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17 To Graduate from Public Safety Training Academy Tomorrow

(SITKA, Alaska) – A class of 17, including four state troopers and two Village Public Safety Officers, will graduate from the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka tomorrow. The 1 p.m. graduation ceremony at the Sheet’ka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Tribal Community House concludes Alaska Law Enforcement Training (ALET) Session No. 15-02. To get to this point, the 17 law enforcement students from around the state went through 900 hours of training in the 15-week basic ALET. The training incorporates intensive instruction in law enforcement-related topics, physical fitness and many scenario-based exercises – all designed to prepare entry level police officers, Village Public Safety Officers and troopers for a successful career in Alaska law enforcement.

The graduates are:

Dave Atteberry, Tanana Chiefs Conference (VPSO)
William Bottorf, Juneau Police
Casey Camp, Juneau Police
Bradley Garasky, Alaska State Parks
Alexander Harrington, Alaska State Troopers
Antoni Hoiby, Bristol Bay Borough Police
Scott Johnson, self pay
Michael Kay, Alaska State Troopers
Buford Kopanuk, Association of Village Council Presidents (VPSO)
Tyler Mallory, Seward Police
Lauren McKinley, Alaska State Troopers
Sean O’Connor, Soldotna Police
Ryan Pasternak, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire
Colleen Reeves, Juneau Police
Nicholas Sleeth, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire
Jason Somerville, Alaska State Troopers
Sam Suplin, Anchorage Airport Police & Fire

After graduation, the four Alaska State Trooper recruits continue their training at the academy for an additional three weeks. This training session is often referred to as Trooper Basic. The trooper recruits receive more tailored and advanced training during this session in fish and wildlife investigations, boating safety, survival, commercial fisheries enforcement, media relations, critical stress management,

patrol rifle training and search and rescue. They are also exposed to additional scenario-based training events.

Upon completion of Trooper Basic, trooper recruits will move to their first duty assignment in either Fairbanks, Soldotna or the Mat-Su Valley and begin a 12-week Field Training and Evaluation Program. All trooper recruits are expected to develop to the point of being able to perform all law enforcement functions independently and if successful, will be promoted to trooper upon the successful completion of their probationary period, generally 12 months from the start of the academy.

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