,

The conditions for the National Team match, the greatest and most important of the matches, have undergone radical change. The number of shooters has been decreased a point which will be of decided help to the great majority of teams. The course has been extended, a rapid fire stage at 300 yards being added and the old 200 yard off-hand position again introduced.... The extension of the National Team match to five stages calls for more thorough and diversified training and will result not only in more interesting competition, but also in a better criterion for the more intelligent comparison of practical skill.<sup>17</sup>

From 1919 through 1921 teams representing the Philippine Scouts competed in the NTT, finishing as high as fifth. The Scouts were native Filipinos assigned to the United

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<sup>15</sup> Barde, page 71

<sup>16</sup> National Match Program 1921

<sup>17</sup> Ibid page 10

States Army Philippine Department and were a regular element of the US Army. This is the only occurrence of a team wholly of foreign nationals from outside of the Continental United States competing in the NTT.<sup>18</sup>

The Dogs of War Trophy was modified in 1920 with the addition of a fifth bar under the Great Seal which bore the word "Civilians" in recognition of their participation.<sup>19</sup>

Competitors must have been pleasantly surprised to read paragraph ten of "The Rules and Regulations for the National Matches, 1922" which read, "The Ordnance Department is authorized to select star-gauged and targeted rifles of as high grade as can be produced for the use of teams and individuals participating in the matches for issue or sale on the grounds by the ordnance officer of the matches."<sup>20</sup>

The 1923 program makes the first mention of the requirement that the "gun sling" be attached to the rifle and adjusted to the parade position. It was also required that the front hand be at, or forward of 1903's rear sight. The shooter did, however, have the option of using either the battle or leaf sight.<sup>21</sup>

Seemingly unable to stop meddling with the NTT course of fire the NBPRP added a 400 yard rapid fire string to the 1924 match. The admonishment about the placement of the forward hand in standing in the 1923 program was further expanded to state that, "The foreward (sic) hand shall be extended to that the arm will be entirely free from touching or resting on the body."<sup>22</sup>

There is a rare Perry veteran who has not been subjected to cessation of fire because of boats in the impact area or eagles down range but, perhaps, the most unusual cessation might have been caused by an Army pilot who elected to do touch and go landings at Camp Perry in the late summer of 1924. That, in itself, was no problem as Camp Perry was listed as an auxiliary airfield on the air navigation charts of the day. The real problem was that he elected to do it right in the middle of the 1000 yard stage of the NTT.

The line was filled by teams of pair firing competitors shooting for the premier service rifle team trophy. A large gallery had crowded in behind the firing line and was treated to more than they expected; an unscheduled air show. The gusty six o'clock wind was not much of an impediment to the rifleman but it meant that the aviator had to crab into the wind as he made his final approach and then straighten out just as he touched down to avoid ground looping. As a matter of fact a little cross wind practice on a large forgiving sod field might have been just what he was after.

The riflemen were methodically shooting as he touched down on one end of the line,

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<sup>18</sup> National Match Program 1923

<sup>19</sup> Emerson page 206

<sup>20</sup> National match program 1922, page 20.

<sup>21</sup> ibid

<sup>22</sup> National Match Program 1924

and the cry of "Cease Fire!" quickly burst from sundry lips. The plane rolled out, took off and made two more touch and goes, causing a long break in the firing, much to the disgust of the shooters. This was in the days before aircraft radios so there was no way to contact the endangered pilot. Reports in the *American Rifleman* stated that this was the fifth consecutive year that the match was delayed by the Air Service's close attention to the navigational chart and lack of respect for .30-06 rifle fire. Ignorance certainly was bliss.<sup>23</sup>

For some time the match program had announced the award of the top three trophies, the Dogs of War, Hilton, and Soldier of Marathon, with a trophy to be awarded, "to the fourth highest team."<sup>24</sup> The War Department at long last introduced a named trophy to fill that void in 1925. A bronze statuette of Daniel French Chester's famous Minuteman Statue, located by the North Bridge, in Concord, Massachusetts was selected for the purpose.<sup>25</sup> Over the years the conditions for this trophy have changed but in 1925 it was won by the fourth place 8<sup>th</sup> Corps Area Citizens' Military Training Camp.

After Congress declined to fund the 1926 National Matches the NRA sponsored regional events but was unable to conduct the NTT. The National Matches resumed in 1927 at Camp Perry and the NTT was fired under the 1925 conditions.

General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force of World War I, himself a Distinguished Marksman, earning it as a Second Lieutenant in 1891, provided a trophy for team competition at the Inter-Allied Games in Paris in 1919. It was eventually placed in the custody of NBPRP with General Pershing's concurrence. What has become known as the Pershing Trophy is awarded to the highest scoring rifleman in the NTT. Paradoxically the trophy is a bronze figure of a World War I soldier firing the service pistol.<sup>26</sup> While mention of it first occurs in the 1929 National Match program<sup>27</sup> records indicate that Sergeant William E. Bissenden, of the 8th Infantry, who joined General Pershing in the ranks of Distinguished Marksman in 1927, was the first to be awarded the trophy in the same year that he became Distinguished.

Reserve component teams had been an important part of the National Matches. To recognize that fact, the NBPRP purchased a medium size replica of noted western artist Frederic Remington's bronze "Rattlesnake" for award to the reserve team in the NTT. The Marine Reserves won it in the inaugural year of 1938 and ran its streak to eight consecutive wins before US Army Reserve took control for the next 13 matches<sup>28</sup>. There is no telling just how far they might have gone but in 1972 the trophy was reassigned to be awarded to the highest scoring individual Army competitor, active duty, reserve or National Guard.

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<sup>23</sup> American Rifleman

<sup>24</sup> National match programs

<sup>25</sup> Emerson 215

<sup>26</sup> CMP website

<sup>27</sup> National Match Program 1929

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The NTT match conditions would remain constant from 1927 through 1940, ten shots slow fire standing at 200 yards followed by ten shots rapid fire sitting, 300 yards rapid fire prone, ten shots slow fire at 600 yards, followed by 20 shots slow fire at 1,000 yards. Competition would remain intense, particularly between the Infantry and the Marines. In the 12 matches over the same course of fire, 1925 through 1940-there were no matches in 1926 and 1932 to 1934, the Marines won eight times holding the Dogs of War from 1930 until 1938.<sup>29</sup>

At the close of the 1940 National Matches there was much speculation among the participants as when they would be returning to Perry. Europe had been ablaze since the National Matches of 1939 when the Germans invaded Poland a week before the NTT. The Japanese had been savaging China for even longer. For most riflemen it seemed just a matter of time before the United States would be drawn into conflict in Europe or Asia.

Ellis Lenz, writing of that of that twilight period, opined that:

The National Matches of 1940 have marked the fall of the curtain of an era that may be properly recognized as The Day of the Springfield. That era has spanned a generation of American life. The coming generation of rifleman will also know and use the Springfield but the period will be an afterglow of its day.<sup>30</sup>

The curtain had, as Lenz correctly stated, not only dropped on the era of the Springfield but as well as on this act of the National Matches. No one knew when the curtain would rise again but all hoped that that day would not being too far off.

Two wars after the 1940 National Matches riflemen gathered at Fort Benning, Georgia, late in September of 1952, to pick up where they had left off 12 years earlier. The world had changed profoundly since 1940 and there would be changes in the NTT. Gone were many of the servicemen who had filled team rosters, gone was the comely, time tested and much beloved '03, and gone was the 1,000 yard stage of the NTT. In their place were a new generation of riflemen, the boxy semiautomatic M-1 rifle, and a new 50 shot National Match Course.

The team size was reduced to seven; captain, coach, four firing member, and an alternate and all competitors were required to be US citizens. The new shooter rule was still in place but recognized the smaller team size, requiring only one person on the team to have never have fired the NTT.

Interestingly enough, an age limit was put in place for civilian teams, no shooter might be younger than 16 or older than 45. At first glance this might seem odd but when viewed in the context of the Militia Act of 1903 it made some sense. The Act defined the

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<sup>29</sup> National Match Program 1940, page 41.

<sup>30</sup> Lenz page 499-500

Unorganized Militia as every able-bodied man eligible for conscription, at least 17 and no more than 45 years of age, who was not a member of the National Guard or Naval Militia and that was precisely the group that the NBPRP was constituted to train.

