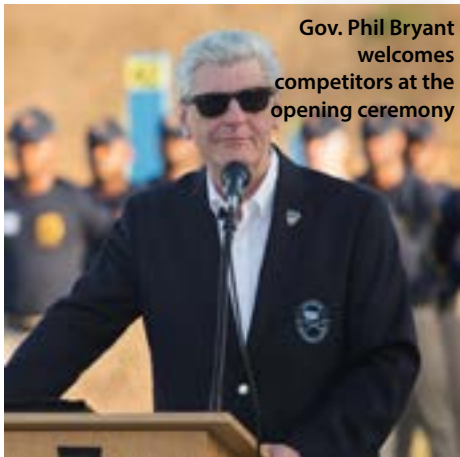




NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT QUARTERLY

2019 NPSC: New Location, New Record



Gov. Phil Bryant welcomes competitors at the opening ceremony

BY LARS DALSEIDE
NRA MEDIA RELATIONS

Competitors enjoyed an embarrassment of riches this year at the NRA National Police Shooting Championships in Pearl, MS. There was a record-setting national championship performance, a new location to shoot, an awards banquet address by NRA EVP Wayne LaPierre, and an official welcome by Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant.



NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre addresses the competitors at the awards banquet.

“How many states would bring this type of leadership out not only to see the NRA shooting competition?” Gov. Bryant asked the crowd. “I just want to tell you how much we appreciate you being here. Coming from three different nations and just about every state in the United States to here in Rankin County, Mississippi, to practice what you do best – protect and defend.

“Let’s put some lead downrange.”

Minutes later, the governor’s orders were followed to a T.

Shooting in relays of 90 or more, competitors spent the next three days sending lead from as close as 7 yards away and as far as 50 yards from the standing, sitting, prone, and supported position as targets swiveled under the Mississippi sun – an obstacle some found challenging.

“The humidity has been pretty brutal since the moment we arrived,” Gio Barr of the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department said with a smile. “I work in the desert, so I’m used to the dry heat. The temperatures might hit 126 or 127, but this humidity is a whole different animal.”

Humidity was just one of the beasts to tame. There was also the pressure of representing your agency/department, of shooting alongside world-class shooters, of shooting a timed event, of shooting without warm-ups, and of shooting with your off hand. Pressure that takes years to master – which might explain the results.

The results being a 10th consecutive NPSC championship for Border Patrol Agent Robert Vadasz. This year’s win gave Vadasz a record 11 NPSC titles overall – a feat he credits to his agency.

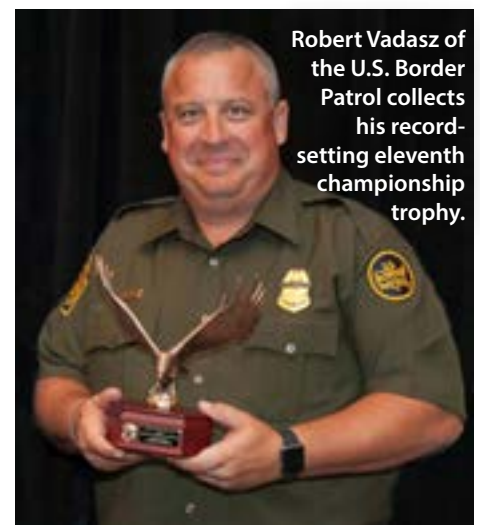
“I’m lucky in that I came to this sport with some natural skill,” said Vadasz. “But natural skills only takes you so far ... I had the benefit of learning from 10 guys who were on the team for 20 years, and each of them learned from 10 guys who were on the

team for 20 years, and so on. It speeds up your learning curve exponentially.”

Finishing with a final tally of 2985-125x, Vadasz bested fellow Border Patrol Agent Brett Sullivan by 12 points and 37xs. Not too bad for an 11th title run, which is a new record!

Other notable accomplishments included Canada’s Richard Kurina winning the Shotgun Championship, New Mexico’s Gina Hernandez claiming the High Scoring Woman title, Michigan’s Mark Stout finishing as the High Scoring First Timer, and Arizona’s Doug Peoble capturing the High Scoring Sheriff/Deputy Sheriff crown.

Each of those achievements and more were recognized Wednesday night at the Championship dinner. Wayne LaPierre gave a rousing keynote speech on the NRA’s support of law enforcement. Gov. Bryant, also addressed the exuberant crowd, and it was Gov. Bryant’s closing statement that truly captured the spirit of this year’s championships: “We appreciate law enforcement, we honor what you do, and we pray for you every day. I hope you enjoyed it. Next year, we’re going to turn on the air conditioning.”



