

Volume 2
Summer 2022

In this edition of Boots you will find two articles – both of which have the ultimate goal of saving military lives.

There are many nationwide organizations dedicated to helping our veterans.

Here in Delaware, we have a unique organization founded by a Delaware veteran and you won't see it publicized on TV or Radio, but what it does is remarkable in a small state.

“WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS”

SHARPSHOOTER OR SNIPER

Does the terminology make a difference?
It does if it is to save lives.

1944: War Department Basic Field Manual FM 21-75, Infantry Scouting, Patrolling and Sniping

“... an expert rifleman, well qualified in scouting, whose duty is to pick off key enemy personnel who expose themselves. By eliminating enemy leaders and harassing the troops, sniping softens the enemy's resistance and weakens his morale.”

Find out the history of how this terminology came about and those that excelled in it.

Teddi Silver
"BOOTS" Editor

“Honor and Preserve Delaware's Military Heritage”

www.delawaremilitarymuseum.org





WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM

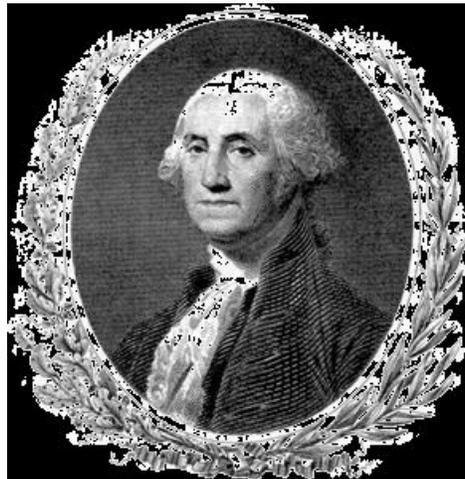
By Ken Wiggins

SAVE THE DATE

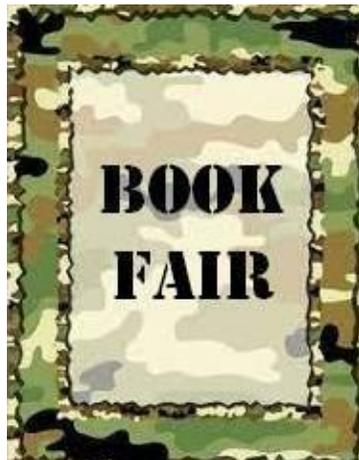
IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR THE FALL

SEPTEMBER 2022

DEDICATION OF THE "COMMANDER IN CHIEF" ROOM



DECEMBER 2022





WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS

By Teddi Silver

In Middletown, DE there is a building that houses “*The Brian Conley Veterans Resiliency Center*”.

Not many people know about it, but the center help’s veterans reintegrate into society after they have fulfilled their duty in the military. For some veterans it is easy to transition to civilian life but for others, they might need a helping hand.

This is where **Warriors Helping Warriors** comes in. This organization helps veterans in many ways. It started out when the founders saw that the veterans were having difficulty dealing with the VA and guidance was needed to navigate the “system”. From there **Warriors Helping Warriors** expanded their services into other areas: Temporary housing, housing for homeless veterans, education, financial planning, peer support, mental health referrals, credit counseling, job placement....and any other situation that might arise that was new and needed addressing. This organization not only helps veterans, but also addresses the needs of their spouses, caregivers and children.

WHW was founded in December 2013 by Retired Major Kevin Conley and his family. Major Conley spent a year in a remote area of Afghanistan as part of the Delaware Army National Guard deployment. That year changed his life forever and **Warriors Helping Warriors** became his mission for veterans.

The sad story of PTSD in veterans is something that every American should be made aware of. PTSD has happened in every war since the beginning of warfare but was never recognized for what it truly is – a legacy from combat that no military man should endure.

Statistics on veterans having PTSD:

Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom	11-20 out of every 100 veterans
Gulf War (Desert Storm)	12 out of every 100 veterans
Vietnam War	15 out of every 100 veterans

https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/common/common_veterans.asp

Some statistics say that 1 in 5 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan wars have PTSD. Americans have seen in news reports the effects of PTSD in veterans and it is never good.

The **Brian Conley Veterans Resiliency Center** has taken the bull by the horns, to use a phrase, and is addressing this serious issue for Delaware’s military veterans.

