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Lt. Hemphill Wins 8th NRA National Police Shooting Championship Using Smith & Wesson Performance Center Firearms

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (October 24, 2006) – Smith & Wesson Corp., the legendary 154-year old firearms maker, announced today that Lt. Philip W. Hemphill of the Mississippi Highway Patrol was the overall winner of the NRA National Police Shooting Championship (NPSC) held at the new Police Pistol Combat (PPC) range in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Hemphill retained his title as the National Police Shooting Champion for the eighth time, with a score of 2988-197X out of a possible score of 3000-300X, using Performance Center handguns provided by Smith & Wesson.

This year's championship featured 300 law enforcement and security officers competing for the title in a series of shooting competitions designed to test their skill in police combat scenarios. The NPSC tournament involves semi-automatic pistols, revolvers and shotguns during the three-day event. The aggregate winner of the Revolver 1500 and Semi-Auto Pistol 1500 matches determines the National Champion. Hemphill, competing with a Smith & Wesson PPC 9mm along with a Model 686 and a Performance Center Model 64 revolver, placed first in the semi-auto match and second in the revolver match.

“Hemphill’s latest accomplishment exemplifies the unmatched accuracy, reliability and confidence that Smith & Wesson firearms provide to competitive shooters and everyday users,” said Tom Kelly, Business Manager of the Smith & Wesson Performance Center. “Our goal has and always will be to manufacture firearms that offer competitors, professionals and consumers a distinct advantage in both practical and realistic environments. In competition shooting, reliability is the key factor. Smith & Wesson acknowledges this and that is why we strive to build accurate firearms with exceptional ergonomics.”

During the match, Hemphill used a 6-inch Smith & Wesson PPC 9mm single action pistol built on a 5906 style frame. The competition pistol features an Aristocrat three-position sight for 7, 25 and 50-yard targets. Available to law enforcement in the United States, the PPC 9mm is widely used in competitive tournaments. Hemphill also used a 6-inch, 4-inch and 2.5-inch Model 686 plus a Model 64 with a custom 6-inch heavy barrel and short cylinder during the tournament. Another popular pistol used by several competitors during the NPSC was the Smith & Wesson Model 952 in both a 5-inch and 6-inch barrel configuration.

About Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation, through its subsidiary Smith & Wesson Corp., is one of the world's largest manufacturers of quality handguns, law enforcement products and firearm safety/security products. The Company also licenses shooter protection, knives, apparel and other accessory lines. The Company is based in Springfield, Mass., with manufacturing facilities in Springfield and Houlton, Maine. The Smith & Wesson Academy is America's longest-running firearms training facility for America's public servants. For more information, call (800) 331-0852 or log on to www.smith-wesson.com.