Robert Vadasz of the U.S. Border Patrol collects his record-setting eleventh championship trophy.



Thank You, NPSC Supporters!



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PERFECTION



LEOSA Update

On February 13, 2019, Congressman Don Bacon (NE-02) introduced H.R. 1156, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) Reform Act. After its introduction, Rep. Bacon hosted a press conference with the leading original co-sponsors and supporting organizations, on the need for this critical piece of legislation.

The LEOSA Reform Act expands the LEOSA exemption to allow qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms on state, local, and private property otherwise open to the public; in national parks; of magazines not prohibited by federal law; and in Federal security level I or II public access facilities. This legislation would also allow for these qualified professionals to carry on Gun Free School Zones and reforms qualification standards to alleviate undue burdens which currently exist.

“The core of the LEOSA Reform Act is about responsibility – a responsibility to provide greater public safety for law enforcement and our communities at home. Many of us know, an officer’s call to protect and serve extends far beyond the sworn duties of their official capacities. Unfortunately, our officers are facing greater and greater dangers, and current restrictions hinder their ability to carry firearms in a capacity that is safest for them and the public. It is the responsibility of Congress to provide greater public safety for law enforcement and our communities, and this bill does just that.”

The original cosponsors of this bill are Rep. Pete Stauber (MN-08) and Rep. John Rutherford (FL-04).

The supporting organizations are:

- The Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI (SFSAFBI)
- The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
- The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- The Association of Former Agents of the United States Secret Service (AFAUSSS)
- The FBI Agents Association (FBIAA)
- The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- The Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department (NYPD SBA)
- The National Sheriffs Association (NSA)
- The Port Authority Retired Police Association of New York and New Jersey (PARPA NY-NJ)
- The San Francisco Veteran Police Officers Association (SFVPOA)
- The ATF Association (ATFA)
- The FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA)

TUITION INCREASE ALERT

NRA Law Enforcement is increasing Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor School tuition. Effective January 1, 2020, the tuition fee for all NRA Law Enforcement Firearm Instructor Schools will be \$685.

We understand that any tuition increase can be difficult on officers and departments. However, our training tuition is still the best value in the industry, and our costs for conducting the schools have increased.



BILL CAMPBELL, NRA LE TRAINING STAFF

Adding red dot sights on a law enforcement firearm is not a new concept; we have had them on our law enforcement patrol rifles for several years. In 1997, when a North Hollywood bank robbery initiated the rush for patrol rifles and patrol rifle training, most were equipped with iron sights only. Many of these rifles were military surplus, with Vietnam-era iron sights. The idea of adding a glass optic was reserved for a precision marksman.

In the space of 20 years, the standard law enforcement long gun carried in the patrol car evolved from the pump-action shotgun, to the surplus iron-sighted patrol rifle, to today's modern red dot-equipped carbine-length rifle with a mounted flashlight.

What changed? Like most major advances in police firearms, a few things had to evolve simultaneously:

1. The technology and durability of the reflex red dot optic itself and availability of backup iron sights.
2. The availability of a standardized rail system on the rifle's upper receiver to mount the sights to the firearm.
3. Quality research and training to use all of these together.

The Red Dots Are Coming ...

Today, most agencies that authorize patrol rifles accept the use of a red dot optic with backup iron sights, and some agencies even allow some level of magnification. For most, the use of the red dot optic on the rifle allows more consistent accuracy at longer ranges and greater speed at closer ranges. If the optic fails, the backup iron sights are a redundant failsafe to keep the rifle operational.

Now, in 2019, we are seeing a new sweeping trend in law enforcement handguns and firearms training. Red dot optics have been used by handgun competitors for years, but now we are seeing a trend to make them smaller and more durable, and officers are mounting them to handguns and carrying them on duty. Across the firearms industry, there are four major areas developing simultaneously:

THE HANDGUNS

Many firearm manufacturers are now designing the slides of the handguns specifically to accept a micro red dot sight (MRDS). Glock, SIG Sauer, S&W, and many others have developed modular optics system (MOS) versions of their most popular law enforcement handguns. Many of these MOS models are essentially the same as the stock pistol, but they are pre-milled with a removable plate that is replaced by the MRDS mounted to the slide, with a firearm/optic specific plate. Also, several quality gunsmiths can mill an existing slide to accept a specific mounting plate for the chosen MRDS. Once this mill cut is completed, the slide is essentially customized for that optic. Some companies, such as SIG Sauer, are developing their own MRDS and

making the optic-mounted firearm available from the factory. I anticipate this trend will spread to other manufacturers.

