

enough that we can't see the bullet holes at 300 during the string, so the shooter more or less has to go with what he feels the condition warrants. The targets normally run two or three seconds longer than what most of us are used to at other ranges and that is due to the operation of the targets (size of the range), but I would never count on it. That's where the timer comes in.

At 600 my use of the wind flags depends on where the flags are and where the wind is coming from. To me it's a decided advantage if I'm squadded on point 10 or point 80, but at point 50 it's harder to use the flags accurately. Obviously, it's a lot harder shooting in the middle of the range as opposed to being on one end of it, which is where the flags are. I am again going to use an upwind indicator and pay attention to the close one. By watching the flag in the direction the wind is com-

ing from I know more about the wind that's coming to me. Wind that's gone past doesn't matter.

As said, at Camp Perry condition changes are not normally sudden. They are most usually gradual changes, and that's why shooting quickly shot to shot works so well there. Staying on a fast tempo helps me stay with the conditions and shoot with them as they are changing. I am changing and they are changing. That doesn't mean everyone is going to get a good score just by shooting fast. That's not always the best avenue or strategy, and everyone has his or her own style. Again, though, that method usually works best for me at Camp Perry.

RATON

I haven't shot at every major range in the United States, but there are a few in my area I



Raton, New Mexico is one of my favorite ranges to visit and it's always an experience to shoot there. Conditions can change in a hurry in this part of the country. The High Power ranges are in the right-hand half of this photo.



there is going to be something that comes up and bites him. Everyone gets bitten at Raton, and the question is how hard.

In 2001 I shot at Raton and was one point down going to 600 and then shot a 193 there, so had a 792 rather than the 799 I would have had anywhere else. Things change so rapidly. The altitude and geographical situation mean that unbelievable light and wind changes can occur in minutes, and sometimes in seconds. Shooting

have gotten to know pretty well. One in particular may factor at some point in the future more heavily for High Power shooters, and that is Raton, New Mexico [NRA Whittington Center].

First, I like to go there. I like the drive. I like the place. I always think about my Dad since they dedicated the range to him. All things considered, it's probably the best equipped, best managed range in the country, and it's usually an enjoyable experience.

Now, that's not to say I always enjoy shooting there. It is tough, or can be. No matter what anyone does, he can figure he's not going to shoot his best score there because

conditions morning to noon to afternoon can be entirely different as well, and that creates a problem that extends beyond any individual shooter's performance. Relay to relay fairness or congruency is not there. Those who shoot on relay one can't be compared in score to those who shoot on relay four. Of course, scores are compared. One of the relays, at least one, is not going to have a good performance. At Camp Perry it usually doesn't change much, it's not so skewed. Every relay at Raton can be like shooting in a whole separate set of conditions: it's like shooting one day to the next rather than one relay to the next. They have been very good, though, at