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Heroin Bust in Wasilla a Reminder of Heroin Issues in Alaska

(WASILLA, Alaska) - On the evening of Feb. 18, 2009 investigators with the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) Mat-Su Narcotics unit zeroed in on 27 year old Beauford H. Horman, of Wasilla, after several controlled purchases of heroin and methamphetamine were accomplished. AST coordinated the buys in various locations within the city limits of Wasilla.

Assisting the Mat-Su Narcotics Unit were members of ABADE's Major Offenders Unit (MOU) and Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT), AST's Palmer Patrol and Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Wasilla Police Department and the Alaska National Guard's Counter Drug Support Program (CDCP).

Since Feb. 2, 2009, investigators from the multi-agency effort diligently tracked this case. Following the final controlled buy on the 18th, an officer with the Wasilla Police Department initiate a traffic stop and took Horman into custody. Horman ultimately received charges of Misconduct involving a controlled substance in the 2nd degree, Misconduct involving a controlled substance in the 3rd degree, attempted misconduct involving a controlled substance in the 2nd degree and three counts of Misconduct involving a controlled substance in the 4th degree.

Horman was remanded into Mat-Su Pretrial Facility. Bail was set at \$75,000 cash only plus a third party court-approved third party custodian.

Currently, approximately 80% of the Mat-Su Narcotics Unit caseload is associated with Heroin and other opiate-based drugs. This trend is not isolated to the Valley area. ABADE sees the same trend with nearly all of its narcotics units, with the exception of rural Alaska — alcohol and marijuana continue to be the drugs of choice in the bush and dominate the case load of WAANT investigators.

In 2004, 113.3 grams of Heroin were seized by troopers. A year later, the amount seized dropped to only 18.8 grams. Since then, every year the amount of Heroin seized by troopers has spiked exponentially. 646.57 grams of Heroin were seized in 2006 and 1,129.7 grams were seized in 2007. The amount of Heroin seized quadrupled in 2008 – 4,970.18 grams were seized.

With the growing popularity of Heroin in Alaska, AST advises parents to take the opportunity to talk to their kids about the dangers of Heroin and other drugs. Get to know who your kids associate with and get more involved in their lives.