



## Calling All Competitive Shooters

The U.S. Navy Marksmanship Team (USNMT) is looking for new members to participate in Navy and inter-service rifle and pistol matches. All active-duty Sailors and Reservists are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

The USNMT is the leading proponent of small arms marksmanship and safety training for U.S. Navy personnel. Each year, the team conducts the U.S. Fleet Forces Command (Atlantic and Pacific) Rifle and Pistol Matches, where hundreds of Sailors are trained in service rifle and service pistol marksmanship. Sailors participating in fleet matches represent their commands in individual and team events, earn marksmanship medals and badges, and qualify to stand armed watches aboard ships and at other commands.



USNMT also conducts the annual All Navy Rifle and Pistol Championships, in which the top 100 Sailors who have fired qualifying scores in fleet matches compete. As members of the rifle and pistol teams, the top 20 Sailors from each coast represent the Navy in the annual Interservice Rifle and Pistol Matches, the Civilian Marksmanship Program's National Rifle and Pistol Matches, and the National Rifle Association's National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

Both fleet matches begin with classroom and range training to familiarize shooters of all skill levels with safety and proper practices on the range as well as the fundamentals of marksmanship. Then the shooting starts. There are warm-up matches before the 600-point rifle match fired at distances of 200, 300 and 500 yards and the 600 point pistol match fired one-handed from 25 and 50 yards.

Competitors also shoot in both pistol and rifle excellence-in-competition (EIC) matches. EIC competitions are qualification matches in which competitors earn "leg points" toward the Distinguished Marksman and the Distinguished Pistol Shot badges. Sailors do not have to be experienced shooters to benefit from competitive shooting, nor do they even need to own firearms.

Throughout the match season, Naval Sea Systems Command Crane Division provides an armorer's van with match grade rifles, pistols, ammunition, and a workshop where a group of veteran gunsmiths build and maintain these precision firearms for Navy shooters. They even have all the small gear for matches like spotting scopes, shooting coats, mats, and folding stools used to carry gear up and down the 500-yard rifle range.

Joining the team couldn't be easier. The Navy Marksmanship Unit is not a commissioned unit of the Navy. It has no unit identification code and there are no billets. Team leadership is a collateral duty and team membership is entirely voluntary. The Navy team doesn't hire professional shooters like the Army Marksmanship Unit and it doesn't have permanent change of station assignments like the Marine Corps team. It is made entirely of Sailors who love to shoot and want to compete.

Interested shooters need to read the annual message, announcing match dates and locations, that came out recently and contact their commands to request orders to attend. The annual match announcement message and team details may be found at the team Web site [www.usnst.org](http://www.usnst.org).

Depending on funding availability, Active-duty Sailors may have to pay some of their travel and messing expenses out of pocket. Reservists can use any type or combination of orders, with command approval. However, if funding is unavailable, some Reservists do have to come on unpaid annual training orders.