All week, Philip Hemphill's message and shooting were consistent. The 2007 NRA National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC) would be Hemphill's last attempt at a national police shooting championship, “and I wanted to go out on top.”

Hemphill, a captain from the Mississippi Highway Patrol, came through on his promise. He shot a 2974-210X to amass his ninth national police shooting open class championship and his fourth-straight title. Hemphill claimed the three-point win over Kevin Worrell of the U.S. Border Patrol. Worrell shot a 2971-205X to finish in second place.

“Not only is Philip Hemphill a great friend, but he’s also one of the finest shooters to ever compete in the National Police Shooting Championships,” said NRA President and retired Police Captain John Sigler. “His accomplishments as a competitor epitomize what this championship is all about – training the men and women of law enforcement to perform at their very best on the job.”

That sentiment was echoed by all of the competitors at NPSC.

“Philip is a good friend, good shooter and just an overall good person,” Worrell said. “The National Police Shooting Championships will not be the same without him. He will be missed by everyone here.”

Approximately 325 competitors from the ranks of federal, state, municipal, and private security agencies, as well as four foreign countries, took part in the matches. The championship is widely considered the world's most prestigious law enforcement shooting competition.

Hemphill won the Revolver 1500 Championship on Monday after firing a score of 1489-113X out of a possible 1500-150X. The Revolver 1500 Championship and the Semi-Auto 1500 Championship make up the Open Class Individual National Championship. A perfect score in the Semi-Auto Championship is 1500-150X.

“I actually felt a little more pressure out there today than I did in previous years,” Hemphill said after posting a 1485-97X to finish third in the Semi-Auto Championship. “Maybe it was because I was trying to win it for the last time, like one final shot. I tried to keep it all together and do the best I could.”

Even though both Hemphill and Worrell shot well enough to leave NPSC as winners, they knew that their performance was off. “It wasn’t a pretty score, but it was good enough to win,” Hemphill said.

“I know that I didn’t shoot up to my potential and wish I could have done better, but this gives me motivation to improve for next year,” said Worrell.

Overall, scores were down compared to last year when Shooting Range Park in Albuquerque, N.M., hosted NPSC for the first time. Bright sunshine, high glare, wind, and significant high-desert dust rattled the most tranquil of NPSC shooters. Though, to champions like Hemphill, it’s part of the competition.
Clay Tippit Wins NPSC Special Aggregate Championship

In 2007, Clay Tippit continued his reign as one of the elite competitors at the NRA National Police Shooting Championships. Tippit, an agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, won his eighth NRA Special Aggregate Championship and the U.S. Border Patrol Trophy. The Fort Davis, Texas, native posted a 6129-366X.

The NRA Special Aggregate Match takes the aggregate of the Individual Service Pistol Championship, President’s Match, Shotgun Match, and the NPSC Open Class National Championships. Competitors are required to use a variety of pistols, revolvers, and shotguns, making it one of the most demanding titles to win.

Tippit pretty much owned the Special Aggregate Match from 1998-2003, winning six straight years. This year was no different, as he finished with a four-point win to second place finisher, Robert Vadasz. Tippit won the President’s Match and placed third in the NPSC Open Class National Championships with a score of 2971-192X. He’s won the open class national championship three times.

“Now with the retirement of Hemphill from NPSC, the likes of Tippit, who finished third with 2971-192X, Worrell and Semi-Automatic Pistol Champion Robert Vadasz of the U.S. Border Patrol have a chance of becoming the next Hemphill.

There’s a collection of fine shooters out here that could take the place of Hemphill next year,” Vadasz said. “But remember, there’s only one Hemphill, and you’re a fool not to recognize him as one of the best pistol shooters in the world.”

In team competition, the U.S. Border Patrol teams won four out of the eight total categories, winning the World Four-Officer, Semi-Auto Four-Officer, Revolver Four-Officer, and Stock Semi-Auto Four-Officer. The team from Long Beach, Calif., won the Revolver Two-Officer and World Semi-Auto Two-Officer. Chicago Police 1 won the Stock Semi-Auto Two-Officer and the Mississippi Highway Patrol won the Semi-Auto Two-Officer.

NPSC enjoys tremendous sponsor support, allowing NRA to offer match and category winners one of the finest prize tables in all of law enforcement competitive shooting. Major NPSC sponsors include: Brownells, Davidson’s, FNH USA, Beretta, Smith & Wesson, Glock, Heckler & Koch, Henry Arms, Remington, Rock River Arms, Ruger, SIG SAUER, Springfield Armory, Colt, and the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program.

Held since 1962, NPSC is just one of many programs directed by NRA’s Law Enforcement Activities Division. These programs are supported by the Davidson’s Law Enforcement Endowment and the Law Enforcement Training Endowment of The NRA Foundation, which includes a generous $251,000 donation from Brownells, Inc., as well as more than 100 other firearm and equipment manufacturers and businesses.

