**Honoring a Legacy: Dean Hunter’s Contributions to U.S. Biathlon Preserved**

In the spring of 2025, Chris Hunter reached out to the U.S. Biathlon Association (USBA) to share the story and legacy of his father, Arvil “Dean” Hunter. A native of Alabama and a skilled marksman, Dean Hunter served as a member of the Biathlon Unit at Fort Richardson, Alaska during the 1960s. Though new to skiing, he quickly adapted and enjoyed the sport.

After achieving moderate success with the Unit, Hunter was deployed to Vietnam, where he was wounded in combat. He returned to the Biathlon Unit in the late 1960s, this time as the rifle coach—an assignment he deeply valued. As coach, he left a lasting mark, both in developing the shooting skills of the athletes and in mentoring many young servicemen.

Dean Hunter passed away in April 2025. His obituary can be viewed here: [Arvil Dean Hunter Obituary](https://www.patejonesfuneralhome.com/obituary/ArvilDean-Hunter)

USBA Archivist Rob Sherwood recently met with Chris Hunter to receive a collection of Dean Hunter’s memorabilia and personal papers. Under a special agreement with the Hunter family, the USBA will catalog, organize, and digitally scan the collection for future research access before returning the original materials to the family.

In the accompanying image, Rob Sherwood is pictured on the left, and Chris Hunter on the right. The collection includes rifles, race results, personal letters, photographs, and other historic items.

Dean Hunter’s legacy joins another important historical collection recently entrusted to the USBA—the papers of Paul Renne, a member of the Biathlon Unit in the early 1960s. Renne represented the U.S. at the 1964 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria. He tragically died in a car accident in the late 1960s, but his legacy lives on through a rich set of materials, including his Olympic passport and original race bibs.

If you or someone you know has historic biathlon materials in need of a permanent home, please contact Rob Sherwood at **Archives@usbiathlon.org**.

