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Village Public Safety Officer Program Graduates 10 New Officers

(SITKA, Alaska) – The Village Public Safety Officer program added 10 new officers when they graduated from the Public Safety Academy in Sitka on March 13.

Program recruits received 10 weeks of extensive training at the Academy. The curriculum spans 37 separate subjects and includes 492 classroom hours of intensified instruction and testing before a student may graduate.

The VPSO program began in the early 1980s as a way of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety support services. The VPSO Program was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance and law enforcement support

The presence of these officers has had a significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages. As a result, the Village Public Safety Officers are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members.

The VPSO Program is divided into five areas of public safety responsibilities: law enforcement, fire safety, water safety, emergency medical response and search and rescue.

The following is a list of those VPSOs and the VPO who have successfully completed the program, their employing Native non-profit corporation and assigned village:

- VPSO Dorothy Alexie – Association of Village Council Presidents – Pilot Station
- VPSO Clifford Moses – Association of Village Council Presidents – Toksook Bay
- VPSO David Eneyuk – Bristol Bay Native Association – New Halen
- VPSO Glenn Farmer – Kodiak Area Native Association – Ouzinkie
- VPSO Chad Hand – Copper River Native Association – Copper Center
- VPSO Harley Huntington – KAWERAK, Inc – Shishmaref
- VPSO Winfred Olanna Jr. – KAWERAK, Inc – Brevig Mission
- VPSO Gerald Otto – KAWERAK, Inc – Elim
- VPSO David Slwooko – KAWERAK, Inc - Koyuk
- Village Police Officer Curtis Francis – City of St. Mary’s – St. Mary’s



From left to right, VPSO David Slwooko, VPSO Clifford Moses, VPSO Winfred Olanna Jr, VPSO Harley Huntington, VPSO Gerald Otto, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Joseph Masters, VPSO Dorothy Alexie, VPSO Chad Hand, VPSO David Eneyuk, VPSO Glenn Farmer and St. Mary's Village Police Officer Curtis Francis.