Using issue M-1s, with a trigger pull of no less than 4 ½ pounds, and service ball ammunition the Army, on its home turf, won the first post War NTT with the Hawaii National Guard taking the Hilton Trophy. Army Captain Murvale Belson shot a 243X250 to win the Pershing Trophy.

The 1953 National Matches marked the golden anniversary of the NTT and the return to Camp Perry of the National Matches. In the previous half century the NTT had been contested 31 times. In that span the Marines amassed 15 wins, the Army 11-nine for the Infantry and one each for the Engineers and Cavalry. The New York National Guard won the first three and the Navy posted two wins. The closest a civilian team ever got to the top were fourth place finishes by Massachusetts in 1920 and California in 1938<sup>31</sup>.

It was then no surprise that the second half of a century of NTT competition started with a service team winning, this time a Marine team representing Camp Pendleton. What was odd about it was the Marine Team finished second by five points. The match program had extended the types of teams that could be entered, to include "One team from each installation or base...", and four Marine Team shooters elected to represent their home port.

National Match rules were in a constant state of flux as the NBPRP went about conducting the National Matches: trying to keep things fair; include as many teams as possible; and further its goal of improving civilian marksmanship. Team size was adjusted to six firing members, two alternates, and a captain and coach. The new shooter rule required that 50% of military teams must be new members each year while civilian were require to have two new members. Furthermore, no firing member, or alternate, may have been a member of a medal winning team or a team that placed in the top 15% in two of the last three immediately preceding matches As always the Executive Officer reserved the right to eliminate teams of the lowest standing after the first stage of the match, something that was rarely, if ever, done.<sup>32</sup>

The age limit for riflemen, 17 to 45, on civilian teams appears to have been dropped in 1954, but a minimum age limit of 16 was put in place and US citizenship was required of all participants. All team officials were required to be at least 21 years of age.<sup>33</sup>

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1952 to 1956, presented the General Shepherd Trophy to the NBPRP in 1956. The trophy is a bronze replica of the Marine Corps War Memorial depicting the flag raising on Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima World War II. It is Awarded to the Marine competitor, Active or Reserve, with the highest aggregate score in the National Trophy Individual

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<sup>31</sup> American Rifleman November 1938 page 16 and 48.

<sup>32</sup> National Match Program, 1954 page 90-91.

<sup>33</sup> ibid

Rifle Match and the National Trophy Rifle Team Match. Its first recipient was Corporal Billy H. Willard.<sup>34</sup>

In 1960 the United States Air Force chose to honor its retiring Chief of Staff, General Thomas D. White, by endowing a large silver bowl flanked by eagles with spread wings. The General Thomas D. White Trophy was designated to be awarded to the highest scoring Air Force competitor, active duty, reserve or Air National Guard, in the NTT.

It is the shooters' inclination to fiddle with their equipment to get the best performance and this habit was recognized in the 1961 program. The description of the rifle allowed the "U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1 as issued by the Army Ordnance Corps having no less than a 4 ½ pound trigger pull, with standard type stock and standard type leather or web sling" was further expanded to allow for improved bedding by non metallic coatings, allowing a change in the dimension, but not the design, of the rear sight aperture and front sight, and approving specially fitted internal parts as long as they do not interfere with proper safety functions. The National Match M-1 was on its way.<sup>35</sup>

The National Civilian Rifle Team was introduced in 1962. The six high scoring civilians in the NTT and the captain and coach of the winning team were presented with gold medals named in honor of Elihu Root, who was instrumental in establishing the National Matches and the National Trophy.

The M14 was authorized for civilian use in 1964, giving them the choice of service rifle, but not the choice of how to load the 20 round box magazine. While the M1 was required to be loaded by practicality two and eight, the M14 was loaded five and five during the early days of its use. In time the "two and eight" loading required by the M1 was also required of the M14. Service team shooters were mandated to use the authorized rifle of their service, be it the M1 or M14. The M-14 was made available to teams and individuals by the NBPRP.

Throughout the 1960s conditions remained constant for the NTT. The records for all National Trophy Rifle Matches except for the National Trophy Infantry Team match were retired at the end of 1966 as the venerable "A" and "B" 5V target was replaced by a new decimal target, with a 10-X ring in the center and scoring rings spreading out to a five ring at its outermost edge.

Dark clouds are no stranger to Camp Perry but the ones that emanated from Washington during the 1967 National Matches sent a chill up the spine of all of the shooters present. Throughout that summer the funding for the 1968 matches was under constant threat. A combination of funding for the Viet Nam War and intense political pressure from anti-gun legislators came to a head in December when the Army announced it would not fund future National Matches. While the NRA successfully went at it alone military support and participation at Camp Perry was sparse. Somehow the NBPRP came up with some funds and the 1968 NTT was shot at Black Canyon Range,

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<sup>34</sup> CMP website

<sup>35</sup> National Match Program , 1961 pages 78-79

Phoenix, AZ in November. The Navy, which had not won an NTT since 1909, topped the field of 25 military and six civilian teams.

In following years the Secretary of the Army through the NBPRP authorized the NRA to conduct the National Individual and Team matches in rifle and pistol. In 1970, for the first time in the history of the matches an entry fee was charged, It was \$93.00, which covered awards, ammunition, housing, and meals to the competitors.<sup>36</sup>

A notation on page 61 of the 1973 NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program under the subheading of "Arms Allowed" gave a hint of the future with a note that stated, "The Service Rifle-NRA Rule 3.1 and 3.1.1 and AR16 Rifle Cal. .223" would be allowed. Unlike for the M1 and M14 no ammunition would be issued for the M16 nor would they be available for civilian use.<sup>37</sup> A year later the program informed those using the new rifle that, because ammunition could not be provided the entry fee, which had just been raised by three dollars, would be adjusted to compensate for costs incurred in providing their own ammunition.<sup>38</sup> *The NRA High Power Rules* added rule 3.1.2 in time for the 1975 matches and the M16 was now considered, officially, a service rifle.<sup>39</sup>

For reasons unknown, but welcome, the NTT entry fee, which had risen to a \$105.00 by 1975, dropped to \$42.00 in the Bicentennial year of 1976 and it still included room, board, and ammunition.<sup>40</sup> A year later, 5.56mm ammunition, to feed the increasing number of M16s, was provided while M1 rifles were again available for loan in 1978<sup>41 42</sup>

Officers and enlisted men of the US Navy and Naval Reserve, which had fielded some of the National Matches' great shooters, passed the hat in 1976 with the intent of purchasing a trophy for the National Matches. The funds collected purchased the Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Trophy which was placed into competition on 1977. The main part of the trophy is Admiral Burke's steel M1 helmet, held aloft by three dolphins, which he wore throughout his World War II service in the Pacific theater. While the helmet bears the four stars Burke eventually wore as Chief of Naval Operations he served the bulk of his tour in the Pacific as a captain. The Admiral Arleigh Burke Trophy is awarded to the Navy competitor, Active or Reserve, with highest aggregate score in the NTI and NTT and Lieutenant Norman R, Harris, a reservist, was its first winner.<sup>43</sup>

The U.S. Army Forces Command Rifle Trophy was presented to the NBPRP by the Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command for competition in 1978 and is awarded to the Active Army competitor with highest aggregate score in the NTI and NTT. The mounted rifles are circa 1900 Winchester low wall muskets, caliber .22 short, with consecutive serial numbers, the highest of which was the last musket chambered

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<sup>36</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1970, page 70.

<sup>37</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1973, page 65.

<sup>38</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1974, page 65.

<sup>39</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1975, page 68

<sup>40</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1976, page 76.

<sup>41</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1977, page 74

<sup>42</sup> NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program, 1978, page 76

<sup>43</sup> CMP website

for the .22 short cartridge. The trophy was designed and constructed by artisans of Rock Island Arsenal.<sup>44</sup> Master Sergeant Martin D. Edmonson was the first to win this trophy.

