



June 19, 2013  
DPS Media Advisory #13-016

### **Troopers, Mounties Square Off in Shooting Competition in Palmer This Weekend**

(PALMER, Alaska) – Alaska State Troopers will try to defend last year’s win over the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on home turf at the 53rd Annual International Police Shooting Competition taking place at the Palmer Shooting Range this weekend. A team of Troopers has won the team honors the past two years in a row – winning in both Whitehorse, Yukon in 2012 and Fairbanks in 2011.

The contest, known as “The Shoot,” pits a team of Troopers against a team of Canadian RCMP counterparts. After a day of practicing, on Sunday they’ll shoot side by side using the Troopers’ standard issue pistol, a .40-caliber Glock, to go through an AST course of fire, then use the RCMP’s standard issue 9 mm Smith and Wesson to go through the RCMP’s course of fire. The competitors then switch weapons and each shooter must complete the other teams 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.

While the event is built up around a shooting contest, the occasion is 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 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.

After the team portion on Sunday, members will compete individually in a tactical course that is separate from the overall team competition. Spouses also get a chance to compete in the Significant Other Shoot Off on Saturday. Visitors can watch the competition from designated areas at the range.

#### **Schedule of Competition:**

Saturday, June 22

0900 – Team Practice at Palmer Range at end of S. Brooks Road off of Outer Springer Loop near Palmer

1300 – Significant Other Shoot Off Competition at the Palmer Range

Sunday, June 23

0800 – 53rd Shoot at Palmer Range

1300 – Tactical Competition at the Palmer Range

Past stories about The Shoot: (2010) <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/PIO/TrooperTimes/ArchiveStories/The%20Shoot%202010.pdf> and (2009) <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/PIO/TrooperTimes/ArchiveStories/49th%20Shoot%200809.pdf>.