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Troopers Support Gov. Parnell's Campaign Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assaults

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – The Alaska State Troopers, along with other law enforcement agencies, stood proudly behind Governor Sean Parnell as he laid out an expansive wide-ranging plan to combat the plagues of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assaults in Alaska.

The state of Alaska has been stuck in the number one position for the nation in domestic violence and sexual assaults. In fact, Alaska has two and a half times the national average of sexual assaults. The Alaska State Troopers routinely respond to these heinous crimes across the state employing not only patrol troopers but also specialized investigators and units to tackle these cases head on. Troopers further combat DVs and sexual assaults by collaborating with other agencies.

Commissioner Joseph Masters, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, joined the Governor at the podium to outline the crucial steps the department is pursuing. Trooper and VPSO positions have been funded and the state is moving forward to turn the new state crime lab facility into a reality.

The problem of sexual assaults and domestic violence is multi-faceted. The campaign launch by Governor Parnell yesterday is also multi-faceted. Instead of focusing only on the enforcement aspect, the Governor's proposal tackles public education, advocacy, victim services, prosecution and more stringent sentencing.

“What we are embarking on is an enormous change in relation to past efforts. We realize this repugnant, long standing crisis transcends law enforcement's ability to eliminate it,” said Colonel Audie Holloway, Director of the Alaska State Troopers. “We are moving forward in this multi-pronged approach to change, once and for all, the societal norm so that we become a culture that stands up to firmly and definitively state that it is not acceptable to rape and exploit a child, woman or anyone.”

For years, this horrific issue has been front and center in the lives of many Alaskans. This campaign is a great stride in dwindling the number of incidents occurring around the state.

AST invites the media to contact and discuss this topic with us as it is an enormous priority for the Department of Public Safety. To schedule a sit-down with the Colonel or one of the Detachment Captains, please contact Megan Peters in the Public Information Office at 269-5413.