

Hanford Patrol officers earn high marks in competition

Members of the Hanford Patrol team participated in the Department of Energy's annual Security Police Officer Training Competition held in Albuquerque, N. M., June 2-5. The team competed against other DOE sites and DOE contractors, including Savannah River, Pantex, DOE Idaho and Rocky Flats. The Hanford Patrol continued its record of success in team and individual events.

Security police officer Scott White brought recognition to Hanford by being named Security Police Officer of the Year. This is the second time he has earned the prestigious title, which is based on individual performance in six skill competitions.

Competitive events involved activities such as hostage rescue scenarios, tactics, shooting with the gas mask on with both pistol and rifle, shooting at moving and steel targets and plates, and tactical decision-making.

"We are extremely proud of Scott's performance," said Al Bowser, general manager for Protection Technology Hanford's Safeguards and Security. "It is indicative of the quality of training he receives from the Hanford Patrol training staff and of the capabilities of the rest of the protective force."

Micah Clark also placed in the top 10 in the individual competition and Robert Morrow, the team captain, placed first in the supervisor competition.

The Hanford team placed sixth out of 12 teams in this grueling competition comprising five events. The events are designed to be difficult, and the tactical shooting courses change each year to make the course unpredictable for competitors from previous years. The objective of the competition is to make the course physically exerting to test the officers' ability to do well under physical stress. Adding to the physical stress this year was the altitude — Albuquerque is located on a plateau at an elevation of nearly a mile.

Team members were SPOs Scott White, Ralph Bell, Micah Clark, Cary York and Dodd Coutts. The team captain was Lt. Robert Morrow and the team coach was Capt. Sam Hernandez.

"This recognition is a source of pride for the whole site, as it highlights superb discipline, training and professionalism," said Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office. "It's too easy to take for granted the skills of the Hanford Patrol as well as many other services around here such as the fire department, emergency services, fab shop, and others, and it shouldn't take a major award to remind us all of the critical work these folks do." ■



Robert Morrow, team captain for Hanford competitors in a DOE contest earlier this month, fires a pistol in an individual event.