



Mar. 26, 2009
PR# 09-032

Troopers Actions Deemed Justified in Shooting near Wasilla

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – An internal review regarding policies and procedures found that troopers involved in the shooting near Wasilla on Feb. 3, 2009, took appropriate action during the incident.

Prior to the internal policy and procedure review, the Department of Law's 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 two troopers who fired their service weapons during the incident acted within the law. The shooting resulted in the death of Wasilla resident Deborah Torrey.

The shooting occurred Feb. 3, 2009, at the Garrett Building near Wasilla. At approximately 6:30 p.m., MatCom dispatch received a 911 call reporting that a woman with a handgun was attempting to enter into an office at the Garrett Building. The caller stated the woman had fired a shot inside the office prior to being escorted out. Alaska State Troopers responded. During the incident, troopers on scene made contact with Torrey and advised her numerous times to drop her weapon. Torrey refused to comply. She began walking toward troopers, lifted her semi-automatic pistol and pointed it at a trooper. In response to Torrey's actions, two troopers fired their service weapons. Torrey died on scene almost immediately after being shot by troopers. Investigation revealed that Torrey had drugs and alcohol in her system at the time of the standoff.