

'ALL ARMY' IDENTIFIES ELITE MARKSMEN

BRENDA ROLIN

More than 250 Soldiers competed in the 2016 U.S. Army Small Arms "All Army" Championship, which was held 15-19 March at Fort Benning, Ga.

SGT Demetrios Iannios of the California Army National Guard was the overall individual champion of the All Army Championship. The All Army overall team champion was the Illinois Army National Guard. Team members included SFC David Perdew, SFC John Stockton, SSG Brandon Hornung, and SSG Jacob Blount. Their coach was CW2 Kyle Gleason.

All winners' names and scores can be viewed at <https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index>.

The All Army, hosted by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) in conjunction with the Maneuver Center of Excellence, develops combat firing skills at the entry and intermediate levels and recognizes superior skill at the highest level. Soldiers compete in separate classes - consisting of cadet, novice, open and professional - based on previous competition experience.

SSG Jeffrey Taylor, marksmanship master trainer and small arms master gunner, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, said competitors experienced diverse levels of marksmanship during the All Army.

"I think it's exceptional the way they use the different types of events in the All Army, from the combat rifle matches to the national matches, because it shows the differences in marksmanship — how accurate you have to be in the standing position or how your team has to assemble and how they have to fill their magazines," said Taylor, who is a

19-year Army veteran from Pittsburgh and the coach of the 82nd Airborne Division teams.

Soldiers competed as individuals and on four-person teams in events such as: pistol and rifle excellence-in-competition matches, combat rifle and pistol courses of fire, multi-gun courses of fire, and an Infantry team match, among others.

Taylor said he attended a Marksmanship Master Trainer Course at Fort Drum, N.Y., last year and at the conclusion of training, instructors talked about the 2016 All Army. He said they suggested all the MMTC graduates develop marksmanship teams at their units to compete against the rest of the Army. Taylor said that's exactly what he did. The 82nd Airborne Division teams were culled from 30 Soldiers who answered the call for marksmen throughout the division.

Information about the next All Army will be available in September 2017 on the USAMU website at <http://www.usaac.army.mil/amu/> under "Match Info."

Soldiers interested in attending the Marksmanship Master Trainer Course can go to the Army Training Requirements and Resources System website at <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/atrrscc>.

(Brenda Rolin serves as the chief of the USAMU Public Affairs Office.)

The Small Arms Championship (All Army) is conducted to develop combat firing skills at the entry and intermediate levels and recognizes superior skill at the highest level. During the event, Soldiers will compete in separate classes — consisting of cadet, novice, open and professional — based on previous competition experience.

U.S. Army photo