A small, but significant, change in the National Match program appeared in the Awards and Trophies section in 1984. For many years the opening paragraph read “Trophies awarded in the championships are the property of the ... National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice.”<sup>45</sup> The wording in 1985 stated something most National Match participants had known for generations; that the National Match trophies are “National Treasure of the United States Government.”<sup>46</sup> This act insures that the trophies will have a permanent home in the National Archives should the National matches end or the Civilian Marksmanship Program dissolve.<sup>47</sup>

Riflemen who elected to use the M16 found that, starting in 1983, the NBPRP discontinued issuing 5.56mm ammunition for the National Matches. Expended brass from issued ammunition had been the traditional reward for scavengers at the Nationals but that practice was halted in 1985. The Director of Civilian Marksmanship declared that brass would now be collected and redistributed on an equitable basis to DCM enrolled clubs and state associations at Camp Perry. Hand in hand with that went a limitation on the type of M16 allowed in National Match competition. Only the M16A1 was permitted, the M16A2, or its commercial equivalent, was prohibited. Both of these program changes only seemed to last one year.<sup>48</sup>

The eligibility qualifications had changed over the years of National Match entrants. Age and citizenship loomed large but they both were modified in 1985. The lower age limit of 16 could be waived if “sufficient written justification” could be supplied. This usually meant a letter to the DCM with proof that the youngster had achieved an NRA classification card of at least sharpshooter or proof of capability to handle the firearm in question. Citizenship was no longer required if the subject, male or female, was subject to induction into the United States Armed Forces.<sup>49</sup>

Issue ammunition would become a memory for most as the 1995 program declared that CMP ammunition may be purchased by competitors or they may furnish their own, except for juniors who would still receive a free allotment.<sup>50</sup> For juniors the free issue ammunition saw its end at the 2000 National Matches. Perhaps this was the real “Y2K Problem” that all had feared?

The Army winning its first NTT in eleven years was big news at the Board Matches in 1995. The bigger news was that they did it with the M16 rifle and established a new match record along the way. The reign of the thirty caliber wooden rifle which, in all of

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<sup>44</sup> CMP Website

<sup>45</sup> National Match Program 1984, page 26

<sup>46</sup> National Match Program 1985, page 29

<sup>47</sup> NRA, The National Matches, page 361

<sup>48</sup> National Match Program 1985, page 91

<sup>49</sup> National Match Program 1985, page 90

<sup>50</sup> National Match Program 1995, page 108



its iterations, Krag, '03, M1, and M14, had ruled the National Matches since 1903, was nearing its end. The "Brown Rifle" would, however, not go away quietly and the following year the Marines used it to beat back the Army and its "Black Gun," while upping the NTT record by two points. The 1997 matches would be the last year in which the Marines to use the M14.

Seismic changes occurred for the National Matches when Title XVI of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public Law 104-106) creating the *Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice & Firearms Safety* (CPRPFS) was enacted on February 10, 1996. This new entity assumed the administration and promotion of the Civilian Marksmanship Program, as a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation chartered by the U.S. Congress. It no longer was a part of the Department of the Army and no longer received federal funding. The CMP and the National matches, which had for so long been subject to the whims of Congress was now independent of the national political process. For many years, since 1969, the match program stated that, "The Secretary of the Army has again authorized the National Rifle Association to conduct the shooting events associated with the National Trophy Individual and Team Rifle Matches." By 1999 the program would simply state that the various matches that made up the National Matches were "Sponsored by CMP."<sup>51</sup>

In recognition of the increasing number of juniors participating in the National Matches, and the NTT in particular, the CMP established the National Trophy Junior Rifle Team Match which was introduced at the 2009 National Matches. The Match is also called the Freedom's Fire Trophy as it is a bronze statuette of a Bald Eagle emerging from the flames of a replica of the torch grasped in the upheld left hand of the Statue of Liberty. This two person team match has two divisions, high scoring junior team- representing a CMP affiliated club or state team meeting certain residency requirements and high scoring junior at-large team-representing a CMP affiliated club or state team in which the members do not meet the residency requirement. The first Freedom's Fire Trophy was won by the Raleigh, North Carolina based Junior Marksmanship Support Group Team while the at large award went to the Washington State Rifle and Pistol Association Bad Apples Witteman.

The changeover of the CMP from Department of the Army control to a public corporation did a great deal to stabilize the National Match program. There was some upheaval and uncertainty as the transition from Federal to civilian status moved CMP staff and records from Washington to a consolidated headquarters at Camp Perry, but it was largely unnoticed by the competitors. The National Matches, of which the National Trophy Team Match is the seminal event, had developed a rhythm of its own that allowed it to weather the transformation while preserving the traditions of service rifle competition that began over a century ago to "improve military marksmanship and national defense preparedness."

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<sup>51</sup> National Match Programs, 1998 and 1999 page 95 and 95.

## Appendix A-The National Trophy Team Match Trophies and Winners

The National Trophies are listed in order of their acceptance, The National Trophy, The Soldier of Marathon Trophy, The Hilton Trophy, The Minuteman Trophy, The Pershing Trophy, The Rattlesnake Trophy, The General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Trophy, The General Thomas D. White Trophy, The Admiral A. Arleigh Burke Trophy, and The Freedom's Fire Trophy

The award of Shepherd and Burke trophies require competing in the National Trophy Team Match, therefore, for the purpose of this monograph, they are considered to be a National Trophy Team Match Trophies.

A word on team names: each name reflects how the team was entered into the match. When organizations were allowed more than one entry it was traditional to delineate them by either number or color.

In the late 1970s it became fashionable to use the coach or captain's name instead of numbers or colors. In those cases the name is enclosed in quotation marks to avoid confusion.

Every attempt has been made to determine the actual name of any team which might be listed by initials.

Ranks and rates for service shooters reflect that service's official style.

Data and photographs for this section were obtained from the CMP website

## The National Trophy



The U.S. Congress provided for the National Trophy in 1903 in the legislation that established the National Matches. Commonly referred to as the "Dogs of War Trophy", Congress appropriated \$2,500 for the purchase. The National Trophy was, and is, an imposing bronze bas-relief plaque about 4 feet by two feet. In the upper right hand corner is raised upper case letters proclaiming, "National Trophy Presented by the Congress of the United States for Excellence in Team Marksmanship." Along the left hand side is the Great Seal of the United States with five bars suspended below carrying the words, "Army," "Navy," "Marine Corps", "National Guard, and "Civilian." The originally the plaque has only the top four bars, the fifth being added in 1920. The center is filled with the image of an ancient warrior, naked save for his helmet. In his hands he clutches the leashes of four dogs. It has only been awarded to the winner of the National Trophy Team Rifle Match

1903 New York National Guard	2988	1938 United States Infantry	2992
1904 New York National Guard	4822	1939 United States Infantry	2757
1905 New York National Guard	4528	1940 United States Marine Corps	2833
1906 United States Infantry	3251	1941-1951 No Competition	
1907 United States Navy	3421	1952 United States Army	941
1908 United States Infantry	3224	1953 USMC Camp Pendleton	930
1909 United States Navy	3201	1954 USMC Grey	1407
1910 United States Infantry	3186	1955 USMC Eastern Division	1388
1911 United States Marine Corps	3180	1956 United States Marine Corps Blue	1428
1912 No Competition		1957 United States Army Blue	1440
1913 United States Cavalry	2675	1958 United States Army Blue	1475-118V
1914 No Competition		1959 United States Army Gray	Unknown
1915 United States Infantry	Unknown	1960 United States Army Blue	1485-139V
1916 United States Marine Corps	3047	1961 United States Army Blue	1472-130V
1917 No Competition		1962 United States Army Eastern	1466-113V
1918 United States Marine Corps	3197	1963 United States Army Blue	1490-142V
1919 United States Marine Corps	3329	1964 United States Marine Corps	1486-143V
1920 United States Infantry	3321	1965 United States Air Force Blue	1455-102V
1921 United States Marine Corps	3219	1966 United States Army	1485-139V
1922 United States Marine Corps	2848	1967 United States Marine Corps	2875-64X
1923 United States Marine Corps	2936	1968 United States Navy	2877-65X
1924 United States Engineers	2782	1969 United States Army	2903-82X
1925 United States Marine Corps	2818	1970 United States Marine Corps	2885-55X
1926 No Competition		1971 United States Army	2891-81X
1927 United States Infantry	2838	1972 United States Army Blue	2900-65X
1928 United States Marine Corps	Unknown	1973 United States Army Blue	2824-60X
1929 United States Infantry	2775	1974 United States Army	2879-90X
1930 United States Marine Corps	2805	1975 United States Army Blue	2875-75X
1931 United States Marine Corps	2805	1976 United States Army	2870-79X
1932 No Competition		1977 US National Guard "Himes"	2803-39X
1933 No Competition		1978 US Army Reserve Gold	2908-90X
1934 No Competition		1979 US Marines "Riddle"	2884-76X
1935 United States Marine Corps	2816	1980 US Army Reserve Gold	2922-115X
1936 United States Marine Corps	2830	1981 US Army Reserve Blue	2898-77X
1937 United States Marine Corps	2788	1982 US Army Marksmanship Unit Gold	2925-105X

