

TSRA Gold Wins 2025 National Infantry Trophy

STORY BY JUSTIN BURNS, TSRA HIGH POWER RIFLE



Texas State Rifle Association Gold claimed the Infantry Trophy as the overall team in the National Trophy Infantry Team Match (NTIT Match). This was only the **8th time in the match's 108-year history that a civilian team has won**, and there have only been four civilian teams to win the award. The match is predominantly won by the military teams.

TSRA Gold also won the Leatherneck Trophy (High Civilian) for the 8th time. Texas teams have a long history of participating in this match, with the first win in 1964. For some team members, it is the highlight of their trip to Camp Perry each summer, and it makes for a fun way to end the week.

The **NTIT Match**, also called "**Rattle Battle**," is a team event where six-person teams fire at banks of eight silhouette targets, emphasizing rapid and accurate shooting. The match starts at 600 yards in the prone position, then moves to 500 yards in the prone position, then 300 yards in the sitting position, and concludes at 200 yards in the standing position. Each yard line has a 50 second time limit, and the team has a total of 384 rounds to use however they want. The rifles must be Service Rifles, which for the Texas team means an AR-15 with a 4.5x scope. There are some teams using M1A's and M1 Garands, with the latter competing in their own class.



This match requires teamwork. Preparation begins months before, with loading ammo, multiple team practices, and developing an ammo load plan based on shooters ability. Competition is fierce to make the Gold Team. Texas has almost enough shooters to field two teams; however, there can only be one in competition team entered in the match. The shooters' only job is to make good shots and call out if something goes wrong. The Coach and Captain are responsible for load plans, wind calls, directing favors, ammo redistribution, and having shooters cover other targets in case of a gun malfunction. Fifty seconds go by fast and require quick thinking on the Coach and Captain's part. Last but not least are the pick-up crew, which gathers spent brass, magazines, and anything else the team drops, allowing the rest of the team to focus on their main tasks.

Start making plans now to attend the **CMP National Matches** at Camp Perry next summer if you want to experience this match, as it is only held once a year. For more info, go to the CMP National Awards website.

TSRA Service Rifle Team Wins 2025 National Infantry Trophy: Left to Right: John Ilzhoefer, Clay Maugans, Daryl Melkert, Gary Troxell, Justin Utley, Justin Burns, Randy Scheibel, Kyle Hoelscher

