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### **Review Finds Troopers Took Appropriate Action in Wasilla Shooting**

(WASILLA, Alaska) –A review regarding department policies and procedures found the troopers involved in the shooting death of 58-year-old Nora York took appropriate action and the appropriate level of force during the incident on Nov. 14, 2009. This review, finalized yesterday, was the last step of the criminal and internal investigation into the troopers’ actions that morning.

Prior to the internal policy and procedure review, the Department of Law’s Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals (OSPA) reviewed the thorough 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 acted within the law when they shot York after York pointed a gun in the direction of troopers that morning. The department’s review determined the troopers’ actions were appropriate under the circumstance, in accordance with department policy and they used every option to try to avoid using deadly force and prevent the final outcome.

At 1:45 a.m. on Nov. 14, Mat-Com dispatch received a 911 call from a male reporting that Nora J. York, 58, of Wasilla was suicidal and threatening him with a shotgun. While on the phone with the complainant, York could be heard in the background mentioning statements wanting to perform “suicide by cop”. While troopers were en route, York pointed the shotgun at the victim, causing him to beg for his life. York had also made previous threats to harm the victim and a neighbor. Due to shift change at the time of the call, seven Alaska State Troopers responded to the residence located off of Wasilla-Fishhook Road. Once on scene, several troopers contacted York outside the residence while the wheelchair-bound victim remained inside the residence. York was armed with two firearms and walked towards the troopers. While troopers attempted to defuse the situation and to ensure the victim’s safety, York walked back and tried to enter the residence. Throughout the entire incident, troopers tried to verbally convince York to put down the weapons. Troopers even placed themselves at risk while trying to protect the victim by positioning themselves to block York’s re-entry into the home. Troopers deployed Tasers three different times without effect. York continued to refuse to disarm and pointed the shotgun at two of the troopers immediately after the third Taser deployment. Five troopers fired their service weapons. York was struck by several rounds and fatally injured. York was declared deceased at the scene. One trooper was injured in the encounter, was treated at Mat-Su Regional Hospital for a minor injury and released.

“Their actions showed courage in the face of obvious danger,” said AST Director Colonel Audie Holloway. “There are times when troopers place themselves at risk in order to protect a person. This was one of those times.”

The troopers that were involved in the deadly force incident were:

- Trooper Daron Cooper, member of the Mat-Su West Patrol, B Detachment
- Trooper Ronald Hayes, member of the Palmer Patrol, B Detachment
- Trooper Joshua Varys, member of the Palmer Patrol, B Detachment
- Trooper Recruit Lance Jamison-Ewers, member of the Palmer Patrol, B Detachment
- Trooper Timothy Cronin, member of the Palmer Patrol, B Detachment

Troopers Sgt. Chris Hill, a supervisor of Mat-Su West patrol, and Trooper Recruit Daniel Pulice also responded to the call.

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