

# Hathcock Award Nominee



Mr. W. Hays Parks, JD

# Working for the Warfighter

- His fundamental philosophy: *“To provide maximum support for the first Marine across the beach, the first assaulter through the door, the sniper taking the cold bore shot, and other US military and law enforcement personnel operating in or likely to operate in harm’s way.”*
- He supported each as best as he could -- including being given the responsibility on behalf of the US to defeat repeated attempts by the International Committee of the Red Cross and others over more than a quarter of a century to deny our fighters those critical tools -- and succeeding in thwarting those attempts.
- His mantra is *“If there is a legal issue, fix it. Simply answering ‘No’, or ‘You can’t do it.’ does not constitute effective legal advice.”*

# Open Tip Match

- He authored the opinion that the projectile most commonly known as “Boat Tail Hollowpoint, Match” was actually legal for combat operations.
- His in-depth understanding of ballistics and where to obtain factual data on projectile performance resulted in the reclassification of that type of projectile as “Open Tip Match”.
- OTM requested for competition only, but Hays’ approval included the admonition that it would likely receive a favorable review for combat use, if asked.
- This was initially in 7.62x51 but has also spread to other cartridges.
- It had never been approved for combat because no one in the JAG system prior to Hays Parks had the combination of current and historical legal knowledge, extensive ballistic experience, bulldog tenacity and articulate grasp of the English language to “fix” a misapplied standard.

# OTM (cont.)

- In writing the first opinion on OTM (Open Tip Match Bullets) Colonel Parks set the groundwork for his later opinions regarding OTM versions MK248 Mod 0 and Mod 1, M118LR, AB39, MK262 Mod 0 and Mod 1, SOST, MK255 Mod 1 and many more, including some that some of you may have used but discussing in this arena is not appropriate.
- His work to make these rounds available to our troops has resulted in more effective fire on our enemies and fewer chances for those enemies to fire back or ever again pose a threat to US forces.
- These actions saved American (and allied) lives.

# Hays' Influence on the Warfighter

- He encouraged innovation, provided careful guidance to those responsible for development, and used articulate, masterful analysis to meet our treaty and policy obligations while at the same time giving the most effective, lawful ammunition to our troops.
- Hays has provided support since 1979 for Joint Special Operations Command Forces, including Special Mission Units, primarily by providing legal reviews for essential weapons and ammunition for their critical missions. Hays approved every request for small arms weapons and/or ammunition that was presented to him.
- From 1979 until 2006 Hays was the senior U.S. representative at every multinational conference or other meeting in which proponents (governments and non-government organizations) put forward proposed treaty prohibitions or additional restrictions on military small arms ammunition. He not only defended our positions, he led the charge in opposition of proposed restrictions.

# Hays' Influence on the Warfighter

- Hays provided legal support and training for Army Special Forces snipers, components of the Navy Special Warfare Command, the Marine Corps Scout-Sniper School and for federal, state, and local law enforcement through various programs.
- He continues to participate as a subject-matter expert in an annual Naval Special Warfare Command (NAVSPECWARCOM) sniper conference instituted five years ago, now attended by snipers from U.S. and allied military forces.
- *Though few are aware, Hays has donated any compensation received for these extracurricular support efforts to Unit and Navy operators support funds.*

# Why Hays Works for the Warfighter

- Hays Parks one day will be a historical legend.
  - He is currently a contemporary figure, a warrior still on duty in so many ways.
- His continual service began in 1960, as a Deputy Sheriff and a Guard for the US Marshal's service transporting felons.
- He joined the Marines in 1961, volunteering for duty in Vietnam.
- He always sought personal challenges, such as infantry and recon command, airborne and similar schools. He volunteered for Viet Nam and combat assignment when he could have avoided it.
- In 1979 he converted his regular Marine Corps commission to that of a Reserve Officer and accepted the position of Special Assistant to the Judge Advocate General of the Army.

# Summary

- Hays Parks' efforts have had a positive influence on the success of EVERY U.S Military Sniper in recent history.
- He has likely had similar influence on the success of most of those of our closest Allies.
- For these reasons, it is our opinion that Hays Parks is deserving of the Hathcock Award and the eternal gratitude of all of us, especially those whose lives he saved.
- Yes, he saved lives... there are countless US servicemen alive right now because Hays Parks put more accurate, reliable and effective ammunition into their hands and the hands of their fellow warfighters.





# W. Hays Parks