THE OPTICS AND IRON SIGHTS

Red dot optics are getting smaller and more durable. Several manufacturers offer MRDS specifically designed to take the abuse of being mounted to a reciprocating slide. Depending on the type, each MRDS may have different strengths, but for duty use, the MRDS needs to be extremely durable and securely mounted to the handgun without it moving on the slide after mounting. The lens of the MRDS needs to clear enough to see through to the target; the red dot must be bright enough to be observed in different light settings and large enough for the eye to pick it up quickly while focusing on the target. For law enforcement purposes, it should ideally be mounted low enough on the slide to be used concurrently with (backup) iron sights while still fitting in a duty holster.

Because the MRDS sits on top of the slide higher than the normal line of sight, the iron sights may need to be changed to enable a co-witness on the line of sight. Some optics sit a little lower and may still allow the use of stock iron sights, while some may require the sights to be a bit taller and are often raised to suppressor height so they can be used as a redundant backup iron sight if the MRDS fails. Many quality sight manufacturers now offer a suppressor height option for common law enforcement handguns that support this purpose.



HOLSTERS

If you remember when flashlights mounted on handguns first became accepted, you'll also remember the challenge of trying to find a good duty holster to carry the firearm securely while the light was mounted on the handgun rail forward of the trigger guard. These WML holsters are common now, and the same evolution is occurring with MRDS mounted on the slide.

This time, many of the leading holster companies are getting ahead of the trend. Many are offering duty holsters specifically designed to accommodate the raised height of the optic and front iron sight while still offering good retention and security.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The last piece of the puzzle is the knowledge and practice needed to implement these new tools. Simply adding the MRDS to the handgun will not improve a shooter's performance; in fact, it may actually hinder a shooter who is not properly trained and lacks ample training time. Quality, researched training and practice may be the most important factor.

One of the best sources of good research I have found comes from one of our NRA Law Enforcement Certified Instructors, Aaron Cowan of Sage Dynamics. Aaron has spent the last five years testing, researching, and developing solid training with modern MRDS systems for personal defense

and law enforcement duty use. He compiled his research into a white paper titled "Miniaturized Red-dot Systems for Duty Handgun Use," which he makes freely available on the Sage Dynamics website, www.sagedynamics.org. Several police agencies have used this document as a source of solid researched information regarding the implementation of an MRDS for law enforcement duty use. It was specifically written for law enforcement agencies to use "to make an informed decision on the testing and implementation of MRDS equipped duty handguns." The document is a great resource for law enforcement firearm instructors who are interested in or tasked with developing an MRDS program.

When implementing training for the MRDS, there may be an adjustment in the way that most people will present the firearm so the red dot naturally appears in the line of sight. There is no shortcut to developing an efficient firearm draw and presentation, and most will need training to develop and master that skill.

Like their use on rifles, the primary reason used to justify the MRDS is that it lets the shooter keep their focus on the single optical plane of the perceived threat under stress, rather than focusing on the hard, sharp edges of the front iron sight. It does not replace the fundamentals of marksmanship,

and it should not be considered a shortcut or a crutch to remediate a problem shooter. It simplifies the aiming process by allowing the shooter to focus solely on the threat. This single plane of focus can be a huge factor in deciding to use deadly force, especially at further distances. For shooters who have trouble seeing the sights clearly without bifocal lenses, the MRDS allows the shooter to maintain focus at the distance of the target and still accurately aim the firearm.

As of 2019, several law enforcement agencies across the nation are already implementing MRDS as a duty handgun option. At NRA Law Enforcement Training, we do our best to stay ahead of the major trends that affect our instructors. We recognize and welcome this next step in the technological advances available to our front-line law enforcement officers. This article is written to encourage our instructors to be familiar with the technology and recognize the training needs that will come with it.

At this time, MRDS on handguns are still pretty new, but I anticipate that in 10 years, an MRDS in a duty holster will be as common as on a patrol rifle. The red dots are coming ... will you be prepared?





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Range fee, if any, is payable to some hosting agencies; amount varies.