(The National Trophy-Continued)

1983 US Army Reserve Gold	2925-106X
1984 Gold	2941-124X
1985 US Marine Corps "Waugman"	2947-117X
1986 US National Guard "Spruill"	2940-105X
1987 US Marine Corps Silver	2905-99X
1988 US Marine Corps Gold	2891-90X
1989 US Marine Corps Gold	2911-87X
1990 US Army Reserve Gold	2948-105X
1991 US Marines Silver	2924-100X
1992 US Army Reserve "Atkins"	2859-73X
1993 US Marine Corps "Bowie"	2933-107X
1994 US Marine Corps "Morgan"	2772-56X
1995 USA Marksmanship Unit "Remily"	2951-133X
1996 US Marine Corps #1 "DeBerry"	2953-115X
1997 USA Marksmanship Unit "Remily"	2954-121X
1998 USA Marksmanship Unit "Bentson"	2934-99X

1999 USA Marksmanship Unit "Bentson"	2943-100X
2000 US Marine Corps Gold	2933-98X
2001 US Marine Corps Reserve	2924-90X
2002 USA Marksmanship Unit "Coffey"	2933-121X
2003 US Marine Corps "Wilson"	2920-103X
2004 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2889-92X
2005 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2931-105X
2006 US Marine Corps "Arrieta"	2958-113X
2007 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2937-114X
2008 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2948-116X
2009 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2944-115X
2010 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2920-100X
2011 USA Marksmanship Unit "Praslick"	2932-113X

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## The Soldier of Marathon Trophy



The Soldier of Marathon Trophy has been awarded shooting competitions since 1875. The NRA presented it to the United States Government for competitions in the National Trophy Rifle Team Match in 1903. This oldest of the NBPRP trophies is a bronze figure of the runner, Pheidippides, who though exhausted and fallen to a reclining position, still holds high the torch he is carrying to announce the Greek victory at Marathon.

1876 Connecticut	Unknown	1917 NO Competition	
1877 California	995	1918 S Carolina Mil Academy	2855
1878 New York	1950	1919 Washington State Guard	2827
1879 New York	1010	1920 Camp Kearny ROTC	3159
1880 New Jersey	959	1921 Pennsylvania Civilians	3065
1881 New York Guard	921	1922 Illinois Civilians	2762
1882 Pennsylvania	989	1923 California Civilians	2667
1883 Michigan	1031	1924 7 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area ROTC	2676
1884 Pennsylvania	1045	1925 California Civilians	2667
1885 Pennsylvania	1014	1926 No Competition	
1886 Massachusetts	1024	1927 7 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area ROTC	2735
1887 Massachusetts	1014	1928 California Civilians	2620
1888 Massachusetts	1047	1929 Washington Civilians	2659
1889 Massachusetts	1045	1930 4 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area ROTC	2692
1890 New York Guard	986	1931 Washington Civilians	2697
1891 New York Guard	1026	1932-1934 No Competition	
1892 Pennsylvania	1051	1935 Washington State Guard	2733
1893 District of Columbia	1027	1936 Massachusetts Guard	2737
1894 New Jersey	1044	1937 American Legion Gold	2717
1895 Georgia	1043	1938 California Civilians	889
1896 Georgia	1107	1939 Pennsylvania Civilians	Unknown
1897 District of Columbia	1005	1940-1953 No Competition	
1898 No Competition		1954 Santiago R&R Club	1367
1899 District of Columbia	1005	1955 California Civilians	1333
1900 District of Columbia	1049	1956 Santiago R&R Club	1369
1901 New Jersey	1074	1957 California Civilians	1365
1902 New Jersey	1082	1958 California Civilians	1413
1903 Massachusetts Guard	2888	1959 California Civilians	1428
1904 United States Infantry	4250	1960 California Civilians	1453
1905 Ohio National Guard	4431	1961 Connecticut Civilians	1436
1906 Massachusetts Guard	3176	1962 Missouri Civilians	1424
1907 Ohio National Guard	3368	1963 Ohio Civilians	1443
1908 United States Cavalry	3180	1964 Texas Civilians	1467
1909 Texas National Guard	3550	1965 Colorado Civilians	1423
1910 Kansas National Guard	2981	1966 California Civilians	1451
1911 Tennessee Guard	2851	1967 Virginia Civilians	2798
1912 No Competition		1968 Santiago R&R Club	2815
1913 Utah National Guard	2493	1969 Virginia Civilians	2829
1914 No Competition		1970 California Civilians	2822
1915 Kentucky Guard	3518	1971 Virginia Civilians	2839
1916 California Civilians	2964	1972 Ohio Civilians	2810

(Soldier of Marathon Trophy-continued)

1973 Virginia Civilians	2772
1974 Chabot "F" Troop	2795
1975 Virginia Civilians	2848
1976 Maryland/DC Civilians	2825
1977 Washington Civilian Gold	2757
1978 Virginia Civilians	2833
1979 Maryland Civilians	2805
1980 Virginia Civilians	2875
1981 Virginia Civilians	2855
1982 Springfield Armory	2859-76X
1983 Virginia Civilians Gold	2887-75X
1984 California Civilians	2900-89X
1985 Virginia Civilians	2881-83X
1986 Virginia Civilians	2900-83X
1987 Virginia Civilians	2858-65X
1988 Virginia Civilians Blue	2841-69X
1989 California Civilians	2855-71X
<b>1990 California Civilians</b>	<b>2915-93X</b>
1991 California Gold Senior	2871-69X
1992 California Civilians	2794-43X
1993 Ohio Civilians Gold	2872-64X

1994 Illinois Civilians Gold	2736-42X
1995 Chattahoochee Rifle Club	2855-71X
1996 New York Civilians	2884-73X
1997 Indiana Civilians	2890-58X
1998 Illinois Civilians	2870-74X
1999 Georgia Civilians	2867-72X
2000 Illinois Civilians Gold	2891-68X
2001 NY Civilian "Alfonzo"	2892-87X
2002 GA Sport Shooting	2893-89X
2003 Pennsylvania Civilians	2900-70X
2004 New York Civilians	2861-73X
2005 Pennsylvania Civilians	2887-70X
2006 Pennsylvania Civilians	2898-87X
2007 Pennsylvania Civilians	2908-81X
2008 NY Civilians "Simmons"	2901-84X
2009 Texas Civilians Gold	2895-79X
2010 CA Civilians "Coalinga"	2910-82X
2011 Illinois Civilians Gold	2895-85X

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## The Hilton Trophy



The Hilton Trophy was presented to the NRA by the Honorable Henry Hilton of New York in 1878, and the NRA presented the trophy to the NBPRP in 1903. The silver-plated bronze plaque depicts an Indian buffalo hunt. The plaque is further decorated with figures of eagles, oak boughs, and war trophies. Originally it was presented to the second place team in the NTT, starting in 1921 it went to the high state National Guard team, and, since 1972, the high scoring reserve component team of any service.

