

Earning the President's Hundred Tab

By Major William J. Miller

The President's Hundred Tab is awarded to Soldiers for shooting exceptionally well with either the service pistol or rifle during the President's Hundred Match, an event that is held annually at Camp Perry, Ohio, during the months of July and August. The event is open to all Service members, as well as civilians and law enforcement personnel. The Civilian Marksmanship Program has overall control and responsibility for the competition. Each year, approximately 600 people register for the pistol match and 1,200 for the rifle match. Historically, this is a military match so only United States Army Service weapons that use iron sights with ball ammunition are allowed, although weapons should be match grade to be competitive.

Pistol shooters fire 40 bullets with either the M1911 (.45-caliber) or the M9 (9-millimeter) pistol held in one hand. There are three phases of the pistol competition: slow fire, timed fire, and rapid fire.

- During the slow-fire portion, competitors shoot ten bullets at 50 yards in 10 minutes, and then the shots are scored; this is repeated in a second round.
- During the timed-fire portion, the match transitions to the 25-yard line, where competitors shoot two strings of five bullets in 20 seconds. These shots are scored after ten shots.
- During the rapid-fire portion, competitors shoot another ten bullets, but in 10-second strings of five bullets each. Like before, the shots are scored after ten shots. The scores are tallied and the cut line is drawn.
- Usually, a score above 350 out of 400 will get a competitor near the cut line. The top 100 competitors are awarded the President's Hundred Tab with permanent orders. Soldiers wear the tab according to Army Regulation 670-1, *Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia*, paragraph 29-16c.

Rifle shooters can use any rifle made in the United States that was used by the military since the inception of the matches. Most competitive shooters compete with a match grade version of the M-16A2. The rifle competition consists of three phases.



- In the first phase, shooters are given 10 minutes to fire the first ten shots at 200 yards standing.
- In the second phase, shooters are given 70 seconds to fire ten shots at 300 yards. They begin in the standing position and move into the prone position, making a magazine change after the second bullet.
- In the third phase, shooters are given 10 minutes to fire ten shots at 600 yards in the prone position.
- Scoring is completed after each phase, and awards are handled the same as the pistol match. Usually, a score above 280 out of 300 will get a competitor near the cut line.

Soldiers are competing against all shooters, regardless of competency or whether they have already been awarded a tab. Soldiers can earn multiple President's Hundred Tabs throughout their career—for both pistol and rifle competition—although there is no difference in the tabs. Each year, 100 tabs are awarded for both the pistol and the rifle competitions during the President's Hundred Match. The winners of the matches receive several awards, one of which is a signed letter from the President of the United States. More information can be found at <http://www.odcmp.com>.



Major Miller is a student at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He has served in the 307th Engineer Battalion as a platoon leader, in the 44th Engineer Battalion in Korea as the supply officer and company commander, and in the United States Army Corps of Engineers as a construction program manager in Mobile, Alabama. He holds a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Iowa and a master's in engineering management from the University of Missouri-Rolla. An avid pistol and rifle shooter, he has been awarded the Excellence in Competition Pistol Shot (Bronze) Marksmanship Badge.