For more information about NPSC go to www.nrahq.org/law/competitions/npsc/npsc.asp, call (703) 267-1629, or send an email to lead@nrahq.org.
2007 NPSC Results

NPSC Open Class National Champion
Cpt. Philip W. Hemphill
Mississippi Highway Patrol 2974-210X

NRA Special Aggregate Champion
Clay Tippit

High Woman Open Class Champion
Dep. Anna L. Bailey
Richland Co. Sheriff Dept. 2957-186X

Revolver 1500 Champion
Cpt. Philip W. Hemphill
Mississippi Highway Patrol 1489-113X

Semi-Auto 1500 Champion
Robert Vadasz
U.S. Border Patrol 1495-103X

President’s Match Champion
Clay Tippit
U.S. Homeland Security 1182-74X

Stock Semi-Auto Champion
Robert Vadasz
U.S. Border Patrol 480-44X

Service Revolver Champion
Marc L. Cobb
Long Beach, California 479-37X

National Individual Service
Pistol Champion
Cpt. Philip W. Hemphill
Mississippi Highway Patrol 2617-173X

Police Revolver Distinguished Match
Marc Kleser
Wadern, Germany 595-43X

Police Semi-Auto Service
Pistol Distinguished
Cpt. Philip W. Hemphill
Mississippi Highway Patrol 594-39X

Shotgun Match Champion
Brett Sullivan
U.S. Border Patrol 550-1X

Revolver Two-Officer Match Champion
Long Beach, California
Marc Cobb and Brian Hauptmann 1184-64X

Revolver Four-Officer Team Match Champion
U.S. Border Patrol
Robert Vadasz, Clay Tippit, Kevin Worrell, and John Poole 2354-144X

Semi-Auto Two-Officer Team Match
Mississippi Highway Patrol

Semi-Auto Four-Officer Team Match
U.S. Border Patrol
Robert Vadasz, Clay Tippit, Kevin Worrell, and John Poole 2377-160X

World Two-Officer Team
Long Beach, California
Marc Cobb and Brian Hauptmann 1178-66X

World Four-Officer Team Match
U.S. Border Patrol
Robert Vadasz, Clay Tippit, Kevin Worrell, and John Poole 2370-151X

Stock Semi-Auto 2-Officer
Chicago Police
James Peck and Nick Pappas 951-61X

Stock Semi-Auto 4-Officer
U.S. Border Patrol
Clay Tippit, Robert Vadasz, John Poole, and Gina Hernandez 1910-135X

High Federal
John C. Poole
U.S. Border Patrol 2966-199X

High State
Sgt. Gary A. Ciminski
Arizona Highway Patrol 2963-178X

High County
Dep. Anna L. Bailey
Richland Co. Sheriff Dept. 2957-186X

High Municipal
John H. Pride
Los Angeles Police Department 2967-186X

High Industrial
Inst. James A. Hogg
Wacken Hut LCAAP 2958-168X

NPSC On The Air

Law enforcement officers weren’t the only ones shooting at this year’s National Police Shooting Championships. Camera crews from NRA News and American Rifleman Television were also on hand doing some shooting of their own, giving officers and NRA staff an opportunity to tell their side of the NPSC story.

NRA News recorded its “Cam & Company” program on-site during the first two days of competition at NPSC, interviewing scores of officers and giving viewers a taste of the NPSC experience. The show was streamed on NRA’s website and later re-aired on Sirius Satellite Radio. The show was such a hit that music legend and NRA Board Member Ted Nugent called in and offered his support of the officers competing at NPSC.

To view NRA News’ broadcast from NPSC, please visit www.nra.org. Click on the “Archived Materials” button on the right and search for “2007 NRA NPSC” under the “Videos” menu option.

In addition to NRA News’ coverage, American Rifleman Television’s Mark Keefe was on assignment at NPSC to capture the sights and sounds the world’s most prestigious law enforcement shooting competition. American Rifleman Television, the on-screen version of the National Rifle Association’s American Rifleman magazine, airs each Wednesday at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the Outdoor Channel.

American Rifleman Television tentatively plans to air two programs on the NPSC – one on February 27, 2008, and another later in the year.
Opposite page, clockwise, from upper left: The Albuquerque Police Department displayed the U.S. and New Mexico flags during the opening ceremony; Venezuela’s Karim Bernoti takes aim with his semi-auto pistol from the three-yard line; John Poole, Jr., of the U.S. Border Patrol, converses with his father, NPSC referee John Poole, Sr.; NPSC tests competitors’ skills in the prone, standing, kneeling, and sitting positions; Enoch Smith of the U.S. Border Patrol blackens the sights on his revolver with a carbide miner’s lamp.

This page, clockwise, from upper left: Arturo Velez of the U.S. Border Patrol labels his targets before his match begins; the team from Trinidad and Tobago (the first team from that country represented at the NSPC); a shell ejects from the shotgun of Charles Blohm of the Shelby County (TN) Sheriff’s Office during the Shotgun Championship; John Poole, Jr. competes while teammate Clay Tippit observes; a new three-gun tactical event was introduced at this year’s NPSC, allowing competitors to shoot on an action and reaction course.
You know you’ve done something special at the National Police Shooting Championships (NPSC) when Philip Hemphill takes notice. After all, the nine-time champion has seen just about everything over the course of his 22-year NPSC career.