1903 New Jersey National Guard	2902	1941-1950 No Competition	
1904 United States Navy	4294	1951 No Competition	
1905 United States Infantry	4460	1952 Hawaii National Guard	Unknown
1906 United States Cavalry	3191	1953 Hawaii National Guard	Unknown
1907 Massachusetts National Guard	3418	1954 Oregon National Guard	Unknown
1908 United States Navy	3210	1955 Maryland National Guard	Unknown
1909 New York National Guard	3686	1956 Maryland National Guard	Unknown
1910 United States Naval Academy	3107	1957 Louisiana National Guard	Unknown
1911 Kansas National Guard	3050	1958 Hawaii National Guard	Unknown
1912 No Competition		1959 Hawaii National Guard	1438-91V
1913 Alabama National Guard	2547	1960 Pennsylvania National Guard	Unknown
1914 No Competition		1961 Oregon National Guard	Unknown
1915 Pennsylvania National Guard	Unknown	1962 Hawaii National Guard	Unknown
1916 New York National Guard	Unknown	1963 Maryland National Guard	Unknown
1917 No Competition		1964 Oregon National Guard	Unknown
1918 District of Columbia Guard	Unknown	1965 Oregon National Guard	Unknown
1919 Connecticut Civilians	Unknown	1966 Pennsylvania National Guard	Unknown
1920 Massachusetts Civilians	Unknown	1967 Pennsylvania National Guard	Unknown
1921 Massachusetts National Guard	Unknown	1968 Kansas National Guard	Unknown
1922 Massachusetts National Guard	Unknown	1969 No Competition	
1923 Oregon National Guard	Unknown	1970 North Carolina National Guard	Unknown
1924 Ohio National Guard	Unknown	1971 No Competition	
1925 Illinois National Guard	Unknown	1972 US Army Reserve Blue	Unknown
1926 No Competition		1973 US National Guard "Lloyd"	Unknown
1927 New York National Guard	Unknown	1974 United States Army Reserve	Unknown
1928 District of Columbia Guard	Unknown	1975 US Army Reserve "Blue"	Unknown
1929 Massachusetts National Guard	Unknown	1976 US Army Reserve Gold	Unknown
1930 Oregon National Guard	Unknown	1977 US National Guard "Himes"	Unknown
1931 District of Columbia Guard	Unknown	1978 US Army Reserve Gold	2908-90X
1932 No Competition		1979 US National Guard "Himes"	285974X
1933 No Competition		1980 US Army Reserve Gold	2922-115X
1934 No Competition		1981 US Army Reserve Blue	1898-77X
1935 California Civilians	Unknown	1982 US National Guard "Lloyd"	2900-88X
1936 California Civilians	Unknown	1983 US Army Reserve Gold	2925-106X
1937 US Marine Corps Reserve	Unknown	1984 US Army Reserve Gold	2909-99X
1938 Maryland National Guard	Unknown	1985 US National Guard "Spruill"	2937-108X
1939 Ohio National Guard	Unknown	1986 US National Guard "Spruill"	2940-105X
1940 Ohio National Guard	Unknown	1987 US Army Reserve Gold	2895-86X

(The Hilton Trophy continued)

1988 US National Guard "Spruill"	2886-86X
1989 US Army Reserve Blue	2905-81X
<b>1990 US Army Reserve Gold</b>	<b>2948-105X</b>
1991 US Army Reserve "Atkins"	2915-78X
1992 US Army Reserve "Atkins"	2859-73X
1993 US Army Reserve Blue	2916-83X
1994 US Army Reserve Gold	2770-44X
1995 US Army Reserve "Bach"	2909-81X
1996 US Marine Corps Reserve	2936-90X
1997 US Army Reserve "Kesler"	2942-104X
1998 US National Guard "Bowman"	2911-78X
1999 US National Guard "Hollon"	2888-86X
2000 US Army Reserve "Kesler"	2927-98X

2001 US Marine Corps Reserve	2924-90X
2002 US Army Reserve	2882-67X
2003 US National Guard "Morgan"	2911-92X
2004 US National Guard "Morgan"	2881-85X
2005 US National Guard "Chandler"	2892-74X
2006 US Army Reserve Gold	2935-90X
2007 US Army Reserve Gold	2924-92X
2008 US Army Reserve Gold	2926-93X
2009 US National Guard Gold	2935-99X
2010 US National Guard "Shoaf"	2902-93X
2011 US National Guard "Tanner"	2905-99X

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**



## The Minuteman Trophy



The Minuteman Trophy, placed in competition in 1925, is a bronze statuette of the "Minuteman of Concord". The original life-sized monument, created by noted sculpture Daniel Chester French, stands in Concord, Massachusetts "by the rude bridge that arched the flood." It was awarded to the high civilian team from 1925 through 1927 and the high reserve team in 1928. From 1929 until 1979 it was the prize for the high scoring Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Citizen's Military Training Camp (CMTC), or service academy team. Since 1983 the high scoring junior team has been the recipient.

1925 8 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area CMTC	Unknown	1980-1982 No Competition	
1926 No Competition	Unknown	1983 Arizona Juniors	2693-27X
1927 Ohio Civilian Team	Unknown	1984 California Juniors	2764-45X
1928 Organized Reserves	Unknown	1985 Arizona Juniors	2780-51X
1929 9 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area CMTC	Unknown	1986 Texas Juniors Silver	2796-51X
1930 American Legion	Unknown	1987 Michigan Juniors	2765-51X
1931 6 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area CMTC	Unknown	1988 Arizona Juniors	2746-39X
1932-1934 No Competition	Unknown	1989 Arizona Juniors	2804-44X
1935 7 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area CMTC	Unknown	1990 Illinois Hard Dogs #1	2838-63X
1936 7 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area CMTC	Unknown	1991 Illinois Hard Dogs Gold	2819-51X
1937 9 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area CMTC	Unknown	1992 Michigan Juniors	2700-29X
1938 8 <sup>th</sup> Corps Area ROTC	Unknown	1993 Illinois Hard Dogs Gold	2821-60X
1939 3 <sup>rd</sup> Corps Area ROTC	Unknown	1994 Illinois Hard Dogs Gold	2679-39X
1940-1955 No Competition		1995 Illinois Hard Dogs Gold	2846-69X
1956 5 <sup>th</sup> Army Area ROTC	Unknown	1996 Arizona Juniors	2827-58X
1957 4 <sup>th</sup> Army Area ROTC	Unknown	1997 Illinois Hard Dogs Gold	2858-73X
1958 5 <sup>th</sup> Army Area ROTC	Unknown	1998 California Juniors Gold	2850-50X
1959 US Military Academy	1433	1999 Pennsylvania Juniors	2806-54X
1960 3rd Army Area ROTC	1443	2000 New York Juniors "Mayott"	2824-62X
1961 US Military Academy	1446	2001 Pennsylvania Juniors	2853-59X
1962 US Military Academy	1426	2002 North Carolina Juniors	2837-58X
1963 3rd Army Area ROTC	1449	2003 New York Juniors	2813-55X
1964 3rd Army Area ROTC	1456	2004 North Carolina Juniors	2810-458X
1965 3rd Army Area ROTC	1429	2005 Colorado "Blue Flames"	2806-50X
1966 US Military Academy	1464	2006 Connecticut "Palmer"	2852-60X
1967 3 <sup>rd</sup> Army Area ROTC Red	2779	2007 Washington "Bad Apples"	2849-67X
1968-1972 No Competition		2008 California "Grizzlies"	2854-70X
1973 3rd Army Area ROTC	2692	<b>2009 California "Grizzlies"</b>	<b>2870-74X</b>
1974 1 <sup>st</sup> ROTC Region	2739	2010 California "Grizzlies-Seeley"	2852-72X
1975 1 <sup>st</sup> ROTC Region	2767	2011 Arizona Juniors	2851-73X
1976 4 <sup>th</sup> ROTC Region	2756		
1977 4 <sup>th</sup> ROTC Region	2652		
1978 2 <sup>nd</sup> ROTC Region	2726		
1979 US Naval Academy	2783		

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## The Pershing Trophy



The Pershing Trophy was presented by General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force of World War I, for team competition at the Inter-Allied Games in Paris in 1919. Won by the AEF, it was brought to the United States and placed in the custody of NBPRP with General Pershing's concurrence. Paradoxically, the trophy which is awarded to a rifleman is a bronze figure of a World War I soldier firing the service pistol. The trophy is awarded to the high scoring individual, regardless of team, in the National Trophy Team Rifle Match.