For more information on the center, please go to:

<https://www.whwonline.org/form>

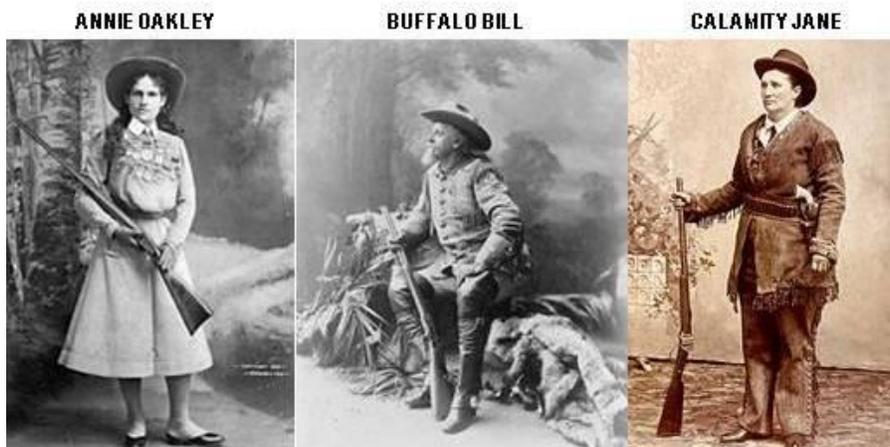


SHARPSHOOTER OR SNIPER

By Teddi Silver

Some would say, that depended upon the time in history that a person was firing at a designated target. You can rule out bows, crossbows and unrifled firearms because of distance and accuracy that was needed. Also, were they civilian or military?

Outside of military circles, the American Wild West had a few sharpshooters: Annie Oakley, Calamity Jane, Pawnee Bill, Buffalo Bill and Cole Younger, to name a few.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/>

But in military circles, a sharpshooter who was used in skirmisher units, could definitely demoralize and delay an opposing enemy troop movement. During the Napoleonic wars, France used sharpshooters that were skilled men using muskets. Because of this, Germany decided to adopt this type of warfare and used what is called the Jaeger doctrine. A Jaeger is basically a skilled hunter, but the Germans used this term for their elite light infantry and especially skirmishers.

During the American Revolution and the Civil War, both sides used sharpshooters.

The American Revolution saw skilled men from the American frontier, volunteer with their long rifles to be snipers. The British believed a war should be fought as gentlemen, but these men who terrorized the British with their guerilla type warfare thought differently and were feared and respected. These long rifles called Pennsylvania rifles were based on the Jaeger rifle. A British soldier that was within 400 yards of one of these long rifles was not safe.

Between these two wars, the Whitworth rifle, that is considered the first long-range sniper rifle in the world, was developed by Sir Joseph Whitworth, a British engineer.

In the Civil War, sharpshooters were recruited for both sides. The Union soldiers liked the breech-loading Sharp's rifle because it could be loaded lying down while the soldier using a standard, muzzle loading, rifled musket had to stand up. The Confederates liked the Whitworth rifle, if it could be obtained. Union General John Sedgwick, the highest ranking casualty of the Civil War, was killed by a Confederate sharpshooter with the Whitworth rifle at the Spotsylvania Courthouse battle. The range was 800 yards. Note: What happened to Sedgwick on that fateful day can be found here:

<https://www.historynet.com/the-killing-of-uncle-john>

This article is a good source for the types of guns used on both sides in the Civil War.

<https://americansocietyoffarmscollectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2013-B107-Sharpshooter-Weapons-in-the-American-Civ.pdf>

SHARPSHOOTER WEAPONS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



<https://americansocietyofarmscollectors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2013-B107-Sharpshooter-Weapons-in-the-American-Civ.pdf>

Berdan's Sharpshooters were created in 1861 and commanded by Colonel Hiram Berdan. A proposal was made to President Lincoln, who authorized the creation of such a unit, and two regiments were created of volunteer sharpshooters. They wore green uniforms, were the only units to bear the designation of "United States", and the only ones to be supplied by the federal government. They served as Scout Sharpshooters; 1st Regiment had 1392 officers and men and the 2nd Regiment had an additional 1178 men.



