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February 28, 2000

For Immediate Release:

EIU RIFLE TEAM WINS TOP HONORS

CHARLESTON -- Six members of Eastern Illinois University's ROTC Rifle Team won top honors at the Illinois Intercollegiate Three-Position Small Bore Rifle Championship held Feb. 19 at Sandy Ford Range in Streator.

The competition calls for each participant to shoot 60 rounds of ammunition – 20 each from a standing, kneeling and prone position. Each shot can gain a shooter up to 10 points for a bulls eye.

Eastern's team score totaled 2,479 points.

"The kids worked really hard for this," said Maj. Alan Jans, Rifle Team coach and assistant professor of military science at the university. "It looks like all that money from the NRA for new equipment really paid off for us."

For the third time in 18 months, the National Rifle Association recently demonstrated its commitment to "perpetuating the shooting sport" by providing the Eastern group with a check for more than \$7,000, bringing its year-and-a-half total to approximately \$10,000. The money went

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toward the purchase of high quality rifles, coats and shoes, eye protection, kneeling rolls, targets and spotting scopes.

Participants on Eastern's six-member team were: Jake Zedrick, a senior marketing major from Danville; Tim Webster, a freshman industrial technology major from Findlay; Tim Frederick, a sophomore marketing major from Sugar Grove; Brock Roberts, a sophomore physical education major from Hoopeston; Nate Whipkey, a freshman history major from Robinson; and Joe Rousey (team captain), a freshman industrial technology major from Gilman.

Additional EIU Rifle Team members include Jessica Denney, James Cambron, Steve Huber and Nichole Constabile.

Other participants in the contest were the University of Illinois, Navy -- second (2,252 points); Southern Illinois University, Army -- third (2,103 points); Western Illinois University, Army -- fourth (1,810); and newcomer Illinois State University, Army -- fifth (848).