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### Lufkin officers win medals at competition

4 officers win 15 medals at Texas State Police Games

By SAMANTHA JOHNSON  
The Lufkin Daily News

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Four Lufkin police officers recently won a total of 15 medals in a few days of competition and fun at the Texas State Police Games held June 11-15 at South Padre Island and the surrounding areas.

The Lufkin officers, Sgt. Ronny LaRue, Sgt. David Thomas, Cpl. David Casper and officer Randy Brooks all were enthusiastic participants in the games.



Joel Andrews/The Lufkin Daily News  
(ENLARGE)

Lufkin Police Officers, from left, Sgt. David Thomas, Sgt. Ronny LaRue, Officer Randy Brooks, and Cpl. David Casper won a total of 15 medals at the Texas State Police Games.

"It was a lot of fun, it always is," LaRue said.

The competition is open to any member of law enforcement, and the only catch is they have to pay for all of the travel and competition expenses on their own. It was a minor inconvenience for these guys who got to enjoy a few days full of good-spirited competition, networking and friendship.

"We hadn't even parked the car and we had met police officers from Austin," LaRue said. "It was good to hang around, socialize and talk away from the job"

The officers competition experience in the games varied, ranging from Brooks, who was a first time attendee, to Thompson who has participated six years in the games. Several of the officers have attended the world competition, which features police forces from many other nations.

This is not the first time that Lufkin police officers have competed in these events; however, this particular group of officers brought home more medals than any previous group.

In preparation for the events, the officers trained together and individually.

"We are all gamesmen and very competitive, everyone wants to win," LaRue said.

The skills the officers utilize every day also helped prepare them for the competition.

"The training here at the department helps out a lot," LaRue said.

All of the officers won at least one gold medal in the various shooting events they participated in.

Brooks won one gold medal for his participation in the Three-Man Tactical Pistol Team.

Casper won a silver medal in NRA High Power Rifle Match One, bronze in NRA High Power Rifle Match Two and in Individual Single Stack Tactical Pistols, and a gold in Individual Double Stack Pistols.

LaRue won a gold medal in individual Duty Rollover pistol competition and was the overall gold winner for Tactical Pistols Single Stack and won a silver medal in the individual duty semi-automatic pistol competition.

Thomas was the overall gold medal winner for NRA High Power Rifle Matches One and Two, and in Individual Single Stack Pistols. He was silver medalist for the Overall Rifle Statewide competition.

LaRue, Thomas and Casper participated as a team and won the silver medal for Three Man Tactical Pistol Team competition.

When they weren't racking up prizes in the competitions, the officers enjoyed the sun and beaches of South Padre Island and spent time relaxing at Schlitterbahn Water Park with their families.

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"It's good for families to come out. Padre is a good place and they do a great job of keeping their beaches clean," LaRue said.

Next year the games will be held in Conroe, and all four officers are planning to attend. They hope someday Lufkin and the surrounding areas will be able to host the games.

"I would love to see (the Police Games) hosted here. It would be great for the community," LaRue said.

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