<https://civilwartalk.com/threads/berdans-sharpshooters-uniforms.150979/>

But it was World War I, which saw the increase use of sharpshooters because of trench warfare and the distance to fire across no-man's land. And that was when rifles with scopes became necessary for these elite shooters and Germany was the first to issue these weapons, because they were the world leader in optics. The Allies had to play catch-up using a prismatic Warner & Swasey scope, mounted on the .30-06 M1903 Springfield Rifle. In this war, the sniper had an observer who would use a periscope to spot the enemy. The war was also deadly for snipers, because if he was spotted, an artillery barrage would wipe him out.

One of the Allied snipers in WW I was *Pegahmagabow*, a First Nation Ojibwa, who during 4 years of combat, had 378 confirmed kills. This is pretty remarkable considering the rifles they used at that time. Canada has erected a monument to him.



<https://allthatsinteresting.com/francis-pegahmagabow>

By the time World War II occurred, the Germans, Japanese and Allies were using snipers. Germany had been perfecting the role of the sniper and they became a problem at Normandy and in Western Europe battles. The Japanese had no qualms about using a sniper in a suicidal stand against an Allied advance. The US Marines had platoons of scout snipers in the Pacific battles.

At the beginning of the Korean War (first 6 months) snipers were not used. It wasn't until the battles were occurring in the hill country that they were needed and the **US military had none**. There was no training of specialists, like snipers, because the military thought that with the advent of the atomic age, wars would be different. As we all know, that was a false assumption.

Both the Army and the Marines found that snipers were sorely needed and training was occurring in-country and authorized by field commanders. They would try to find WW II sniper veterans or competitive riflemen and use them as instructors. Very few military in Korea knew how to use a scope so it was a quick learning course for all concerned – one week's training and back to the front. The number of snipers in a unit depended upon how many sniper rifles they had. The enemy snipers in Korea were the Chinese but the worst enemy was the extreme cold for a sniper, who had to stay in one position for a long time, not to mention the weapon would freeze up.

For more information:

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/sniping-in-korea-1950-1953/>

Vietnam was another war that Army snipers were trained in-country. An interesting side note is the fact that personal weapons were not allowed to be brought to Vietnam: the exception was riflescopes. So sniper weapons were created using these scopes. Back in the states, the Army Weapons Command & the Limited Warfare Laboratory were working on new sniper weapons. The USMC was different. They had continued training snipers because of their experience in the WW II Pacific battles and Korea. Sniper weapons in this war were modified weapons; some worked, some didn't, and all had to contend with the problems caused by moisture and fogging of the scope. These scenarios came up! Could snipers be used at night using the new Starlight scope and ultimately, how was the military going to use snipers.

For more information on Army snipers in Vietnam:

<https://www.thearmorylife.com/forum/threads/origins-of-the-army-sniper-program-in-vietnam.5289/>

For more information on USMC snipers in Vietnam:

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/sniping-in-vietnam-an-inside-look-at-usmc-snipers-in-1967/>

AFTER VIETNAM, THE MILITARY ESTABLISHED SNIPER SCHOOLS.

The role of a military sniper has shown that they are needed for any type of warfare, in rural areas as well as urban areas, in all types of weather and in any type terrain. They no longer get a one week training course as they did in previous wars. Today they go to school for 7 ½ weeks or 12 ½ weeks depending upon the military branch. They are more highly trained in modern sniper weapons and use laser range finders, bipods, high-magnification scopes, night-vision scopes as well as specialty rifles. And with the Army's new focus on troops in the Arctic, the training of snipers in that type of weather will certainly change some of the training in these schools.



<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/05/05/army-creating-second-paratrooper-division-service-forges-new-identity-arctic-troops.html>

DEADLIEST SNIPERS

Simo Häyhä (1905-2002), a Finnish soldier is credited with over 505 kills, over 98 days, against the Red Army during the winter of 1939-1940. He was given the name - "The White Death". History considers him the deadliest sniper that ever lived.



<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Lyudmila Pavlichenko was a female sniper for the Russian Army in WW II in the siege of Odesa and the siege of Sevastopol. She is credited with killing 309 Nazis.



<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Vasily Zaitsev was another Soviet sniper in WW II who is known for developing what is called “urban sniping”. He would hide in his position, take on a few targets and then immediately get to a new position. He would hide anywhere and his tactics were adopted by the Soviets at that time.

