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Alaska Department of Public Safety Highlighted through TV Productions

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) — This past Sunday, National Geographic aired a show called “Lockdown: Alaska Bush Troopers.” A small film crew followed troopers from Western Alaska as they responded to calls for service and transported prisoners between rural correctional facilities and community holding cells.

Productions like this give a unique view of what it is like for law enforcement and their families in remote areas of the state. One trooper featured in the production was Bethel-based Trooper Mike Roberts. Trooper Roberts is the son of retired trooper Lt. Rick Roberts, Sr.

“I thought that my dad was the coolest,” Trooper Mike Roberts said in an interview featured in the show. “And as strange as it sounds, in my mind as a little boy, I can remember thinking that when you grew up to be a good man, you grew up to be an Alaska State Trooper.”

In recent years, the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers were “discovered” by production companies from the Lower 48. Village Public Safety Officers are also garnering attention from the production companies due to the unique working relationship they have with troopers.

The challenging environments troopers and VPSOs work in makes law enforcement in Alaska unlike anywhere else in the United States. The lack of roads connecting the communities, the extreme temperatures and the sheer size of Alaska all contribute to why outsiders are so amazed with the duties troopers and VPSOs perform on a daily basis.



-Photo Courtesy PSG Films

Trooper Shaun Kazakin is mic’ed up by producer Darren Stewart of PSG Films. PSG films followed troopers in Southeast Alaska during the herring enforcement patrols.



-Photo courtesy PSG Films

In the Interior Lt. Lantz Dahlke steers a trooper river boat as Photographer Brian Jones captures the action on film.

In fact, during the History Channel series “Tougher in Alaska,” the episode on troopers called “Arctic Troopers,” when it aired, drew more viewers than the other episodes in the series.

The Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers also hosted film crews in Bristol Bay and in numerous rural locations across the state. Filming has been largely successful and public interest in the two Divisions continues to grow. The shows not only boost the morale of DPS employees, it also assists with continual recruitment efforts. These productions highlight the good job troopers do and depict their love for their work.

For more stories documenting the Department of Public Safety’s activities and personnel, go to the Public Information Office’s website.



-Photo courtesy PSG Films

Troopers Shaun Kuzakin and Ken Acton with PSG Films Producer Darren Stewart and photographer Curtiss Marlowe in Sitka, Alaska.