

Feb. 13, 2009
PR# 09-019

Investigation Finds Troopers Took Appropriate Action in Soldotna Hospital Shooting

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – Earlier this week, an internal review regarding policies and procedures found that troopers involved in the Soldotna Hospital shooting took appropriate action and appropriate use of force during the incident. The internal review was the last step of the criminal and internal investigation into the troopers' actions.

Prior to the internal policy and procedure review, the Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals (OSPA) reviewed the investigation conducted by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI). ABI is the bureau within the Division of Alaska State Troopers that investigates major crimes and all trooper-involved shootings. OSPA determined that the troopers involved in the shooting death of 47-year old Joseph Marchetti acted within the law.

The shooting occurred Nov. 26, 2008 at the Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna. At approximately 10:01 a.m., the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center received a 911 call reporting an armed man was at the hospital and had already fired shots. The hospital is in the Soldotna Police Department's jurisdiction, but due to the urgency of the situation, Alaska State Troopers responded to assist. During the response, it was determined that Marchetti shot two people inside the hospital. Michael Webb died and Margaret Stroup was critically injured prior to law enforcement officers arriving on scene. Marchetti continued to fire his weapon within the facility. As he exited the front door, Marchetti fired upon responding troopers. Once outside the hospital, he was confronted by Alaska State Troopers and Soldotna Police. Marchetti advanced on the containment teams with his weapon. When Marchetti refused to comply with instructions and continued to approach the teams, he was shot by troopers.