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49th Annual AST/RCMP Shoot Takes Aim in Kenai

(KENAI, Alaska) – The 49th Annual Alaska State Troopers/Royal Canadian Mounted Police International Police Pistol Competition will be held in Kenai, Alaska this year. The competition takes place on August 2, 2009 at the Snow Shoe Shooting Range. The shoot is a tradition of fostering partnership and brotherhood between the two agencies.



This year the AST team is made up of Commissioner Joseph Masters, Trooper Nathan Duce, Sergeant Tim Shoenberg, Sergeant Odean Hall, Trooper Brent Johnson and Sergeant Chad Goeden. The two trooper alternates are Investigator Steve Lantz and Trooper Shane Calt.

The competition began shortly after Alaska entered into statehood in 1959. Inspector Joe Vachon, RCMP commanding officer, wanted to find a way for the Mounties and the Troopers to strengthen their working partnership. A friendly shooting competition was thought to be the perfect way to start a bond.

In 1960, the first competition was held. During the competition, Troopers and Mounties exchange service weapons as a part of each course. 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 Shoot — though revolving around a pistol competition, really has little to do with “shooting.” For 49 years it has served as a way for Troopers and Mounties to form a lasting bond of friendship and brotherhood.

“This competition is very important to both agencies. I think it is a bit of tradition and history that needs to continue,” said Col. Audie Holloway, Director of the Alaska State Troopers. “You cannot put a price on the importance of spending time with your fellow employees and friends.”

Every year the competition is different. Each team makes up a “course” with segments made up with a combination of time, distance, weapon-type, precision and capabilities.