The Chicken Strikes Again

Mounties Outgun Troopers At The Shoot To Keep Trophy On Canada Soil

Constable Ryan Hack of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police takes aim at a target during the tactical portion of the international shooting competition between RCMPs and Alaska State Troopers. The chicken on the right is turned sideways, making it harder for him to knock down the metal target.

Story and Photos
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The same target that fouled up the tactical run for both Alaska State Troopers top shooters Sgt. Tim Schoenberg and Sgt. Odean Hall when they ran through the course in Whitehorse, Yukon two years ago got the best of Royal Canadian Mounted Police's ace Constable Ryan Hack at this year's shooting competition between the two northern law enforcement agencies Aug. 13-16.

Hack was the top shooter for the target shooting portion of the 50th RCMP-AST International Shooting Competition, otherwise known as The Shoot. However, on Sunday, Aug. 16 in Whitehorse, the chicken got the best of him, possibly robbing him of victory for the tactical portion of the anniversary shoot. Instead, Hall, who fell victim to one of the 10 chicken-shaped metal targets two years prior, took home the prize by edging RCMP's Ian Fraser

Like two years ago, one of the targets spun sideways instead of falling over when a round struck the metal – giving shooters only the thin edge of the flat target to shoot. This time and because of what the target did two years ago, Hack was allowed to reposition from a different angle after he had knocked the rest of the chickens over. Unfortunately for him, his rhythm was already thrown off. Luckily for him, the tactical contest

The two teams donn the RCMP Red Serge and AST dress tunics before the formal dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Shoot. They are from left to right, Constable Ryan Hack, Sgt. Chad Goeden, Corporal Jason Flynn, Trooper Steve Lantz, Constable Jeff Kalles, Sgt. Brent Johnson, Sgt. Glenn Ramsay, DPS Commissioner Joe Masters, Sgt. Mark London, Trooper Andrew Neason, Constable Adam Lightfoot, Capt. Hans Brinke, Constable Derek Turner and Sgt. Odean Hall. Not pictured are AST Sgt. Tim Schoenberg and Cst. Ian Fraser.

DPS Commissiner Joe Masters keeps his eye on the target while shooting during the RCMP Course of Fire on Saturday, Aug. 14. Masters won the Commissioner's Cup and also placed eighth out of 17 shooters during the tactical portion on Sunday, Aug. 15.

is separate from the main part of the competition – the target shooting. Hack's rhythm was not off for this part as he came out on top of all the shooters and led his team to victory over the Troopers. After spending two years on American soil, the RCMPs will get to keep the team trophy in Canada, winning the team portion on Saturday, Aug. 14. The RCMP's significant others also bested the American ladies. Sgt. Tim Schoenberg, of Fairbanks Judicial Services, was the top shooter for AST during the target portion on Saturday, coming in second to Hack. Schoenberg has been competing in The Shoot the longest, with 18 years of the event under his belt, many of those coming out on top of all shooters. Schoenberg's fiancé, Katherine Hood, took top honors for the Significant Other Shoot Off Competition on Sunday. Department of Public Safety Commissioner Joseph Masters took the High Score, bringing home the trophy for the Commissioner's Cup for the second year in a row by besting RCMP Chief Superintendent Peter Clark. Clark also celebrated his 50th birthday that weekend – his age matching the event he competed in.

While the event is built up around a shooting contest, it's more about camaraderie between the Troopers and Mounties. 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

2010 International Law Enforcement Firearms Competition Winners

Highest Score for AST Course of Fire (COF) by AST: **Sgt. Tim Schoenberg**
Highest Score for RCMP COF by RCMP: **Cst. Ryan Hack**
Highest Score for AST COF by RCMP: **Cst. Ian Fraser**
Highest Score for RCMP COF by AST: **Sgt. Brent Johnson**
Highest Score for RCMP/AST Significant Other Shoot Off Competition: **Katherine Hood (AST)**
Highest Aggregate Score for RCMP/AST COF by AST: **Sgt. Tim Schoenberg**
Highest Aggregate Score for RCMP/AST COF by RCMP: **Cst. Ryan Hack**
Overall Highest Aggregate Score for RCMP/AST Competition: **Cst. Ryan Hack**
Tactical Shoot "Top Gun": **Sgt. Odean Hall**
High Score for Commissioner's Cup: **DPS Commissioner Joe Masters**
Red Lantern Award: **Trp. Steve Lantz**
Winning Team for SOSO Trophy: **RCMP**
Winning Team of RCMP/AST Team Trophy: **RCMP**

Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Odean Hall gives his wife, Soldotna dispatcher Suzanne Hall, a few words of encouragement during the Significant Other Shoot Off on Sunday, Aug. 15, in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Alaska State Trooper Trp. Andrew Neason and RCMP Sgt. Glenn Ramsay swap service weapons before shooting through each other's course of fire during the target portion of The Shoot.

RCMP Commissioner Bill Elliott walks between Troopers and Mounties standing at attention as he leaves the shooting range where the competition took place outside Whitehorse, Yukon. RCMP Constable Ian Fraser, far left, plays the bagpipes to salute Elliott's departure. Elliott is flanked by DPS Commissioner Joe Masters to the left and Chief Superintendent Peter Clark to the right.

to know each other better on a personal basis as well as strengthen their working partnership. 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 RCMP.

The 50th Anniversary of the longest known international shooting competition was celebrated with a formal dinner on Friday, Aug. 13th. Mounties attended wearing their Red Surge uniforms and Troopers donned the AST blue tunics. RCMP Commissioner Bill Elliot traveled from Ottawa, Ontario to attend the anniversary celebration and watch some of the competition.

This year, The Shoot was held at the Grey Mountain shooting range in Whitehorse, Yukon. There, a team of Schoenberg, Commissioner Masters, Hall, AWT Sgt. Brent Johnson of King Salmon, Trooper Andrew Neason of Fairbanks, Trooper Steve Lantz of Fairbanks and alternate Sgt. Chad Goeden of Fairbanks shot side by side with their RCMP partners standing behind them. This included shooting at targets with the RCMP's standard issue 9 mm Smith and Wesson. Similarly, the

Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Tim Schoenberg grabs three shotguns shells from a parked vehicle during the tactical portion of The Shoot.

Alaska Wildlife Trooper Sgt. Brent Johnson runs from station No. 2 to the last station during the tactical portion of The Shoot.

Mounties shot a course using their Trooper partner's standard issue pistol, the.40-caliber Glock. They took turns running through the AST and RCMP shooting courses with the respective guns. 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 tactical portion of the competition involved firing not only pistols, but also a variety of other firearms and then running to the next station – all after beginning the course by doing 15 jumping jacks to get the heart rate going.

Next year, the event will return to Alaska. The date and location will be determined at a later time.

The American ladies line up after they compete in the target portion of the Significant Other Shoot Off. They are, from left to right, Suzanne Hall, Catelyn Neason, Kelly Goeden, Amy Lantz, Katherine Hood, Michelle Masters and Mariah Johnson.