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## TSO sharpshooter nails top trophies in regional competition

By LAURA KLOTH

(Feb.12, 2009) At work, Metro Transit Security Officer Regino Atienza trains to draw his 9mm Beretta for protection. Away from his job, Atienza uses his weapon to compete as a "practical" shooter.

The medium-framed, quick-talking sportsman heads Team Metro, a five-man sharp-shooting team that participated in a "practical" shooting event over the summer.

Atienza brought home two trophies after defeating scores of participants in the event sponsored by the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA).

Atienza received a first place trophy in the Production Division (Class B) and the Law

Enforcement categories. He participated in one of three divisions and defeated shooters from the military, law enforcement and private sector. The match was held at the Raahauges Shooting Enterprises facility in Corona.

Practical shooters are timed for speed and accuracy as well as how they position their body when they fire their weapon. As part of the action-packed event, participants must react quickly when they fire at paper targets, moving metal plates, spinning Texas stars, sometimes aiming through obstacles like large barrels.

"You have to be concerned of where you're standing, and where you put the muzzle," Atienza said. He said participants are urged to use the same type of gun they use at work.

"I shoot six times a month. Most of the time at Norco, sometimes in San Diego, Chino or Sylmar," Atienza said, noting that he's been shooting as a sport for 23 years.



Transit Security Officer Regino Atienza with Training Sgt. John Davis at Metro.



Like any sport, "shooting is a skill that you lose if you don't practice enough," Atienza said.

Officer Atienza plans to compete in international events.

Team Metro consists of the 53-year-old sportsman along with co-workers Senior Security Officer Manuel Salcedo and Transit Security Officers Manrique Ramirez, Antonio Magisa and Lloyd Austin.

Transit Training Sgt. John W. Davis said he is proud of the trophies Atienza brought home, and pleased that all of his officers consistently train to be the best.

"We have a pretty good group of people. These guys shoot on their own four times a month. We shoot for the department every quarter," Davis said.

He noted that safety on and off the range is crucial for his 94 patrolling transit officers.



Team Metro works the shooting range at Norco.

"We haven't had any incidents involving shootings lately, for the last several years. We drew our weapons quite a bit — out in the field — but we haven't had any actual shootings," he said, adding that their safety record has remained positive for more nearly 12 years.

Team Metro is now practicing to take part in fall event slated for October, and Atienza is hoping the team will sign up for a competition in Greece.

"I'm trying to get sponsors and other teammates to join. That's one of my goals for 2011," Atienza says with a confident smile.