That is, until he met Deputy Anna Bailey.

“There’s a lot of people out here pulling for you,” Hemphill said to Bailey as the two walked to the scoring tent at the conclusion of the Semi-Auto 1500 Championship.

That’s because Bailey, an NPSC rookie from South Carolina’s Richland County Sheriff’s Department, was on the threshold of winning her first NPSC women’s championship.

She had paced the women’s bracket during the Revolver 1500 Championship the day before with a score of 1482-94X, putting herself in excellent position to claim the women’s open class national title.

She didn’t disappoint, firing a 1475-92X in the Semi-Auto 1500 match to win Woman Champion honors for the tournament. In addition to placing her atop the women’s leader board, Bailey’s aggregate score of 2957-186X was also good enough to earn 12th place among the 325 open class competitors at NPSC.

“Cathy Schroeder, she’s won the championship twice, and we’ve become really good friends, and she gave me a good pep talk,” Bailey said. “She said go out there and do what you know how to do. Once the bullet leaves the gun, concentrate on the next bullet and don’t think about the big picture.”

Bailey beat two NPSC veterans for the win, including second-place woman Stephanie Diaz, a two-time champion from the Los Angeles Police Department, and third-place Gina Hernandez, also a two-time winner from the U.S. Border Patrol.

Having practiced for NPSC for more than a year, Bailey expected to do well, but she never envisioned a championship performance in her first appearance.

“I expected to do well, but to win it, I don’t know about that,” said Bailey. “I mean there’s some really good shooters out here. But it’s just like any sport. On any day, anybody can be beaten. That’s the beauty of it.”

The magnitude of Bailey’s accomplishment was not lost on her peers, including Diaz, who said that Bailey’s victory was so impressive because she is not a firearms instructor, unlike many NPSC competitors.

“Most of the shooters here are instructors, but Anna is a deputy on the street,” Diaz said. “It’s very difficult to do what she did, but sometimes it’s best to shoot without any expectations. Hopefully she will come back every year and defend her title.”
Meet Glen Hoyer, Law Enforcement Activities Division’s New Director

By Kayne Robinson
Executive Director
NRA General Operations

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Glen Hoyer to the position of Director, NRA Law Enforcement Activities Division.

Glen, a 25-year law enforcement veteran, retired as Captain with the Lexington County South Carolina Sheriff’s Department, and was Commander of the North Region of Lexington County. He worked for a city police department and a smaller sheriff’s department early in his career.

In 1983, Glen joined the South Carolina Police Pistol Combat League and in his first year of competition, won the state championship in the New Shooter class in the 1500 Revolver Matches.

Glen is certified by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy as a Firearm Instructor and attended dozens of firearm training schools throughout his career. Glen is certified by the NRA-Law Enforcement Activities Division and other organizations in Handgun/Shotgun, Select-Fire, Patrol Rifle and Tactical Shooting.

In 1996, Glen joined the National Rifle Association as a Law Enforcement Activities Division Adjunct Instructor. Two years later, he became a referee for NRA PCC Competition, and refereed at regional events, as well as the National Police Shooting Championships.

During his law enforcement career, he has worked as a uniformed officer, detective, canine handler and assigned to the S.W.A.T. Team. Glen has received numerous awards, including Meritorious Conduct, Officer of the Year, Life-Saving, Tactical Operations Contribution, and has received commendations from the Fraternal Order of Police and the South Carolina State Senate.

In 2000, Glen retired from law enforcement and came to work full-time for the NRA as the Manager, Law Enforcement Training in the Law Enforcement Activities Division.

I am looking forward to the advancement of Law Enforcement Activities’ programs under Glen’s able leadership.

Marc Lipp to Lead Law Enforcement Competitions

Usually, when someone is promoted, there is a period of time that is needed to learn the new position.

That wasn’t the case with Marc Lipp. Lipp had the perfect background for his new position, Manager of NRA’s Law Enforcement Competitions. He was previously a staff instructor in the NRA’s Law Enforcement Training Department.

Lipp came to the NRA after retiring as Deputy Chief from the City of Fairfax Police Department, which is a municipal police agency in Northern Virginia. Serving in almost every position within the department, including commanding the department’s Emergency Services Team, he has over 27 years of law enforcement experience.

Lipp has been deeply involved with conducting firearms training, officer survival tactics, and tactical team training for numerous area law enforcement agencies, and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

“I’m excited for the new opportunities that await me and hope to make a positive impact for such an important program,” Lipp said.

Lipp served as a member of his department’s police pistol team for many years, earning Virginia’s prestigious “Governor’s 20” medal three times, and was the sixth officer in Virginia to earn the Distinguished Pistol Award. He is a graduate of the 168th Session of the FBI National Academy, the Professional Executive Leadership School of the University of Richmond, and the Police Executive Development Program of Pennsylvania State University.

Lipp serves on a part-time basis as a sworn deputy with the Page County (VA) Sheriff’s Department. Lipp may be reached at (703) 267-1625 or at MLipp@nrahq.org.