1927 SGT William E. Bissenden, 8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	294	1977 Mr. William A. Cooney	479-12X
1928 SLC M. Pruitt, USN	283	1978 CPT Norman A. Chandler, USMC	494-20X
1929 Mr. Earl A. Anderson, 9 <sup>th</sup> Corps ROTC	286	1979 MGYSGT Russell E. Martin, USMC	489-17X
1930 Sgt Carl J. Cagle, USMC	287	1980 SSG Alan Ewing, USAR	494-22X
1931 CPL William A. Easterling, USMC	292	1981 CPT Gregory Fallon, USAR	489-22X
1932-34 No Competition		1982 1LT Michael E. Liberty, ARNG	492-21X
1935 Sgt John J. Berish, 1 <sup>st</sup> US Engineers	289	1983 SFC Alan Ewing, USAR	496-18X
1936 Mr. Eugene A. Ross	292	1984 CWO3 Kenneth R. Cooper, USMC	494-25X
1937 CPL Victor F. Brown, USMC	290	<b>1985 SSG Donald A. Manning, ARNG</b>	<b>499-28X</b>
1938 SN1 Rudolph Jones, USCG	287	1986 SSG Greg Strom, USA	494-20X
1939 SGT William D. Reynolds, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cavalry	288	1987 SSG Greg Strom, USA	496-16X
1940 CPL Mark W. Billing, USMC	291	1988 Sgt James E. Jones, USA	490-25X
1941-51 No Competition		1989 MAJ Christopher Stark, USAR	492-17X
1952 CPT Murvale O. Belson, USAR	243	1990 CWO3 Dennis DeMille, USMC	497-23X
1953 CPT George E. Blair II, USMC	237	1991 MAJ Ray P. Carter, USAR	494-13X
1954 TSGT Frank C. Stanonik, USMC	241	1992 LTC Christopher Stark, USAR	486-18X
1955 SSGT V.D. Mitchell, USMC	239	1993 SGT Martin Cole, USMC	495-21X
1956 CPL Billy H. Willard, USMC	243	1994 SSGT Dwight Hall, USMC	472-10X
1957 TSGT James E. Hill, USMC	246	1995 CPL Kevin McHon, USA	497-24X
1958 PFC Philip T. Toloczko, USA	250	1996 SFC John Chubb, USA	496-23X
1959 SFC Chester F. Hamilton, USA	249	1997 SGT Barry Coleman, USA	496-28X
1960 SP4 Willie D. Jordan, USA	250	1998 SGT Charles E. Grove, USMC	496-22X
1961 1LT Philip F. Cannella, USA	248	1999 SSGT Julia Watson, USMC	493-18X
1962 SP5 William L. Watton, USA	247	2000 Mr. John Hollinger	495-16X
1963 SSG Raymond E. Campbell, USA	250	2001 SSGT Ronald Fuchs, USMC	495-20X
1964 PFC Ronald J. Pfiffner, USA	250	2002 SFC Grant Singley, USA	495-19X
1965 2LT Alan M. Dapp, NGUS	247	2003 CWO4 Ron Fleischhacker, ARNG	494-17X
1966 PO3 Thomas N. Treinen, USN	250	2004 Mr. Michael Harpster	491-13X
1967 SSG Arpail J. Gapol	489-14X	2005 Mr. Nick Till	495-18X
1968 SSG Earl L. Waterman, USA	489-14X	2006 SGT Leigh Jenks III, ANG	497-20X
1969 LT Webster Wright, Jr., USN	492-25X	2007 SFC Grant Singley, USA	496-22X
1970 MSG Russell E. Martin, USMC	490-09X	2008 SPC Tyrel Cooper, USA	498-21X
1971 PO1 Thomas N. Treinen, USN	488-19X	2009 SPC Jeffrey Mendkya, ARNG	498-22X
1972 MSG James L. McQuien, USA	491-12X	2010 SFC Norman Anderson, USAR	496-16X
1973 SSG Earl L. Waterman, USA	479-10X	2011 MSGT Julia Watson, USMCR	494-20X
1974 CWO Gilmer R. Murdock, USMC	492-17X		
1975 1LT Robert W. Aylward, USA	490-18X		
1976 1LT Ray P. Carter, USA	486-17X		

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## The Rattlesnake Trophy



The Rattlesnake Trophy, a popular Frederic Remington bronze, was purchased by the NBPRP in 1938, is a statuette depicting a cowboy and his horse at the moment a rattlesnake strikes at the horse's front feet. It was awarded to the high scoring reserve component team from 1938 through 1971 when it was reassigned for presentation to the high scoring US Army competitor, active, reserve, or National Guard, in the National Trophy Team match.

1938 USMCR #1	2731	1982 1LT Michael E. Liberty, ARNG	492-21X
1939 USMCR #1	2702	1983 SFC Alan Ewing, USAR	496-18X
1940 USMCR #1	2800	1984 MSG Edward L. Shelly, USA	494-15X
1941-1953 No Competition		<b>1985 SSG Donald A. Manning, ARNG</b>	<b>499-28X</b>
1954 USMCR #1	1403	1986 SSG Greg Strom, USA	494-20X
1955 USMCG #1	1356	1987 SSG Greg Strom, USA	496-16X
1956 USMCR	1415	1988 Sgt James E. Jones, USA	490-25X
1957 USMCR	1407	1989 MAJ Christopher Stark, USAR	492-17X
1958 USAR #1	1432	1990 SSG David J. Kerin, ARNG	497-22X
1959 USAR	1432	1991 MAJ Ray Carter, USAR	494-13X
1960 USAR	1464	1992 LTC Christopher Stark, USAR	486-18X
1961 USAR Blue	1456	1993 SSG David J. Kerin, ARNG	490-17X
1962 5 <sup>th</sup> Army Area USAR	1446	1994 LTC Christopher Stark, USAR	469-08X
1963 USAR	1469	1995 CPL Kevin McHon, USA	497-24X
1964 USAR	1480	1996 SFC John Chubb, USA	496-23X
1965 5 <sup>th</sup> Army Area USAR	1441	1997 SGHT Barry Coleman, USA	496-28X
1965 USAR	1470	1998 SGT Tobie Tomlinson, USA	494-18X
1966 USAR Blue	1470	1999 SSG Lewis A. Tippie, USA	493-13X
1967 USAR Blue	2823	2000 SSG Lewis A. Tippie, USA	494-23X
1968 USAR	2786	2001 1SG Steven Slee, USAR	492-16X
1969 USAR	2863	2002 SFC Grant Singley, USA	495-19X
1970 USAR Blue	2820	2003 CWO4 Ron Fleischhacker, ARNG	494-17X
1971 USAR Blue	2826	2004 SFC Darrel Barry, ARNG	488-17X
1972 MSG James L. McQuien, USA	491-12X	2005 SFC Larry Walraven, ARNG	491-17X
1973 SSG Earl L. Waterman, USA	479-10X	2006 SGT Leigh Jenks III, ANG	497-20X
1974 CPT Bruce O'Brien, USA	486-14X	2007 SFC Grant Singley, USA	496-22X
1975 1LT Robert W. Aylward, USA	490-18X	2008 SPC Tyrel Cooper, USA	498-21X
1976 1LT Ray P. Carter, USA	486-17X	2009 SPC Jeffrey Mendkya, ARNG	498-22X
1977 MAJ Tommy G. Pool, USAR	477-09x	2010 SFC Norman Anderson, USAR	496-16X
1978 MAJ Norman E. Goelzer, USA	492-17X	2011 SFC Lance Dement, USA	494-14X
1979 SSG Roger A. Sayward, ARNG	489-14X		
1980 SSG Alan Ewing, USAR	494-22X		
1981 CPT Gregory Fallon, USAR	489-22X		

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Trophy



General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1952 to 1956, presented the General Shepherd Trophy to the NBPRP in 1956. The trophy is a bronze replica of the Marine Corps War Memorial depicting the flag raising on Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima World War II. It is awarded to the Active Marine or Marine Reserve competitor with highest aggregate score in the National Trophy Individual Match and the National Trophy Team Match. Because of it requires competing in the National Trophy Team Match, for the purpose of this monograph, it is considered to be a National Trophy Team Match Trophy.