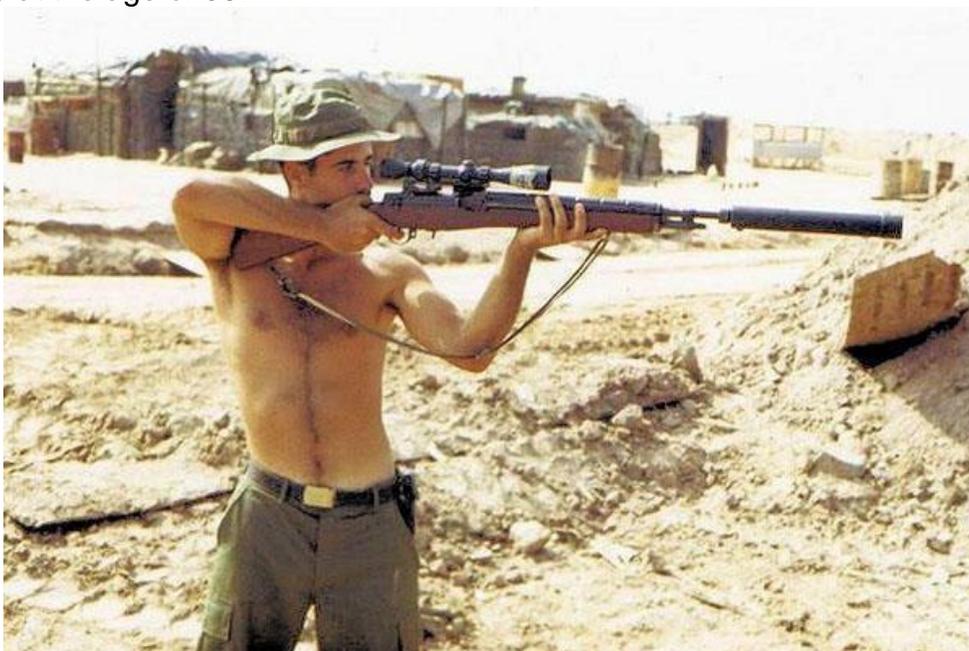


<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Carlos Hathcock, a US Marine sniper who wore a white feather in his hat, used a variety of weapons to kill over 90 of the enemy, two of whom were important Vietnamese snipers, *Cobra* and *Apache Woman*. He was unique, because he would go out alone on stealth missions to find his targets. One of them was of high value and he stalked the target for two days, sometimes moving inches at a time.

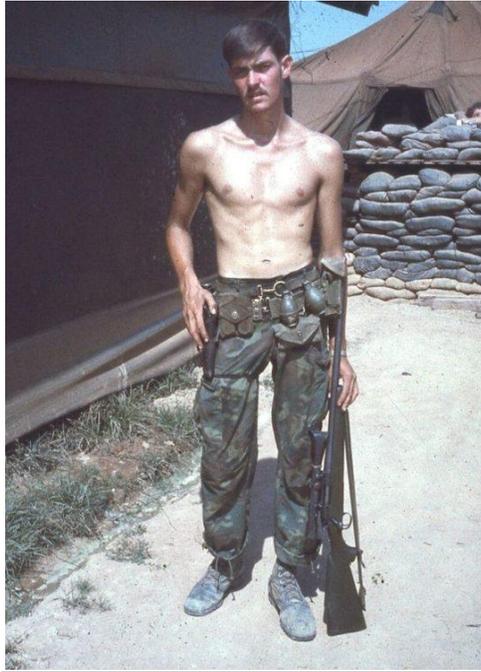
Note: The NVA had a \$30,000 bounty on his head.

Hathcock helped establish the *Marine Corps Scout Sniper School*, provided sniper training to police officers and select military units such as Seal Team 6, but unfortunately developed *Multiple Sclerosis* and died in 1999 at the age of 56.



<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Chuck Mawhinney was another sniper in Vietnam holding the record of most kills for the USMC. He killed 16 North Vietnamese with headshots in 30 seconds. After leaving the USMC, he went to work for the US Forest Service. When he retired from the Forest Service, he became a public speaker.