NRA Tuition = \$645 per person

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- Dec 2-6 '19 Stapleton, AL
- Dec 16-20 '19 San Antonio, TX
- Jan 13-17 Savannah, GA
- Feb 3-7 Shreveport, LA
- Mar 2-6 Fultondale, AL
- Mar 16-20 Talking Rock, GA
- Mar 16-20 Florence, AL
- Mar 16-20 Carlsbad, TX
- Mar 16-20 Harvey, LA
- Mar 30-Apr 3 Pearl, MS
- Apr 6-10 New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Apr 6-10 Allison Park, PA
- Apr 20-24 Florence, AL
- May 4-8 Garden Plain, KS
- May 4-8 Smithton, PA
- May 18-22 Leesport, PA
- Jun 8-12 Hutto, TX
- Jul 13-17 Florence, AL
- Aug 17-21 Garden Plain, KS
- Aug 24-28 Tuscaloosa, AL
- Aug 24-28 Columbus, IN
- Sep 14-18 Carlsbad, TX
- Sep 14-18 New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Sep 21-25 Florence, AL
- Oct 5-9 Pearl, MS
- Nov 2-6 Florence, AL
- Nov 16-20 Leesport, PA
- Nov 16-20 Carlsbad, TX
- Dec 14-18 New Smyrna Beach, FL

- Jun 22-26 Garden Plain, KS
- Jul 13-17 Leesport, PA
- Aug 10-14 Florence, AL
- Aug 10-14 Carlsbad, TX
- Aug 24-28 Hutto, TX
- Sep 14-18 Florence, AL
- Oct 5-9 Moncks Corner, SC
- Nov 16-20 Allicon Park, PA
- Dec 7-11 Carlsbad, TX

PRECISION RIFLE

- Mar 9-13 Columbiana, AL
- Mar 23-27 New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Apr 6-10 Newark, MD
- Apr 20-24 Bonfield, IL
- Jun 1-5 Pearl, MS
- Jun 15-19 Carlsbad, TX
- Jul 13-17 Hutto, TX
- Aug 3-7 Shreveport, LA
- Aug 24-28 Garden Plain, KS
- Sep 14-18 Tuscaloosa, AL
- Oct 19-23 Florence, AL

SELECT-FIRE

- Mar 23-27 Covington, TN
- Jul 27-31 Garden Plain, KS

TACTICAL SHOOTING

- Jan 6-10 McKinney, TX (public LE and military only)
- Feb 10-14 Savannah, GA
- Mar 9-13 New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Mar 23-27 Florence, AL
- May 11-15 Carlsbad, TX
- May 11-15 Allison Park, PA
- May 18-22 Florence, AL
- May 18-22 Rifle, CO
- May 18-22 Columbus, IN
- Jun 1-5 Garden Plain, KS
- Aug 17-21 Leesport, PA
- Aug 24-28 Florence, AL
- Oct 19-23 Moncks Corner, SC
- Nov 2-6 Tuscaloosa, AL

TACTICAL SHOTGUN

- Jun 15-19 Tuscaloosa, AL
- Jul 20-24 Carlsbad, TX
- Aug 3-7 Garden Plain, KS
- Oct 5-9 New Smyrna Beach, FL

HANDGUN

- Jan 27-31 Statesboro, GA
- Mar 9-13 Boulder City, NV
- Mar 16-20 Coatesville, PA
- Mar 30-Apr 3 Moncks Corner, SC
- Apr 13-17 Richland, WA
- Apr 20-24 Macomb, IL
- May 4-8 Florence, AL
- Jun 15-19 Florence, AL
- Aug 10-14 Columbiana, AL

PATROL RIFLE

- Nov 18-22 '19 Horton, KS
- Dec 2-6 '19 Naples, FL
- Jan 13-17 New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Feb 10-14 Tuscaloosa, AL
- Mar 2-6 Savannah, GA
- Mar 2-6 Boulder City, NV
- Mar 9-13 Oklahoma City, OK (public LE and military only)
- Mar 23-27 Merriam, KS
- Mar 23-27 Talking Rock, GA
- Mar 30-Apr 3 Carlsbad, TX
- Apr 13-17 Coatesville, PA
- Apr 13-17 Florence, AL
- Apr 13-17 Dodge City, KS
- Apr 13-17 Delta, CO
- Apr 20-24 Richland, WA
- Apr 27-May 1 Pearl, MS
- May 11-15 Columbiana, AL
- May 11-15 New Egypt, NJ (public LE only)
- May 18-22 Garden Plain, KS
- Jun 8-12 Ashburn, GA

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