1956 CPL Billy H. Willard, USMC	432	1986 SGT Daniel K. Jones, USMC	979-29X
1957 TSGT James E. Hill, USMC	490	1987 SSGT James H. Cook, Jr., USMC	975-31X
1958 TSGT Michael Pietroforte, USMC	490	1988 SGT James E. Jones, USMC	979-40X
1959 CPL Charles B. Galkowski, USMC	493	1989 SSGT Jeffery Schafer, USMC	978-36X
1960 GYSGT Ben L. Harshman, USMC	495	<b>1990 SGT Dennis W. DeMille, USMC</b>	<b>989-47X</b>
1961 Insufficient Entries		1991 SGT Billy Ray Williamson, USMC	985-33X
1962 Insufficient Entries		1992 SGT Clint Habeck, USMC	970-24X
1963 Insufficient Entries		1993 SGT Martin A. Cole, USMC	981-24X
1964 SSGT Donald G. Barker, USMC	498	1994 SSGT Dwight Hall, USMC	958-23X
1965 SSGT Jack A. Titterington, USMC	493	1995 PVT Thomas Gilbert, USMC	984-31X
1966 SSGT Gerald J. Kuzuch, USMC	496	1996 GYSGT Jeffrey Schafer, USMC	989-36X
1967 SSGT Robert L. Goller, USMC	955-25X	1997 SSGT Alex Arrieta, USMC	984-36X
1968 Insufficient Entries		1998 SGT Charles E. Grove, USMC	888-33X
1969 1SGT John P. Schwartz, USMC	921-21X	1999 SSGT Julia Watson, USMC	983-35X
1970 MSG Russell Martin	974-20X	2000 CWO3 Gene Rucks, USMC	988-27X
1971 CWO2 Michael Pietroforte, USMC	972-25X	2001 SSG Ronald Fuchs, USMCR	987-40x
1972 CWO2 Robert L. Goller, USMC	975-32X	2002 SGT Daniel Duitsman, USMC	982-38X
1973 SGT Kenneth Cooper, USMC	962-31X	2003 SGT Jerome Bostick, USMC	987-40X
1974 CWO3 Gilmer R. Murdock, USMC	970-30X	2004 MSGT Alex Arrieta, USMC	777-20X
1975 MGYSGT Melvin Dunham, USMC	963-23X	2005 GYSGT Julia Watson, USMCR	979-30X
1976 MSGT Albert R. Mirla, USMC	959-21X	2006 SSGT Daniel Duitsman, USMC	986-31X
1977 GYSGT Benjamin Pepper, USMC	959-25X	2007 SSGT Jason Benedict, USMC	986-43X
1978 SGT Dennis E. Ghiselli, USMC	978-33X	2008 GYSGT Ronald Fuchs, USMCR	980-38X
1979 MGYSGT Russell Martin, USMC	962-26X	2009 CWO2 Duane Ledford, USMC	968-29X
1980 CWO Robert L. Busher, USMC	979-36X	2010 GYSGT Ronald Fuchs, USMCR	975-25X
1981 SGT John Johnson, USMC	977-32X	2011 MSGT Julia Watson USMCR	976-34X
1982 SGT Michael A. Keeme, USMC	970-34X		
1983 COL Kenneth J. Erdman, USMCR	978-23X		
1984 SSGT Artie L. Osborne, USMC	976-37X		
1985 SSG Donald L. Hellman, USMC	987-36X		

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## General Thomas D. White Trophy

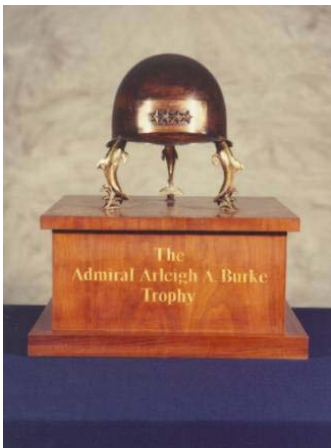


The General Thomas D. White Trophy was presented to the NBPRP in 1960 by the U.S. Air Force in honor of General Thomas D. White, Chief of Staff of the Air Force from 1957 to 1961. The trophy is a large silver bowl mounted on an ebony base. It is awarded to the highest scoring Air Force competitor from the Active Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, or the Air National Guard in the National Trophy Team Match.

1960 SSGT Lloyd D. Robinson, USAF	247	1988 1LT Dan Sutton, ANG	490-23X
1961 SSGT Edward K. Apo, ANG	247	1989 TSGT Terry L. Martino, ANG	487-12X
1962 A1C Raymond N. Lewis USAF	247	1990 TSGT Terry L. Martino, ANG	490-20X
1963 A1C Robert R.W. Dickens USAF	248	1991 TSGT Terry L. Martino, ANG	491-07X
1964 1LT Dennis D. Behrens USAF	249	1992 SSGT Walter Lang, ANG	476-13X
1965 1LT Dennis D. Behrens USAF	247	1993 TSGT Kenneth F. Strohm, ANG	485-10X
1966 SSGT Kurt J. DeGerlund, USAF	249	1994 SSG Neil P. Jensen, USAF	455-07X
1967 SSGT Robert R Edwards, Jr. USAF	487-12X	1995 TSGT Kenneth F. Strohm, ANG	478-08X
1968 SSGT James M. Owen, USAF	486	1996 CPT Eric Bellows, USAF	491-14X
1969 SSGT Frederick H. Kent Jr., USAF	486-15X	1997 TSGT Terry L. Martino, ANG	489-16X
1970 Insufficient Competitors		1998 MSGT Kenneth F. Strohm, ANG	492-19X
1971 TSG Aldo E. Frascoia, USAF	484-13X	1999 TSGT Neil P. Jensen, USAF	486-21X
1972 SSG Arlie Jones, USAF	490-16X	2000 SMSGT William Walter, USAF	490-16X
1973 CPT John C. Andres, USAF	470-11X	2001 SMSGT William Walter, USAF	487-16X
1974 Major John C. Andres, ANG	472-10X	2002 TSGT Bryan Quick, USAF	486-18X
1975 Major John C. Andres, ANG	474-11X	2003 SSGT Stuart Mackey, USAF	485-15X
1976 CPT Robert E. Witmer, ANG	480-18X	2004 TSGT Bryan Quick, USAF	476-14X
1977 TSG Terry Martino, ANG	465-05X	2005 MSGT George Wells, ANG	487-16X
1978 Insufficient Competitors		2006 TSGT Garey Diefenderfer, ANG	488-14X
1979 Insufficient Competitors		2007 SSGT Stuart Mackey, USAF	488-14X
1980 TSG Robert N. Claxton, ANG	486-16X	2008 TSGT Garey Diefenderfer, ANG	481-14X
1981 TSGT Terry L. Martino, ANG	485-08X	2009 SSGT Leigh Jenks III, ANG	491-16X
1982 Insufficient Competitors		<b>2010 SSGT Leigh Jenks III, ANG</b>	<b>495-20X</b>
1983 SSGT Richard Crowl, ANG	487-18X	2011 SSGT Leigh Jenks III, ANG	488-16X
1984 TSG Robert N. Claxton, ANG	486-11X		
1985 TSG Robert N. Claxton, ANG	490-14X		
1986 SSGT John R. Burres, ANG	492-12X		
1987 SSGT John R. Burres, ANG	494-12X		

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## Admiral A. Arleigh Burke Trophy



The Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Trophy was presented to the NBPRP by the United States Navy through private subscription among the officers and enlisted members of the Navy and navy Reserve. The trophy is the steel helmet worn by Admiral Burke through the entire Pacific Campaign of World War II. It is awarded to the Active Navy or Naval Reserve competitor with highest aggregate score in the National Trophy Individual Match and the National Trophy Team Match. Because of it requires competing in the National Trophy Team Match, for the purpose of this monograph, it is considered to be a National Trophy Team Match Trophy.