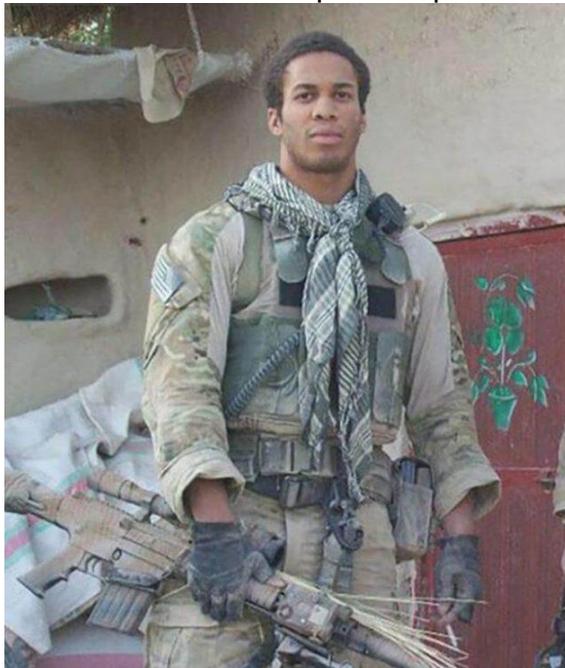
<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Adelbert Waldron - US Army, had been in the US Navy for 12 years. So the Army, put him on patrol boats in the Mekong Delta and that is where he used his sniper skills – firing from the deck of a boat. He is credited with 109 kills. Some of his post-war activities are sealed in classified FBI files. After that, he was involved with some private mercenary training schools. He died in 1995 at the age of 62.



<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Nicholas Irving served as a sniper in Iraq and Afghanistan in the 3rd Ranger Battalion. But during that time (6 deployments), he was also an assaulter and a machine gunner. His experience in this new type of war was invaluable. He used an Mk 11 rifle, a modified version of the SR-25 sniper rifle, which he nicknamed “Dirty Diana”. He left the military in 2010, became an alcoholic, got PTSD and tried to commit suicide – becoming a statistic of veterans that try to kill themselves. With help and support, he now has a fulfilling life and has co-authored 3 books. He now trains long distance shooters, including Olympians and members of the Special Ops community.



<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

Chris Kyle was a member of Navy Seal Team 3 who served as a sniper in Iraq (4 tours) and has over 150 confirmed kills by the Pentagon. He protected Marines in the urban warfare they were fighting. In 2012, his autobiography, **American Sniper**, was released for publication. He partnered with a foundation that helped veterans with disabilities and PTSD. On Feb 2, 2013, Kyle and a friend took a soldier suffering from PTSD to a shooting range, where the soldier killed both of them.



<https://www.sandboxx.us/blog/these-are-the-deadliest-snipers-the-world-never-saw/>

LONGEST RANGE

“Unnamed”* Joint Task Force2 (Canada)

Mosul, Iraq, 2017

Took out an ISIS combatant at a range of 3871 yards and the bullets were in the air for 10 sec.

Two “unnamed”* Commandos (Australia)

Afghanistan, 2012

Both shot and one of them killed a Taliban commander at a range of 3079 yards.

Cpl. of Horse Craig Harrison (Great Britain)

Afghanistan, 2009

He took out a machine gun crew that was 2707 yards away that had pinned soldiers down for 3 hours. The bullets took 6 seconds to travel.

Cpl. Rob Furlong (Canada)

Afghanistan, Operation Anaconda, 2002

He was protecting US troops, spotted an insurgent automatic weapons team and took them out at 2658 yards.

Master Cpl. Arron Perry (Canada)

Afghanistan, Operation Anaconda, 2002

He, too, was protecting US troops, spotted an artillery observer and took him out at 2526 yards.

Sgt. Bryan Kremer (USA)

Iraq, 2004

Details have not been released, but the distance was 2515 yards.

Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Hathcock (USA)

Vietnam, 1967

Details unknown, but the distance was 2500 yards.

Unknown (UN/South Africa)

Battle of Kibati, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2013

Took out 6 officers of M23 (*Congolese Revolutionary Army*) in one day. Longest shot was 2288 yards.

Spc. Nicholas Ranstad (USA)

Afghanistan, 2008

Ranstad was testing out his firing range, by targeting a rock. In January, 2008, Afghan insurgents were in the area of the rock and he took out one of them at the range of 2253 yards.

* For Security reasons, many countries will not release the snipers name.

