

26th August 2007

By This Correspondent

With only a single 700 metre shoot in the afternoon, the team had a lazy morning before heading out to the range for zeroing at 900 and 700 metres. The weather was excellent, very warm and with plenty of sunshine; but the wind was deceptively tricky even though the flags were barely lifting from the poles. Once the practice session at 700 metres had finished, there was a brief presentation before the Camp Commander fired the official opening shot, scoring a lefthand "X".

All three of the details at 700 metres in the first shoot experienced further interesting winds, with many shooters reporting needing left wind despite a righthand prevailing mirage. For once, a conservative hand on the wind arm seemed to be the order of the day and Parag Patel made the highest of the 150s on the team with 13 shots in the 10 inch X ring; however Kent Reeve and Tom Whittaker, both of the US National Team, made perfect 150s with 15 X's.

In the evening there was the official opening of the World Individual Long Range Championships and a meet 'n' greet ceremony, so all of the team quickly charged back to the hotel for a shower and scrub up into their number 1 uniforms. The opening ceremony saw a brief speech from Stan Frost and the President of the DCRA, before the team representatives presented their nations' flags and the central Canadian military band marched onto the range and played for the assembled teams and dignitaries. There was also an exhibition of native Canadian dancing, including jingle dress and intricate hoop dances, with appropriate drum accompaniment.



The meet 'n' greet was much quieter than the one during the DCRA meeting; however there were one or two new faces from those who hadn't been able to make it over for both the Canadian and World Championships. The meal was also slightly smaller and demanded a "graze on the hoof" approach; although the team captain made it in early and on spotting a couple of decorative lobster tails made good on his penchant for seafood. Although the chef, who was present at the time, assured him that they were fresh I'm informed that they may not have been quite as youthful as he was told.

On a final note, after spending so much time working to ensure that all of our ammunition was perfectly loaded, Jon Cload was last seen batch weighing his rounds for the individual into tenth of a grain groups. The total spread? About a grain over two hundred-odd rounds. And so on to the World Individual Long Range.