1977 LT Norman R. Harris, USNR	963-27X
1978 MCPO Paul H. Williamson, USN	485-12X
1979 ETC William H. Diehl, USN	926-19X
1980 LCDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	962-22X
1981 LCDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	973-33X
1982 CPO Michael W. Gorchinski, USN	965-24X
1983 Insufficient Entries	
1984 TDCS Ralph J. Legler, USN	976-32X
1985 GMG1 Michael A. Markovcy, USN	967-32X
1986 GMG1 Michael A. Markovcy, USN	970-26X
<b>1987 FCCM Ralph J. Legler, USN</b>	<b>978-21X</b>
1988 FCCM Ralph J. Legler, USN	958-19X
1989 ENS Julian Lindstrom, USNR	954-20X
1990 CDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	968-28X
1991 CDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	959-23X
1992 CDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	965-35X
1993 CDR John H. Varga, USN	961-25X
1994 CDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	937-24X
1995 CDR Norman R. Harris, USNR	973-32X
1996 CWO4 David Vinkler, USN	955-27X
1997 ETC James White, USN	970-26X
1998 CDR Chris Sullivan, USNR	857-26X
1999 CDR Chris Sullivan, USNR	965-25X
2000 IS3 Michael Caprioli, USN	959-27X
2001 PO1 Lynn Stonier, USNR	968-26X
2002 LCDR Theodore Janacek, USN	971-26X
2003 LTJG Joseph Zerby, USN	969-32X
2004 CPO Craig Dent, USN	768-18X
2005 LT Joseph Zerby, USN	956-27X
2006 GM2 Aaron Stempeck, USN	954-15X
2007 LCDR Michael Salach, USNR	956-23X
2008 LCDR Yvonne Lyda, USN	964-19X
2009 LCDR Joseph Zerby	976-29X
2010 EO2 Chris Funderbuerg, USN	958-17X
2011 LCDR Joseph Zerby	964-24X

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## Freedom's Fire Trophy



The Freedom's Fire Trophy is a bronze statuette of a Bald Eagle emerging from the flames of a replica of the torch grasped in the upheld left hand of the Statue of Liberty. The Freedom's Fire Trophy was placed into competition in 2009. It is awarded to the highest scoring Junior Team in the National Trophy Junior Rifle Team Match, which is a two man team firing across the National Match Course.

### Freedom's Fire Trophy Teams

2009	Junior Marksmanship Support Group #1	957-25X
<b>2010</b>	<b>California Grizzly Bears</b>	<b>967-26X</b>
2011	JMSG #1	961-29X

### Freedom's Fire Trophy At Large Teams

2009	Washington State Bad Apples	838-07X
<b>2010</b>	<b>Steel Eagles 7 of 7</b>	<b>889-10X</b>
2011	Steel Eagles 8	836-15X

**Bold type indicates record for current course of fire**

## National Trophy Team Rifle Medal



This representative gold National Trophy Team Rifle Match medal was awarded to Sergeant William H. Gothard, United States Infantry who coached the 1937 United States Infantry Team to first place in 1937. He would earn the Distinguished Marksman Badge in 1938. Earlier medals had a metal suspension bar directly connected to the pendent.

Note that the five bar device in the upper left and corner.



## Appendix B-The National Trophy Team Rifle Match Courses of Fire

### **Arms and ammunition:**

1903-1906-The service rifle or carbine, US Magazine Rifle Model 1898 and service cartridge

1907-1940-The service rifle, US Rifle Model 1903 and service cartridge

1951-Present-The service rifle, US Rifle Cal. .30 M1, or commercial equivalent, and service cartridge

1964-Present-The service rifle, US Rifle 7.62mm M14, or commercial equivalent, and service cartridge

1973-Present-The service rifle, Rifle, Caliber 5.56 mm, M16, or commercial equivalent, and service cartridge

The free issue service cartridge was later changed to various issue/purchase plans until shooters were allowed to purchase ammunition at Camp Perry or provided their own.

### **1903-1906**

Stage one: ten shots slow fire standing at 200 yards in ten minutes

Stage two: ten shots slow fire prone at 500 yards in ten minutes

Stage three: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 in ten minutes

Stage four: ten shots slow fire prone at 800 yards in ten minutes

Stage five: ten shots slow fire prone at 900 yards in ten minutes

Stage six: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards in ten minutes

### **1907-1908**

Stage one: ten shots slow fire standing in ten minutes

Stage two: ten shots rapid fire sitting at 200 yards in 60 seconds

Stage three: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards in ten minutes

Stage four: ten shots slow fire prone at 800 yards in ten minutes

Stage five: ten shots slow fire prone at 900 yards in ten minutes

Stage six: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards in ten minutes

Stage seven: two Skirmish Runs: 200 yards rapid fire, 200 yards slow fire, 600, 800, and 1,000 yards slow fire.

Two sighting shots allowed for each slow fire string.

### **1909**

Stage one: ten shots slow fire standing at 200 yards in ten minutes

Stage two: ten shots rapid fire sitting from standing at 200 yards in 60 seconds

Stage three: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards in ten minutes

Stage four: ten shots slow fire prone at 800 yards in ten minutes

Stage five: ten shots slow fire prone at 900 yards in ten minutes

Stage six: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards in ten minutes

Stage seven: two Skirmish Runs: 200 yards rapid fire, 200 yards slow fire, 600, 800, and 1,000 yards slow fire.

### **1910-1914**

Stage one: ten shot slow fire standing at 200 yards in ten minutes

Stage two: ten shots slow fire prone at 200 yards in ten minutes

Stage three: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards in ten minutes

Stage four: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards in ten minutes

Stage five: two Skirmish Runs. The Skirmish Run: 200 yards rapid fire, 200 yards slow fire, 600, 800, and 1,000 yards slow fire.

### **1915-1916**

Stage one: fifteen shots rapid fire at 200 yards

Stage two: fifteen shots rapid fire at 300 yards

Stage three: fifteen shots slow fire prone at 300 yards

Stage four: fifteen shots slow fire prone at 600 yards, sandbag rest allowed at 600 yards.

Stage five: fifteen shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards

Stage six: two Skirmish Runs over two days.

### **1917-1918**

Stage one: four strings of five shots at 200 in prone, sitting, squatting, and kneeling

Stage two: ten shots slow fire prone at 300 yards

Stage three: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards. Sandbag rest allowed at 600 yards.

Stage four: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards.

Two Stage five: two Skirmish Runs. The Skirmish Run: 200 yards rapid fire, 200 yards slow fire, 600, 800, and 1,000 yards slow fire.

Sighting shots no longer allowed.

### **1919**

Stage one: twenty shots fired rapid fire at 200 yards, one string of ten shots kneeling from standing to be followed by one string of ten shots kneeling, sitting, or squatting from standing.

Stage two: twenty shots slow fire at 500 yards

Stage three ten shots prone slow fire at 500 yards

Stage four: five shots kneeling slow fire at 500 yards

Stage five: five shots squatting or sitting slow fire at 500 yards.

Stage six: twenty shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards.

### **1920**

Stage one: twenty shots fired rapid fire at 200 yards, one string of ten shots kneeling from standing to be followed by one string of ten shots kneeling, sitting, or squatting from standing.

Stage two: twenty shots slow fire at 600 yards

Stage three ten shots prone slow fire at 500 yards

Stage four: five shots kneeling slow fire at 500 yards

Stage five: five shots squatting or sitting slow fire at 500 yards.

Stage six: twenty shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards.

### **1921-1924**

Stage one: ten shots slow fire standing at 200 yards

Stage two: ten shots rapid fire kneeling or sitting from standing

Stage three: ten shots rapid fire prone from standing at 300 yards

Stage four: twenty shots slow fire at 600 yards

Stage five: twenty shots slow fire at 1,000 yards

### **1925-1926**

Stage one: ten shots standing slow fire at 200 yards, the gun sling will be not be used and will be adjusted to what is known as the parade position. The forward hand shall be extended so that the arm will be entirely free from touching or resting against the body,

Stage two: ten shots rapid fire kneeling or sitting from standing at 200 yards in 60 seconds

Stage three: ten shots rapid fire prone from standing at 300 yards in 70 seconds.

Stage four: ten shots rapid fire prone from standing at 400 yards in 70 seconds

Stage five: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards

Stage six: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards.

### **1927-1940**

Stage one; ten shots standing slow fire at 200 yards, the gun sling will be not be used and will be adjusted to what is known as the parade position. The forward hand shall be extended so that the arm will be entirely free from touching or resting against the body,

Stage two: ten shots rapid fire kneeling or sitting from standing at 200 yards

Stage three: ten shots rapid fire prone from standing at 300 yards

Stage four: ten shots slow fire prone at 600 yards

Stage five: ten shots slow fire prone at 1,000 yards.

### **1951-Present**

Stage one: Slow fire at 200 yards ten shots standing, sling in parade position

Stage two: Sustained fire at 200 yards, ten shots sitting or kneeling from standing

Stage three: Sustained fire at 300 yards, ten shots prone from standing

Stage four: Slow fire at 600 yards, 20 shots prone

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