

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industry Contact: Gary Giudice
Blue Heron Communications
800-654-3766
gary@blueheroncomm.com

Smith & Wesson 460XVR Earns Second 'Handgun of the Year' Award

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (February 23, 2006) - Smith & Wesson Corporation, the legendary, 154-year old, global provider of products and services for safety, security, protection and sport, today announced that its Model 460XVR (X-treme Velocity Revolver) has received the "2005 Handgun of the Year" award from Guns & Ammo Magazine.

Representing a cross-section of the industry's most innovative firearms, the Guns & Ammo "Gun of the Year" Awards were selected by both the general public and magazine subscribers through online voting and mail-in ballots. The Model 460XVR was one of six nominees for the handgun award.

"The Smith & Wesson 460XVR gives a whole new dimension to the X-frame series," said Payton Miller, Executive Editor for Guns & Ammo. "The combination of accuracy, flat trajectory and power that it provides makes it the premier long-range revolver in the industry. It is capable of taking big game at more than 200 yards and it's one of the most accurate handguns I've used."

Smith & Wesson first introduced the Model 460XVR at SHOT Show in January 2005. The revolver, capable of launching a 200-grain bullet at more than 2,300 feet per second, represents the highest velocity production revolver currently available. In April 2005, the 460XVR also received the "2005 Handgun of the Year" award from the Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence. This year, Smith & Wesson expanded the 460XVR line at SHOT Show with two new models by the Smith & Wesson Performance Center and one factory model, the 460V.

Tom Taylor, Vice President of Marketing for Smith & Wesson, said, "We are honored to be this year's recipient of the Guns & Ammo 'Handgun of the Year Award'. This award, which is voted on by outdoor enthusiasts, represents the best and most innovative new products in the industry. Big bore fans will be happy to know that we will continue to push the envelope with the entire X-frame series and that we have several new models coming."

About Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson is a global provider of products and services for the safety, security, protection and sport markets. The Company manufactures firearms and handcuffs and is home to America's longest-running firearms training facilities for America's public servants. The Company also markets a variety of products for sport shooters including firearm safety/security devices, shooter protective gear, knives, apparel, footwear and other accessory lines. The Company is based in Springfield, Mass., with manufacturing facilities in Springfield and Houlton, Maine. Contact (800) 331-0852 or log on to www.smith-wesson.com