



ALASKAN LADIES SHOOT FOR GOLD



Mounties best Troopers in annual shooting competition, Ladies bring home the Significant Others Shoot Out trophy

June 2014

The Alaskans relied on their ladies to bring home the bling from the 54th Annual International Police Shooting Competition between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Alaska State Troopers in Whitehorse, Yukon this past weekend. A group of five ladies that accompanied their Trooper husbands and fiancée to the competition bested six of their Canadian counterparts on June 14 to win the Significant Others Shoot Out. Kelly Goeden, wife of Lt. Chad Goeden, led the team and captured the top SOSO shooter honor.



The teams together before the competition.

However, the Canadians got to keep all of the other trophies up for grabs. For the second year in a row, the RCMPs won both the team and top overall shooter competition with RCMP Cpl. Ryan Hack topping all other shooters in both the team and tactical portions on June 15. After losing four years in a row, RCMP Chief Superintendent Peter Clark won the Commissioner's Cup by out-shooting Alaska Department of Public Safety Commissioner Gary Folger. Trooper Lt. Jim Helgoe was the top shooter for the AST team. He also took second in the tactical competition. Members competed individually in a tactical course that is separate from the overall team competition that it follows.



An Alaska State Trooper shoots at a target during the AST course of fire.

The longest international shooting contest, known as "The Shoot," pits a team of Troopers against a team of Canadian RCMP counterparts. After a day of practicing on June 14, the teams shot side by side using the Troopers' standard issue pistol, a .40-caliber Glock, to go through an AST course of fire, then used the RCMP's **Alaska State Troopers shoot from a prone position during the RCMP course of fire with the RCMP service weapon.**



standard issue 9 mm Smith and Wesson to go through the RCMP's course of fire. The competitors then switched weapons and each shooter completed the other team's course of fire using their partner's sidearm. This relates to a case years ago where the Mounties and Troopers were working together to track down a suspect near Hyder, a border community in Southeastern Alaska with a neighboring Canadian community just across the international line. Policy prevented the Trooper from using his service weapon in Canada when the trooper crossed the border. The Mounties had to provide him with one of their weapons to use during the apprehension.



The winning AST Ladies pose with DPS Commissioner Gary Folger and RCMP Chief Superintendent Peter Clark.

While the event is built up around a shooting contest, the occasion is more about camaraderie between the Troopers and Mounties and their families. Shortly after Alaska became a state in 1959, Inspector Joe Vachon, commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, wanted to find a way for the Mounties and Troopers to get to know each other better on a personal basis as well as strengthen their working partnership. It is the longest standing international shooting competition in the world. Some of the Troopers competing this weekend have had to reach across the border and work with Mounties. The Shoot gives them an opportunity to establish and strengthen those long-standing relationships with the RCMP.



Alaska Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Brent Johnson, on left, and RCMP Cst. Stephen "Archie" Archibald tally scores on a RCMP target.

RCMPs use the AST service weapon to shoot their own course of fire.

