

# 1 on 1

**By Morris Gresham**

Fred Tschantz's shooting life consists of three separate parts—when he was a child, when he was a young Army MP and, finally, the third and final segment when he became the skeet shooter he is today. The third try was a charm for the young man whose doubles style prompted Bruce Christian's fitting nickname for him. He is now known to many shooters as Boom-Boom.

Born in Barberton, Ohio on July 17, 1969, Tschantz grew up in that city with an older sister, Denise, and his fraternal twin brother, Brian. Although his parents weren't interested in hunting or shooting, his grandfather, Gaylen Schulz, was. He introduced the youngster to target shooting with a .22 and followed that with an introduction to shotgun shooting at hand-thrown clay pigeons when he was around 11 years old.

"My grandfather played a little trick on me with the old 12

gauge side-by-side shotgun," Tschantz recalled. "It was a double-trigger gun—where you pick a trigger for each barrel. He would load the gun and tell me, 'I don't want you to flinch or anything, but when I tell you to shoot, the gun could be empty or it could go off.' The first one fired and it surprised me because the 12 gauge kicked me pretty good, especially at 11. I didn't get to do a lot of shooting, but I did a little shooting with him."

His father Fred Sr.'s career as a tool and die maker influenced Tschantz to enroll in the vocational machine trades in high school, a route taken by his close friend Sam Armstrong. And, like Armstrong, Tschantz went into the Army immediately after high school. Then, again like his friend, Tschantz went into law enforcement after the Army—but the similarity ends there. Tschantz stuck with police work rather than using his machinist training as Armstrong did.

"My whole purpose in going into the military had

## **FRED TSCHANTZ**

*A happy-go-lucky, nice guy, but a hard-working, dedicated, relentless competitor*