For more information on the above and the weapons they used, here are some websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longest_recorded_sniper_kills

<https://americanshootingjournal.com/snipers-the-long-road-to-recognition/>

<https://coffeordie.com/longest-confirmed-sniper-kills/>

AND THEN THERE WAS John W. “Jack” Hinson!

Hinson was a farmer in Tennessee, who had a plantation, “Bubbling Springs”, owned slaves but wanted to remain neutral in the Civil War. In fact, he hosted Union Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant at his plantation and Grant made it his temporary headquarters.

This plantation was in the area where Kentucky-Tennessee had its border, and his association with Grant made him many enemies.

Divided loyalties amongst the local residents caused the Confederate sympathizers to engage in guerilla warfare against the Union soldiers in the area. They were called “bushwhackers” and not only attacked soldiers but civilians who sided with the Union.

Hinson’s sons were out hunting deer, when a Union patrol spotted them and considered them bushwhackers. They were shot, dragged into town, and their heads were decapitated from their bodies and taken to Hinson’s plantation where they were put on gateposts.

And that is when Hinson stopped being neutral. He commissioned a special rifle be made for him that could hit a target, a half mile away, and then he moved into a cave above the Tennessee River.

His first target! The Union Lieutenant that ordered the execution and beheading of his sons.

The next target! The Union soldier who put the heads on the gateposts!

Hinson’s cave was high and from this advantage point, he could target Union boats on both the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers – mostly going after boat captains and Union officers. But his greatest accomplishment as a sniper was when all the Union soldiers on a boat surrendered to him.

He started firing on the boat, the Captain of the boat thought they were being attacked by a Confederate unit (being pinned down, so to speak) and the Captain raised a white flag to surrender (actually it was a white tablecloth). Hinson knew he couldn’t handle all of these prisoners, so left the scene and let the Captain and the crew wondering what had happened.

Jack had 10 children and 4 were killed by the war. He survived and his rifle had 36 cuts in it, one for every Union officer he killed. The Union records say he had 130 kills but the general consensus was a little more than 100. And it all started out with the death and mutilation of his two sons who were deer hunting.



<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/american-civil-war/jack-ninson-civil-war-sniper-hell.html?chrome=1>

This article gave statistics on snipers across many nations, who were all part of the same brotherhood.

In the USA, there are many other snipers who have proven themselves in battle, from the Revolutionary War to the present day. Every branch of the military has a sniper school.

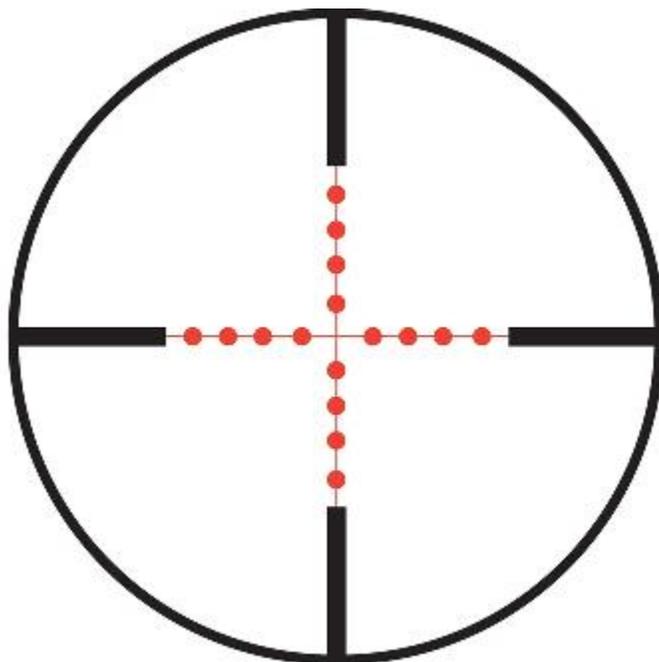
Today the Coast Guard uses snipers, in helicopters, to disable the engines of boats with narcotic smugglers and some females have qualified. They are called Aviation Precision Marksmen (Markswomen).

The Secret Service has a Counter Sniper Team who goes where the President goes -including Delaware.

What the future holds for these “sharpshooters”, time will tell.

Will the weapons be different or more high tech, certainly!

But the bottom line is – they save lives.





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MUSEUM HOURS

Mon 10:00 AM – Noon

2nd Saturday of the month

12:00 – 3:00

Program – 1:00 PM

THE VISUAL CONNECTION

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